

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article 17a

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Status : Member

Article 17a:

Para.6 ~~“The European Council may decide by consensus that the Presidency of a Council formation, other than that of Foreign Affairs, should be undertaken by a Member State for a period of at least a year, taking into account European political and geographical balance and the diversity of all Member States.”~~

“All Council formations, other than that of Foreign Affairs, should be chaired by a Group of Member States for a period of two years. The make-up of the team Presidency should take into account European political and geographical balance and the diversity of all Member States, according to the modalities described in Part II of the Treaty. The allocation of responsibilities within the Team Presidency should be agreed within the team. The Group Presidency should be chosen according to a rotation system based on the principle of equality.”

Explanation (if any) :

Bringing together the idea of group Presidency and that of the elected chairman of the European Council offers more advantages than disadvantages. It presents incentives for political leadership by countries holding the rotating Presidency. It is especially important for the new Member States, as it forces their administrations to Europeanize at a quicker pace. It also has a very important legitimating effect – by enhancing the interest of the new members’ populations in EU affairs. Most importantly, however, the maintenance of the rotation systems ensures the equality of all Member States. If the European Council were to decide the Presidency of a Council formation, somewhat arbitrarily, it could provoke unnecessary political controversies and tensions.