

JUNE 2016

STANDING ORDERS
OF THE DANISH
PARLIAMENT

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Standing Orders of the Danish Parliament
(the Folketing)
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CHAPTER I

Temporary Speaker, Scrutiny of Elections

§ 1

(1) When the first sitting of the Danish Parliament (the Folketing) is held after a general election, it is the senior Member who presides when electing a temporary Speaker to chair the debates until the scrutiny of the elections has taken place in accordance with the rules in Section 36(2). The office of senior Member falls upon the person among the Members present who has served as a Member of the Danish Parliament for the longest period. Should this method lead to a choice between several persons, the older Member comes before the younger.

(2) The Danish Parliament sets up a temporary committee of 21 Members to scrutinize the elections.

(3) The committee examines the records of the election committee, the calculations made by the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Interior and other material which has been forwarded to the Danish Parliament on behalf of the Minister for Social Affairs and the Interior, in accordance with Section 86 in the Parliamentary Election Act of Denmark, and of the Prime Minister. The commit-

tee also deals with complaints about the elections, and subsequently makes a report on the elections to the Danish Parliament which includes an approval of the most suited candidate in cases in which an elected candidate is no longer willing to take his/her seat or does not wish to take it.

(4) Elections which are unanimously approved by the committee may be subject to oral recommendations in the Danish Parliament without the observance of any time limits. Subsequently, the Danish Parliament takes a decision on these elections jointly.

(5) As for elections which are not unanimously recommended for approval, the committee submits a report which shall have been published on one of the Danish Parliament web sites prior to the meeting during which the matter is debated. The Danish Parliament then decides separately for each election whether to approve it or reject it or whether an approval can be postponed. If this is the case, the matter is referred to the standing Scrutineers' Committee (cf. Section 7(1)). The Danish Parliament may, when scrutinizing the elections, take measures in accordance with the legislation on elections.

(6) As for Members who have been elected in Greenland – should the final results of these elections not be at hand – the Committee may submit

a recommendation for approval to the Danish Parliament on the basis of a provisional calculation in accordance with the Act on General Elections in Greenland. If an approval is obtained on this basis, the Danish Parliament decides whether the approval will remain valid. The decision is reached on the recommendation of the standing Scrutineers' Committee.

(7) The decision as to whether an election is valid or not is reached by taking a vote for or against the approval of its validity.

(8) Members whose election has not been approved cannot sit on a committee or on the temporary committee mentioned in Subsection 2. Neither can they take part in the debates or voting in the Danish Parliament. They can, however, take part in the debates and voting during the general scrutiny of elections for as long as their own election has not been rejected or approval of it postponed.

(9) A Member whose election has been approved but who has not yet made the declaration mentioned in Section 32(7) of the Constitutional Act of the Kingdom of Denmark can neither sit on a committee nor take part in the debates or voting in the Danish Parliament.

CHAPTER II

Speaker, Deputy Speakers, Tellers

§ 2

(1) The Danish Parliament constitutes itself by electing a Presidium composed of a Speaker and up to 4 Deputy Speakers. In addition, 4 Tellers are elected. No Member can decline to accept election without the consent of the Danish Parliament.

(2) Elections are held at the opening of every session i.e. at the beginning of every sessional year and when the Danish Parliament meets for the first time after a general election. Moreover, a new Presidium shall be elected if the Speaker resigns or if 60

Members request it in writing and at no less than three days' notice.

(3) Elections of Members to sit on the Presidium and of Tellers are held under the direction of the senior Member when the Danish Parliament meets for the first time in a session. After general elections, they do, however, take place under the direction of the temporary Speaker and in other cases under that of the acting Speaker.

§ 3

(1) The Presidium of the Danish Parliament is

elected in the following way. The Speaker is elected without a debate in accordance with the rules in Section 36(2). Excepting the parliamentary group to which the Speaker belongs, the four largest parliamentary groups represented in the Danish Parliament by turns, according to the size of the group, elect a first, a second, a third and a fourth Deputy Speaker respectively. If two or more of the parliamentary groups are of the same size, lots shall be drawn.

(2) Tellers are elected according to proportional representation in accordance with the rules laid down in Section 36(1).

§ 4

(1) The Speaker sees to it that the work of the Danish Parliament is planned and carried out in a responsible way.

(2) The Speaker chairs the debates in the Chamber and sees to it that order is maintained and that the form of the debates is sufficiently dignified. All Members are obliged to follow the Speaker's decision on the maintenance of order (cf. also chap. XI).

(3) Should the Speaker wish to take part in the debates in the Chamber in addition to chairing them, one of the Deputy Speakers is asked to take the chair.

§ 5

If the Speaker is prevented from being present, one of the Deputy Speakers – or if he/she is also prevented, one of the Tellers according to seniority – assumes all his/her tasks.

§ 6

(1) In so far as is necessary, the Tellers lend their assistance when a vote is taken. In cases in which votes are taken according to Section 35(3) and (4), they count the votes and inform the Speaker about the figures arrived at. If it is a question of a roll-call, one of the Tellers undertakes the roll-call.

(2) If at least two Tellers are not present at a sitting, the Speaker can designate one or two of the Members who are present to assume the task of temporary Teller(s).

CHAPTER III

Committees

§ 7

(1) At the opening of each sessional year (cf. Section 2(2)), the following standing committees are set up:

1. *The Standing Orders Committee*
2. *The Scrutineers' Committee*
3. *The Employment Committee*
4. *The Children's and Education Committee*
5. *The Energy, Utilities and Climate Committee*
6. *The Business, Growth and Export Committee*
7. *The European Affairs Committee*
8. *The Finance Committee*
9. *The Defence Committee*
10. *The Naturalization Committee*
11. *The Ecclesiastical Affairs Committee*
12. *The Cultural Affairs Committee*
13. *The Gender Equality Committee*
14. *The Environment and Food Committee*
15. *The Legal Affairs Committee*
16. *The Fiscal Affairs Committee*
17. *The Domestic and Social Affairs Committee*
18. *The Health and Senior Citizens' Committee*
19. *The Transport and Building Committee*
20. *The Education and Research Committee*
21. *The Foreign Affairs Committee*
22. *The Immigration, Integration and Housing Committee*
23. *The Rural Districts and Islands Committee*

(2) The Standing Orders Committee lays down the rules on the spheres of competence of the committees including EU matters. However, the Danish Parliament may deviate from these rules when referring Bills to the individual committees. The

Standing Orders Committee may also decide to change the names of the committees.

(3) The Standing Orders Committee is composed of the Presidium of the Danish Parliament and a number of Members of the Danish Parliament, sufficient to make the total number of Members 21. Any parliamentary group not represented on the Committee can appoint a Member who is entitled to take part in the debates of the Committee but who is not entitled to vote or to make any statement in the report submitted by the Committee. The Speaker of the Danish Parliament is Chairman of the Committee and the first Deputy Speaker is Vice-Chairman of the Committee. The other standing committees are composed of 17 Members.

(4) The Scrutineers Committee, The Finance Committee and the Naturalization Committee comprise 17 Members each. The other standing committees, cf. however Subsection 3, comprise 29 Members each.

(5) Members who belong to a parliamentary group which is not represented by Members on the committees mentioned in Subsection 1, nos. 1-23, are entitled to sit on two of the committees mentioned in Subsection 1, nos. 3-7, 9 and 11-23, and to take part in the debates of the committee in question. But they are neither entitled to vote nor to make

any statements in the report submitted by the committee. A Member who does not belong to a parliamentary group as mentioned in Section 36 (1) has the same rights. Membership of that order must be notified to the Speaker of the Danish Parliament via the Legal Services Office.

(6) At the opening of each session, the Danish Parliament shall appoint 2 Members to supervise the Danish Parliament Library. Furthermore, the Danish Parliament shall appoint 9 Members who are to supervise the treatment of persons, who have been deprived of their liberty in the manner referred to in Section 71(6) of the Constitutional Act (cf. Section 71(7)).

(7) The Danish Parliament can also set up ad hoc committees to deal with individual matters. Other matters may likewise be referred to such committees which shall consist of 17 Members, either immediately or at a later date. An ad hoc committee shall be dissolved when the Danish Parliament has finished dealing with the matter(s) referred to it. However, the Danish Parliament may, on the recommendation of the committee in question, decide that the committee shall remain in existence until the end of the session in question.

