

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article 56 Part I of the Constitution

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Article I-56: The Union and its immediate environment

1. The Union shall **endeavour to** develop a special relationship with neighbouring States, aiming to establish an area of prosperity and good neighbourliness, founded on the values of the Union and characterised by close and peaceful relations based on cooperation.

 - ~~2. For this purpose, the Union may conclude and implement specific agreements with the countries concerned in accordance with Article [...] of Part Three of the Constitution. These agreements may contain reciprocal rights and obligations as well as the possibility of undertaking activities jointly. Their implementation shall be the subject of periodic consultation.~~
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Explanation (if any) :

We have serious doubts whether the proposed title IX is necessary in part I of the Constitution. A more natural place for the content of Article 56 paragraph 1, taking into account its political nature, would be the beginning of the text under the title "The Union's External Action" in Part III of the Constitution. Furthermore, the first sentence should be rephrased so as not to sound too paternalistic; the Union cannot simply decide to develop special relationships, but it can endeavour to do so. The same applies to the latest amendment by the Praesidium whereby the relationship would be "founded on the values of the Union".

Paragraph 2 of Article 56 will be sufficiently covered by the provisions relating to international agreements (Article III-220) and brings no added value here.