

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : 18

**By: Mr Tunne Kelam
Mr Rein Lang
Mr Urmas Reinsalu
Mrs Liina Tõnisson**

Article 18 : The European Commission

1. The European Commission shall safeguard the general European **Union** interest. It shall ensure the application of the Constitution, and steps taken by the institutions under the Constitution. It shall also exercise coordinating, executive and management functions as laid down in the Constitution. **It shall operate as a College and all of its Members shall be equal.**
 2. Except where the Constitution provides otherwise, Union acts can be adopted only on the basis of a Commission proposal.
 3. **The Commission shall include a national of each Member State, of whom one shall be the President and one the Union's Foreign Minister. When the Commission consists of 27 Members, its functioning shall be subject to an evaluation by the European Council. If, on the basis of this evaluation, the European Council decides that the number of Members of the Commission shall be less than the number of Member States, the number of Commissioners shall be chosen according to a rotation system based on the principle of equality, the implementing arrangements for which shall be adopted by the Council, acting unanimously.**
 - ~~3. The Commission shall consist of a President and up to fourteen other members. It may call on the help of Associate Commissioners.~~
 4. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Commission shall be completely independent. In the discharge of their duties members of the Commission shall neither seek nor take instructions from any government or other bodies.
-

Explanation

The arrangements proposed by the Praesidium do not guarantee the equality of Member States. Nor do they recognise the important connection between the citizens of Member States and the Commission, including those Commissioners nominated by their Government. These are essential to the successful functioning of the Commission. The stronger the connection between citizens, their Member States, and the Commission, the stronger and more credible the Commission will be in fulfilling its role. Therefore it is also important to guarantee a Commissioner's portfolio for every Member State.