

## AMENDMENT FORM

### Suggestion for amendment of TArt17liepina.doc

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Status: - Member: L.Liepina; R.Piks  
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#### Article 17 : The Council of Ministers

1. The Council of Ministers 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~~ **authorised to** commit the Member State in question, ~~and cast its vote.~~ **Where a vote is taken, any Member of the Council may also act on behalf of not more than one other member.**
3. **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 or for chairing of the European Council.**

4. **The 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.**

5. **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.**
6. **The Council shall adopt its Rules of Procedure**
7. Except where the Constitution provides otherwise, decisions of the Council shall be taken by qualified majority.

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#### Explanation (if any) :

The current system of the rotating Presidency of the Council of the Ministers should be maintained consequently the principle of the equality of the Member States would be observed.