(8) An ad hoc committee can also be set up prior to the time at which the matter in question is about to

be read in the Chamber, if the respective Minister or Member so wishes and the Danish Parliament gives its consent.

§ 8

(1) The distribution of Chairmanships and Vice-Chairmanships in the Committees is undertaken according to the system of proportional representation, cf. however Section 7(3) in the same manner as when electing Committee Members, cf. Section 36, unless the electoral groups have agreed on another procedure. When electing a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman, cf. clauses 7 and 8 and Subsection 2, the Committees shall respect the distribution made, cf. clause 1. At the opening of each sessional year, the Members of the individual committees elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman. If the name of only one candidate has been put forward as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively, the Speaker of the Danish Parliament notifies the election and also notifies the setting up of the committee. The notification which is made by means of a notice on one of the Danish Parliament web sites is included in the minutes of the debates in the Chamber. The Members of the Danish Parliament can before 12.00 a.m. on the day following the election complain to the Legal Services Office about the election. If the names of several candidates have been put forward, or if the election has been subject to complaints, the Speaker of the Danish

Parliament calls the Members of the committee in question to a constituting meeting, which shall be held within 3 session days counting from the day on which the committee was set up. During the constituting meeting, a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman are elected among the Members of the committee in accordance with the rules in Section 36(2).

(2) If a Chairman or a Vice-Chairman is to be elected in the course of a sessional year, the election shall take place at a meeting in the committee in question in accordance with the rules laid down in Section 36(2).

(3) Ordinary committee meetings are held behind closed doors unless the committee in question decides otherwise, cf. Section 8. However, when dealing with questions relating to Ministers' responsibility, the provisions laid down in chap. XVIII apply.

(4) Only the committee Members can take decisions during committee meetings. A committee forms a quorum when more than half of its Members are present. Decisions are taken by simple majority, cf., however, Subsections 1 and 2.

(5) Upon request, a committee may decide to receive deputations. Such visits take place according to guide lines laid down by the Presidium.

(6) A committee may ask a Minister to reply to questions put by the committee. Questions are submitted in writing and the committee may request a written reply or ask the Minister to give an oral reply during a consultation at a committee meeting. The committee may request a reply to be given within a given time limit. If such a limit has not been indicated, the Minister should – not later than four weeks after the question has been put – have given a reply or have informed the committee as to when they can expect a reply. If the Minister is not in a position to give a reply, the Minister should at his/her earliest convenience – and at least within 4 weeks – state this in writing.

(7) Persons participating in a closed committee meeting are not allowed to pass on information about the debates to the public, unless the committee has decided otherwise. The committee cannot take a decision to pass on information which according to legislation or other relevant provisions is confidential. Likewise, such information must not be given or be referred to at open committee meetings.

(8) A consultation may be open or closed. An open consultation shall be held if at least 3 committee members request it. If open consultations are held, they are tape-recorded or otherwise registered electronically. It is, however, up to the individual

committee to plan and carry out committee work and, if required, to decide to invite other persons to take part in all or one of the committee meetings.

(9) In addition to ordinary meetings, a committee may hold other meetings including:

- a) *Open meetings*, during which one or more subjects are debated. Prior to the meeting, the committee can decide who will be entitled to take part in the debate.
- b) *Open theme meetings*, at which the committee Members and a Minister invited by the committee discuss main themes belonging under the spheres of competence of the committee. The committee takes a decision on the form of the theme meeting and on the public's access to the meeting.
- c) *Hearings etc.*, during which persons whom the committee has requested to do so can make a statement on a subject and voice their points of view. The committee decides on the form of the hearing and on whether the public should be granted access.

(10) A hearing may be held jointly by several committees.

(11) The European Affairs Committee may ask one of the other committees to make a statement concerning an EU proposal. The committee in question

subsequently makes a statement within the time limit fixed in the request. The committee in question may appoint a Member to submit the committee's statement to the European Affairs Committee.

(12) When Bills or proposals for parliamentary resolution submitted by one or more Members of the Danish Parliament are being dealt with by a committee, and the proposer – or the spokesman for the proposers, as the case may be – has not been elected to sit on the committee, he/she nevertheless has the right to take part in the proceedings concerning the matter in question, but without having the right to vote or to make statements on the report.

(13) Members of the Danish Parliament elected in the Faroe Islands or in Greenland have the right to take part when the committee deals with proposals concerning the Faroe Islands or Greenland. But they do not have the right to vote or to make statements on the report unless they have been elected to sit on the committee in question.

(14) The committee clerk draws up the minutes of the committee meetings, including information on the date and hour of the meeting, enquiries addressed to the committee as well as the subjects discussed and the outcome of the deliberations.

(15) Standing as well as ad hoc committees shall have one or more clerks on their staff. Such clerks shall, save in exceptional circumstances which can be justified belong to the staff of the Danish Parliament and be graduates in law or economics or have received a corresponding training. The clerk shall advise the chairman of the committee and its Members as to the planning and carrying out of the committee work. The assistance comprises the practical planning of the committee work, providing information to the committee or to its individual Members and the elaboration of the committee report. Furthermore, the clerk lends assistance in elaborating Bills or other resolutions which the Members wish to introduce.

§ 8 a

(1) It is incumbent upon the chairman of a committee to expedite the committee work. A written or oral account of the progress of the committee work shall be made at the Speaker's request.

(2) When a committee has finished dealing with a matter which is to be taken up for subsequent reading in the Danish Parliament, it submits a report or – if the committee has previously submitted a report on the matter – a supplementary report (if desired a supplement to the report or to the supplementary report), which is published on one of the Danish Parliament web sites. The matter shall be debated in

the Danish Parliament not earlier than 2 days after the report has been published, however, cf. Section 18(2). In case of the committee disagreeing, it is the majority which takes the decision as to the date on which the report on a proposal shall be submitted. However, the committee should make a report on motions submitted by one or more Members of the Danish Parliament when the proposers so request in writing giving at least 14 days' notice and provided that the request is supported by a minority representing at least two fifths of the Members of the committee.

(3) However, when the committee has submitted a report for the second reading of a Bill, an oral recommendation may be made at the third reading of a Bill, if the committee has concluded its work without any amendments being moved and without any of the Members of the committee requesting a supplementary report. If the committee decides in favour of an oral recommendation, the Speaker of the Danish Parliament shall be notified of it via the Legal Services Office. It is the committee chairman who makes the oral recommendation, unless a different spokesman is elected.

(4) When a Bill has been referred to a committee after the third reading has begun (cf. Section 9 and Section 13(4)) the committee submits a report (or a supplement to it or an addition to the supplement-

tary report); or it makes an oral recommendation under the same rules as those referred to in Subsections 2 and 3 of this Section.

(5) Recommendations from the standing Scrutineers' Committee may like those from the temporary committee referred to in Section 1(2), be made orally and without the observance of any time limit, provided that they are unanimous and recommend approval of the elections. A unanimous recommendation on the approval of a substitute, cf. Sections 40 and 41(1), is submitted to the Speaker of the Danish Parliament, who subsequently informs the Danish Parliament to this effect. Other unanimous recommendations concerning approval of elections are undertaken by the committee chairman, unless another spokesman is elected. In other circumstances, the committee shall submit a report including a recommendation.

(6) A committee can make a statement on the progress of its work concerning proposals regarding which it does not submit a report. Besides, a committee can, in quite exceptional circumstances, submit a report on its activities at large. Committee reports are published on one of the Danish Parliament web sites.

§ 9

(1) A matter may at any stage during its reading

be subjected to the scrutiny of a committee. If the matter has already been submitted to the Danish Parliament, the reading of it shall be suspended while it is being considered by the committee.

(2) The Speaker can submit motions concerning referral of motions to be dealt with by a committee to a special debate at which the time limits governing short remarks shall apply.

