

## AMENDMENT FORM

### Title IV

#### Suggestion for amendment of Article 16a

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Status : **Alternate Member**

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Delete the second indent of the paragraph 1

Para. 2 should be modified as follows:

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 **as well as between the EU's institutions (on one side), the member states and the European peoples (one the other side)**. He shall present a report to the European Parliament after each of its meetings.

**The President of the European Council is entitled to make public the strategic orientations of the Union (as established by the Council) and supports the European Foreign Minister in the performance of his duties related to the common foreign and security policy. (The President will represent at his level the Union within its external relations only together and in the presence of the European Foreign Minister).**

*NB. The texts in the brackets are meant to create alternative versions. They could be added to the rest of the text if in this way a compromise could be facilitated.*

Para. 3 should be replaced with the following one:

3. **The President of the Council will be assisted by and will work under the oversight of a Presidential Board elected by the Council among its members by qualified majority. The Board will be formed by three members representing the group of the big, medium, and small countries, respectively, in accordance with a proper geographic representation and with the observation of an appropriate rotation system.**

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**Explanation:**

*1. The competences of European Council's Chair are the object of the actual art. 16.2 bis. Consequently the Chairperson's role in the field of the foreign representation should be included there.*

*2. The words inserted and added in the paragraph 2 would emphasize that the European Council is a real institution of the Union, working for the Union and not a mere Assembly of the member states' representatives, each of them bringing there its own problems. The general opinion of the Convention was that the European Council's President should be more a chairman than a political leader (proper president). It is also clear that such a Chairman should not hinder the Foreign Minister who must have the plenitude of the representation powers in respect of the Union's external action. Finally it is natural that the President of the Council could not speak but for the Council's opinions and decisions, while it is also obvious that the Council does not cover the whole Union. On the contrary, the Foreign Minister could speak for the whole Union since he will enjoy a double legitimacy – that given by the member states (he will be elected by the Council) and that given by the European community of peoples (he will be accepted by the President of the Commission who is elected by the European Parliament). As in the case of many national Presidents without a major political role, the President of the European Council should not be able to act in the field of foreign representation but together and under the oversight of the foreign minister.*

*3. This could be the only compromise which will give a reasonable guaranty to the small and medium countries that they are going to have an equal opportunity to accede to the leadership of the Union and to assure a fair balance between the interests of all member states.*