

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : 17

By: Mr Tunne Kelam
Mr Rein Lang
Mr Urmas Reinsalu
Mrs Liina Tõnisson

Article 17 : The Council of Ministers

1. **The Council shall seek to establish community solutions to issues of common concern. It shall represent the Member States and be the forum where they can present and defend their national interests.** ~~The Council of Ministers~~ It shall, jointly with the European Parliament, enact legislation, and shall carry out policy-making and co-ordinating functions, as laid down in the Constitution.
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. **The Council shall meet in such formations as the European Council shall decide.**
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. The European Council acting unanimously may agree other arrangements for chairing some or all of the Council's formations.**
5. **The Council shall meet when convened by its President on his own initiative or at the request of one of its members or of the Commission.**
6. **The Council and the European Council shall be assisted by a General Secretariat, under the responsibility of a Secretary-General responsible for the running of the General Secretariat. The Secretary-General shall be appointed by the Council acting by a qualified majority.**
The Council shall decide on the organisation of the General Secretariat.
7. **A committee consisting of the Permanent Representatives of the Member States shall be responsible for preparing the work of the Council and for carrying out the tasks assigned to it by the Council.**
8. ~~Except where the Constitution provides otherwise, decisions of the Council shall be taken by qualified majority.~~
8. **The Council shall adopt its Rules of Procedure.**

Explanation

The provision(s) concerning Council formations should be included in this Article (see also amendment of Article 17a).

Voting arrangements in the Council should be set out in a single Article (currently Article 17b).