

## AMENDMENT FORM

### Part III - Title V Chapter IV: Development Cooperation

#### Suggestion for amendment of Article : III-213

By Members: Mr Andrew Duff

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#### Article III-213 (ex Article 25)

1. Union policy in the sphere of development cooperation shall be conducted within the framework of the principles and objectives of the Union's external action as set out in [Article 1] of this Title. The Union's development cooperation policy and that of the Member States complement and reinforce each other.

Union development cooperation policy shall have as its primary objective the reduction and, in the long term, the eradication of poverty. The Union shall take account of the objectives of development cooperation in the policies that it implements which are likely to affect developing countries.

2. The Union and the Member States shall comply with the commitments and take account of the objectives they have approved in the context of the United Nations and other competent international organisations.

***3. The Union's Development Cooperation Policy shall be based on the principle of partnership exercised on the fundamental principles of equality of the partners; ownership of the development strategies by the countries and populations concerned; and participation in order to encourage integration of all sections in society, including civil society organisations.***

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#### Explanation:

*Article on partnership with governments and participation of civil society is already present in Cotonou Partnership Agreement, article 2, on fundamental principles. Involvement of non-state actors is an important aspect of EU development cooperation as set out in the Communication on Non-State Actors. (COM (2002)598). The recognition of the role of civil society as a partner in development cooperation policy is one of the main points of EU's external assistance (Political declaration of the Council and the Commission in November 2000 on development policy). The integration of civil society is also recognised as one of the key issues to improve efficiency of development aid (Recommendation of the Development Aid Committee of the OECD) and to fight poverty (Recommendation as adopted by the 15 Member States and the Commission in 2001).*