

## AMENDMENT FORM

**Suggestion for amendment of: PART III OF THE CONSTITUTION:  
Article III-196**

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**On behalf of the EPP Convention Group**

**Status :    - Member            - Alternate**

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### **Suggestion**

#### **Article III-196 (ex Article 9)**

##### Article III-196 (ex Article 9)

~~1.—European decisions under this Chapter shall be taken by the Council acting unanimously. Abstentions by members present in person or represented shall not prevent the adoption of such decisions.~~

~~When abstaining in a vote, any member of the Council may qualify its abstention by making a formal declaration under the present subparagraph. In that case, it shall not be obliged to apply the European decision, but shall accept that the latter commits the Union. In a spirit of mutual solidarity, the Member State concerned shall refrain from any action likely to conflict with or impede Union action based on that decision and the other Member States shall respect its position. If the members of the Council qualifying their abstention in this way represent at least one third of the Member States representing at least one third of the population of the Union, the decision shall not be adopted.~~

~~2.—By derogation from paragraph 1, the Council shall act by qualified majority:~~

- ~~(a)—when adopting European decisions on Union actions and positions on the basis of a European decision of the European Council relating to the Union's strategic interests and objectives, as defined in [Article III-189(1)] of this Title;~~
- ~~(b)—when adopting a decision on a Union action or position, on a proposal which the Minister puts forward to it following a specific request to him from the European Council made at its own initiative or that of the Minister;~~
- ~~(c)—when adopting any European decision implementing a Union action or position;~~

~~(d) when adopting a European decision concerning the appointment of a special representative in accordance with [Article III-198 (ex 11)] of this Chapter.~~

~~If a member of the Council declares that, for vital and stated reasons of national policy, it intends to oppose the adoption of a European decision to be taken by qualified majority, a vote shall not be taken. The Council may, acting by a qualified majority, request that the matter be referred to the European Council for decision by unanimity.~~

**1. Decisions under this chapter shall be taken by the Council by qualified majority:**

*If a member of the Council declares that, for important and stated reasons of national policy, it intends to oppose the adoption of a decision to be taken by qualified majority, a vote shall not be taken. The Foreign Minister shall, in close consultation with the Member State involved, search for a solution acceptable to it. Should this consultation not lead to a result acceptable for the member state in question and the other member states the matter will be referred to the European Council for decision by qualified majority.*

**2. By derogation from paragraph 1, the Council shall act in any case by qualified majority:**

- *when adopting European decisions on Union actions and positions on the basis of a European decision of the European Council relating to the Union's strategic interests and objectives, as defined in [Article III-189(1)] of this Title;*
- *when acting on the basis of a joint proposal by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Commission, as defined in Article 2(2);*
- *when adopting any European decision implementing a Union action or position;*
- *when adopting a European decision concerning the appointment of a special representative in accordance with [Article III-198 (ex 11)] of this Chapter.*

~~3. The European Council may decide unanimously that the Council shall act by a qualified majority in cases other than those referred to in paragraph 2.~~

~~3.4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 shall not apply to decisions having military or defence implications. Decisions having military or defence applications shall be taken by the Council acting unanimously. Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply.~~

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**Explanation (if any) :**

It is crucial that the principle of qualified majority voting is laid down as a general rule in Foreign and Security Policy. Exceptions should be allowed in case of important and stated reasons of national policy.