CHAPTER IV

Bills

§ 10

(1) Bills shall be drafted in statutory form and have a title that briefly defines the contents of the Bill and lists it in numerical order. Bills aiming at amending or repealing an Act of an earlier date shall be entitled 'Bill on amendment to – repeal of' – the earlier Act in question, as the case may be, possibly defined more specifically by a subtitle. Bills which are not in accordance with the above rules shall be rejected by the Speaker. When a Bill is to be submitted to the Danish Parliament, the Minister in question or the Member(s) submitting the Bill must inform the Speaker about it and the latter notifies the Danish Parliament of it by reading out

the names of the mover(s) – using abbreviated designations of the political parties in cases in which there are several Members of the same party – and also while referring to the publication on one of the Danish Parliament web sites The Bill shall subsequently be submitted in writing unless the proposer has asked for an oral presentation. In the latter case, the Bill may be submitted during the same meeting or during a subsequent meeting.

(2) The Government may, in non-session periods, introduce the Finance Bills in writing without convening the Danish Parliament for a sitting as the notification of the Bill is published on one of the Danish Parliament web sites. If so, the Speaker may refer the Bill to the Finance Committee. The same applies to the Bills on determining budget ceilings which shall apply to the State, municipalities and regions – mentioned in the Budget Act – as well as to eventual Bills on amendments to Acts of an earlier date on determining budget ceilings which shall apply to the State, municipalities and regions, which the Government wishes to introduce at the same time.

(3) In view of the planning of the legislative work, the majority of the Bills which the Government intends to introduce during the sessional year should be introduced at the beginning of the sessional year in question. As a rule, Bills should be introduced no

later than by April 1st in order to be passed within the current sessional year.

(4) No Bill shall be passed finally until it has been read three times in the Chamber of the Danish Parliament (Section 41 of the Constitutional Act).

§ 11

(1) The *first reading* of a Bill shall take place not earlier than two days after the Bill has been published on one of the Danish Parliament web sites, and preferably not earlier than five days after it has been published on one of the Danish Parliament web sites. The mover of a Bill is entitled to request that it be submitted to the first reading within five sitting days counting from the day on which a written request to this effect was made to the Speaker. However, the first reading shall take place not earlier than on the fourteenth sitting day after the Bill has been published on one of the Danish Parliament web sites. If a Bill is introduced after April 1st, cf. Section 10(3), a vote shall – if seventeen Members request it – be taken in order to decide whether a first reading can take place. Prior to such a voting, the Speaker can subject the question to a separate debate at which the rules on speaking time applying to short remarks apply. At the first reading, the Bill is debated in principle without going into too much detail. Amendments cannot be moved.

(2) When the reading has come to a close, the Bill is subjected to a second reading, and the Danish Parliament decides whether the Bill shall be referred to a reading in one of the committees.

§ 12

(1) The *second reading* shall take place not earlier than two days after the first reading has been concluded (cf. also Section 8a(2)). During the second reading, statements are made on the Bill in general and on the individual Sections as well as on the amendments moved. Such amendments may be moved by committee Members and other Members and also by the Minister concerned (cf. also Section 18).

(2) When the debate has been concluded, a vote is taken on the amendments moved, unless a vote can be omitted in accordance with Section 35.

(3) Subsequently, a third reading of the Bill in its present form is begun, and the Danish Parliament decides whether the Bill shall be referred to another reading in the committee which has previously dealt with it or – if the Bill has not been submitted to a committee reading – to a new committee.

(4) If a Bill has been subjected to a third reading directly without a decision having been taken on a new committee reading, the committee which has

been deliberating the matter between the first and second readings shall, however, not be precluded from reconsidering the matter between the second and third readings if it deems it necessary. In that case, the Speaker of the Danish Parliament is informed about it via the Legal Services Office.

§ 13

(1) The *third reading* shall take place not earlier than thirty days after the introduction and two days after the second reading has been concluded (cf. also Section 8a(2) and (3)). And two fifths of the Members of the Danish Parliament may request the Speaker to see to it that the third reading takes place not earlier than twelve weekdays after the Bill has been adopted at the second reading. The request shall be made in writing and be signed by the Members making it. However, Finance Bills, Supplementary Appropriation Bills, Provisional Appropriation Bills, Government Loan Bills, Naturalization Bills, Expropriation Bills, Indirect Taxation Bills and, in emergencies, Bills the enactment of which cannot be postponed because of the intent of the Act cannot be stayed (Section 41 in the Constitutional Act).

(2) Amendments can be moved at the third reading in the same way as at the second reading.

(3) The amendments moved are debated first. When the Danish Parliament has reached a decision on these amendments, the Bill is debated as a whole. In conclusion, a vote is taken on the final adoption of the Bill.

(4) If the Danish Parliament after having voted on the amendments moved decides to shelve the third reading and to submit the matter to the scrutiny of one of the committees, cf. Section 9, the committee Members and the Minister concerned may move new amendments to the Bill. When the third reading is resumed, such amendments shall be considered first. When the Danish Parliament has reached a decision on the amendments, the Bill is debated in its entirety and finally put to the vote.

(5) When a Bill has finally been adopted, it shall be signed by the Speaker and by one of the Tellers, whereupon the Speaker shall forward it to the Prime Minister.

§ 14

The time allotted to speakers – laid down in the Annex to the present Standing Orders – shall apply to the introduction and reading of Bills, however cf. Section 28.

§ 15

(1) When the Danish Parliament has adopted a

Bill which in accordance with Section 42 in the Constitutional Act can be subjected to a *referendum*, one third of the Members of the Danish Parliament may within three weekdays, counting from the final adoption of the Bill, request the Speaker to submit the Bill to a referendum. The request shall be made in writing and be signed by the Members making the request.

(2) Where a request has been made that a referendum be held on a Bill, the Danish Parliament may within five weekdays, counting from the final adoption of the Bill, decide that the Bill shall become void (Section 42(3) in the Constitutional Act).

(3) Proposals for resolution to this effect are read once in accordance with the rules which apply to the first reading of Bills. However, the Speaker may waive the time limits which apply to the matter in question and to speaking, if he deems it necessary in order to expedite the matter.

(4) If the Danish Parliament does not pass such a resolution, the Prime Minister and the Minister for Economic Affairs and the Interior shall be informed as soon as possible that the Bill is to be subjected to a referendum, cf. Section 95 in the Parliamentary Election Act.

(5) When a Bill concerning the expropriation of property has been passed, one third of the Members of the Danish Parliament may within three weekdays counting from the final adoption of the Bill, request that it be not submitted to the Royal Assent until general elections have been held again, and the Bill has been passed once more by the Danish Parliament assembling thereafter (Section 73 in the Constitutional Act). The request, which shall be made in writing and be signed by the Members making it, is forwarded to the Speaker who acquaints the Danish Parliament with it and subsequently forwards it to the Prime Minister.

CHAPTER V

Constitutional Bills

§ 16

(1) Bills comprising amendments or additional provisions to the Constitutional Act (Section 88 in the Constitutional Act) shall have a title indicating that they are constitutional Bills. If that is not the case, they shall be rejected by the Speaker.

(2) Amendments comprising amendments or additional provisions to the Constitutional Act can be moved only in connection with constitutional Bills.

If moved in connection with other Bills, they shall be rejected by the Speaker.

(3) Bills or amendments which are in contravention of the Constitutional Act shall be rejected. If after consulting the Standing Orders Committee, the Speaker finds that such an inconsistency exists, he recommends to the Danish Parliament that the Bill be rejected. Such rejections are not subject to debate.

CHAPTER VI

Other Independent Proposals etc.

§ 17

(1) Independent proposals other than Bills shall take the form of resolutions and shall be listed in numerical order. They shall be notified at a sitting in the same manner as Bills. In cases in which the reading of such proposals is not defined by the Standing Orders the following rules apply. Unless they take the form of recommendations from committees, proposals for parliamentary resolution are moved in the same way as Bills and are given two readings according to the same rules which apply to first and third readings of Bills. The provision in Section 13, point 1 regarding the fact that the third

reading must not take place until 30 days after it has been submitted does, however, not apply to the second reading of proposals for parliamentary resolution. Proposals for parliamentary resolution which take the form of recommendations from committees are given two readings according to the rules which apply to second and third readings of Bills. However, the provisions in Section 12 concerning the referral to committees do not apply. Two fifths of the Members of the Danish Parliament are not entitled to request the last reading of proposals for parliamentary resolution to be stayed, cf. Section 13(1).

