

TITLE I: Definition, objectives and basic principles of the Union

Commentary:

The title of Title I should be adapted to take account of the inclusion of provisions on certain basic principles (primacy, loyalty) in this Title.

Article 1: The European Union

1. Reflecting the will of the peoples and the States of Europe to build a common future, this Constitution **marks a new stage in the development of the European Union [...], which shall administer certain common competences on a federal basis and which coordinates some of the policies operated by the Member States, and in which decisions are taken as openly as possible and as closely as possible to the citizen.**
2. The Union shall respect the national identities of its Member States, **in particular their political and constitutional structure, organisation of the public authorities at national, regional and local level, as well as their cultural and linguistic diversity.**
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.

Commentary:

The Constitution does not establish the Union anew but rather marks a new stage in its development. There is no need to change the name of the Union. It would be important to preserve the basic principles of openness and the key role of citizens in the opening provision of the Union's founding text, as in the current Art. 1 TEU.

As the so-called identity clause does not relate solely to the exercise of the Union's competence, it should be moved here from the proposed Art. 9 para. 6 and complemented by a reference to cultural and linguistic diversity.