

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article :F (part 3)

Suggestion for protocol :

By Mr David Heathcoat-Amory, Mr Bonde

Status :X - Member - Alternate

N.B. ‘()’ denote text deleted ‘ _____ ’denotes text added

Article F: Procedure for revising the Constitutional Treaty

The government of any Member State (*or the Commission*) may submit to the Council proposals for the amendment of the Constitutional Treaty. The national Parliaments shall (*be notified of*) **have the opportunity to debate** these proposals. If the Council, **by unanimity**, after consulting the European Parliament and, where appropriate, the Commission, delivers an opinion in favour of calling a conference of representatives of the governments of the Member States, the conference shall be convened by the President of the Council for the purpose of determining by common accord the amendments to be made to the Constitutional Treaty. The Council of the European Central Bank shall also be consulted in the case of institutional changes in the monetary area.

The amendments shall enter into force after being ratified by all the Member States in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.

All parts of this Treaty are amendable by the same rules and procedures

Explanation (if any) :

The first paragraph is amended to increase the input of national parliaments, which shall be called upon at an early stage to give their Governments a broad negotiating outline, and voice their opinions on the need for modifications and reforms.

While a mechanism should exist to provide for Treaty change, this should not be undertaken lightly. Nor should a member state effectively be forced into negotiating a treaty change which its parliament does not want. This method allows for full debate and participation by citizens.

The concluding new sentence ensures that all parts of the Treaty are equal, and major treaty change cannot take place by a vote in Council away from the public eye.