

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : III - 114

Suggestion for protocol :

By Mr : Dick Roche

Status : - Member

Article III-114 (ex Article 161)

Without prejudice to [ex Article 162], a 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 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.**

Explanation (if any) :

I am opposed to the move to the ordinary legislative procedure in this article. Since implementation of the provisions of the regulations is closely linked to national structural development plans, it should follow that responsibility for agreeing the Regulations should rest primarily with the Government of the Member States as represented by the Council of Ministers.