

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : 37

Suggestion for Part III

By Ms / Mr : **G.M. de Vries**
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Status : **Members** **Alternate**

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) : The third paragraph has to be deleted. This dialogue will be covered by article 34(3).

Furthermore, the Dutch Government would like to point out that this article and others (see below) are a repetition of what is already laid down in the Charter of Fundamental Rights. If the Charter would become an integral part of the Constitution, such a repetition is obviously undesirable. Therefore, if the Charter would become an integral part of the Constitution this article and the articles 33, 35, 35a, 36(3), 36a(1) will have to be deleted and/or adjusted. See for further background information the relevant declaration of the Dutch Permanent Representative (CONV 659/03).

