

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : 326, part III

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Taking account of the structural economic and social situation of the French overseas departments, the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands, which is compounded by their remoteness, insularity, small size, difficult topography and climate, economic dependence on a few products, the permanence and combination of which severely restrain their development, the Council, on a proposal from the Commission, shall adopt European regulations and decisions aimed, in particular, at laying down the conditions of application of the Constitution to those regions, including common policies. It shall act after consulting the European Parliament.

The measures referred to in the first paragraph concern in particular areas such as customs and trade policies, fiscal policy, free zones, agriculture and fisheries policies, conditions for supply of raw materials and essential consumer goods, State aids and conditions of access to structural funds and to horizontal Union programmes.

The Council shall adopt the measures referred to in the first paragraph taking into account the special characteristics and constraints of the outermost regions without undermining the integrity and the coherence of the Union legal order, including the internal market and common policies.

The Council can, on a proposal from the Commission and after consulting the European Parliament, decide with qualified majority voting to apply the previous paragraphs of this article to the Caribbean Islands, belonging to the Kingdom of the Netherlands. As a result of this decision the list as mentioned in article 3, subsection 3 of Part IV shall be modified.

Explanation (if any) : This amendment makes possible to acknowledge the special position of Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles as outermost regions in the sense of article 326, part III.