

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article: 18a, Part I – Title IV

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Status: Members and alternate members.

Article 18a: The President of the European Commission

1. Taking into account the elections to the European Parliament, ~~the European Council, deciding by qualified majority, shall put forward to the European Parliament its proposed candidate for the Presidency of the Commission. This candidate shall be elected by the European Parliament by a majority of its members. If this candidate does not receive the required majority support, the European Council shall within one month put forward a new candidate, following the same procedure as before.~~ candidates to the office of President of the Commission can be nominated by a group of at least five Member States. The candidates shall be put forward to an Electoral College composed of an equal number of representatives of the European Parliament and the national parliaments. The President of the Commission shall be elected by a majority of the members of the Electoral College. The European Council should subsequently approve the election with qualified majority.
2. ~~Each Member State shall submit a list of three persons, of which at least one must be a woman, whom it considers qualified to be a European Commissioner. The President elect, taking account of European political and geographical balance, shall, from among the names submitted, select as members of the Commission up to thirteen persons chosen for their competence, European commitment, and guaranteed independence.— The Council, acting by a qualified majority and by common accord with the President elect, shall adopt the list of the other persons whom it intends to appoint as Members of the Commission, drawn up in accordance with the proposals made by each Member State. The Members of the Commission shall be chosen on the grounds of their general competence and their independence shall be beyond doubt.~~ The President and the persons so nominated for membership of the Commission shall be submitted as a body to a vote of approval by the European Parliament.

3. The Commission, as a body, shall be responsible to the European Parliament. Under the procedures set out at Art. X of the Constitution, it may pass a censure motion on the Commission. If such a motion is passed, the members of the Commission must all resign. They shall continue to handle everyday business until their successors are nominated.
4. The Commission shall work to guidelines laid down by its President. He shall decide its internal organisation, ensuring that it acts consistently, efficiently and on a collegiate basis. He shall appoint vice-presidents from among the members of the Commission.

~~5. The President may appoint Associate Commissioners, chosen according to the same criteria as apply for members of the Commission. Their number must not exceed the number of members of the Commission.~~

Explanation:

It is important that the role of the Commission is also strengthened in the new Constitutional Treaty. One way of doing this is by increasing the democratic legitimacy of the President of the Commission. This can best be achieved by giving both the European Parliament and the national parliaments a role in the election procedure. Furthermore, it is not enough to give the democratic elector of the President of the Commission only one option. The democratic elector should be given a real choice between several candidates, for instance three.

In line with the compromise from Nice each Member State should continue to nominate one member of the Commission.

Paragraph 2 establishes “European commitment” as a prerequisite for becoming a member of the Commission. Whereas the other criteria (competence and guaranteed independence) are objective in nature, the content of the criteria “European commitment” seems vague and difficult to translate into operational terms.

With regard to the size and composition of the Commission, we cannot accept a reopening of the compromise from Nice.