

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : 179, part III of the Constitution

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Status : **Tiilikainen, Kiljunen, Vilén - Members**
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Article III-179 (new)

1. The Union shall encourage cooperation between Member States in order to improve the effectiveness of systems for preventing and protecting against **accidents, including** natural or man-made disasters within the Union.

Union action shall aim to:

- (a) support and supplement Member States' action at national, regional and local level in risk prevention, in preparing their civil-protection personnel and in responding to **accidents, including** natural or man-made disasters;
- (b) promote swift, effective operational cooperation between national civil-protection services;
- (c) promote consistency in international civil-protection work.

2. The measures necessary to help achieve the objectives referred to in paragraph 1 shall be enacted in a European law or framework law.

Explanation (if any) :

*It is of utmost importance for Union co-operation to make it clear that the concept of civil protection covers not only disasters but also the most common threats and hazards, which are **daily accidents**. While not underestimating the importance of damages and injuries caused by disasters, it is necessary to cover in the text of Article III-179 also daily accidents, which represent the largest number of causes of injuries and casualties as well as of property and environmental damages and economical losses in Europe. Further, Article III-179 would then better respond to the needs of those Member States, which do not so often suffer from disasters or major accidents. A new activity which has emerged after the 11th of September is terrorist acts. The proposed suggestion would cover civil protection activities in this field as well.*

In the context of current Community co-operation and concrete actions in the field of Civil Protection the latest resolutions and Council decisions cover already daily accidents (prevention of, preparedness for and response to such accidents). The latest Council decision (2001/792/EC, Euratom on establishing a Community mechanism in emergencies) uses the ex-

pression “accidents and emergencies” instead of “disasters”, while appreciating that disasters and major accidents remain an essential part of the concept of civil protection.