

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article :

Suggestion for protocol : Protocol on the role of National Parliaments in the EU

By Ms / Mr : Member of the Convention Mr. Jens-Peter Bonde, and alternate Esko Seppänen

Status : X- Member X- Alternate

DRAFT
[PROTOCOL] ON THE ROLE OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS
IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES,

RECALLING that the way in which individual national parliaments scrutinise their own governments in relation to the activities of the Union is a matter for the particular constitutional organisation and practice of each Member State.

DESIRING, however, to encourage greater involvement of national parliaments in the activities of the European Union and to enhance their ability to express their views on matters which may be of particular interest to them.

HAVE AGREED UPON the following provisions, which shall be annexed to the Constitution:

- I. Information for Member States' national parliaments
 1. All Commission consultation documents (green and white papers and communications) shall be forwarded directly by the Commission to Member States' national parliaments.
 2. The Commission shall send all its proposals for legislation directly to Member States' national parliaments at the same time as to the European Parliament and to the Council.
 3. The Member States' national parliaments send to the Presidents of the European Parliament,

the Council and the Commission a reasoned opinion on whether the Commission's legislative proposal complies with the principle of subsidiarity, according to the procedure laid down in the Protocol on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

4. A six-week period shall elapse between a legislative proposal being made available by the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the Member States' national parliaments in their languages and the date when it is placed on a Council agenda **OR A COUNCIL WORKING GROUP AGENDA for NEGOTIATIONS** or for adoption of a position under the legislative procedure set out in Article [X in Part II of the Treaty establishing a constitution for Europe], ~~DELETE:subject to exceptions on grounds of extreme urgency, the reasons for which shall be stated in the act or common position.~~
5. The agendas, **WORKING DOCUMENTS, MINUTES** and the outcome of Council meetings **AND WORKING GROUP METINGS** shall be transmitted directly to Member States' national parliaments.
6. The Commission shall send Member States' national parliaments, for information, any instrument of legislative planning or policy strategy that it submits to the European Parliament and to the Council, at the same time as to those institutions.
7. The Court of Auditors shall send its annual report to the Member States' national parliaments, for information, at the same time as to the European Parliament and to the Council. **THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS SPECIALISED COMMITTEES SHALL HAVE ACCESS TO ANY DOCUMENT THEY ASK, EVENTUALLY UNDER CONFIDENTIALITY RULES.**
8. The European Parliament and the national parliaments shall together examine how interparliamentary cooperation may be effectively promoted within the European Union.
9. The Conference of European Affairs Committees, set up on 16 and 17 November 1989, may submit any contribution it deems appropriate for the attention of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission. Such contributions shall in no way bind national parliaments or prejudice their position.

10. THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS RECEIVE THE ANNUAL CATALOGUE FOR EUROPEAN LEGISLATION BEFORE 1 OCTOBER AND FORWARD THEIR COMMENTS TO THE COMMISSION WITHIN 6 WEEKS.

THE COMMISSION ESTABLISH A NEW DRAFT AND FORWARD IT TO THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS WHO THEN DECIDE THE LEGAL BASE FOR EVERY PROPOSAL WITH THE SUPPORT OF 75 % OF THE PARLIAMENTS.

THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS MAY MEET AND DECIDE THE FINAL PROGRAMME WITH THE SUPPORT OF 75 % OF THE DELEGATES.

11. EVERY NATIONAL PARLIAMENT ELECTS A COMMISSIONER AFTER ELECTIONS TO THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT. A NATIONAL PARLIAMENT CAN CENSURE THEIR MEMBER OF THE COMMISSON BY ELECTING A NEW REPRESENTATIVE.

12. EVERY PROPOSAL FOR EUROPEAN LEGISLATION IS READ BY THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS WHO FORWARD THE RESULT OF THEIR DELEBERATIONS TO THE COMMISSION, COUNCIL AND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WITHIN THE SAID PERIODS OF TIME.

IF A NATIONAL PARLIAMENT FOR VERY VITAL REASONS WANTS TO VETO A PROPOSAL IT DECIDES THE REASONS AND PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE OR EVENTUALLY A DEROGATION.

THE PROPOSED VETO IN A VITAL ISSUE MAY THEN BE PUT AT THE AGENDA IN THE NEXT EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING WHERE A UNANIMOUS SOLUTION WILL HAVE TO BE FOUND.

Explanation (if any) :