

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article 19

By Mrs Lena Hjelm-Wallén and Mr Sven-Olof Petersson, government representatives, and Mr Sören Lekberg and Mr Kenneth Kvist, national parliament representatives.

Status : - Member: Hjelm-Wallén and Lekberg
 - Alternate: Petersson and Kvist

Article 19 : The Foreign Minister

1. The European Council, deciding by qualified majority, with the agreement of the President of the Commission, shall appoint the Union's Foreign Minister. He/**she**¹ shall conduct the Union's common foreign and security policy.
2. The Foreign Minister shall contribute by his proposals to the development of the common foreign policy, which he/**she**¹ shall carry out as mandated by the Council. The same shall apply to the common security and defence policy.
3. ~~The Foreign Minister shall be one of the Vice Presidents of the Commission. He shall be responsible there for handling external relations and for co-ordinating other aspects of the Union's external action. In exercising these responsibilities within the Commission, and only for these responsibilities, he/**she** shall be bound by Commission procedures.~~ **The Foreign Minister shall co-operate closely with the Commission with the aim to achieving full coherence of the Union's external action.**²

¹ The Constitution must be gender neutral.

² I recognise the merits of the proposed "doublehatting" in terms of coherent representation and improved co-ordination. Nonetheless, the proposal to make the Foreign Minister a member of the Commission raises a number of concerns. As proposed the reform would blur the division of responsibilities between the Council and the Commission and could weaken the integrity and authority of both institutions. It is, however, important to ensure better co-ordination between the institutions. The Foreign Minister should therefore, when external action is discussed, participate in the meetings of the Commission.