

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : III-170

By Mr Hain

Status : Member

Delete.

Explanation (if any) :

We are firmly opposed to establishing a European Public Prosecutor. Unanimity does not mean that this article can be accepted. A large number of Member States are strongly opposed to this article. See the contribution to the Convention co-sponsored by the UK, Ireland, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Austria, Estonia and Slovakia (CONV 753/03 CONTRIB 331 of 21 May 2003). There is clearly no consensus in the convention for the inclusion of this article.

There a number of reasons why the concept of an EPP should not be included in the Constitutional Treaty. Eurojust has recently started its work. We would like to see Eurojust' s role strengthened and developed, and given time to perform its functions. The UK's amendments on Eurojust provide flexibility for the future by allowing an extension of its competences and powers subject to unanimity. We also welcome the inclusion of a reference to fraud against the Union's financial interests in the Eurojust article. There is clearly no need for a separate prosecution body at EU level. A full explanation of the UK's concerns can be found in the contribution to the Convention referred to above.