

**Question for written answer E-000318/2016  
to the Council**  
Rule 130  
**Richard Sulík (ECR)**

Subject: Qualified majority voting in the Council - blocking minority and postponement of the vote

If a qualified majority was required for adoption of a decision taken by the Council in accordance with Article 78(3) TFEU in May 2015, was it possible under EU primary law (using the 'old' or 'new' method of calculating the qualified majority) for the Slovak Republic together with the Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania to block the adoption of a Council Decision or to obtain a postponement of the vote, or to indicate their opposition to the Council adopting an act by a qualified majority, in which case the Council would be obliged to discuss the issue, provided that all Member States voted to adopt the decision and Finland abstained?

If the answer to this question is 'No', would this be possible if the Member States mentioned had the support of Poland?

Since the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon has use been made of the Ioannina compromise referred to in Article 1 of Declaration No 7 on Article 16(4) of the Treaty on European Union and Article 238(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union?

I should be grateful for an unequivocal answer that does not simply cite the provisions of primary law.