

## AMENDMENT FORM

### Suggestion for amendment of Article : 17a

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#### **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, 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

To provide for the greatest flexibility (and to ensure the longevity of this Treaty) there is no need to prescribe the formations in which the Council will meet. Clearly, existing formations of the Council would remain in being until the European Council decides otherwise. The paragraph covering the above mentioned principles should be included in Article 17 (see relevant amendment).

We do not support the creation of a Legislative Council. It seems more appropriate for legislation in sectoral areas to be handled by the relevant Council formations which have the necessary expertise and domestic political authority. The proposed arrangements risk causing duplication and could give rise to coordinating difficulties at European and national levels.