

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> |
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| <p><u>Article 34: The principle of participatory democracy</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Every citizen shall have the right to participate in the democratic life of the Union.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.3. The Union institutions shall maintain an open, transparent and regular dialogue with representative associations and civil society. | <p><u>Article 34: The principle of participatory democracy</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Every citizen shall have the right to participate in the democratic life of the Union.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.3. The Union institutions shall maintain an open, transparent and regular dialogue with representative associations and organised civil society. |

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 subparagraph 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.**