

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article III-114 (ex Article 161)

By Mrs Lena Hjelm-Wallén and Mr Sven-Olof Petersson, government representatives and Mr Sören Lekberg, national parliament representative.

Status : - Member: Hjelm-Wallén and Lekberg

- Alternate: Petersson

Without prejudice to [ex Article 162], **the Council, acting by unanimity after obtaining the assent of the European Parliament and consulting the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions,** ~~European law or framework law~~ shall define the tasks, priority objectives and the organisation of the Structural Funds – which may involve grouping the Funds – the general rules applicable to them and the provisions necessary to ensure their effectiveness and the coordination of the Funds with one another and with the other existing financial instruments.

A Cohesion Fund set up **in accordance with the same procedure** ~~by a European law~~ shall provide a financial contribution to projects in the fields of environment and trans-European networks in the area of transport infrastructure.

~~In all cases, the European law or framework law shall be adopted after consulting the Committee of the Regions and the Economic and Social Committee. The Council shall act unanimously until 1 January 2007. From 1 January 2007, the Council shall act by a qualified majority on a proposal from the Commission after obtaining the assent of the European Parliament and after consulting the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions if, by that date, the multi-annual financial framework applicable from 1 January 2007 and the Inter-institutional Agreement relating thereto have been adopted. If such is not the case, the procedure laid down by this paragraph shall apply from the date of their adoption.¹~~

¹ The institutional balance in this aspect should not be changed. Thus, the agreement made in Nice concerning the structural funds should be maintained. The negotiations on the financial perspectives and the next structural funds programme period have also started from the assumption that the current procedure is the one to be used.