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Answer given by President von der Leyen
on behalf of the European Commission
(28.7.2026)

1. The Commission's longstanding position, as expressed in Communications from 2018¹ and 2024² and reiterated by the President of the Commission in her State of the Union address in September 2025, is that, if the EU wants to act quickly, efficiently, and therefore strategically, unanimity voting ought to be reconsidered in certain policy areas, including on aspects of the Common Foreign and Security Policy.
2. While the Commission has indicated its support for a shift from unanimity to qualified majority voting through the activation of the passerelle clauses in the EU Treaties, the decision lies, depending on the policy area, with the European Council or the Council, which need to act by unanimity.
3. The Commission is aware of the concerns of some Member States with regard to a shift from unanimity to qualified majority voting. It considers that the activation of passerelle clauses could be combined with appropriate and proportionate safeguards to accommodate strategic national interests.

¹ Communication on A stronger global actor: a more efficient decision-making for EU Common Foreign and Security Policy, COM(2018) 647 final.

² Communication on pre-enlargement reforms and policy reviews, COM(2024) 146 final.