

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article: 17, Part I – Title IV

By Mr: Henning Christophersen, Poul Schlüter, Henrik Dam Kristensen and Niels Helveg Petersen.

Status: Members and alternate members.

Article 17: The Council of Ministers

(...)

3. ~~3.~~—Except where the Constitution provides otherwise, decisions of the Council shall be taken by qualified majority **consisting of at least 232 votes in favour. Where the Council is required to act by a qualified majority, the votes of its Members shall be weighted as follows:**

<u>Belgium</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>Luxembourg</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Czech Republic</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>Hungary</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Denmark</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>Malta</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Germany</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Estonia</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Austria</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Greece</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>Poland</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>Spain</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>Portugal</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>France</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>Slovenia</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Ireland</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>Slovakia</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Italy</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>Finland</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Cyprus</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Sweden</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Latvia</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>United Kingdom</u>	<u>29</u>
<u>Lithuania</u>	<u>7</u>		

When a decision is to be adopted by the Council by a qualified majority, a member of the Council may request verification that the Member States constituting the qualified majority represent at least 62 % of the total population of the Union. If that condition is shown not to have been met, the decision in question shall not be adopted.

4. The office of President shall be held in turn by each Member State in the Council for a term of six months in the order decided by the Council acting unanimously.

Explanation:

A compromise on votes in the Council of Ministers has only just been reached after difficult negotiations in Nice. We see no need to reopen this compromise. Furthermore, the draft proposal does not deal with the important issue of equality between the Member States.

Regarding the Presidency of the Council, we wish to preserve the existing half-yearly rotating Presidencies, however, in a modernised form. We should therefore maintain the present wording of Article 203 TEC, par. 2.

As a consequence of the above mentioned amendments, the proposed Articles 17a on Council formations and Article 17b on QMV should be deleted.