

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article 2

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Status : Members and alternate member

Article 2: The Union's values

2.1 The Union is founded on *shared* values of *liberty*, human dignity, democracy, the rule of law and respect for *fundamental* rights. Its aim is a society at peace, *enriched by its cultural diversity, practising and promoting* tolerance, justice and solidarity.

2.2 *The Union shall respect its national and regional identities.*

Explanation :

2.1 The formulation of 'shared' rather than 'common' values is to indicate a positive commitment to the unity of Europe. 'Common' is a more passive concept.

Liberty takes priority in a list of values.

If we have 'human dignity' already we need the wider notion of 'fundamental' rights, which is also consistent with the Charter.

A reference to the value of European culture is surely desirable at this point, as is the idea of promoting by example what it is we as Europeans practise.

2.2 This clause is taken over from Article 1. 2. The qualification of national identities being 'of its Member States' is dropped in the interests of pluralism and historical accuracy. There are many national identities within the states of Europe.

Likewise we include regional identities. The Constitution must cater for the emergence of a post-national democratic identity with flourishing regions and localities.