

## AMENDMENT FORM

**Suggestion for amendment of Article : I-3, paragraph 3: The Union's objectives**

**By Ms / Mr : Lone Dybkjaer and Anne Van Lancker**

**Status :    - Member            ☒ Alternate**

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Article I-3, paragraph 3: The Union's objectives

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.

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, *and equality with respect to racial or ethnic origin, nationality, religion or belief, sexual orientation, disability and age*, 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.

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### **Explanation (if any) :**

Currently non-discrimination on the grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation is among the EU's fundamental principles. It is extremely disappointing that the future Constitution is not including a reference on non discrimination on in its first constitutional part.

The reference to non-discrimination introduced by the Presidium is also very disappointing. The Social Europe working group had proposed to include the fight against discrimination on all the grounds covered by current article 13, explicitly stated among the objectives (art. I-3) of the EU. In addition many amendments presented by Convention members had been tabled going in this direction. In the documents discussed in the previous weeks within the Presidium there was always a reference to include non discrimination (at least as a general reference) in article I-3. Just as with equality, putting non-discrimination in the second sentence of article I-2 is NOT innocent. It makes the concept very vague.

The content of the non-discrimination concept is kept in the above formulation, which fits into article I-3 and is in line with the requests from anti-discrimination organisations.