

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article :34 (part 3)

Suggestion for protocol :

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Status :X - Member - Alternate

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

Article 34: The principle of participatory democracy
(DELETE ALL)

REPLACE WITH: **It shall be a principle of the Union that, wherever possible, decisions are taken and powers exercised at the lowest possible level. This shall entail, where necessary, restoration of powers to national parliaments.**

Explanation (if any) :

The original text is flawed.

Section One takes away the rights previously held at a national level to determine the franchise – for instance, in cases where national law removes the vote from convicted criminals. Further, reference to the “Union” is vague: does the text refer to the Union’s institutions, or the Union as a whole, including its component states and their institutions as subject to Community law?

Sections Two and Three, on the other hand, replace the established and normal interaction of the democratic process, with an open-ended system whereby the Union will select groups with whom it will have a privileged dialogue.

The amendment above is an attempt to return to the Laeken mandate, which requires the EU to get closer to its citizens – because, to quote Laeken, “What they expect is more results, better responses to practical issues and not a European superstate or European institutions inveigling their way into every nook and cranny of life.” Laeken anticipates that powers be restored to national control.