

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article: **Article III-218.5**

By Ms / Mr : Ms Helle THORNING-SCHMIDT

Status : Alternate

Article III-218, paragraph 5

[Delete paragraph]

Explanation (if any) :

Article III/218.5 proposes the creation of a European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps. Humanitarian actors widely agree that this is a bad idea, due to the need for quality and professionalism in delivery of aid. Humanitarian aid functions in emergency contexts such as war and natural disaster, where know-how and quick reactions are essential, and dangerous, horrific and traumatising events are the norm. Humanitarian aid is a setting for experienced, trained professionals such as NGOs and international organisations. While the idea of bringing young Europeans in touch with third-country realities is interesting, a Voluntary Corps might be more appropriate in the context of long-term development cooperation, where a wide variety of constructive projects are carried out by the EU. Nonetheless, a Voluntary Corps can be established through many other mechanisms, and does not need to be mentioned within the Constitutional Treaty.