

## AMENDMENT FORM

### Suggestion for amendment of Article 44

By : TIMOTHY KIRKHOPE MEP and THE EARL OF STOCKTON MEP

Status : Mr Kirkhope , Member  
Lord Stockton, Alternate

PRAESIDIUM	TIMOTHY KIRKHOPE MEP
<p><b><u>Article 44: Procedure for applying for Union membership</u></b></p> <p>Any European State which wishes to become a member of the Union may 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 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.</p>	<p><b><u>Article 44: Procedure for applying for <i>Community</i> membership</u></b></p> <p>Any European State which wishes to become a member of the <i>Community</i> may 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 receiving the <i>qualified majority</i> assent of the European Parliament. The conditions and arrangements for admission 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 <i>in national referenda, where permitted by national constitutions</i>.</p> <p><b>Explanation: Whilst the Council should consult the Commission about the administrative arrangements for the application process, the decision to open the accession dialogue should be taken by the elected representatives of the Community, not the unelected Commission.</b></p>