

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article I-3:

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on behalf of the EPP Convention Group

Status : Members / Alternates

Suggestion

Article I-3: The Union's objectives

1. The Union's aim is to promote peace, its values and the well-being of its peoples.
 2. The Union shall offer its citizens an area of freedom, security and justice without internal frontiers, ~~and~~ a single market where competition is free and undistorted, *and an economic and monetary union with a stable currency and sound public finances.*
 3. The Union shall work for a Europe of sustainable development based on balanced economic growth, with a social market economy aiming at full employment ~~and~~, social progress *and competitiveness*. It shall aim at a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment. It shall promote scientific and technological advance. It shall combat social exclusion and shall promote social justice and protection, equality between women and men, solidarity between generations and protection of children's rights. It shall promote economic, social and territorial cohesion, and solidarity among Member States. The Union shall respect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity, and shall ensure that Europe's cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced.
 4. In its relations with the wider world, the Union shall uphold and promote its values and interests. It shall contribute to peace, security, the sustainable development of the earth, solidarity and mutual respect among peoples, free and fair trade, eradication of poverty and protection of human rights and in particular children's rights, as well as to strict observance and development of international law, including respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter.
 5. These objectives shall be pursued by appropriate means, depending on the extent to which the relevant competences are attributed to the Union in this Constitution.
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Explanation:

Para 2:

- We urge the Praesidium not to drop the objective of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) from the Union's objectives. Next to the single market, EMU and the single currency are certainly the

most important and far-reaching achievements of European integration of the past decades. EMU is not just a sectoral policy, but is one of the key instruments of the Union, and therefore included today in Article 2 of the EC Treaty, just like the common market.

It is no counter-argument to the inclusion of EMU that EMU and the single currency have already been achieved. First of all, because this is not entirely true. Today, only 12 Member States participate in the euro. Should one really give up the political goal, clearly described in Article 2 of the EU Treaty for all Member States, that in the long-run also other Member States should strive to participate fully in EMU? Second, also the single market has been achieved since 31 December 1992 (or even 31 December 1969 already) – however, the goal of the single market still has a very significant legal and political importance for today's Union. The same holds true for EMU.

Para 2 describes what the Union has to offer to its citizens. It would not be understandable if 4 years after the successful introduction of the euro, EMU and the single currency would not be mentioned at this place. In addition, the wording ("The Union shall offer") is sufficiently wide to clarify that there is no obligation to introduce the euro for those Member States which have, in a separate Protocol, received the right not to participate in the single currency until they decide to apply for it.

We would like to remind the Praesidium that there was no amendment tabled in the Convention which had asked for the deletion of EMU from the Union's objectives.

Para 3:

- *To maintain the balance of social and economic objectives, we would ask for the insertion of the goal of competitiveness in Article I-3.3. "A high degree of competitiveness" is today one of the key Community objectives in Article 2 of the EC Treaty.*