

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for : Part III

Suggestion for amendment of Article : III-3

By Mr : Emilio GABAGLIO

Status : Observer

Amendment : Art. III-3

Rewrite the whole Article:

“(1) Given the place occupied by services of general interest in the shared values of the Union, as well as their role in promoting social and territorial cohesion, the Community and the Member States, each within their respective powers and within the scope of application of this Treaty, shall take care that such services operate on the basis of principles and conditions which enable them to fulfil their missions.

(2) National, regional and local authorities of the Member States must remain free, in accordance with national legislation and practice, to determine the way in which they wish to deliver a service of general interest.

(3) Without prejudice to the exercise of any official authority and non-profit oriented activity, the competition rules shall apply to the organisation and delivery of services of general interest only to the extent determined sector by sector by the Council and the European Parliament in the ordinary legislative procedure and taking due account of the principles and objectives of the services of general interest. Concerning state aid, special or exclusive rights granted in connection with the organisation of services of general interest should not be considered as competition-distorting practices, where the amounts awarded to achieve the defined objective are proportionate.”

Explanation (if any) :

Following the recommendations of Working Group XI to introduce ‘efficient and high quality services of general interest’ it is important to strengthen these services as one of the cornerstones of the European social model.