

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, 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. The Presidency of the Council formations, other than that of Foreign Affairs, shall be held in turn by each Member State for a term of six months in the order decided by the European Council acting unanimously. The European Council acting unanimously may decide that a team Presidency shall preside over Council formations other than that of Foreign Affairs for a total period of time that will enable each Member State in the team Presidency to preside over each formation for a six-month period.
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Explanation (if any) :

The rotation of the Presidency of the Council between all Member States on the basis of equality should be retained. There should also be a provision catering for the possibility of having team Presidencies.