

## AMENDMENT FORM

### Suggestion for amendment of : Article 16

By: Robert Maclellan, Algirdas Gričius.

Status : Alternate

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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 **Chairman**, the President of the Commission, **the Foreign Minister and the Secretary-General of the Union**.
  3. The European Council shall meet quarterly, convened by its **Chairman**. 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 **Chairman** shall 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 appropriate description of the head of the European Council is 'Chairman', recognised in the title of article 16. For the sake of consistency and to avoid confusion, all references to 'President' should be replaced with 'Chairman'.*

*The European Council will provide the strategic direction and impetus to the Union's CFSP. Therefore, as the high ranking person responsible for the Union's foreign policy, it would make sense to have the Union's Foreign Minister as a non-voting member of the European Council.*

*By parity of reasoning the Secretary General, being the high ranking person responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of the Council's executive role (see amended article 16b) should similarly be a non-voting member of the European Council.*

