

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of ArtI-26.Dervis.doc

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Status: - Member - Alternate

Article I-26: The President of the European Commission:

- Delete the first paragraph and replace by a new one:

~~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.~~

1. The President of the Commission shall be elected by the European Parliament by a majority of its members. Candidates must be nominated by at least 10 percent of MEP's, coming from at least one third of member countries. The European Council, deciding by qualified majority, must endorse the candidate elected.

Explanation :

The “balance” between the respective roles of the Council President and of the President of the Commission is at the heart of the Institutional Structure proposed for Europe by the Paesidium. The proposal as it stands foresees the election of the Council President by the Council and the election of the Commission President by the European Parliament. It tilts this “apparent” balance towards the Council, by stipulating that it is the Council that nominates the candidate to be President of the Commission. In effect, therefore, it is the Council which designates both “leaders” of the Union, with the Parliament having to endorse the latter.

This will perpetuate the “democratic deficit” and the relative disinterest of Europe’s citizens for European Institutions. A certain dose of pan-European politics is necessary to inject dynamism and enthusiasm into the construction of the enlarged Europe. This carries risks, but these risks must be taken if “Europe” is to gain greater democratic legitimacy of a kind that people recognize and have strong positive feelings about. It would be much better to foresee a nomination procedure for the President of the Commission that comes from the Parliament itself and that has a degree of pan-European flavour. There can be variants of the process proposal but the essential idea is that the Commission President

derives real pan-European democratic legitimacy from his or her election. The Council President is more of a Chairman, a respected Statesman and a symbol for the fact that Europe is both a Union of States and a Union of people. But failure to move a step further also in the direction of a “political” Europe will prevent us from creating the forward movement in terms of governance without which a Europe of 25 and eventually perhaps 30 Member States cannot really function and fulfill its promise