

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article III-116 (new)

By Mr : MacCormick, Neil

Status : - Alternate

Amend the second indent of Article III-116 as follows, and add two further indents:

"Agricultural products" means the products of the soil, of stockfarming ~~and of fisheries and products of first-stage processing directly related to these products. References to the common agricultural policy or to agriculture, and the use of the term "agricultural", shall be understood as also referring to fisheries.~~

The provisions of the Constitution shall apply to the products of the fishing industry and of the first-stage processing thereof as though these were agricultural products, but only so far as is consistent with the specific characteristics of the fishing industry. Subject to the same qualification, references to the common agricultural policy and the use of the term "agricultural" shall apply to fisheries.

The fishing industry, by contrast with agriculture, exists only in certain Member States, and in these it is strongly regional in its economic and social relevance. It is also regional in the sense of involving regional groups of member states having geographical propinquity to or historical associations with particular fishing zones and fisheries. These facts partly determine the specific character of this industry and must be fully taken into account.

Explanation:

Notwithstanding the time-hallowed quality of the text that deems fisheries to be agricultural, it is absurd as stated. The above text makes clear that the equivalence of treatment can only be partial. The first two indents above make clearly and in intelligible terms essentially the same point as the existing text intends to say.

The suggested third indent is new material, and, if it were thus ruled out from into the final text, constitutes a further explanation of why the first proposed change is necessary.

What follows in Articles III-117 to III-123 is to a considerable extent relevant only to agriculture, "agriculture" being, of course, the only term used subsequent to new Article III-116. For example Article III 118 (2)(c) refers to the *"fact that in the Member States agriculture constitutes a sector closely linked with the economy as a whole"*,. Throughout the Union, this is indeed a fact with respect to agriculture, but not a fact with respect to. Applied to landlocked Member States, whose number is growing the remark is not only false but absurd. Some account must surely be taken of the specific distinctiveness of fishing as against farming.