

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article 18:

By Mr Georges Jacobs - UNICE

Status: observer

*Text of the Praesidium*

**Article 18: The European Commission**

1. The European Commission shall safeguard the general European interest. It shall ensure the application of the Constitution, and steps taken by the institutions under the Constitution. It shall also exercise coordinating, executive and management functions as laid down in the Constitution.
2. Except where the Constitution provides otherwise, Union acts can be adopted only on the basis of a Commission proposal.
3. The Commission shall consist of a President and up to fourteen other members. It may call on the help of Associate Commissioners.
4. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Commission shall be completely independent. In the discharge of their duties members of the Commission shall neither seek nor take instructions from any government or other body.

*Proposed Amendments*

**Article 18: The European Commission**

1. The European Commission shall safeguard the general European interest. It shall ensure the application of the Constitution, and steps taken by the institutions under the Constitution. It shall also exercise coordinating, executive and management functions as laid down in the Constitution. ***It shall propose the annual and multi-annual programme of Union activities.***
2. ***The Commission shall have an exclusive right of initiative for Union acts, except where the Constitution provides otherwise.***
3. The Commission shall consist of a President and up to fourteen other members. It may call on the help of Associate Commissioners.
4. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Commission shall be completely independent. In the discharge of their duties members of the Commission shall neither seek nor take instructions from any government or other body.

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**Explanation:**

**A strong and independent Commission is key for business. UNICE is of the opinion that the current drafting of article 18 does not reflect sufficiently the central role of the Commission in the institutional framework.**

**UNICE believes that the reference to the fact that the Commission proposes the annual and multi-annual programme of Union activities should be enshrined in the Constitutional Treaty.**

**UNICE is also of the opinion that the exclusive right of initiative of the Commission, except where the Constitution provides otherwise should more strongly be written down in the Treaty.**