

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : 37

By Mr : Henrik Hololei

Status : Alternate

Article 37 : Status of churches and non-confessional organisations

- ~~1. The European Union respects and does not prejudice the status under national law of churches and religious associations or communities in the Member States.~~
- ~~2. The European Union equally respects the status of philosophical and non-confessional organisations.~~
- ~~3. The Union shall maintain a regular dialogue with these churches and organisations, recognising their identity and their specific contribution.~~

Explanation (if any) :

Declaration 11 annexed to the Amsterdam Treaty on the status of churches and non-confessional organisations comprises different aspects that are already tackled in other articles of the Constitutional Treaty. Furthermore, the direct link between the status of religious organisations and the present Title VI (The democratic life of the Union) is not sufficiently clear.

I prefer that the status of churches and religious organisations (Art 37(1)) would be mentioned in Article 1(2) or 9(6) of the current draft Constitutional Treaty, as an example clarifying the principle of respect for the national identity of the Member States. Here I recall that the Working Group on complementary competences proposed a similar approach.

Likewise, it seems that the regular dialogue with churches and non-confessional organisations (Art 37(3)) could rather be mentioned in Article 34(3), in the context of the general dialogue with representative associations and civil society.