

## AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : **Article III-213, paragraph 3, new sub-article**

**By Ms / Mr : Ms Helle THORNING-SCHMIDT**

**Status : Alternate**

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### **Article III-213, paragraph 3, new sub-article**

*The Union's Development Co-operation 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 (if any) :**

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 EC development co-operation as set out in the Communication on Non-State-Actors. (COM(2002)598). The recognition of the role of Civil Society as a partner of the development co-operation policy is one of the main points of CE's external assistance reform (political declaration of the Council and the Commission in November 2000 on development policy). This integration of Civil Society is also recognised as one of the key issues to improve efficiency of development aid (Recommendations of the Development Aid Committee (DAC) of the OECD) and to fight poverty (Recommendation adopted by the 15 Member States, and the Commission in 2001)