

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : 14a (new article)

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Status : - Member

Article 14a: The President of the Union

1. The President of the European Union shall represent the Union.
2. He shall endeavour to promote the awareness of common European identity within the Union and to reinforce the relationship between the Union and its citizens.
3. He shall represent the Union, in co-operation with the Foreign Minister, in matters coming within the common foreign and security policy.
4. He shall formally chair the meetings of the European Council, in close co-operation with its presidency. He shall endeavour to facilitate consensus within the European Council.
5. He shall have the right to attend any meeting of the Council of ministers or of the Commission.
6. The President of the Union shall be elected for a term of three years by European Council, by consensus, from among candidates proposed by at least 1/10 of Members of the European Parliament elected in at least 5 different Member States, by at least 5 national Parliaments or by a popular petition signed by at least 2% of voters in 10 Member States.
7. The President of the Union may not be a member of another European institution or hold a national mandate.

Explanation:

- for more detailed explanation – CONV 492/03

The new function of a President of the European Union provides the following advantages:

- more visibility to the Union (both at home and abroad)
- more continuity between rotating presidencies
- a new symbol of the political unity of Europe

However, preserving a reformed rotating presidency for both the European Council and the Council of ministers in all its formations and submitting the new President of the EU to a permanent co-existence with it, is essential:

- it preserves the principle of equality of all Member States
- it guarantees the diversity of influences on broad orientations of the Union
- it impedes an excessive concentration of power on the "Council-side" of the institutional system which could threaten the balance of power between the Commission and the Council