

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article 16a: The European Council Chair

By : Mr Dick Roche, Member ; Mr Pat Carey and Mr Bobby McDonagh, Alternates

Article 16a : The European Council Chair

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, 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 work, ensuring proper preparation and continuity. He shall endeavour to facilitate cohesion and consensus within the European Council. He shall present a report to the European Parliament after each of its meetings.~~

3. ~~The European Council may decide by consensus to create a board consisting of three of its members chosen according to a system of equitable rotation.~~

4. ~~The President of the European Council may not be a member of another European institution or hold a national mandate.~~

Explanation (if any) :

The European Council should be chaired by the Head of State or Government of the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. This should be included in Article 16 proper.

As noted in relation to Article 17, some have argued that the current system, under which the Presidency is rotated on the basis of equality, will not be efficient in a Union of 25 or more Member States. We do not believe that the case has yet been made in a compelling way. If, however, difficulties arise in ensuring the effectiveness and coherence of the Council's work, and the European Council believes that these difficulties can be remedied by putting alternative arrangements for the Presidency in place – including, possibly, team presidencies - it should be possible for it to do so by unanimous agreement.