

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : I-14

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Status : - Member

Article I-14: The coordination of economic ~~and employment~~ policies

1. The Union shall adopt measures to ensure coordination of the economic policies of the Member States, in particular by adopting broad guidelines for these policies. The Member States shall coordinate their economic policies within the Union.

2. Specific provisions shall apply to those Member States which have adopted the euro.

~~3. The Union shall adopt measures to ensure coordination of the employment policies of the Member States, in particular by adopting guidelines for these policies.~~

~~4. The Union may adopt initiatives to ensure coordination of Member States' social policies.~~

Explanation:

Employment is and should remain primarily a matter for the Member States. The Union should contribute to a free market economy, but employment measures in a more specific sense should be taken at the Member State level. It is not a task for the Union to reform bad functioning labour markets or pension systems; this must be done nationally.

A wording in the Constitution stating that employment policy is a Union competence gives a false impression. The Union may then be blamed for unemployment problems even if the Union does not have the tools to lower unemployment.

It should also be remembered that Working Group IX on Social Europe considered in general that the existing competences of the Union in the social field are adequate.