

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : Part III, Chapter III, Article III - 322

Suggestion for protocol :

By Ms / Mr : Hain

Status : Member

1. *Okay.*

2. In the framework of the common foreign and security policy, the request of the Member States which wish to establish enhanced cooperation between themselves shall be addressed to the Council. It shall be forwarded to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who shall give an opinion on whether the enhanced cooperation is consistent with the Union's common foreign and security policy, and to the Commission, which shall give its opinion in particular on whether the enhanced cooperation proposed is consistent with other Union policies. It shall also be forwarded to the European Parliament for information.

Authorisation to proceed with enhanced cooperation shall be granted by a decision of the Council, acting by a qualified majority.

If a member of the Council declares that, for important and stated reasons of national policy, it intends to oppose the adoption of a decision to be taken by qualified majority, a vote shall not be taken. The Council may, acting by a qualified majority, request that the matter be referred to the European Council for decision by unanimity.

Explanation (if any) :

This amendment reintroduces the right of a Member State to ask for a decision to be referred to the European Council for reasons of national interest as found in Nice (Article 23, para 2 TEU). This is very important if enhanced co-operation is to be available in CFSP at all. It is made all the more important by these Articles extending the use of enhanced co-operation to all of CFSP (which we oppose – see our amendment to Art III 318).