

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article 17b : Qualified Majority Voting in the Council of Ministers

By : Mr Dick Roche, Member ; Mr Pat Carey and Mr Bobby McDonagh, Alternates

Article 17b : Qualified majority Voting in the Council of Ministers

1. Except where the Constitution provides otherwise, decisions in the Council of Ministers shall be taken by qualified majority.
2. When the European Council or the Council take decisions by qualified majority, **the arrangements set out in Article Y of Part Two shall apply.** ~~such a majority shall consist of the majority of Member States, representing at least three fifths of the population of the Union.~~

The European Council, acting unanimously, may agree to adjust these arrangements to provide for any future enlargement of the Union.
3. Unless this Constitution provides otherwise, abstentions by Members present in person shall not prevent the adoption by the Council of measures requiring unanimity.
4. Within the European Council, its President and the President of the Commission do not vote.

Explanation (if any) :

Arrangements for QMV, regarding the voting weights of Member States and the necessary thresholds of support, were, with considerable difficulty, agreed at Nice as part of a package which includes also arrangements for the Commission and for the European Parliament. These weighted arrangements strike an appropriate balance between demographic considerations and the interests of Member States. They have yet to be tested and should continue to apply. Because of their detail, they should be set out in a Part Two of the Treaty. It should be open to the European Council to decide unanimously to amend these arrangements to make appropriate provision for future enlargements of the Union.