

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : Article 17 (Title IV)

Suggestion for protocol :

By Ms / Mr : David Heathcoat-Amory

Status : X - Member - Alternate

Article 17 : The Council of Ministers

1. The Council of Ministers shall, *[jointly with]* **assisted by** the European Parliament, enact legislation, and shall carry out policy-making and co-ordinating functions, as laid down in the *[Constitution]* **Treaty**.

New 1a. They shall facilitate the legislative process for laws initiated and concluded by national parliaments.

2. The Council of Ministers shall consist of a representative of each Member State at ministerial level for each of its formations. 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]* **unanimity**.

Explanation (if any) : A counter proposal on how the European Union should operate, which puts national parliaments in the role of carrying out First and Third Readings (ie initiation and final approval), will shortly be presented to the Convention : A Europe of Democracies.

The amendment in paragraph 3 turns around the default position so that matters have to be identified as QMV, rather than that they are assumed so to be.