

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article 5/2:

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2. The Union may accede to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms **and to the Framework Convention on Minority Rights**. Accession to that Convention **and to the Framework Convention** shall not affect the Union's competences as defined by this Constitution.

Explanation

The adhesion to the **Framework Convention** would solve an important deficiency of the present acquis, which is missing an effective protection of national and ethnic minorities. The Central European part of the continent, which is about to join the EU brings into the union a great number of national and ethnic minorities. However the Copenhagen democracy criteria give clear guidelines for the candidate countries for safeguarding national minority rights, unfortunately neither the present acquis nor the Charter of Fundamental Rights deal sufficiently with national minority rights. This would mean, that after adhesion the level of national minority rights protection would considerably fall due to the lack of clear guidelines in these areas.