

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : 17a

Suggestion for Part I

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Status : - Member Alternate

Article 17a : Council formations

1. The General Affairs Council shall ensure consistency in the work of the Council of Ministers. It prepares, with the participation of the Commission, 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~~ following configurations:
 - a. Economic and Financial Affairs
 - b. Justice and Home Affairs;
 - c. Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs;
 - d. Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry and Research);
 - e. Transport, Telecommunications and Energy;
 - f. Agriculture and Fisheries;
 - g. Environment;
 - h. Education, Youth and Culture
5. The Council, in its General Affairs configuration, may decide on further formations.
6. ~~The European Council can decide by consensus that the Presidency of a configuration of the Council of Ministers, with the exception of the Foreign Affairs Council, be undertaken by a Member State for the duration of at least one year, taking into account political and European geographic balance and the diversity of all Member States.~~ **The Council's configurations, the Foreign Affairs Council excepted, shall be chaired by a team presidency of Member States for a term of one year in a predetermined order decided by the Council, in its General Affairs configuration.**

Explanation (if any) :

Para 4: It is important that the basic structure of the Council is maintained in the Constitution. For this reason the decision taken by the E. Council at Seville, concerning the list of Council configurations, is incorporated into the Constitution – with the exception of the External Affairs Council, which is divided into two separate formations. The

Para 6: The adoption of the team presidency for Council configurations (with the exception of the

External Relations Council) is the most appropriate means of preserving the advantages of the current system, while adapting it to the needs of a greatly enlarged Union.