

## AMENDMENT FORM

**Suggestion for amendment of Article : Article III-212 (ex Article 24)**

**By Ms / Mr : Ms Helle THORNING-SCHMIDT**

**Status : Alternate**

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### **Article III-212 (ex Article 24), paragraphe 3**

3. Where agreements with one or more States or international organisations need to be negotiated, the relevant provisions of [Article III-222 (ex 33)] of this Title shall apply. The Commission shall make recommendations to the Council, which, *after consultation of the European Parliament*, shall authorise the Commission to open the necessary negotiations. *The Council and the European Parliament shall agree upon a time-limit for Parliament's opinion.* The Council and the Commission shall be responsible for ensuring that the agreements negotiated are compatible with internal Union policies and rules.

The Commission shall conduct these negotiations in consultation with a special committee appointed by the Council to assist the Commission in this task and within the framework of such directives as the Council may issue to it. The Commission shall report regularly to the special committee and to the European Parliament on the progress of negotiations.

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### **Explanation (if any) :**

In order for EP consultation to be meaningful, consultation should start formally at the negotiating mandate stage, and Parliament and Council should jointly agree the time-limit for delivering the EP opinion. Parliament should be consulted before approval of all trade agreements, again with jointly agreed time-scales, and Parliamentary assent should be given on completion of major trade rounds, as for the Uruguay/WTO round.