

AMENDMENT FORM

Title B - Part II

Suggestion for amendment of Article : 8

By Members: Mr Andrew Duff, Mr Lamberto Dini, Mr Paul Helminger, Mr Dimitrij Rupel, Mr Peeter Kreitzberg, Mr Algirdas Gričius, Mr Puiu Hasotti, Mr Jelko Kacin, Mr Zekeriya Akçam and Mr Eugenijus Maldeikis; **and Alternate Members:** Ms Lone Dybkjaer, Mr Willem Van Eekelen, Lord MacLennan of Rogart, Mr Nesrin Uzun, Mr Marios Matsakis, Mrs Androula Vassiliou, Mr Istvan Szent-Ivanyi, Mr Péter Eckstein-Kovacs, Mr Ibrahim Ozal and Mr Gintautas Sivickas.

Status : Members and alternate members.

Article 8

1. Any Member State or the [*Minister of Foreign Affairs/Secretary of the Union*], acting alone or together with the Commission, may refer to the Council any question relating to the common foreign and security policy and may submit proposals to the Council.
 2. In cases requiring a rapid decision, [*Minister of Foreign Affairs/Secretary of the Union*], *at his own initiative*, or at the request of a Member State, shall convene an extraordinary Council meeting within forty-eight hours or, in an emergency, within a shorter period.
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Explanation:

We prefer the title Secretary of the Union as being less confusing with the traditional nomenclature of national ministers of foreign affairs.

We also specified that it is at his own initiative, rather than 'on his own motion' that meetings can be convened.
