

## AMENDMENT FORM

### Title IV

#### Suggestion for amendment of Article : 17 a

**By Members:** Mr Andrew Duff, Mr Lamberto Dini, Mr Paul Helminger, Lord Maclellannan, Mr Adrian Severin.

**Status :** Members and alternate members.

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#### Article 17a : Council formations

1. The General Affairs Council shall ensure consistency in the work of the Council of *Ministers, and* shall prepare meetings of the European Council. *The President of the Commission shall chair this formation of the Council.*
  2. The *Law* Council shall *participate in the legislative procedure*, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. Each Member State's ministerial representative may be assisted *by specialist* ministers, reflecting the business on the Council agenda. *Each Member State shall hold the office of President in turn for a term of three months in an order decided by the European Council.*
  3. The Foreign Affairs Council shall, on the basis of strategic guidelines laid down by the European Council, flesh out the Union's external policies, and ensure that its actions are consistent. It shall be chaired by the *[Minister of Foreign Affairs/Secretary of the Union]*.
  4. The Council shall also meet in the configuration of an Economic and Financial Affairs Council, and a Council on Justice and Security. *These formations of the Council shall be chaired respectively by the responsible Vice-President of the Commission.*
  5. **Delete**
  6. **Delete.**
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#### Explanation:

*Our proposal for the integrated presidency (see Article 16a) necessitates a clean separation between the executive and legislative functions of the Council. Clearly, a Commissioner cannot preside over the legislative work of the Council.*

*In paragraph 1 we propose that the Commission shall not merely participate in the General Affairs Council, but chair it.*

*We propose that the Law Council could be chaired on a rotation basis, respecting the principles of equality of states. In the light of enlargement, however, we reduce the term of office from six months to three, thereby reducing the burden and increasing the pace of rotation. This arrangement could be linked to the hosting of European Councils, thus helping the visibility of the Union across its territory.*

*In paragraph 4 we propose that Vice-Presidents of the Commission chair the remaining executive formations of the Council as well as the preparatory working groups.*

*Paragraph 5 is deleted because there will be no need for an ad hoc proliferation of executive formations of the Council.*

*We suppress paragraph 6 as inconsistent with our overall approach.*

*In Part Two we will propose that the working groups of the Council be chaired by the Commission, apart from COREPER which would continue to be chaired by the Permanent Representative of the President-in-Office of the Law Council.*