

## AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article 34:

By Mr Georges Jacobs - UNICE

Status: observer

<i>Text of the Praesidium</i>	<i>Proposed Amendments</i>
<p><b><u>Article 34: The principle of participatory democracy</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Every citizen shall have the right to participate in the democratic life of the Union.</li><li>2. The Union institutions shall, by appropriate means, give citizens and representative associations the opportunity to make known and publicly exchange their opinions on all areas of Union action.</li><li>3. The Union institutions shall maintain an open, transparent and regular dialogue with representative associations and civil society.</li></ol>	<p><b><u>Article 34: The principle of participatory democracy</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Every citizen shall have the right to participate in the democratic life of the Union.</li><li>2. The Union institutions shall, by appropriate means, give citizens and representative associations the opportunity to make known and publicly exchange their opinions on all areas of Union action.</li><li>3. The Union institutions shall maintain an open, transparent and regular dialogue with <del>representative associations and</del> organised civil society.</li></ol>

### Explanation:

The drafting of paragraph 3 as proposed to the Praesidium is unclear as it seems to oppose representative associations and civil society. UNICE suggests that in paragraph 3 the reference is made to organised civil society. This paragraph has to be read in the light of sub-paragraph 2 which deals specifically with representative associations.

In this context, UNICE in a position paper of 17 June 2002 has expressly proposed criteria for representativeness of organisations, which are as follows :

- composed of members mandated to act at European level;
- representative in the great majority of Member States of the European Union;
- representative of collective interests;
- composed of organisations which are regarded at their respective national levels as representative of the interests they defend;

- **capable of justifying their actions to their members;**
- **composed of members who join voluntarily, at both national and European level;**
- **demonstrably independent of the public authorities, at both national and European level, in terms of financial resources;**
- **based on a well-resourced structure which allows constituents to be consulted rapidly and efficiently;**
- **able to call on the knowledge of its members in order to guarantee a certain level of expertise.**