

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article I-3:

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Status : Members, Alternates and Observer

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.
3. The Union shall work for a Europe of sustainable development based on balanced economic growth, with a social market economy aiming at *a high level of competitiveness*, full employment and social progress.

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.

Explanation (if any) :

A high level of competitiveness is a crucial objective if Europe is to achieve the goals set out at Lisbon and espoused by the Working Groups on Social Europe and Economic Governance. Its omission goes against the consensus reached in these groups and in the plenary discussions which followed.

In addition, Article 2 of the TEC already recognises the imperative for Europe to strive for 'a high degree of competitiveness'. Removing this goal sends out the wrong message to Europe's companies and to our trading partners outside the Union.