

## AMENDMENT FORM

**Suggestion for : Part III**

**Suggestion for amendment : for a new Section 3a in Title III, Chapter III – Policies in other specific areas**

**By Mr : Emilio GABAGLIO**

**Status : Observer**

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**Amendment : following Art. III-115a**

**Add a new Section after ‘Section 3 – Economic, social and territorial cohesion’:**

“SECTION 3A

SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST

[Definition and principles]

(1) A service of general interest is a service created, organised or regulated by a public authority to ensure that the service is supplied in the manner which it considers necessary to satisfy society's needs.

Among services of general interest, services of general economic interest are services which are traded.

(2) Without prejudice to more specific provisions in this Constitution and in order to effectively guarantee fundamental rights enshrined in this Constitution and bearing in mind their task of serving citizens, and both the short and long term general interest in, as well as the objective of sustaining economic, social and environmental development, the organisation and management of services of general interest take into account the following principles and objectives, in the manner most appropriate to the specific characteristics of each service:

- high quality,
- equality of access, avoiding any discrimination,
- continuity of the service,
- universality,
- neutrality of ownership,
- safety,
- fair pricing securing affordability and where appropriate access free of charge,
- efficiency, which can be objectively verified,
- democratic control, transparency and accountability,

- concertation, particularly with workers and their unions, and with users and their representative associations,
- adaptation to necessary change.

The Union and the Member States, each within their respective powers and within the scope of application of this Chapter, have the responsibility for seeking the optimal balance between achieving the best short term and long term cost/effectiveness ratio, the tasks of the service of general interest under consideration, and other services which might be affected, and creating conditions for sustainable economic, social and environmental development.

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**Explanation (if any) :**

In order to strengthen the services of general interest as important part the European social model and following the amendments on shared competences in respect of services of general interest (see amendment of Article I-13 para. 2) and on the horizontal clause (see Amendment of Article III-3) this amendment contains the definition, the principles and specific objectives as well as the (very limited) Union acts and procedures in this area.