

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article 17b

By Ms / Mr : Ms Helle THORNING-SCHMIDT

Status : - Alternate

Article 17b: QMV

1. Except where the Constitution provides otherwise, decisions of the Council shall be taken by qualified majority consisting of at least 232 votes in favour.

Where the Council is required to act by a qualified majority, the votes of its Members shall be weighted as follows:

Belgium	12	Luxembourg	4
Czech Republic	12	Hungary	12
Denmark	7	Malta	3
Germany	29	Netherlands	13
Estonia	4	Austria	10
Greece	12	Poland	27
Spain	27	Portugal	12
France	29	Slovenia	4
Ireland	7	Slovakia	7
Italy	29	Finland	7
Cyprus	4	Sweden	10
Latvia	4	United Kingdom	29
Lithuania	7		

When a decision is to be adopted by the Council by a qualified majority, a member of the Council may request verification that the Member States constituting the qualified majority represent at least 62 % of the total population of the Union. If that condition is shown not to have been met, the decision in question shall not be adopted.

Explanation:

A compromise on votes in the Council of Ministers has only just been reached after difficult negotiations in Nice. Furthermore, the draft proposal does not deal with the important issue of equality between the Member States.

The figures will have to be changed when new countries join the Union.

Explanation (if any) :