

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : Article III-111

By Ms / Mr : Ms Helle THORNING-SCHMIDT

Status : Alternate

Article III-111 (ex Article 158)

In order to promote its overall harmonious, *balanced and sustainable* development, the Union shall develop and pursue its actions leading to the strengthening of its economic, social and territorial cohesion *and environmental protection and improvement in keeping with the objectives set out in [Article I-3]*.

Explanation (if any) :

- This chapter needs to be brought into line with the preamble of the Council Regulation laying down general provisions on the structural funds (1260/1999/EC, 21 June 1999), which refers to ‘harmonious, balanced and sustainable development of economic activities’. The preamble refers explicitly to the need for the structural funds to achieve a high level of environmental protection in the need ‘in particular to integrate the requirements of environmental protection into the design and implementation of the operations of the structural funds’ (preamble, paragraph 5).
- The EU Sustainable Development Strategy, adopted by the European Council in Göteborg (June 2001), is an integral part of the Lisbon Strategy. This recognises that, now and in the future, economic growth, social cohesion, and environmental protection must go hand in hand.
- EU Heads of State recently reiterated their commitment to sustainable development at the Spring Summit (21 March 2003). Their declaration included calls to strengthen the EU’s Cardiff Process of integrating the environment into sectoral policies. Objectives were to be developed that ‘decoupled’ economic growth from environmental degradation and resource use
- In Cardiff in June 1998 the European Council called upon the first round of Councils (Transport, Energy, and Agriculture) to each develop environmental integration strategies.