

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : I-21

By Mr : Hain

Status : - Member

-
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.
 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.

The President of the European Council shall **in that capacity** ensure, at his level, **the external representation of the Union**, ~~that the Union is effectively represented in the wider world on issues concerning its common foreign and security policy.~~, **without prejudice to the responsibilities of the President of the Commission and the Minister for Foreign Affairs.**

3. *See below.*
 4. *Okay.*
-

Explanation (if any) :

I.21.1 : The European Council's power to end the mandate of its Chair should not be restricted to cases of malpractice – it could e.g. be needed on grounds of ill health.

I.21.2 : 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 other, sectoral Council formations is properly coordinated and consistent with the agenda set by the European Council. Our amendment makes this explicit.

I.21.3 : 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.