

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : 44

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Article 44: Procedure for applying for Union membership

Any European State which **respects the values set out in Article 2 of the Constitutional Treaty may apply to become a member of the Union and shall address its application to the Council.** The European Parliament and the national parliaments shall be notified of this application. The Council shall act unanimously after consulting the Commission and after receiving the assent of the European Parliament, which shall act by an absolute majority of its component members. The conditions and arrangements for admission **and the necessary adjustments to the Constitutional Treaty and to the law adopted by the Union** shall be the subject of an agreement between the Member States and the applicant State. That agreement shall be subject to ratification by all the contracting States, in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.

Explanation :

It seems preferable that the article should be aligned to Article 49 TEU, as far as possible and unless technical adjustments are necessary. A reference to the conditions of membership contained in Article 2 should remain in this article.

It is proposed to keep the element of the current Art. 49 TEU which refers to necessary adjustments to be made to primary law (e.g. institutional questions such as number of Members of EP, weighting of votes) and to secondary Union law.