Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 50.4

A submission from the Fédération Française de Voile

Purpose
To clarify the measurement of a sail to differentiate a spinnaker from a headsail.

Proposal
Change rule 50.4 as follows:

50.4 Headsails
For the purposes of rules 50 and 54 and Appendix G, the difference between a headsail and a spinnaker becomes is that the width of a headsail when the measurement measured between the midpoints of its luff and leech, is less than 75% of the length of its foot...

Current Position
As above.

Reasons
According to the ERS (Equipment Rules of Sailing) G 7.5 (a, b) Half Width, the measurement of the width of a spinnaker is different from a Headsail.

According to ERS G 4.2 (b, c) Head Point, the definition of the head point of a spinnaker is different from the head point of a Headsail.

The Head points being different, the Half points are also different.

According to RRS 50.4 Headsails, the Headsails is defined as measured between the midpoints of luff and leech when this corresponds to the definition of the spinnaker measurement.

There is confusion, to define whether we have a spinnaker or a headsail, the sail must be measured as a spinnaker and not as a headsail.