

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article III-113

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Status : Alternate

Article III-113 (ex Article 160)

The European Regional Development Fund is intended to help to redress the main regional imbalances in the Union **and between the Union and the neighbouring regions** through participation in the development and structural adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind and in the conversion of declining industrial regions **and in the promotion of co-operation between the regions of both the Union and the neighbouring countries.**

Explanation:

There is a broad agreement between the Member States that cross-border co-operation has a high level of added value for the Union as a whole. However, within the 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-111.