

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article 17a: Council Formations

By : Mr Dick Roche, Member ; Mr Pat Carey and Mr Bobby McDonagh, Alternates

Article 17a: Council Formations

1. **The Council shall meet in such formations as the European Council shall decide.**

~~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.~~

Explanation (if any) :

The creation of a Legislative Council would not contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council's legislative work. It would, moreover, complicate existing arrangements in sectoral areas. It is more appropriate for legislation to be handled by these formations which have the necessary expertise and domestic political authority. The proposed arrangements would cause unnecessary duplication and could give rise to coordinating difficulties at European and national levels.

To provide for the greatest flexibility (and to ensure the longevity of this Treaty), and in keeping with our mandate to simplify the Treaties, 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 decided otherwise.

This reduced Article should be included in Article 17.