Table of Contents

Summary	p. 1
Aim of the study	p. 3
Method, sources and limitations	p. 5
I. Low level of negative votes and abstentions in 1988 and 2008	p. 9
II. From an automatic to a sophisticated use of qualified majority voting	p. 13
III. The norm for getting minorities to join the majority	p. 17
IV. The presidency's trump cards and the lack of transparency of member states' positions	p. 21
V. The shadow cast by the future and conforming: two permanent features	p. 27
VI. The policy of transparency and its effects	p. 29
Conclusion	p. 33