

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article 18a

By Mrs Lena Hjelm-Wallén, government representative.

Status : - Member

Article 18a : The President of the European Commission

1. ~~Taking into account the elections to the European Parliament, the~~¹ European Council, deciding by qualified majority, shall ~~put forward to the European Parliament its proposed~~ **propose a** candidate for the Presidency of the Commission. This candidate shall be elected by the European Parliament **and the national Parliaments of the member states² for a term of five years³ by a majority of its members.** If the candidate does not receive ~~the required~~ a majority support, the European Council shall within one month put forward a new candidate, following the same procedure as before.
2. **When electing the President of the Commission the European Parliament and the national Parliaments collectively shall have the same number of votes. Each national Parliament shall have as many votes as the Member State in question has votes in the Council⁴. All members of national Parliaments and of the European Parliament shall be eligible to vote. The votes of each Parliament shall be proportionally distributed in relation to the outcome in that parliament. All parliaments should cast their vote simultaneously.⁵**
- ~~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 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. 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 Member of the Commission, drawn up in accordance with the proposals made by each Member State.⁶ The Members of the Commission shall be chosen on the grounds of their general competence and their independence shall be beyond doubt.⁷ The Council should aim at an equal representation of men and women in the Commission.⁸~~

¹ Unclear.

² Involving national Parliaments in the election of the President of the Commission would guarantee that the President receives the support of national Parliaments after being scrutinized directly by them. Through this procedure the general public would gain a good knowledge of him or her, thereby bringing the citizens closer to the Union.

³ The term of the President of the Commission must be stated in the Constitution.

⁴ This system is based on the division of power between member states as agreed in Nice.

⁵ To ensure a unified election procedure.

⁶ Replace with the present Article 214.2 EC.

⁷ Corresponds to Article 4.1 of the Protocol on the Enlargement of the European Union.

⁸ This fundamental democratic principle must also be manifested in the composition

3. The Commission, as a body, shall be responsible to **the European Council and** the European Parliament. Under the procedures set out at Art. X of the Constitution, **either or both of these institutions**⁹ 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.~~¹⁰

of the Commission.

⁹ The Commission must have the trust of the European Council to be able to work properly.

¹⁰ See comments on paragraph 2.