

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article 3

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Status : **Members and alternate members.**

Article 3: The Union's objectives

- 3.1 *Delete*
- 3.2 ***In furthering the well-being of its peoples***, the Union shall work for a Europe of sustainable development based on balanced economic growth, social justice ***and a high quality environment. It shall establish a single*** market and economic and monetary union ***with the aim of*** full employment ***and high*** levels of competitiveness and living standards. It shall promote economic and social cohesion, equality between women and men, and environmental and social protection. ***It shall contribute to the flowering of culture, the education of society and*** scientific and technological ***advance. It shall promote non-discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. It*** shall encourage solidarity between ***generations and*** equal opportunities for all.
- 3.3 The Union shall ***foster the*** area of freedom, security and justice. ***It shall combat racism and xenophobia.***
- 3.4 In ***promoting*** Europe's independence and interests, the Union shall seek to advance its values in ***the world***. It shall contribute to ***peace***, the sustainable development of the earth, solidarity and mutual respect among peoples, eradication of poverty ***and disease*** and protection of ***human*** rights, strict observance of internationally accepted legal commitments ***and the development of international law.***
- 3.5 These objectives shall be pursued by appropriate means, ***in accordance with the practice of openness and good governance***, depending on the extent to which the relevant competences are attributed to the Union by this Constitution.

Explanation:

3.1 *It is repetitive to refer again to peace and values here as they have just been promoted as aims in different formulations in the previous articles.*

3.2 *The 'well-being of its peoples' is taken over from Article 3.1.*

It is vital that we get the formulation of the concept of sustainable development right here, thereby making a significant improvement on Article 2 TEC. All three aspects - economic, social and ecological - have to feature in this core statement of the Union's objectives.

Here and elsewhere, by splitting sentences, let us try to eliminate the strings of subordinate clauses that have lengthened during the incremental development of the current Treaties.

We do not really understand the concept of 'free single market'. The single market is neither without cost nor regulation.

Surely we can refer to our cultural and educational objectives here?

Space exploration is only one (important) category of R & D, and policy in this sector should be relegated to Part Two.

We include here as an objective of the Union the fight against discrimination on four of the grounds included in the present Article 13 TEC. This sharpens the reflection of contemporary European norms in the Constitution and recognises the importance attached to non-discriminatory practice at the EU level. These objectives are further explicated in the Charter.

The reference to solidarity between states in this societal context is bizarre, and misplaced.

3.3 *The Union does not 'constitute' currently an area of freedom, security and justice. It must, therefore, foster its development as one of its central objectives.*

We also add two more grounds for the fight against discrimination, drawn from Article 13 TEC, as being central to the development of the area of freedom, security and justice.

3.4 *It is not self-evident that the Constitution should be defensive about Europe's independence or interests.*

The adjective 'wider' rather implies that the Union will only export its values and not promote them at home.

Peace deserves promotion here from the bottom of the pile. And the reference to 'between states' needs to go if contemporary realities are to be reflected in the Constitution.

Disease is a scourge on a par with poverty.

The specific mention of children's rights is insufficient here. The EU seeks to advance human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

Observance of international obligations is one thing but the development of international law, for

example in the International Criminal Court is another. If Europe is not proactive almost nobody else will be.

3.5 The inclusion of reference to good governance and openness is necessary early on in the Constitution in order to flag up the Union's commitment to best practice in the conduct of its democratic life. These qualities are not fundamental values on a par with those specified in Article 2, but they are a central feature of the wider objectives of the Union.