

AMENDMENT FORM

**Title IV**

**Suggestion for amendment of Article : 17**

**By Members: Mr Andrew Duff, Mr Lamberto Dini, Mr Paul Helminger, Mr Algirdas Gričius, Mrs Lone Dybkjaer, Lord MacLennan, Mr Adrian Severin.**

**Status : Members and alternate members.**

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**Article 17 : The Council of Ministers**

1. The Council of Ministers, *representing the governments of the Member States*, shall, jointly with the European Parliament, enact legislation, *as well as exercise other functions* as laid down in the Constitution. *The Council shall ensure the coordination of the general economic policies of the Member States, the definition of the common foreign, security and defence policy, and the close collaboration between Member States' police, security services and judicial authorities.*
  2. The Council of Ministers shall consist of a representative of each Member State at ministerial *level*. *Only* this representative may commit the Member State in question, and cast its vote.
  3. Except where the Constitution provides otherwise, decisions of the Council shall be taken by qualified majority.
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**Explanation:**

*1. The Constitution should establish the fact that the Council is made up of representatives of Member State governments.*

*The Council has executive functions as well as legislative functions, and this should be made explicit.*

*2. The reference here to 'each of its formations' is superfluous (see Article 17a).*