

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article 23: The Economic and Social Committee

By : Mr Dick Roche, Member ; Mr Pat Carey and Mr Bobby McDonagh, Alternates

Article 23 : The Economic and Social Committee

1. The European Parliament, the Council of Ministers and the Commission shall be assisted by a ~~Committee of the Regions and~~ an Economic and Social Committee, exercising advisory functions.
- ~~2. The Committee of the Regions shall consist of representatives of regional and local bodies who have either been elected to a regional or local authority or are politically accountable to an elected assembly.~~
3. The Economic and Social Committee shall consist of representatives of **various economic and social components of organised civil society.** ~~organisations of employers, of the employed, and of others in representative civil society, notably in socio-economic, civic, professional and cultural areas.~~
4. The members of the ~~Committee of the Regions and~~ the Economic and Social Committee must not be bound by any mandatory instructions. They shall be completely independent, in the performance of their duties, in the Union's general interest.
5. Rules governing the composition of these Committees, the designation of **its** ~~their~~ members, ~~their~~ powers and ~~their~~ operations, are set out in Article X of Part II of the Constitution. The rules governing **its** ~~their~~ composition shall be reviewed at regular intervals by the Council, on the basis of a Commission proposal, in the light of economic, social and demographic developments within the Union.

Explanation (if any) :

To appropriately reflect their standing, the Council of Regions and the Economic and Social Committee should be the subject of separate Articles.

As rules governing the Committee's membership etc. are to be set out in Part Two of the Treaty – it seems more appropriate to include the generic language existing Article 257 TEC in paragraph 3.

