

AMENDMENT FORM

Title B - Part II

Suggestion for amendment of Article : 24

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: Mr Willem Van Eekelen, 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 24

1. The common commercial policy shall be based on uniform principles, particularly with regard to changes in tariff rates, the conclusion of tariff and trade agreements relating to trade in goods and services and the commercial aspects of intellectual property, foreign direct investment, the achievement of uniformity in measures of liberalisation, export policy and measures to protect trade such as those to be taken in the event of dumping or subsidies. The common commercial policy shall be conducted in the context of the principles and objectives of the Union's external action, as set out in Article 1 of this Title.

2. The European Parliament and the Council shall adopt, in accordance with the legislative procedure, the European laws and framework laws required to implement the common commercial policy.

3. Where agreements with one or more States or international organisations need to be negotiated, the relevant provisions of Article 33 of this Title shall apply. The Commission shall make recommendations to the Council, which, *after having consulted the European Parliament*, shall authorise the Commission to open the necessary

negotiations,. The Council and the Commission shall be responsible for ensuring that the agreements negotiated are compatible with internal Union policies and rules.

The Commission shall conduct these negotiations in consultation with a special committee appointed by the Council to assist the Commission in this task and within the framework of such directives as the Council may issue to it. The Commission shall report regularly to the special committee on the progress of negotiations.

4. *Delete*

5. The exercise of the competences conferred by this Article in the field of commercial policy shall not affect the delimitation of internal competences between the Union and the Member States, and shall not lead to harmonisation of legislative or regulatory provisions of Member States insofar as the Constitution excludes such harmonisation.

Explanation:

The role of the European Parliament must be clearly stated and it should be consulted before any negotiations begin.

In article 4 we remove the exception to the QMV norm, as there is no substantive justification for this, and precious little support in the Convention..