

## AMENDMENT FORM

### Title B - Part II

#### Suggestion for amendment of Article : 17

By Mr. Adrian Severin

Status Alternate Member

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The paragraph 1 should be modified as follows:

1. The Council, acting **by enhanced qualified majority, except those cases implying a military action**, shall adopt decisions relating to the tasks referred to in this Article, defining their objectives and scope and the general conditions for their implementation. The Union's Minister for Foreign Affairs, acting under the authority of the Council and in close and constant contact with the Political and Security Committee, shall ensure coordination of the civilian and military aspects of such tasks.

**In those cases when the Council should decide by unanimity, 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 decision, but shall accept that the decision 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 more than one third of the votes weighted in accordance with Article X of the Constitution, the decision shall not be adopted.**

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#### Explanation:

- 1. The general rule for the procedure in the common security and defence policy should be enhanced qualified majority vote.*
- 2. In the case of unanimity we need however some form of flexibility such as constructive abstention.*