

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : III -219 (ex Art 31)

By Mr : George Vella

Status : -Alternate

Article III-219 (ex Art 31)

1. Where a European decision on a Union position or action adopted in accordance with the provisions on the common foreign and security policy in Chapter 2 of this Title provides for the interruption or reduction, in part or completely, of economic and financial relations with one or more third countries, the Council, acting by a qualified majority on a joint proposal from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Commission, shall take the necessary measures. It shall inform the European Parliament thereof.

2. In the areas referred to in paragraph 1, the Council may adopt restrictive measures under the same procedure against natural or legal persons and non-State groups or bodies.

3. Abstentions by members present in person or represented shall not prevent the adoption of such decisions. When abstaining in a vote, any member of the Council may qualify its abstention by making a formal declaration under the present subparagraph. In that case, it shall not be obliged to apply the European decision, but shall accept that the latter commits the Union. In a spirit of mutual solidarity, the Member State shall refrain from initiating any action, or from enhancing or strengthening any existing action, likely to conflict with or impede Union action based on that decision and the other member states shall respect its position.

Explanation (if any) :

Addition of no. 3

The idea behind the amendments is to safeguard the interests and constitutional commitments of Neutral countries. The reasoning behind this amendment is similar to that in the explanatory text accompanying the proposed amendments to Article III-196, and should be understood in the same context.