(2) Irrespective of Subsection 1, point 3, the Speaker of Parliament may, with the approval of the proposer or proposers, decide that a proposal for parliamentary resolution, which does not stem from a committee recommendation, may be referred directly to a committee reading. It is up to the Folketing to decide to which committee the proposal shall be referred. If the committee submits a report on the proposal, the proposal is subsequently submitted to one reading only, according to the same rules which apply to the third reading of Bills.

(3) Proposals for parliamentary resolution which do not stem from committee recommendations should normally be introduced by April 1st, at the latest, in order to be read within the current parliamentary

year. If such a proposal has been submitted after the said date, it shall if 17 Members so request, be submitted to a vote as to whether the first reading may take place or, if the proposal is read in accordance with Section 2, as to whether the proposal may be referred to a committee reading. Prior to such a vote, the Speaker may submit the question to a separate reading observing the rules on speaking which apply to short remarks.

(4) Recommendations made by committees concerning petitions, including petitions for consent in accordance with Section 57 of the Constitutional Act (cf. Section 25), are read once and the time limits are the same as for second readings of Bills. The same applies to recommendations which take the form of a report from the Scrutineers' Committee (cf. Section 8a (5)). The Ombudsman of the Danish Parliament is appointed during a meeting without a debate. This meeting shall take place not earlier than two days after the recommendation on the appointment made by the Legal Affairs Committee has been published on one of the Danish Parliament web sites.

CHAPTER VII

Amendments and Amendments to Amendments

§ 18

(1) Amendments to Bills and to proposals for parliamentary resolution shall, whether they are moved in a committee report or outside it, in so far as it may prove necessary, be accompanied by comments stating the reasons for the amendments.

(2) Such amendments shall not be read unless they have been published on one of the Danish Parliament web sites the previous day, at the latest. As for the reading of an amendment to an amendment, the only requirement is that it shall have been published on one of the Danish Parliament web sites before the opening of the meeting in question. However, amendments and amendments to amendments to the Finance Bill or to the Supplementary Appropriation Bill moved by the Government cannot be read without the consent of the Danish Parliament, unless they have been published on one of the Danish Parliament web sites no later than four days previously.

(3) Subject to the consent of the Danish Parliament, amendments and amendments to amendments, which are published on one of the Danish Parliament web sites during a sitting, may also be read.

CHAPTER VIII

**Ministerial Statements, Accounts,
Questions and Interpellations****§ 19**

(1) When the Prime Minister has, at the first sitting of the sessional year, rendered the account of the general state of the Realm and of the measures proposed by the Government in accordance with Section 38 of the Constitutional Act, the account is made the subject of a general debate in the Danish Parliament (the opening debate). A resolution in connection with the debate can only be made in accordance with the rules laid down in Section 24.

(2) The rules laid down in Subsection 1 likewise apply if the Prime Minister, at any other time not related to the opening of the sessional year, wishes to render an account to the Danish Parliament of the general state of the Realm and of the measures proposed by the Government.

(3) If the Prime Minister wishes to make a *special statement* to the Danish Parliament outside the order paper, the Speaker shall be informed. The latter will then call upon the Prime Minister to speak either at once or at a later stage.

(4) If a Minister wishes to give *an account of a matter of public interest* to the Danish Parliament, outside the order paper, the Speaker shall be informed so that he can notify the Danish Parliament by reading out who submits the account, by indicating the numerical number in question and lastly by referring to the publishing on one of the Danish Parliament web sites. Subsequently, the account is submitted in writing unless the Minister has asked for a verbal account. In the latter case, the account may be rendered either during the same sitting or during a later sitting.

(5) Not later than on the first sitting day after an account, like the one referred to in Subsection 4 of this Section, has been either given or published on one of the Danish Parliament web sites, the Speaker may decide to submit it to a debate in the Danish Parliament. Furthermore, 17 Members may, within the same time limit, demand that it be debated in the Danish Parliament. Unless the Danish Parliament decides otherwise, the debate shall be held not later than ten sitting days after the Speaker has communicated his decision to the Danish Parliament, or has been notified of the request. The rules on time limits laid down in the Annex to the present Standing Orders also apply to the submitting and debating of accounts, however cf. Section 28. No decision can be taken in connection with the reading, unless the account – according to the

decision of the Speaker – is read together with an interpellation on the same subject. In that case, a proposal – aimed at adopting the account and the interpellation jointly – is moved, and a decision is taken in accordance with the rules of Section 24.

(6) If a committee as part of its reading of a case wishes the Danish Parliament to debate the matter in the Chamber, the Speaker and the Minister concerned are informed to this effect. The debate takes place on the basis of an account which the Government has made of the case. This account may be submitted in writing, and in that case the debate can take place not earlier than two days after the account has been published on one of the Danish Parliament web sites. The account may also be made orally. If so, the Minister may take fifteen minutes to do so, and the account is subsequently debated. The committee in question may also make a report to be included in the debate. Such a report shall, if the case should arise, have been published on one of the Danish Parliament web sites two days prior to the debate.

(7) During the debate which takes place in accordance with Subsection 6, the time limits which apply to first readings of Bills apply.

(8) The Danish Parliament cannot make a decision in connection with the debate in accordance with Subsection 6.

(9) The rules comprised by Subsections 6–8 also apply if the Members of the Danish delegation to an interparliamentary assembly wish to debate a matter.

§ 20

(1) If a Member wishes to obtain information about a Minister's attitude to or view of a public matter in the light of the information available to the Minister, he/she may do so by putting a question to the Minister concerned in accordance with the rules of this Section.

(2) The question is tabled in writing. It shall be brief and concise, and a brief written justification may be annexed. The question shall, via the Legal Services Office, be forwarded to the Speaker, who forwards a copy of the question – possibly together with a written justification – to the Minister. The questioner may demand a written or an oral reply. Questions for written reply shall be made in a way so as to keep the answer reasonably short. During Question Time, a Member may put 2 questions for oral reply.

(3) If a question or the justification for putting it is not drawn up in accordance with Subsections 1 and 2, or if the Speaker finds that the very question or the form or contents of the justification is of a character that makes it unsuitable for tabling, the Speaker may decline to forward it to the Minister.

(4) If the Minister, in a previous justified notification in writing or during Question Time, declares that he/she is not in a position to answer the question, the matter is considered closed. If the Minister answers the question, he/she does so in accordance with the provisions laid down in Subsections 6–8.

(5) If the questioner has asked for an oral reply, the question may be entered on the list of questions for the next Question Time, provided that it has been received by the Legal Services Office not later than at 12.00 a.m. three weekdays in advance (Saturday not included). The Speaker decides the order of questions and he may leave out questions which are regarded as being comprised by an urgent interpellation. Unless the Speaker decides otherwise, the time spent on putting questions to a Minister must not exceed one hour.

(6) Before answering the question during Question Time, the questioner puts the question again orally.

(7) The time allotted to the Minister to answer the question is two minutes the first time. The questioner may be given the floor for up to two minutes. The Minister gives his reply (half a minute), and subsequently, the questioner may be given the floor up to two times for half a minute. Then follows the Minister's reply for half a minute up to two times. In the event that the Member posing the original

question has stated that he has no objections, the Speaker may permit a co-questioner to participate in the question, however this must be made clear at the time of the original question.

The Speaker may also allow more co-questioners to put supplementary questions to a vital question on a topical issue. A co-questioner may be given the floor for 1 minute once and for ½ a minute once immediately before the questioner is given the floor for the last time, and the Ministers are entitled to the same speaking time as the co-questioner has to answer.

(8) If the answer is given in writing – and this should be done within six weekdays (Saturday not included), the reply is forwarded to the questioner.

(9) Questions to which a reply is requested in writing within the same sessional year shall be received by the Legal Services Office not later than September 15th, or should this be a holiday the previous weekday. When writs for an election have been issued or after a Cabinet has tendered its resignation, cf. 15(2) of the Constitutional Act, questions cannot be handed in.

