

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of : Article 17a

By: Robert Maclellan

Status : Alternate

Article 17a : Council formations

1. The General Affairs Council, *presided over by the Secretary-General of the Union*, 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.
 2. The Legislative Council shall consider and, jointly with the European Parliament, enact European laws and European framework laws, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. Each Member State's ministerial representative may be assisted by one or, if necessary, two specialist ministers, reflecting the business on the Council agenda.
 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 Union's Foreign Minister.
 4. The Council shall also meet in the configuration of an Economic and Financial Affairs Council, and a Council on Justice and Security.
 5. The Council, in its General Affairs formation, may decide on further formations.
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Explanation :

The responsibilities of the General Affairs Council for the management of the Council's business on an on-going basis make it appropriate for it to be chaired by the Secretary-General.