

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : 17 a

By Mr. Esko HELLE

Status : - Alternate

Article 17a : Council formations

1. The General Affairs Council shall ensure consistency in the work of the Council of Ministers. With the participation of the Commission, it shall prepare meetings of the European Council.
 2. The Legislative Council shall consider and, jointly with the European Parliament, enact European laws and European framework laws, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. Each Member State's ministerial representative may be assisted by one or, if necessary, two specialist ministers, reflecting the business on the Council agenda.
 3. The Foreign Affairs Council shall, on the basis of strategic guidelines laid down by the European Council, flesh out the Union's external policies, and ensure that its actions are consistent. ~~It shall be chaired by the Union's Foreign Minister.~~
 4. The Council shall also meet in the configuration of an Economic and Financial Affairs Council, and a Council on Justice and Security.
 5. The Council, in its General Affairs formation, may decide on further formations.
 6. The European Council may decide by consensus that the Presidency of a Council formation, other than that of Foreign Affairs, should be undertaken by a Member State for a period of at least a year, taking into account European political and geographical balance and the diversity of all Member States.
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Explanation (if any):

A Member of the Commission cannot chair the Council of Ministers. The chairman has to be a representative of a Member State who is responsible to his own National Parliament.