



**Andrew Duff**

MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

President Jerzy Buzek  
European Parliament  
1047 Brussels

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Dear President, *Dear Jerzy,*

**Proposal for Treaty revision**

As you will be well aware, the British Parliament is about to enact a law which will install and entrench referendums as part of the UK's national ratification process for all important amendments of the European Union treaties. The effect of this law will be to severely delay and complicate all future treaty revision - a process which is already lengthy and complicated enough.

That being the case, I believe the time has come to lighten somewhat the European Union's procedure for treaty revision, and bring ourselves into line with the normal practice for the entry into force of international treaties and, indeed, with the normal constitutional process within federal systems of government.

I propose that Parliament launches an initiative under Article 48(2) of the Treaty on European Union to change sub-paragraphs 4 and 5 of the said article so that all future treaty revisions will enter into force once they have been ratified by four fifths of the States.

This does not affect the need for unanimity at the Intergovernmental Conference.

I attach the proposed amendment.

I would be grateful if you could pass this proposal on for the consideration of the Constitutional Affairs Committee.

*Best wishes,*  
Yours sincerely,

*Andrew Duff*

# PROPOSAL FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE TREATIES

## Treaty on European Union

### Amendment A

#### Treaty on European Union Article 48 – paragraph 4

<i>Treaty on the European Union</i>	<i>Amendment</i>
<p>4. A conference of representatives of the governments of the Member States shall be convened by the President of the Council for the purpose of determining by common accord the amendments to be made to the Treaties.</p> <p>The amendments shall enter into force after being ratified by <i>all</i> the Member States in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.</p>	<p>4. A conference of representatives of the governments of the Member States shall be convened by the President of the Council for the purpose of determining by common accord the amendments to be made to the Treaties.</p> <p>The amendments shall enter into force after being ratified by <i>four fifths of</i> the Member States in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.</p>

### Amendment B

#### Treaty on European Union Article 48 – paragraph 5

<i>Treaty on the European Union</i>	<i>Amendment</i>
<p>5. <i>If, two years after the signature of a treaty amending the Treaties, four fifths of the Member States have ratified it and one or more Member States have encountered difficulties in proceeding with ratification, the matter shall be referred to the European Council.</i></p>	<p><i>[Delete]</i></p>