

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : Article III-222 (ex Article 24)

By Ms / Mr : Ms Helle THORNING-SCHMIDT

Status : Alternate

Article III-222 (ex Article 24), paragraphe 3

3. The Commission, or the Union's Minister for Foreign Affairs where the agreement exclusively or principally relates to the common foreign and security policy, shall submit recommendations to the Council, which, *after consultation of the European Parliament*, shall authorise the opening of negotiations.

Article III-222 (ex Article 24), paragraphe 7

7. The Council shall conclude agreements on the proposal of the agreement negotiator. Except where agreements relate exclusively to the common foreign and security policy, the Council shall not conclude any agreement until the European Parliament has been consulted. *The Council and the European Parliament may, in an urgent situation, agree upon a time-limit for Parliament's opinion.* The Parliament shall deliver its opinion within a time-limit which the Council may lay down according to the urgency of the matter. In the absence of an opinion within that time-limit, the Council may act. The European Parliament's consent shall be required for association agreements, *for international trade rounds*, for Union accession to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and for agreements establishing a specific institutional framework by organising cooperation procedures, agreements with important budgetary implications for the Union and agreements covering fields to which the legislative procedure applies. The Council and the European Parliament may, in an urgent situation, agree upon a time-limit for consent.

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.