

## AMENDMENT FORM

### Suggestion for amendment of Article 2:

By Elmar BROK, Jozsef SZAJER, Erwin TEUFEL, René VAN DER LINDEN, Frantisek KROUPA, Jacques SANTER, Antonio TAJANI, Teresa ALMEIDA GARRETT, Peter ALT-MAIER, Jan Jacob VAN DIJK, Jan FIGEL, Piia Noora KAUPPI, Göran LENNMARKER, Hanja MAIJ-WEGGEN, Reinhard RACK, Joachim WÜRMELING

on behalf of the EPP Convention Group

Status: Members and Alternates

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*Text of the Praesidium*

*Proposed Amendments*

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#### Article 2: The Union's values

The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, liberty, democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights, values which are common to the Member States. Its aim is a society at peace, through the practice of tolerance, justice and solidarity.

#### Article 2: The Union's values

**1.** The Union is founded on the values of ~~respect for~~ human dignity, liberty, democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights **and fundamental freedoms**, values which are common to the Member States. Its aim is a society at peace, through the practice of tolerance, justice, **equality** and solidarity.

**2. The Union's values include the values of those who believe in God as the source of truth, justice, good and beauty as well as of those who do not share such a belief but respect these universal values arising from other sources.**

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#### Explanation:

- It should be kept in mind that infringement of the values in Para 1, first sentence will lead to the application of **the sanction procedure under the present Article 7 of the EU Treaty**, which eventually could lead to the suspension of voting rights of a Member State in the Council. This is why we agree with the Praesidium to keep the values in the first sentence short and concise. However, this should not preclude listing further aims and fundamental principles in the second sentence and in a second paragraph of Article 2.
- Para 1, first sentence emphasises the aim of **equality** – which includes **equality before the law and in particular equality between women and men** – in order to underline the fundamental rights included in Chapter III of the Charter of Fundamental Rights (which is an integral part of the Constitution, see our amendment to Article 5). Chapter III of the Charter is entitled “Equality” and includes equality before the law; the directly effective **prohibition of all discriminations** based on sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a

*national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation; and the directly-effective prohibition of discrimination based on grounds of nationality within the scope of application of Part Two of the Constitution.*

- *Para 2, which has been inspired by the Preamble of the Constitution of Poland, recognises **values which are essential for the European civilisation**, regardless of whether they are linked to believing in God or to another source of values. Without these values, Europe would not be what it is today. See also Article 57(2) of the EPP Discussion Paper (Frascati text, as amended, 27 January 2003)*