(10) The Speaker has made the decision to enter a Question Hour on Parliament's Order Paper. During this Hour, the Members may put questions to the Prime Minister for immediate reply. The Speaker may decide that the possibility of putting questions

to the Prime Minister during a Question Hour shall be restricted to certain parliamentary groups or to Members who do not belong to a parliamentary group. The Speaker may also decide that the possibility of putting questions to the Prime Minister during a Question Hour shall be restricted to Members who are Party Chairmen. The Prime Minister informs Parliament, no later than at 10.00 a.m. on the day preceding Question Hour, as to whether the Prime Minister will open Question Hour by giving Parliament a briefing for up to 5 minutes on measures which the Cabinet is considering to implement or on any other measures. If Question Hour is opened by the Prime Minister's briefing, the Speaker shall immediately after the briefing give Members who wish to put questions an opportunity to indicate that they so wish. In special cases, the Speaker may include questions from Members who have not indicated at the opening of Question Hour that they wish to put questions. If Question Hour is not opened by a briefing, Members who wish to ask questions inform the Speaker to this effect not later than at the opening of Question Hour. The Speaker decides which of the Members may put questions and in what order.

(11) A Question put during Prime Minister's Question Hour shall together with an eventual argumentation not exceed 2 minutes. The Prime Minister's reply shall not exceed 2 minutes either.

After receiving a reply, the questioner may have the floor, for no more than twice for 1 minute each time. Following the first reply, the Prime Minister's speaking time is subsequently restricted to 1 minute each time. The Prime Minister is free to refuse to reply to the question. In special cases, the Speaker with a view to adapting Question Hour within the time limit set or at large may deviate from the time limits mentioned in this Subsection and similarly from the number of times which a Member may be given the floor.

§ 21

(1) If a Member wishes to submit a public matter for debate and to request a statement from one or several Ministers, in accordance with Section 53 of the Constitutional Act, he/she shall table an interpellation, drawn up in writing in a concise form, and forward it to the Speaker, who notifies the Members of the interpellation during the same or the following meeting. The Speaker notifies the Members by reading out the name(s) of the mover(s) using abbreviated designations of the political parties in cases in which there are several Members of the same party as well as reading out the numerical order of the interpellation and he also mentions the fact that the interpellation has been published on one of the Danish Parliament web sites.

(2) At a subsequent meeting, the Danish Parliament decides whether the interpellation shall be put forward or not. If consent is given – and this is decided without a debate – the Speaker will communicate the wording of the interpellation to the Minister or Ministers concerned and it will be published on one of the Danish Parliament web sites. The interpellation is introduced and debated during a subsequent sitting, however not later than 10 sitting days after the Danish Parliament has decided to proceed with it. If the Minister to whom the interpellation is addressed finds it contrary to the interests of the country to hold a public debate on the matter in question within the time limits mentioned, the Minister informs the interpellator to this effect. Thus, the interpellation is postponed. Subject to the consent of the interpellator, postponement may also occur in other cases.

(3) When justifying, answering and debating the interpellation, the time allotted to speakers laid down in the Annex to the present Standing Orders applies, cf. also Section 28.

(4) When there is a need for an especially urgent debate on a topical subject, an urgent interpellation may be resorted to. The Speaker will at the request of the parliamentary groups and in agreement with the Minister see to it that such an interpellation is read at the earliest possible date. The Speaker may

deviate from the rules on notification, despatch and reading of such interpellations as indicated in Subsections 1 and 2.

(5) Resolutions in connection with the debate may be passed only in accordance with the provisions laid down in Section 24.

CHAPTER IX

Withdrawal, Rejection, Proposal to be passed

§ 22

(1) Government Bills as well as Bills submitted by the Members of the Danish Parliament may at any stage of their reading be withdrawn. Immediately after the Danish Parliament has been informed about the withdrawal, the Speaker will ask whether any other party (a Member or a Minister) would wish to submit the Bill.

(2) An interpellation can be withdrawn up to the moment when the Danish Parliament opens the reading of the item on the order paper under which the interpellation is introduced and debated, cf. Section 21(2, 3rd clause).

(3) A question for oral reply, cf. Section 20, can be withdrawn up to the moment when the Danish Parliament opens the reading of the said question during Question Time. A question for written reply can be withdrawn up to the moment when the Legal Services Office receives the reply from the Minister concerned.

(4) Interpellations and questions which have been withdrawn cannot be introduced again by other parties.

§ 23

(1) Bills and amendments may be rejected at the request of a Member. Such a request shall be made before the debate on the Bill is opened. The Danish Parliament then decides, without a debate, whether to reject the Bill or not.

(2) The provisions laid down in Subsection 1 also apply in cases in which the Speaker as moderator recommends to the Danish Parliament to reject a Bill or an amendment.

§ 24

(1) During the debate on an interpellation (Section 21) and during the debate on an account rendered by the Prime Minister of the general state of the Realm and of the measures proposed by the Government (Section 19, 1 and 2), *a proposal to be*

passed may be introduced. Such a proposal shall be composed of no more than one hundred and fifty words and an urgent interpellation of no more than fifty words, cf. Section 21, 4, and shall be naturally linked to the debate going on. The Speaker submits proposals to be passed for debate if the above conditions are fulfilled.

(2) Amendments cannot be moved to proposals which are to be passed. If such a proposal is passed, the other proposals to be passed – on which a vote has not yet been taken – become void.

(3) If a proposal to be passed is moved during the debate on a matter, Members who at that time have spent all their time allotted to speaking, are entitled to an extra five minutes. This is also the case if new proposals to be passed are moved later during the same debate.

CHAPTER X

Petitions

§ 25

Petitions may be submitted to the Danish Parliament only through one of its Members (Section 54 of the Constitutional Act). Petitions include appli-

cations, addresses, complaints and similar enquiries from persons who are not Members of the Danish Parliament. All petitions are forwarded to the committee before which the petitioner desires them to be brought. If the petitioner has made no such request, it is the Speaker who decides whether to refer a matter to a standing or an ad hoc committee or whether to put it at the disposal of the Members for perusal in the Reading Room of the Danish Parliament. However, petitions *for the consent of the Danish Parliament, in accordance with Section 57 of the Constitutional Act*, shall always be referred to the Standing Orders Committee (cf. Section 17(4)). Petitions regarding elections shall be referred to the Scrutineers' Committee (however, cf. Section 1(3)), and petitions regarding the Ombudsman shall be referred to the Legal Affairs Committee.

CHAPTER XI

Debate/Order Paper

§ 26

Members and Ministers speak from the rostrum of the Danish Parliament or if the Speaker so decides from their seats in the Chamber. No person shall be addressed directly during the debates. Members (apart from Ministers) shall be styled Mr or Mrs

adding their names but without any titles. Ministers are addressed by their official titles as Ministers.

§ 27

Quotations are accepted to a limited extent only. An intervention shall indicate clearly when a quotation begins and when it ends. Likewise, the source of the quotation and its exact place in the original text shall be indicated clearly.

§ 28

(1) The Speaker calls upon the Members to speak in the order in which their requests are noted, however giving precedence to spokesmen and proposers. Likewise, the Speaker may change the order of speakers with a view to expediting matters, or in cases in which practical reasons speak in favour of so doing.

(2) The Speaker may allow deviations from the time limits set to speaking laid down in the Standing Orders, including the Annex, when the extent of a matter renders it necessary. Applications for extended time to speak should be tabled not later than two days before the sitting in question. A request to have the time allotted to speakers extended when debating interpellations shall, however, be made at the time when the interpellation is handed in.

(3) Irrespective of the set speaking times, the Speaker may, to the extent which he deems reasonable, give Members the floor in order for them to make 2 short remarks, the first one of 1 minute's duration and the second one of half a minute's duration. Under special circumstances, the Speaker may give a Member the floor for several or more protracted short remarks. If a Minister desires to take the floor in order to make a short remark, the Minister may speak for up to three minutes.

(4) During the debates, Ministers are entitled to address the Danish Parliament as often as they wish provided of course that they observe the rules of the Standing Orders of the Danish Parliament (Section 40 of the Constitutional Act).

§ 29

(1) If a Member exceeds his/her time limit, the Speaker may order the Member in question to leave the floor after having once called his/her attention to the fact that the time has expired. In that case, the Member concerned cannot be called upon to speak again on the same matter.

