

Amendment

Article 3: The Union's objectives

1. The Union's aim is to promote peace, its values and the well-being of its peoples.
2. The Union shall work for a Europe of sustainable development based on balanced economic growth, **a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment** and social justice, with a free single market, and economic and monetary union, aiming at full employment and generating high levels of competitiveness and living standards **to meet the needs of the present generation with respect for the rights of future generations**. It shall promote economic and social cohesion, equality between women and men, and environmental and social protection, and shall develop scientific and technological advance including the discovery of space. It shall encourage solidarity between generations and between States, and equal opportunities for all.
3. The Union shall constitute an area of freedom, security and justice, in which its shared values are developed and the richness of its cultural diversity is respected.
4. In defending Europe's independence and interests, the Union shall seek to advance its values in the wider world. It shall contribute to the sustainable development of the earth, solidarity and mutual respect among peoples, eradication of poverty and protection of children's rights, strict observance of internationally accepted legal commitments, and peace between States.
5. These objectives shall be pursued by appropriate means, depending on the extent to which the relevant competences are attributed to the Union by this Constitution.

Explanatory note

1. **All three aspects of sustainable development, the economic, the social and the ecological, need to be expressed in this central statement of the Union's objectives.**
2. **The wording used is taken directly from the existing Treaty (art. 2, EC Treaty).**
3. **The wording used on the rights of future generations is taken from the Brundtland Report, the most commonly used definition of sustainable development.**

The current draft of article 3 omits these key elements on environmental protection. If the Constitutional Treaty does not include these elements, it will be weaker than the existing EC Treaty.