

## AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : 16

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Status : - Member

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### 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~~ the President of the Union and the President of the Commission. The Foreign Minister shall take part in its work.
3. The presidency of the European Council shall be held in turn jointly by a group of Member States for a term of one year. The composition of these groups and the order for the regular rotation between them are set out in the Part II of this Constitution. The members of the European Council representing the Member States exercising the EC's presidency shall form the bureau of the European Council. The bureau, assisted by the President of the Union, shall prepare the meetings of the European Council, drive forward its work, ensuring proper preparation and continuity, and endeavour to facilitate cohesion and consensus within it. The bureau shall present a report to the European Parliament after each of the European Council's meetings.
4. The European Council shall meet quarterly, convened by ~~its~~ the President of the Union only at the request of the bureau of the EC. 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, at the request of the EC's bureau or at the request of at least a half of its members, convene an additional meeting of the European Council.
4. Except where the Constitution provides otherwise, decisions of the European Council shall be

taken by consensus.

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**Explanation:**

- the principle of rotation for the Presidency of the European Council and of the Council is essential. However, a coexistence with the new President of the Union should introduce more continuity into the system, but without the risk of any excessive concentration of power (unlike the presidium's proposal of a long term EC's chair – article 16a, which should therefore be suppressed).