

AMENDMENT FORM

Part III - Chapter V: Public Health
Suggestion for amendment of Article : III 174

By Members: Mr Andrew Duff

Article III-174 (Ex-article 152)

1. The Union shall contribute to a high level of physical and mental health by obviating sources of danger to human health and combating major health scourges with a European dimension. It shall complement and co-ordinate national policies in this area.

2. The Union shall fully respect the responsibilities of the Member States for the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care. In particular, measures referred to in paragraph 4(a) shall not affect national provisions on the donation or medical use of organs and blood.

3. In accordance with Article I.15, the Union shall encourage cooperation between the Member States directed towards improving health, preventing human illness and diseases, and obviating sources of danger to human health:

- a) the fight against the major health scourges, by promoting research into their causes, their transmission and their prevention, as well as health information and education;*
- b) the fight against serious health threats and risks.*

The Union shall adopt recommendations in the areas referred to in this paragraph and, if necessary, lend support to their action through incentive measures designed to protect and improve human health.

4. In accordance with Article I.12, the European Parliament and the Council, in accordance with the legislative procedure, shall contribute to the achievement of the objectives referred to in this Article where there is a significant impact at European level, through adopting:

- a) measures necessary to obviate serious sources of danger to human health or prevent human illness and diseases;*
- b) measures to combat threats to health, including communicable diseases and the deliberate release of biological or chemical agent.*

Explanation:

The objectives of this article badly needs to be modernised to provide the necessary instruments to effectively respond to the real and new threats that exist from cross-border communicable disease, such as SARS.

We have also sought to re-adjust the article to focus on human health rather than that of animals.