

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article: **Article III-118**

By Ms / Mr : Ms Helle THORNING-SCHMIDT

Status : Alternate

1. The objectives of the common agricultural policy *and the common fisheries policy* shall be:

(a) to increase agricultural productivity *and to ensure the environmentally sustainable and rational development of agricultural production* by promoting technical progress [delete 11 words] optimum utilisation of the factors of production, in particular labour *and natural resources*;

(b) thus to ensure a fair standard of living for the *[delete 1 word] rural* community, in particular by increasing the individual earnings of persons engaged in *[delete 1 word] agricultural and rural activities*;

(c) *[Delete 3 words] to protect and improve the quality of the environment as well as to conserve the diversity of cultural landscapes*;

(d) to assure the availability of *[delete 1 word] high quality foodstuff and renewable resources*;

(e) to ensure that supplies reach consumers at reasonable prices;

(f) to stabilise markets.

2. In working out the common agricultural policy and the special methods for its application, account shall be taken of:

(a) the particular nature of *rural*, agricultural *and fisheries activities*, which results from the social structure of agriculture *and fisheries* and from structural, *environmental* and natural disparities between the various *[delete 1 word]* regions;

(b) the need to effect the appropriate adjustments by degrees;

(c) the fact that in the Member States *rural development*, agriculture *and fisheries* constitutes sectors closely linked with the economy as a whole;

(d) the economic, social, and environmental sustainable development of developing countries. (b) such an organisation ensures conditions for trade within the Union similar to those existing in a national market.

Explanation (if any) :

1. The objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) are set in [Article 33/Article III-118]. Formulated in 1957, they no longer reflect the problems and concerns faced by today's agriculture sector, nor the priorities of Europe's citizens. There are a number of reasons why the agricultural articles of the Treaty require fundamental rewording and amendment:

- they aim at increasing agricultural productivity, a paramount concern after the Second World War, but no longer a European priority;
- they have led to agricultural surpluses and high budget costs without effectively easing agricultural income problems. Just under half of the total EU budget is spent on the CAP;
- they make no reference to the environment, nature or landscape although the Treaty explicitly states that "environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the definition and implementation of the Community policies" [Article 6/Article III-2];
- they do not reflect the second pillar of the CAP as adopted under Agenda 2000 and introduced by the Single European Act, 1986;
- they do not explicitly refer to international impacts and responsibilities of the Union's agricultural products;
- they create inappropriate structures and procedures for participation and decision making.

2. Some of the concerns have already led to significant changes in the way the CAP is designed and implemented. However, many of the new policy approaches are not explicitly backed by the Treaty. The debate on the Future of Europe provides the opportunity for the review of the legal basis of the CAP of the 21st century.

3. The agriculture sector is of central importance in shaping rural Europe and a key element of European policy.

4. Today's European citizens, farmers, consumers, rural communities and environmental organisations have new needs that a CAP oriented towards these new objectives would result in a more effective integration of agricultural, rural and environmental concerns at all levels of policy implementation. Thus, it would provide new perspectives for sustainable and rural development in Europe.

5. A CAP based on these objectives would offer the European agricultural sector a wider set of economic opportunities, recognition of their multiple functions and thus a better chance of achieving sustainable standards of living. This would result in healthy food in a healthy environment for all European citizens.

The sustainable development with the primary aim to eradicate poverty applies to all developing countries as agreed by the United Nations (UN Millennium Declaration) and the OECD (list of developing countries). All EU Member States have endorsed this objective and agreed to the OECD list of developing countries. This objective should be respected in all the policies of the Union according to the principle of policy coherence [Article 178/Article III-188.3 and Article 213.1].