

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : Article 2

Suggestion for protocol :

By Ms / Mr : David Heathcoat-Amory

Status : X - Member - Alternate

Article 2

1. On the basis of the principles and objectives referred to in Article 1 of this Title, the European Council shall identify the strategic interests and objectives of the Union's **Member States**.

European Council decisions on the strategic interests and objectives of the Union may relate to foreign policy and to other areas of the external action of the Union. Such decisions may concern the relations of the Union with a specific country or region or may be thematic in approach. They shall *[define]* **limit** their duration, and the means to be made available by the Union and the Member States.

The European Council shall act unanimously on a proposal from the Council. *[(Delete :) The Council proposal shall be adopted by the Council by a qualified majority on the basis of recommendations by the Minister for Foreign Affairs (for matters relating to the common foreign and security policy), by the Commission (for other areas of external action), or by both together.]* The decisions of the European Council shall be implemented by the Council in accordance with the procedures provided for in *[the Constitution]* **this Treaty**.

[2. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, for the field of common foreign and security policy, and the Commission, for other fields of external action, may submit joint proposals to the Council. The Council shall adopt decisions on such joint proposals by qualified majority.]

Explanation (if any) : The CFSP should remain intergovernmental, actions being taken by unanimity.

While proposals from Member States are decided upon by unanimity, the original draft provided for a weakened form of Qualified Majority decision-making when the EU Foreign Minister and the Commission act together. Given that the EU Foreign Minister is part of the Commission – he is a Vice President – this in reality means that the Commission assumes the predominant role.