

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : Article III-112

By Ms / Mr : Ms Helle THORNING-SCHMIDT

Status : Alternate

Article III-112 (ex Article 158)

Member States shall conduct their economic policies and shall coordinate them in such a way as, in addition, to attain the objectives set out in [Article III-111 (ex 158)] *and the objectives and principles set out in [Article 124 (ex 174)] and the Union's sustainable development objectives*. The formulation and implementation of the Union's policies and actions and the implementation of the internal market shall take into account those the objectives and shall contribute to their achievement. The Union shall also support the achievement of these objectives by the action it takes through the Structural Funds (European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, Guidance Section; European Social Fund; European Regional Development Fund), the European Investment Bank and the other existing Financial Instruments. *The Union shall ensure that the requirements of the protection and improvement of the environment are incorporated into the definition and implementation of the operations of the Funds.*

The Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament, the Council, the Committee of the Regions and the Economic and Social Committee every three years on the progress made towards achieving economic *growth*, social-cohesion *and the protection and improvement of the environment* and on the manner in which the various means provided for in this Article have contributed to it. This report shall, if necessary, be accompanied by appropriate proposals.

A European law or framework law may establish any specific measure outside the Funds, without prejudice to measures adopted within the framework of the Union's other policies. It shall be adopted after consulting the Committee of the Regions and the Economic and Social Committee.

Explanation (if any) :

In order to ensure the sustainable use of Structural Funds, and in the interest of having a Treaty which is coherent, with no internal contradictions, policies must be fully consistent with the objectives set out in [Article 158/Article III-111] and the objectives and principles of [Article 174/Article III-124]. This is especially important given the well-documented damage to nature and natural resources often contributed to by Structural Funds.