

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : Article III-111 (ex Article 158)

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Status : - Member - 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]*.

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 (delete)~~, including rural areas, *and at promoting environmental protection and improvement in the various regions*.

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' and 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. Reference to islands is superfluous as the word "region" includes islands as well as many other disadvantages areas.