

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : 111 (ex Article 158), part III of the Constitution

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**Status : Tiilikainen, Kiljunen, Vilén - Members
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Article III-111 (ex Article 158)

In order to promote its overall harmonious development, the Union shall develop and pursue its actions leading to the strengthening of its economic, social and territorial cohesion.

In particular, the Union shall aim at reducing disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions or islands, including rural areas.

The Union and the Member States shall foster co-operation with neighbouring third countries and international organisations in order to encourage the harmonious, sustainable and balanced development of the territory of the Union and its border areas.

Explanation (if any):

There is a broad agreement between the Member States that cross-border cooperation has a high level of added value for the Union as a whole. However, within current legal framework co-funding of joint projects across the external borders is cumbersome and requires huge effort of co-ordination from several financial sources and Commission services. The enlargement requires an extra emphasis on external border co-operation as has been pointed out under the Wider Europe initiative. We therefore suggest to amend the Treaty in order to provide a sustainable legal solution for co-funding of joint projects across the external borders of the Union. A similar change is required in Article III-113.