

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : Article 18a (Title IV)

Suggestion for protocol :

By Ms / Mr : David Heathcoat-Amory

Status : X - Member - Alternate

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]* **unanimity**, shall put forward to the European Parliament *[its]* **two** proposed candidates 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]* **two** new candidates, following the same procedure as before.

2. Each Member State's **Parliament** shall *[submit a list of three persons, of which at least one must be a woman,]* **nominate a person** whom it considers qualified to be a European Commissioner. *[Delete: 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 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]* **accountable** to the European Parliament **and the Council of ministers**. 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, **for a period not exceeding one month**.

4. The Commission shall work to guidelines laid down by *[its President]* the Council. 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.]*

[Delete: 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 (if any) : An improved model would be for the Council to propose two candidates, one of whom is selected by the European Parliament. He then attributes Portfolios to candidates selected by national parliaments.

Reference to « European commitment » is removed as vague, unquantifiable and undemocratic.

On the resignation of the Commission, a period of one month is suggested in order to prevent the ex-Commission from remaining in post over an extended period.