

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article 18a

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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. The European Council shall by consensus nominate at least two candidates for the Presidency of the Commission. An electoral college, composed of an equal number of members of the European Parliament and members of national parliaments, the latter being appointed on the basis of equal representation of Member States' parliaments, shall elect the President of the Commission by an absolute majority of votes cast. If no candidate receives the required majority support at the first ballot, further ballots will be held each time eliminating the candidate polling the least number of votes, until the required majority is attained.~~
2. Each Member State, with the exception of those Member States of which the President-elect and the Foreign Minister are nationals and of any Member States excluded on a rotation basis, 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~~ twenty-three persons chosen in accordance with article 18(3) 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 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 (if any) :

The election of the President of the Commission by an electoral college is preferable, to minimise the possibility of unduly politicising the election process.