

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : 45

From Mr Peter SKAARUP, Member of the Convention

Delete Part I, article 45.

Explanation

When a European state has become a member of the European Union, the rights stemming from the membership has to be sacrosanct. It is up to the European Union to make sure that the new member states live up to the expectations of the Union respecting civic rights, democracy and the rule of law. Membership of the European Union should not be granted to states where one could wonder whether they were able to live up to these expectations in the long run.

History shows that the European Union has not been able to administer such an option as implied in article 45. The case of Austria, where the member states of the European Union decided on a diplomatic boycott of this member state due to the fact that the countrys at the time second largest party, The Freedom Party, was to take part in the government shows this beyond a doubt.

It is problematic to grant the European Union the ability to take away the rights of the member states as member states. The European Union has erected a surveillance center on xenophobia and discrimination in Vienna which works to reduce the influence of certain parties in the European member states.

One will have to fear that the participation of these parties in national governments will enable the other member states to use article 45 to sanction these countries. It is not in agreement with democratic ideals in fact to debar a long range of political parties from taking part in national governments. It inhibits democracy and will cause serious disruption among the electorate.

Article 45 is simply not an article worthy of a democratic organization.