(2) If the Speaker considers the statements of a Member improper, the Speaker may call the Member to order. If the Member does not obey the directions of the Speaker, the latter may ask the Member to discontinue his speech. The Speaker may also decline

to call upon the Member to speak once more during the same sitting. Furthermore, the Standing Orders Committee may decide to exclude a Member, who has been called to order, from the sittings of the Danish Parliament for up to fourteen sitting days. For the duration of the exclusion, the Member in question is not allowed to take part in committee meetings either.

(3) The provisions referred to in Subsection 2 of this Section also apply if the Speaker finds a Member's written statements in Bills, reports etc. improper or if a Member otherwise renders himself/herself guilty of grossly offending the observance of the rules for preserving order.

(4) If a Member does not obey the Speaker's directions, after the latter has requested the Member concerned to discontinue his/her speech or if general disorder should occur, the Speaker shall adjourn, or if necessary, close the sitting.

§ 30

Expressions of approval or disapproval are considered disorderly.

§ 31

(1) If the Speaker finds that the debates are unduly lengthy, he may suggest that they be ended. The Danish Parliament will then take the decision about a possible closure without a debate after having read

out the names of those who wished to speak. Likewise, seventeen Members may request in writing that a vote be taken on a possible closure without a debate. The names of these Members as well as of those wishing to address the Danish Parliament are then read out.

§ 32

(1) The Speaker or the acting Speaker sees to it that the Members receive a request to attend the first meeting of each session. The notice is forwarded directly to the Members by e-mail or by letter and is also published on one of the Danish Parliament web sites.

(2) At the end of each sitting, the Speaker announces the time and date as well as the order paper for the next sitting, if possible at that time. Notification of the contents of the order paper may be given by referring to one of the Danish Parliament web sites or to the latest order paper. A request to the Members to attend a meeting may also be forwarded by e-mail or in a printed version. However, the fact that the Speaker has fixed the day and time and the order paper for the next meeting shall not prevent him from calling the meeting for another hour.

(3) The Speaker can, when the order paper has not been set in accordance with Subsection 4 of this Section, change the order of the items listed, and

the Speaker can omit an item on the order paper if the Danish Parliament is informed about the reasons for so doing. But apart from electing Members to committees, commissions and to assuming other tasks, only matters entered on the order paper for a sitting can be dealt with during the sitting in question.

(4) It rests with the Speaker to call a meeting when at least two fifths of the Members of the Danish Parliament or the Prime Minister requests him to do so in writing stating the order of the day (Section 39 in the Constitutional Act).

(5) Whenever possible, *next week's programme* indicating the Speaker's plans so far for the work of the coming days is published on one of the Danish Parliament web sites on the last sitting day of the week in question.

CHAPTER XII

Voting

§ 33

(1) For a resolution to be passed by the Danish Parliament, more than half of the Members shall be present and take part in the voting (Section 50 in

the Constitutional Act). Members who abstain from voting shall be regarded as participating in the vote allowing for the fact, however, that these votes are not included in the calculations of votes in accordance with Section 36(2) or Section 42. A resolution is considered passed when the votes cast in favour of a motion exceed those cast against it, however excepting the cases mentioned in Section 42.

(2) A resolution cannot be altered during the reading at which it was passed, cf. however Section 13(4).

§ 34

(1) The Speaker decides the contents, order and interdependence of the votes or, if seventeen Members so request, the Danish Parliament takes the decision, one of the seventeen Members and the Speaker each having spoken once.

§ 35

(1) In all cases in which the Speaker has reason to consider the outcome of a vote taken for granted in advance, he is authorized to declare a question put to the vote – however excepting the final passing of a Bill or another independent proposal – decided without a vote, unless seventeen Members request that such a vote be taken. Incidentally, votes are taken either by means of a voting machine, by counting the Members who have risen from their seats, or by roll-call.

(2) Usually, votes are taken by means of a voting machine which indicates who vote for the Bill, who vote against it and who abstain from voting as well as who are absent. The result of the voting is kept in the Archives of the Danish Parliament. If the Speaker so decides, it will be recorded in the minutes of the debates in the Chamber how each Member has voted. This also applies if seventeen Members have requested it in writing before the vote is taken, unless the Danish Parliament by an ordinary vote taken at the suggestion of the Speaker decides otherwise.

(3) If the voting machine cannot be used, a vote is taken by the Speaker's calling upon the Members to rise from their seats in order to indicate that they vote for or against the Bill or to indicate that they vote neither for nor against.

(4) Votes shall be taken by roll-call if seventeen Members so request before the voting begins, unless the Danish Parliament by an ordinary vote taken at the suggestion of the Speaker decides otherwise. Besides, the Speaker may decide to take a vote by roll-call at once, or he may do so if the outcome of a vote taken otherwise seems questionable to him. When votes are taken by roll-call, the names of the Members are called out in alphabetical order. When the names of all the Members have been called out and – when at the Speaker's immediate invitation to

vote – no more Members register for the voting, the Speaker announces the close of the roll-call and the votes cast are counted.

CHAPTER XIII

Appointments

§ 36

(1) In cases in which the Danish Parliament appoints Members to sit on *committees and commissions* or gives Members assignments, it is done according to the system of proportional representation (Section 52 in the Constitutional Act).

The following principles apply: The Members are divided into coalitions each of which comprises those of the parliamentary groups and of the Members who have indicated to the Speaker that they will vote together in one or several cases which they have mentioned, either for a certain time or for the time being. Subsequently, the number of Members of each coalition is entered on a separate list, and the number listed is divided by 1, 2, 3 etc., until the number of votes on each list has been divided by a figure which represents the maximum number of seats which the group is supposed to obtain. The highest of the quotients thus acquired gives the group that holds it the right to make the first appointment. The second

highest gives the right to make the second appointment etc. until the full number of appointments has been reached. If the quotients are equal, lots are drawn to decide the order of appointments. Each coalition informs the Speaker via the Legal Services Office which parliamentary groups and Members make up the coalition and whom the coalition has appointed to sit on the committees in question. On behalf of the Speaker, the Legal Services Office checks that the coalition has nominated the number to which it is entitled according to the system of proportional representation. Subsequently, the Speaker reads out the names of the persons who have been elected and sees to it that their names are entered in the minutes of the debates in the Chamber without having been read out.

(2) When only one Member is to be appointed, the Danish Parliament takes a vote on the appointment. This vote may, however, be omitted if one Member only has been nominated and there are no objections. Votes are taken – possibly in writing, if the Danish Parliament, so decides – according to the following rules, however cf. Section 33. If one of the Members nominated gets more than half the votes cast, cf. Section 33 (1, 2nd clause), the person in question is regarded as having been elected. If not, another vote is taken. If this does not lead to the said majority either, a third vote is taken. The third vote shall be confined to the two persons who obtained the largest number

of votes during the second voting, and lots are to be drawn if there is a tie. If the third vote should also result in a tie, lots are likewise to be drawn.

(3) If a vacancy should occur on a committee or on a board before the expiry of the ordinary term of office, this vacancy is filled by the parliamentary group which appointed the former holder of the office. If the Member in question – upon the expiry of the office – is no longer a Member of the parliamentary group which appointed him/her, but is affiliated to a new group, the vacancy is filled by the latter. The appointment is made on the recommendation of the parliamentary group in question.

(4) If a vacancy cannot be filled in accordance with Subsection 3, the appointment is made by the coalition which may claim to do so according to the system of proportional representation.

CHAPTER XIV

Public sittings, Printing of documents relating to the parliamentary work

§ 37

The sittings of the Danish Parliament are public. However, the Speaker, seventeen Members or a

Minister may request that all unauthorized persons be ordered to leave, whereupon it is decided, without a debate, whether to discuss the matter at a public or at a closed sitting (cf. Section 49 in the Constitutional Act). The Speaker sees to it that admission is granted to the public sittings.

§ 38

If strangers admitted to the public galleries do not keep silent, the Speaker may demand that those causing the disturbances, or, if necessary, all the visitors admitted to the public galleries, be ordered to leave.

§ 39

(1) Minutes of the debates in the Chamber are published on one of the Danish Parliament web sites.

(2) The Speaker can decide to forward a parliamentary document relating to the work in the Chamber either as an e-mail or in a printed version instead of publishing it on one of the Danish Parliament web sites. This method means that the rules on time limits which apply to the publication of documents are regarded as having been observed.

