

AMENDMENT FORM

Title VI: The Democratic Life of the Union

Suggestion for amendment of Article : I-51: Status of churches and non-confessional organisations

By Members: Mr Andrew Duff, Mr Paul Helminger, Mr Rein Lang, Lord MacLennan

Article I-51: Status of churches and non-confessional organisations

Delete

Explanation:

It is not self-evident why something that was relegated to a non-binding Declaration in the Treaty of Amsterdam needs now to be entrenched in the Constitution.

Article 10 of the Charter enjoins us to respect the freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Member States have various traditions and practices as concerns the relationship between church and state. Article 5 of the Constitution ensures that the Union respects national identities. Article 9 ensures the Union's respect of the very different national legal traditions and constitutions.

Article 46 says that the Union shall maintain a dialogue with representative associations and civil society. We do not need to say it again here.

The Union does not have, and the Convention is not seeking, a competence in the fields of theology or philosophy.