

AMENDMENT FORM

Title IV

Suggestion for amendment of Article : 16 a

By Members: Mr Andrew Duff, Mr Lamberto Dini, Mr Paul Helminger, Lord Maclellan, Mr Adrian Severin.

Status : Members.

Article 16a : The European Council Chair

1. *The President of the Commission shall chair the European Council*, ensuring proper preparation and continuity, *and seeking* cohesion and consensus. He *or she* shall present a report to the European Parliament after each of its meetings.

2. **Delete**

3. **Delete**

4. **Delete.**

Explanation:

1. *Our proposal is that the President of the Commission should chair the European Council and could be re-styled 'President of the Union'.¹*

We propose extending the logic of the double hat to the top level, so that the President of the Commission would chair the European Council. The proposal would bring greater leadership and efficiency, whilst at the same time firmly placing the more stable Council Presidency within the 'Community system'.

The solution has all of the advantages sought by many members of the Convention in seeking more continuity, leadership and coordination of the executive resources of the Union, whilst at the same time providing the guarantees required that inter-institutional struggles between the Presidents of the Commission and of the European Council will not paralyse the system.

The proposal also avoids institutionalising rivalry between the larger and smaller Member States.

¹ Such a stand-alone clause could also be added to Article 16.

The concept of the unified presidency is more fully explained in CONV 524/03.

The content of paragraph 2 is merged with paragraph 1.

Paragraph 3, creating a board or steering committee, is not a constitutional issue and could be achieved within the Rules of Procedure.

In our scenario, of course, paragraph 4 is null and void.