

AMENDMENT FORM

**Suggestion for amendment of : Article 16b**

**By: Robert Maclellan**

**Status : Alternate**

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**Article 16b: The Secretary-General of the Union**

- 1. The European Council shall appoint a Secretary-General of the Union, by a qualified majority, for a term of two and a half years, renewable once. He may not hold a national mandate. In cases of serious malpractice, the European Council can end his mandate according to the same procedure.*
  - 2. The Secretary-General shall drive forward the work of the European Council, ensuring proper preparation and continuity. He shall endeavour to facilitate cohesion and consensus within the European Council. He or his deputy will preside over the Executive Council formations, with the exception of the Foreign Affairs Council.*
  - 3. He shall be one of the vice-presidents of the Commission, responsible there for those personnel matters relating to the discharge of the Council's executive functions. In exercising that responsibility within the Commission and only for that responsibility shall he be bound by Commission procedures.*
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**Explanation :**

*The centrality of the role will ensure that the Secretary-General will be of a political stature equal to that of experienced members of the European Council.*

*The continuing responsibility for the preparation and follow-up of the Council's work would strengthen the effectiveness of the Union's performance.*

*As a Vice President of the Commission with collegiate responsibility limited to personnel matters relating to the discharge of the Council's executive functions the Secretary-General could ensure closer liaison with the Commission on the Council's behalf. His limited role with respect to personnel within the Commission would help to secure adequate servicing of the two executive arms of the Union while avoiding the development of separate, self-serving and competing bureaucracies.*

