

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : 2, Part II

Suggestion for protocol :

By Ms / Mr : G.M. de Vries
 T.J.A.M. de Bruijn

Status : Members

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.

European Council ~~decisions~~ guidelines on the strategic interests and objectives of the Union may relate to common foreign and security 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 their duration, and the means to be made available by the Union and the Member States.~~

The European Council shall ~~set~~ establish those guidelines unanimously on a proposal from the Council. The Council proposal shall be adopted by the Council by ~~a qualified majority~~ unanimity 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, in the latter case the Council proposal shall be adopted with qualified majority. The ~~decisions~~ guidelines of the European Council shall be implemented by the Council in accordance with the procedures provided for in the Constitution.

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 Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Commission may submit joint proposals to the Council on matters covering both common foreign and security policy and other fields of external action. These joint proposals will be without prejudice to the sole competence of the

Commission to submit proposals as defined in other provisions of part II of the Constitutional Treaty. The Council shall adopt decisions on such joint proposals by qualified majority.

Explanation (if any) : It should be made clear that the European Council only defines guidelines and that the Council takes ‘decisions’ on the basis of these guidelines. As to paragraph 2, there should be no ‘roll-back’ on the existing prerogatives of the Commission.