

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article :37 (part 3)

Suggestion for protocol :

By Mr David Heathcoat-Amory, Mr Bonde

Status :X - Member - Alternate

N.B. ‘()’ denote text deleted ‘ _____ ’denotes text added

Article 37: Status of churches and non-confessional organisations

1. The European Union respects and does not prejudice the status under national law of churches and religious associations, **schools** or communities in the Member States.
 2. The European Union equally respects the status of philosophical and non-confessional organisations.
 3. The Union shall maintain a regular dialogue with these churches and organisations, recognising their identity and their specific contribution, **short of providing financial assistance to their delegations in dialogue.**
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Explanation (if any) :

The Amsterdam Treaty raised the issue of whether religious schools would no longer be free to appoint staff appropriate to their beliefs, on the grounds that such an appointment could be claimed to be discriminatory. The first amendment is intended to clarify the matter.

The second is intended to ensure that dialogue with these bodies does not institutionalize lobbying by selected privileged partners.