

AMENDMENT FORM

**Suggestion for amendment of Article: 18a: The President of the European Commission**

**By the Earl of Stockton MEP**

**Status : - Alternate**

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**Article 18a : The President of the European Commission**

1. Immediately following the European Parliamentary election, a special committee of the European Parliament shall receive nominations or applications for the post of President of the Commission and shall draw up a list of not less than six and not more than twelve candidates to be interviewed by this Committee. The special Committee shall then produce a short list of three candidates to appear before a special Plenary of the European Parliament in September.
2. The European Parliament shall vote for the preferred candidate by overall majority who would then be presented to the Council for endorsement. This shall be decided by a qualified majority vote. In the event of the preferred candidate failing to receive endorsement by the Council, the European Parliament shall submit a further candidate.
3. The President shall submit a list of Commissioners and their portfolio. Each of his/her nominations shall appear before a special Committee of the European Parliament and, if endorsed, would then be presented before a Parliamentary Plenary for full ratification of the decision by an absolute majority vote in the Council.
4. The President shall be allowed a maximum of two terms of five years and shall have to resubmit his/her Commission for the second term.
5. The President during his/her term may appoint associate Commissioners who will follow the same endorsement procedure as the Commissioners before the European parliament and the Council. Their number must not exceed that of the Commission. He must also try to ensure that the responsibilities of Commissioners and associate Commissioners parallel as far as possible the areas of accountability of the Committees of the European parliament and shall liaise with the President of the European Parliament to ensure that any reorganisation of these committees meet this criterion.
6. The President, Commissioners and associate Commissioners shall appear before the European Parliament and its Committees at the request of the European Parliament and may also ask in their turn to do so. At the beginning of each half session the President shall lay out a work program for the subsequent two and half years before the European Parliament.
7. The special committee of the European Parliament shall have the power to examine, and if necessary, recommend the removal of any individual Commissioner at any time with the endorsement of a special Parliamentary Plenary by an absolute majority vote and in the Council by qualified majority vote.

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**Explanation (if any):**

**The function of the Commission should be the running of the EU. It does not need democratic legitimacy per se.; that is provided by the European Parliament. It does not need to represent national interest; that is the function of the Council. What it needs is ability, efficiency and probity. If the President did not reflect the political, national and structural concerns of Europe (large nation/small nation; north/south, protestant/catholic; Atlantic/Mediterranean etc) then the Parliament would be reluctant to endorse the candidate. It should also be the responsibility of the Council to ensure that the balance of the Commissioners reflects fairly the national and political composition of the Member States.**