

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article 124 (1)

Suggestion for Part: III

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Status : **Member** **Alternate**

1. Union policy on the environment shall contribute to pursuit of the following objectives:

- (a) preserving, protecting and improving the quality of environment;
 - (b) protecting human health;
 - (c) prudent and rational utilisation of natural resources;
 - (d) promoting measures at international level to deal with regional or worldwide environmental problems;
 - (e) conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
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Explanation (if any):

European environmental policy is currently laid down in three articles of the European Constitution. These articles form the basis for a wide range of legislation, from the Habitat and Nitrates Directives to regulations on exhaust emissions. Although the scope of European environmental policy is broad, the Convention currently focuses on so-called "grey" environmental policy. This concerns restrictions of harmful industrial emissions, recycling and so on. The basis for "green" environmental policy aimed at protecting biological diversity and conserving and restoring natural values is less evident. As regards biodiversity, in signing the Convention on Biological Diversity the EU and the Netherlands have pledged to realise ambitious targets. These obligations are hardly addressed by the current environmental articles of the European Convention. This shortcoming is repaired by including nature and biodiversity in this article.