CHAPTER XV

Leave of absence

§ 40

When a Member ceases to be a Member of the Danish Parliament, the said Member's substitute takes his/her seat in the Danish Parliament, cf. Section 92 of the Parliamentary Election Act (Section 74 of the Election Act of the Faroe Islands and Section 68 of the Act on General Elections in Greenland).

§ 41

(1) At the request of a Member, the Danish Parliament may grant him/her leave of absence and call upon the Member's substitute to take the vacant seat in the Danish Parliament temporarily.

(2) On the oral recommendation of the Speaker, the Danish Parliament passes a resolution to this effect, without a previous debate.

(3) Leave of absence may be granted when a Member informs the Speaker that

- a) owing to *illness*, caring for seriously ill children or close relatives who wish to die in their own homes, temporary absence on public business abroad or similar business in the Faroe Islands or in Greenland, he/she will not be able to attend the sittings of the Danish Parliament for a

- period of at least seven days,
- b) being also a Member of the *Lagting of the Faroe Islands* or the *Landsting of Greenland*, he/she will neither be able to attend the sittings of the Danish Parliament for a period of at least seven days owing to participation in the sittings of the *Lagting* or the *Landsting* respectively, nor in the committee meetings involved,
 - c) for *other reasons* than those mentioned under a) and b), he/she will not be able to attend the sittings of the Danish Parliament for at least seven days,
 - d) being also a *Minister*, he/she will not be able to attend the sittings of the Danish Parliament for a period of at least seven days owing to temporary leave of absence on public business abroad, or similar business in the Faroe Islands or in Greenland.

(4) Furthermore, leave of absence may be granted for a period of up to 12 months when a Member informs the Speaker that owing to *pregnancy, childbirth or adoption*, he/she will not be able to attend the sittings of the Danish Parliament.

(5) An ordinary Member who has been granted leave of absence in accordance with the provisions of nos. a), b) or d) of Subsection 3, or in accordance with the provisions of Subsection 4, retains the right to receive a remuneration and a pension according

to seniority during the period for which he/she has been granted leave of absence, cf. The Parliamentary Election Act of Denmark.

(6) Leave of absence which has been granted in accordance with no. d) of Subsection 3 is retained even if the Member in question will attend sittings in the Danish Parliament in his/her capacity as a Minister during the said period.

(7) In the cases mentioned in nos. a), b) and c) of Subsection 3, and in Subsection 4, the tasks of a substitute Member come to an end when the Member concerned informs the Speaker in writing that he/she will again be able to attend the sittings of the Danish Parliament (however, not earlier than on the eighth day counting from the day on which leave of absence was granted).

(8) In the cases mentioned in no. d) of Subsection 3, the tasks of the substitute come to an end when the Minister in question steps down or informs the Speaker in writing that he/she will again be able to attend the sittings of the Danish Parliament regularly (however, not earlier than on the eighth day counting from the day on which leave of absence was granted).

CHAPTER XVI

Deviations from the Standing Orders

§ 42

If it is a matter of urgency, the rules of the Standing Orders may be disregarded at the suggestion of the Speaker or if seventeen Members have suggested it in writing provided that the rules concerned do not regard constitutional provisions or other legal provisions and in cases in which three fourths of the Members who vote accept the proposal, cf. Section 33 (1, 2nd clause).

CHAPTER XVII

The Administration of the Danish Parliament and Institutions belonging under the Danish Parliament

§ 43

In consultation with the Deputy Speakers, the Speaker is in charge of the *internal organization* and Administration of the Danish Parliament as well as of its running and accounting.

§ 44

(1) The Presidium of the Danish Parliament can lay

down rules on access to the *written material* of the Danish Parliament, the Administration of the Danish Parliament and the committees of the Danish Parliament as well as on access to the EDP filing systems of the Danish Parliament.

(2) The Presidium of the Danish Parliament can lay down rules on the *Archives of the Danish Parliament*, on handing over documents to the Archives from the Danish Parliament, the Administration of the Danish Parliament, the institutions belonging under the Danish Parliament, the standing committees of the Danish Parliament, other committees set up in accordance with the Standing Orders Committee of the Danish Parliament, and committees, boards and the like which are attached to the Danish Parliament and which are wholly or partly serviced by the Danish Parliament as far as secretariats are concerned as well as rules on access to the documents which have been handed over etc. Rules on the institutions belonging under the Danish Parliament and on the committees, boards etc. mentioned under clause 1, which are attached to the Danish Parliament are laid down after having been submitted to the institution or committee in question. As far as the Archives of the Office of the Auditor General are concerned, the rules which apply to dealing with the archives of the public administration apply, cf. Section 18c of the Act on the Audit of the State Accounts etc. (The Auditor General's Act).

(3) Having consulted the Auditors of Public Accounts, the Standing Orders Committee lays down general provisions relating to the *Auditor General* with regard to such matters – which concerning the public Administration – are regulated by The Danish Public Administration Act and The Danish Access to Public Administration Files Act, cf. Section 18b in The Act on the Audit of the State Accounts etc. (The Auditor General's Act).

§ 45

(1) *Civil servants* and other employees in the Administration of the Danish Parliament are appointed and dismissed by the Speaker or by persons authorized by the Speaker to do so. Unrequested dismissal of civil servants is undertaken by the Speaker. Appointment and dismissal of staff being a member of the General Management of the Danish Parliament, is also undertaken by the Speaker after discussing the matter with the Deputy Speakers and upon the approval of the Standing Orders Committee.

(2) *The Auditors of Public Accounts* appoint and dismiss their Head of Secretariat and other staff working in the Office of the Auditors of Public Accounts in accordance with the rules applying to staff laid down in Section 51.

(3) *The Auditor General* appoints and dismisses his staff in accordance with the rules applying to staff laid down in Section 51. Appointment and dismissal of civil servants in income bracket 36 or a higher income bracket as well as unsolicited dismissal of any civil servant requires the approval of the Standing Orders Committee, the matter having previously been put before the Auditors of Public Accounts, cf. Subsection 7 of Section 1 in The Act on the Audit of the State Accounts etc. (The Auditor General's Act).

(4) *The Ombudsman* appoints and dismisses his staff in accordance with the rules applying to staff laid down in Section 51.

§ 46

(1) The Civil Service Act excepting Sections 1 and 3, Subsections 3–5 of Section 5, Sections 45–47 and 49–54 h, and the Act on Appointment on a Limited Tenure of Civil Servants and Staff Employed on a Civil Servant's Basis also apply to civil servants working in the Danish Parliament, in the Office of the Auditors of Public Accounts and in the Office of the Ombudsman unless the Standing Orders Committee decides otherwise.

(2) A general agreement which applies to civil servants of the Danish Parliament and civil servants working in the Office of the Ombudsman may – on

the authorization of the Speaker – be entered into by the Secretary General and the Ombudsman. If such a general agreement is not entered into, provisions on remuneration and other conditions of employment are laid down in a set of salary rules, issued by the Speaker of the Danish Parliament after discussing the matter with the staff organizations concerned and upon the approval of the Standing Orders Committee.

(3) If the Secretary General and the Ombudsman enter into a general agreement in accordance with Subsection 2, the provisions on remuneration and other conditions of employment which apply to State civil servants, laid down in Sections 45–47 of the Civil Service Act, also apply to civil servants of the Danish Parliament and civil servants working in the Office of the Ombudsman unless other measures are taken in accordance with Subsection 4.

(4) Agreements on remuneration and other conditions of employment which apply to civil servants of the Danish Parliament and civil servants working in the Office of the Ombudsman are entered into by the Secretary General and the Ombudsman on the one hand and the central organizations with which the Secretary General and the Ombudsman have entered into a general agreement on the other hand. If an agreement cannot be reached, the decision is taken by the

Speaker, who has previously consulted the Deputy Speakers.

(5) However, in accordance with Subsection 4, agreements cannot be entered into regarding conditions laid down by statute or in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Danish Parliament or regarding tasks, organization or staff requirements in the Danish Parliament or in the Office of the Ombudsman.

(6) The provisions laid down in the legislation referred to in Subsection 1 likewise apply to civil servants in the Danish Parliament or in the Office of the Ombudsman, unless other measures are taken by the Speaker after consulting the Deputy Speakers.

