

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : III-314 [ex Article 279]

By Mr Hain

Status : Member

1. The European law of the Council:

- (a) shall lay down the financial rules which determine in particular the procedure to be adopted for establishing and implementing the budget and for presenting and auditing accounts;
- (b) lay down rules concerning the responsibility of financial controllers, authorising officers and accounting officers, and concerning appropriate arrangements for inspection.

It shall be adopted after consultation of the European Parliament and the Court of Auditors. The Council shall act unanimously until 1 January 2007.

2. A Council regulation adopted unanimously on a proposal from the Commission shall lay down measures determining the methods and procedure whereby the budget revenue provided under the arrangements relating to the Union's own resources shall be made available to the Commission, and the measures to be applied, if need be, to meet cash requirements. The Council shall act after consulting the European Parliament and the Court of Auditors.

3. *Delete*

Explanation (if any) :

314.1

The UK does not support extension of co-decision to these articles in which Council control is fundamental to maintaining budget discipline. In the case of the Financial Regulation, co-decision would in addition undermine the principle that control over budget revenues should remain with the Council.

314.2-314.3

The UK believes that all provisions for budget revenues should – as now – remain subject to unanimity in the Council (even after 1 January 2007).