

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of : Article 16a

By: Robert Maclellan, Lone Dybkjaer.

Status : Alternate

Article 16a : The European Council Chair

- 1. The office of the European Council Chairman shall be held in turn by each Member State for a term of six months in the order decided by the Council, acting by a reinforced qualified majority.*
 - 2. The **Chairman** of the European Council shall preside over it. He shall present a report to the European Parliament after each of its meetings. He shall also serve as President of the Legislative Council.*
-

Explanation :

The functions of the European Council Chair should be divided, between the Chairman of the European Council and a new position of Secretary-General of the Union, appointed to play a central political role. The Chairman of the European Council shall preside over its meetings and be responsible for the communication of the policy-guidelines and decisions taken by the European Council to the European Parliament and the outside world.

The retention of the rotating principle for the appointment of the European Council Chairman will guarantee respect for the principle of the equality of member states and ensure that Union decision-making is refreshed on a regular basis .

The Chairman will also be responsible for acting as the President of the Legislative Council. This role will involve applying the rules of procedure, being the spokesperson of the house in relation to the Union's other institutions, to represent the house in legal, financial and administrative matters and to carry out protocol duties. In its legislative role, COREPER will continue to be chaired by the permanent representative of the government presiding over the European Council, as would Council working groups.

With the establishment of a European Foreign Minister, there will be no need for the Chairman to 'ensure that the Union at his level is effectively represented in the world'. The retention of that role by the Chairman would create unnecessary confusion in the Union's representation vis-à-vis third countries.