

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : III-306

By Ms / Mr : Voggenhuber, Wagener, Lichtenberger, MacCormick, Nagy

Status : - Member - Alternate

Artikel III-306

Article III-306 [ex Article 272]

A European law shall establish the Union's annual budget in accordance with the following provisions:

1. Each Institution shall, before 1 **June**, draw up estimates of its expenditure. The Commission shall consolidate these estimates in a draft budget. It shall attach thereto an opinion which may contain different estimates.

The draft budget shall contain an estimate of revenue and an estimate of expenditure.

The Commission may amend the draft budget during the procedure until such time as the Conciliation Committee, referred to in paragraph 5 below, is convened.

2. The Commission shall submit the draft budget to the European Parliament and the Council not later than 1 **July** of the year preceding that in which the budget is to be implemented.

3. The **European Parliament** shall adopt its position on the draft budget law and forward it to the European Parliament not later than 1 October of the year preceding that in which the budget is to be implemented. (*deletion*)

4. If, within 40 days of such communication, the **Council**:

(a) approves the **European Parliament** position or has not taken a decision, the budget law shall be deemed to have been adopted;

- (b) proposes amendments to the *European Parliament* position (*deletion*), the amended text shall be forwarded to the *European Parliament* and to the Commission. The President of the *Council*, in agreement with the President of the *European Parliament*, shall immediately convene a meeting of the Conciliation Committee.

If, within ten days, the *European Parliament* informs the *Council* that it has approved all its amendments, the Conciliation Committee shall not meet.

5. The Conciliation Committee, which shall be composed of the members of the Council or their representatives and an equal number of representatives of the European Parliament, shall have the task of reaching agreement on a joint text, by a qualified majority of the members of the Council or their representatives and by a majority of the representatives of the European Parliament within twenty-one days of its being convened, on the basis of the positions of the European Parliament and the Council.

6. The Commission shall take part in the Conciliation Committee's proceedings and shall take all the necessary initiatives with a view to reconciling the positions of the European Parliament and the Council.

7. If, within twenty-one days of its being convened, the Conciliation Committee approves a joint text, the European Parliament, acting by a majority of the votes cast, and the Council, acting by a qualified majority, shall each have a period of fourteen days from that approval in which to adopt the joint text.

8. If, within twenty-one days, the Conciliation Committee does not approve a joint text or if the Council rejects the joint text, the Parliament may, within fourteen days, acting by a majority of its component members and three fifths of the votes cast, *reject or modify Council's* amendments. (*deletion*)

(*deletion*) The Parliament, acting by a majority of its component members and three fifths of the votes cast, (*deletion*) may ask for a new draft to be submitted.

9. When the procedure provided for in this Article has been completed, the President of the European Parliament shall declare that the budget law has been finally adopted.

Explanation (if any) :

The procedure must be brought more into line with the normal co-decision procedure, although in a simplified form. The Committee on Budgets of the European Parliament has expressed preference for a reversed order: the draft budget should first be presented to the European Parliament, followed by a Council position, conciliation and, if necessary a second reading, in which the EP which can then reject or modify Council's position, as is the case now. In this second reading the EP has to respect the ceilings of the financial perspective. The option to reject the budget must be retained but not be subject to the provision of the rejection of a joint text.