

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article 23

By Ms / Mr : Ms Helle THORNING-SCHMIDT

Status : - Alternate

Article 23 : The Union's Advisory Bodies

1. The European Parliament, the Council of Ministers and the Commission shall be assisted by a Committee of the Regions and *a Civil 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 Civil and Social Committee shall consist of representatives of the social partners as well as from the civil society.*
4. The members of the Committee of the Regions *and of the Civil 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 their members, their powers and their operations, are set out in Articles XY of Part II of the Constitution. The rules governing 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) :

We suggest to create a new Committee replacing the Economic and Social Committee. This Committee shall consist of representatives of the social partners as well as representatives from the civil society.

The Economic and Social Committee as we know it today is too costly and is not adding sufficient value. Added to this is the fact that the social dialogue is playing a different and more important role today than was foreseen 50 years ago when the Committee was established. We therefore have to reconsider the advisory structure of the Committee.