

## AMENDMENT FORM

### Suggestion for amendment of Article III-218

By Mrs Lena Hjelm-Wallén and Mr Sven-Olof Petersson, government representatives  
and Mr Sören Lekberg, national parliament representative.

Status :       - Member: Hjelm-Wallén and Lekberg  
                  - Alternate: Petersson

---

1. The Union's operations in the field of humanitarian aid shall be conducted within the framework of the principles and objectives of the external action of the Union as set out in Article 1 of this Title. Such operations shall be intended to provide ad hoc assistance, relief and protection for ~~people in third countries and~~ victims of man-made and natural disasters **in third countries**, in order to ~~meet the humanitarian needs resulting from these different situations~~ **save lives, alleviate suffering and restore human dignity**. The Union's actions and those of the Member States shall complement and reinforce each other.<sup>1</sup>
2. Humanitarian aid operations shall be conducted in compliance with the principles of international humanitarian law **and other established practice of humanitarian action**, in particular the principles of impartiality ~~and non-discrimination~~, **neutrality and independence**.<sup>2</sup>
3. A European law or framework law shall establish the necessary measures defining the framework within which the Union's humanitarian aid operations shall be implemented.
4. The Union may conclude with third countries and competent international organisations any agreement helping to achieve the objectives referred to in [Article III-218]. Such agreements shall be negotiated and concluded pursuant to Article 33 of this Title.

The first subparagraph shall be without prejudice to Member States' competence to negotiate in international bodies and to conclude international agreements.

5. ~~In order to establish a framework for joint contributions from young Europeans to the humanitarian actions of the Union, a European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps shall be set up. The European Parliament and the Council, in compliance with the legislative procedure, shall adopt a European law determining the rules and operation of the Corps.~~<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> So as not to confuse the objectives of humanitarian action with other objectives in article 1, we suggest making the objectives of such action more explicit.

<sup>2</sup> Mindful that all aspects of the international framework for humanitarian action are not fully codified in international law, we suggest an addition so as to fully acknowledge established practice. Moreover, we suggest an amendment to the principles referred to. Giving that non-discrimination is generally understood to be part of the concept of impartiality, it might not be necessary to name the term explicitly. Rather, the principles of neutrality and independence would be valuable to add, ensuring coherence with the most firmly established international terminology. This amendment would be fully consistent with Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96.

<sup>3</sup> The proposal made in this paragraph is at a level of specificity, which is not suitable for inclusion in a constitutional treaty.

6. The Commission may take any useful initiative to promote coordination between actions of the Union and those of the Member States, in order to enhance the efficiency and complementarity of Union and national humanitarian aid measures.
7. The Union shall ensure that its humanitarian operations are coordinated and consistent with those of international organisations and bodies, in particular those forming part of the United Nations System.