

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : 1

By Mr Poul Schlüter

Status : Alternate

1. Reflecting the will of the peoples and the States of Europe to build a common future, this Constitutional Treaty establishes a Union [entitled ...], within which the ~~policies of the Member States shall be coordinated, and which shall administer certain common competences on a federal basis.~~ Member States have decided freely to exercise in common some of their competences.
 2. The Union shall respect the national identities of its Member States.
 - 2bis The Union shall take its decisions as openly as possible and as closely as possible to the citizen.
 3. The Union shall be open to all European States whose peoples share the same values, respect them and are committed to promoting them together.
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Explanation:

- 1) The use of the term “Constitutional Treaty” instead of the term “Constitution” underlines the fact that the EU is a close cooperation among *states*.
- 2) The EU is a *sui generis* entity. Any reference to “federalism” therefore seems misplaced. Since the word “federal” has different meanings in different languages the current wording might lead to misunderstandings in some Member States. The suggested new wording is an alternative.
- 3) It is important to send a clear signal to the citizens of the Union that openness and subsidiarity are fundamental principles defining the Union. The present wording of TEU article 1 (“where decisions are taken as openly as possible and as closely as possible to the citizens”) should therefore be preserved in an equally prominent place. The suggested text provides for this. Ms Lena Hjelm-Wallen, Ms Teija Tiilikainen and Mr Dick Roche furthermore share this view in their contribution on openness and good administration in the EU institutions (CONV 490/03).