

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : 17a, Title IV, Part I

Suggestion for protocol :

By Ms / Mr : Hain

Status : - Member

1. The General Affairs Council shall ensure consistency in the work of the Council of Ministers. With the participation of the Commission, it shall prepare meetings of the European Council.
It shall be chaired by the Chair of the European Council.

2. *Delete.*

3. *OK.*

4. *Delete.*

5. *OK.*

6. *Replace with :*

These formations shall be chaired by a team of Member States, membership of which shall be determined by a system of rotation, following the principle of equality between Member States.

Explanation (if any) :

Article 17a 1 See our comment on article 16a 2. As there, our amendment makes clear the role of the Council Chair.

Article 17a 2 We do not support the creation of a Legislative Council. We believe that the function of ensuring consistency across the sectoral Councils should be performed by the GAC (as in 17a). We do not judge the distinction between the executive and legislative functions of the Council to be sufficient to support this institutional structure.

Article 17a 4 We believe that the Council should be free to decide on its remaining formations, as set out in 17.5. The current treaties do not specify individual formations, and we believe that to limit the Council's work in the way proposed could lead to inflexibility.

Article 17a 6 We welcome the aim of the original article, but believe that it should be more specific and create a "team presidency" system for the chairs of all the Council formations except General and Foreign Affairs. It would spread the burden of chairmanship between member states, maintain equality through rotation, and provide longer term continuity. The team could be in place for up to 2 ½ years. See our comment on Article 16a 3.