

## AMENDMENT FORM

### Suggestion for amendment of Article : 16a, Title IV, Part I

### Suggestion for protocol :

By Ms / Mr : Hain

Status : - Member

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1. The European Council shall elect its President, by qualified majority, for a term of two and a half years, renewable once. [The person elected must be, or have been for at least two years, a member of the European Council.] In cases of serious ~~malpractice~~misconduct, the European Council can end his mandate according to the same procedure.

On issues concerning its common foreign and security policy he shall ensure that the Union at his level is effectively represented in the wider world.

2. The President of the European Council shall chair it and drive forward ~~its~~the Council's work, ensuring proper preparation and continuity. He shall endeavour to facilitate cohesion, ~~and~~ consensus ~~within the European Council~~and consistency. He shall present a report to the European Parliament after each of its meetings.
  3. *See comments below.*
  4. *OK.*
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### Explanation (if any) :

*Article 16a 1 A change to the detail of the article only. We strongly support the substance and believe that, in practice, the Chair is most likely to meet the criteria. But would not a Constitutional provision confining candidates to people who are or have been members of the European Council for two years too restrictive? "Malpractice" is not the correct word in English. (cf Article 216 TEC).*

*Article 16a 2 When it will no longer be the case that any single Member State holds the Chair of every Council formation at the same time, the Chair of the European Council will have an important role to ensure the work of the Council formations is properly coordinated and consistent with the agenda set by the European Council. Our amendment makes this explicit in the Treaty. In order to achieve this, the Chair might also chair the General Affairs Council and meetings of the Chairs of the sectoral Councils.*

*Article 16a 3 It is not clear what the role of this board would be. We propose instead a system of team presidencies, in which 4 or 5 countries, by rotation, would chair the sectoral councils for a set period of time (1 to 2 ½ years). Membership of the team would be governed by the principle of equality. The members could meet, under the chairmanship of the Chair of the European Council, to coordinate the work of the Council formations. This could be set out in Article 17a 6.*