

## AMENDMENT FORM

**Suggestion for amendement of Article : 17b**

**Suggestion for Part I**

**By ~~Ms~~/ Mr : Georgios Papandreou and Mr Georgios Katiforis**

**Status :    - Member            Alternate**

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### **Article 17b : Qualified majority**

1. When the European Council or the Council take decisions by qualified majority **on the basis of a Commission's proposal**, such a majority shall consist of the majority of Member States, representing at least ~~three fifths~~ **half** of the population of the Union. **If the decision is not taken on the basis of a prior proposal of the Commission, qualified majority shall consist of the two thirds of Member States, representing at least half of the population of the Union.**
2. Within the European Council, its President and the President of the Commission do not vote. **The same applies for the Minister for Foreign Affairs within the Foreign Affairs Council.**

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### **Explanation (if any) :**

*Para 1 : Both from the point of view of simplicity and democratic legitimacy the simple double majority is a more appropriate response to the expectations of the European citizen.*

*A distinction should be made between decisions taken on the basis of a decision by the Commission and those that are not.*

*Para2: It is reasonable to apply the same principle to the "institutional" chair of the External Relations Council.*