

AMENDMENT FORM

Title IV

Suggestion for amendment of Article : 19

By Members: Mr Andrew Duff, Mr Lamberto Dini, Mr Paul Helminger, Mrs Lone Dybkjaer, Lord Maclellan, Mr Adrian Severin.

Status :Members and alternate members.

Article 19 : The Minister of Foreign Affairs/Secretary of the Union

1. The European Council, deciding by qualified majority, with the agreement of the President of the Commission, shall *nominate the [Minister of Foreign Affairs/Secretary of the Union]*. *The [Minister of Foreign Affairs/Secretary of the Union] shall be one of the Vice-Presidents of the Commission and a full member of the college.*

Ibis. The [Minister of Foreign Affairs/Secretary of the Union] may be dismissed on the proposal of either the European Council or the European Parliament if confirmed by the other, according to the provisions in Part Two.

2. The *[Minister of Foreign Affairs/Secretary of the Union]* shall be responsible *to the Commission* for handling external relations and for co-ordinating *all* aspects of the Union's external actions. *The [Minister/Secretary] shall contribute proposals to develop the Union's common foreign, security and defence policy, which he or she shall conduct as mandated by the Council.*

Explanation:

We have already stated our wish for a further discussion about the term 'Secretary of the Union' over 'Foreign Minister'.

The Praesidium's proposal for the double-hatted job is more ambiguous than it needs to be. Proper accountability will be assured if and when the Secretary is both grounded in the Commission, sharing responsibility for the decisions of the college, and also working to a clear mandate obtained from the Foreign Affairs Council.

We re-formulate the draft in paragraph 1 with the intended effect that the candidate for the post is chosen by the European Council but then submitted to the approval of the European Parliament as a member of the Commission in the normal way.

In paragraph 1 bis we repeat the procedure for the sacking of the President of the Commission in order to increase the Secretary's accountability.

In paragraph 2 we try a clearer and more succinct formulation of his (or her) job. We substitute 'all' for 'other' in respect of coordination.

And we offer a less convoluted - and more assured - draft which establishes, in our view, the desired dynamic.