

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article 16: The European Council

By : Mr Dick Roche, Member ; Mr Pat Carey and Mr Bobby McDonagh, Alternates

Article 16 : The European Council

1. The European Council shall provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development, and shall define its general political directions and priorities.
2. The European Council shall consist of the Heads of State or Government of the Member States, together with ~~its President and~~ the President of the Commission. The ~~Foreign Union's~~ Minister **for Foreign Affairs** shall take part in its work.
3. The European Council shall meet quarterly, convened by its President. **Members shall be assisted by Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States and by another appropriate Minister as** ~~When the agenda so requires, its members may decide to be assisted by a minister,~~ and, in the case of the President of the Commission, a Commissioner. When the situation so requires, the President shall convene an additional meeting of the European Council.
4. **Meetings of the European Council shall be chaired by the Head of State or Government of the Member State which holds the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.**
5. Except where the Constitution provides otherwise, decisions of the European Council shall be taken by ~~consensus~~ **unanimity**.

Explanation (if any) :

As is currently the practice, Heads of State or Government should be assisted by Foreign Ministers unless the agenda suggests otherwise.

Arrangements for the Chair of the European Council should be included in this Article.

The appropriate placement of this Article is for further consideration.