

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article 13

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Status : **Members and alternate member.**

Article 13: The coordination of economic policies

13.1 The Union shall coordinate the economic policies of the Member States, in particular by establishing broad guidelines for these policies.

13.2 The Member States shall conduct their economic policies, taking account of the common interest, so as to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Union.

13.3 *The Member States shall coordinate their national employment policies within the Union.*

13.4 Specific provisions shall apply to those Member States which have ***not*** adopted the euro.

Explanation:

13.3 Following the logic of shifting employment policy from areas restricted to 'supporting action' to the more fulsome 'shared competence' (see Article 12.4), it would be wise to shift Article 15.3 of the Praesidium's draft into this article which concerns general economic policy of which employment policy will be an integral part.

13.4 All Member States sign up to the objectives and disciplines of Economic and Monetary Union, including membership of the euro, when they join the Union. The presumption of the Constitution should be that all Member States will in the end fulfil these obligations. If specific provisions are needed they should apply to those countries who have yet to reach their goal. The general regime should be designed for those who are fully integrated.

As it stands, the Praesidium's draft is ambiguous, implying something more than the Stability and Growth Pact but less than the formal procedures for closer cooperation (Article 11 TEC). Such ambiguity in a constitution does not help to reconcile possible political differences between eurozone and non-eurozone members.