

AMENDMENT FORM

Title X: Union membership

Suggestion for Article : 46 bis [NEW]

By Members: Mr Andrew Duff, Mr Lamberto Dini, Mr Paul Helminger, Mr Dimitrij Rupel, Mr Peeter Kreitzberg, Mr Algirdas Gričius, Mr Puiu Hasotti, Mr Jelko Kacin, Mr Zekeriya Akçam and Mr Eugenijus Maldeikis; **and Alternate Members:** Ms Lone Dybkjaer, Mr Willem Van Eekelen, Mr Valdo Spini, Lord MacLennan of Rogart, Mr Nesrin Uzun, Mr Marios Matsakis, Mrs Androula Vassiliou, Mr Istvan Szent-Ivanyi, Mr Péter Eckstein-Kovacs, Mr Ibrahim Ozal and Mr Gintautas Sivickas.

Status : Members and alternate members.

Article 46 bis: Associate membership

- 1. Any European state not being a Member State of the Union or ceasing to be a Member State may notify the Council of its intention to become an associate member of the Union. The Union shall negotiate with that state and the Council shall conclude an agreement, acting by a qualified majority, after obtaining the assent of the European Parliament.*
 - 2. Associate members shall cooperate closely with the Union. They shall respect its values, principles and objectives.*
 - 3. Associate membership agreements will set out the modalities of the close cooperation, the scope of coordination and the reciprocal rights and obligations.*
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Explanation:

The Constitution makes a greater imposition on Member States, not least with regard to the more flexible ratification process (Article G). That being so it makes sense to permit a Member State to choose a looser partnership in preference to full membership.

Such a category of privileged partnership would allow for the nexus of (mostly economic) relationships that had built up with the Union during the period of membership to be conserved in a functional form.

The creation of a separate class of associate membership might negate the need for the closer cooperation clauses of the existing Treaties to be maintained. A state is either a

full member of the Union accepting the new constitutional order in its entirety or an outsider, privileged or otherwise.

The category would also be more useful for the current members of the European Economic Area.