

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article III-226 (new)

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Status: - Alternate, Member

Add the following in and after Paragraph (1)

(1). On the basis of a proposal by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Commission, the Council shall adopt a decision defining the arrangements for the implementation of the solidarity Clause referred to in Article *I-42*

(1 bis) The arrangement so defined shall include an obligation to notify the European Parliament about any decision to take specific action by way of implementing the solidarity Clause. It shall also include an obligation to obtain the approval of Parliament.

Each such decision shall be reported to Parliament as soon as possible after it is taken, and shall lapse if not confirmed by affirmative resolution of the Parliament within three months of receipt of such notification. Such a resolution may require reference back to Parliament at regular intervals for further approval, without which the decision shall lapse.

Explanation:

The dangers foreseen in the "Solidarity Clause" are real ones, and provision needs to be made for them. In the case of sudden and violent natural or humanly devised disasters, there must be a capability for swift and decisive action.

Nevertheless there are manifest risks for invasions of the liberty of citizens, or even of action threatening their lives. It is not acceptable in a democracy for such risks to be incurred purely by the will of the executive branch of government. Although there may be a need for very speedy responses on the first onset of a grave situation, there must be subsequent democratic review through the European Parliament.

Democratic validation of such decisions is all-important. This can only be achieved by giving the European Parliament the proposed power to review the grounds for actions taken and the proportionality and acceptability of the action taken.