(7) Decisions – which in accordance with the legislation referred to in Subsection 1 are made by a Minister – are, where civil servants of the Folketing and civil servants working in the Office of the Ombudsman are concerned, made by the Secretary General and the Ombudsman respectively.

§ 47

(1) A general agreement which applies to public staff who are not civil servants may upon the authorization of the Speaker be entered into by the Secretary General and the Ombudsman. If a general agree-

ment is not made, remuneration and other conditions of employment are laid down in a set of rules on salary issued by the Speaker after negotiating with the staff organizations concerned and upon the approval of the Standing Orders Committee.

(2) If the Secretary General and the Ombudsman enter into a general agreement in accordance with Subsection 1, the agreements and provisions on salaries and other conditions of employment which apply to public staff who are not civil servants shall be applied to those staff employed by the offices of the Danish Parliament and the Ombudsman, who are not civil servants unless otherwise provided in accordance with Subsection 3.

(3) Agreements on remuneration and other conditions of employment regarding those staff who are not civil servants employed by the offices of the Danish Parliament and the Ombudsman are entered into by the Secretary General and the Ombudsman on the one hand and the central organizations with which the Secretary General and the Ombudsman have made the agreement on the other hand. If it is not possible to reach an agreement, the decision is made by the Speaker after consulting the Deputy Speakers.

(4) In accordance with Subsection 3, agreements cannot be entered into regarding conditions laid down by statute, in accordance with law or in ac-

cordance with the Standing Orders of the Danish Parliament, likewise agreements which are related to the tasks of the Danish Parliament or the Ombudsman, or to their organization or to staff requirements cannot be made.

§ 48

(1) The rules on remuneration and other conditions of employment which apply to the various categories of staff employed by the Danish Parliament also apply to civil servants, staff employed on a civil servant's basis and non civil servants, who are employed by the Auditors of Public Accounts, cf. Sections 46 and 47. However, agreements on tasks, organization and staff requirements may not be entered into, and likewise decisions in accordance with Subsection 7 of Section 46 are made by the Auditors of Public Accounts upon the approval of the Standing Orders Committee. Staff employed by the Auditors of Public Accounts are, furthermore, with the exceptions necessitated by circumstances, comprised by the general rules which apply to persons employed by the State.

(2) The provisions on remuneration and other conditions of employment which apply to State civil servants, laid down in accordance with Sections 45–49 of the Civil Service Act, also apply to civil servants employed by the Office of the Auditor General, unless other measures are taken in accord-

ance with Subsection 5 of Section 18a in the Act on the Audit of the State Accounts etc. (The Auditor General's Act).

(3) Agreements on remuneration and other conditions of employment which apply to civil servants employed by the Office of the Auditor General are made by the Auditor General and the central organizations referred to in Section 49 of the Civil Service Act. If it is not possible to reach an agreement, the decision is made by the Standing Orders Committee after the matter has been submitted to the Auditors of Public Accounts, cf. Subsection 5 of Section 18a in the Act on the Audit of the State Accounts etc. (The Auditor General's Act).

§ 49

Civil servants employed by the Administration of the Danish Parliament, by the Office of the Auditors of Public Accounts, by the Office of the Auditor General or by that of the Ombudsman of the Danish Parliament are entitled to a pension in accordance with the rules which apply to State civil servants, cf. Subsection 2 of Section 1 in the Civil Service Act on Pensions.

§ 50

(1) After consultation with the Deputy Speakers, the Speaker lays down the necessary regulations pertaining to service in the Danish Parliament.

(2) The staff and their organizations may request that their enquiries be brought before the Speaker, the Presidium or the Standing Orders Committee in the said order.

§ 51

(1) Estimates of the budget of the Danish Parliament, including the estimates of the budgets elaborated by the Auditors of Public Accounts, the Auditor General, the Ombudsman of the Danish Parliament and the Danish Delegation to the Nordic Council – which shall, in so far as it may prove necessary, indicate staff estimates – are submitted to the Presidium for consideration. Not later than May 10th, the Presidium submits a recommendation to the Standing Orders Committee. Not later than May 31st, the Committee concludes its consideration of the size and composition of the estimates of the budget. When the budget has been approved by the Standing Orders Committee, it is forwarded to the Prime Minister who will make use of it when elaborating the Finance Bill for the coming financial year. The Standing Orders Committee recommends that the total amount relating to the Danish Parliament be entered in the text of the Finance Bill. The composition of the budget is entered in the supplementary text to the Finance Bill.

(2) Proposals for supplementary appropriations to the Danish Parliament, including the contribu-

tions from the Auditors of Public Accounts, the Auditor General, the Ombudsman of the Danish Parliament and the Danish Delegation to the Nordic Council, are dealt with in the same manner by the Presidium. The latter submits a recommendation to the Standing Orders Committee which concludes its consideration early enough to ensure that proposals for supplementary appropriations be incorporated in the Supplementary Appropriation Bill for the financial year under review.

§ 52

(1) Provisions on the accounting and revision of the Danish Parliament are laid down in regulations, cf. Section 50(1).

(2) The accounts are revised by a firm of chartered accountants, who are appointed by the Speaker upon the recommendation of the Deputy Speakers.

(3) The Speaker approves the accounts by his signature, and a summary of the accounts is published on one of the Danish Parliament web sites.

§ 53

After a general election, the latest elected Speaker, provided he/she has been re-elected to the Danish Parliament – or the one among the Deputy Speakers having the prior claim – is entitled to represent the Danish Parliament and to take the necessary

steps on behalf of the Danish Parliament, pending the appointment of a temporary Speaker on the day when the Danish Parliament opens again.

CHAPTER XVIII

Ministers' responsibility

§ 54

Upon referral or on its own initiative, the Standing Orders Committee deals with questions as to whether matters concerning a Minister shall result in the Minister being held responsible for the said matter.

§ 55

The Committee can recommend to the Danish Parliament that a *select committee* be set up in accordance with the rules in The Act on Select Committees. If such a recommendation is adopted, the detailed elaboration of the provisions on the tasks belonging under the select committee is undertaken in cooperation with the Minister for Justice.

§ 56

All *reports* elaborated by select committees on matters pertaining to Ministers, and former Ministers, are dealt with by the committee with a view to

possibly making a recommendation on the question of responsibility. The Minister in question will be given an opportunity to comment on the committee report.

§ 57

(1) The Minister whose matters are being investigated is entitled to choose his/her own observer. The Minister and the Minister's observer, if any, are entitled to become acquainted with the written material of the inquiry. However, the committee may decide to limit the Minister's access to this material, provided important considerations of foreign powers, the security of the Kingdom, the elucidation of the matter or a third party speak in favour of so doing. The Minister and his/her observer, if any, are entitled to attend the committee's meetings with other persons. The observer may put questions to these persons and is entitled to request the committee to produce further evidence within the framework applying to the sphere of competence of the committee. Minutes are taken of the meetings which the Minister attends and copies of the minutes are forwarded to the Minister and to his/her observer.

(2) The committee may appoint one or more persons to assist the committee in a *professional capacity*. These experts shall be impartial and independent of authorities, persons and others, whose private

interests are being investigated or of those who are affected by the investigation.

(3) Questions shall not be put to *civil servants*.

§ 58

If the committee on the basis of a report prepared by a select committee or on another basis is considering to apply the rules on *Ministers' responsibility*, the committee shall at its earliest convenience make the Minister acquainted with the criticism which the committee intends to include in its recommendation. The Minister is entitled to request a copy of the draft for the report. The Minister shall also have an opportunity to make a written statement to the committee on the existing grounds and to make his/her points of view clear to the committee in a more detailed manner. If the committee's dealing with the matter should – in exceptional circumstances – make a supplementary investigation necessary in order to elucidate some factual conditions, the Minister should prior to the written or oral questioning, be made acquainted with the factual conditions implied by the investigation.

§ 59

The Standing Orders Committee sets up a permanent *sub-committee* in order to deal with the above-mentioned tasks so that the sub-committee can make a statement to the Standing Orders

Committee to be used in the latter's report or in its report elaborated for the use of the Danish Parliament. The sub-committee is composed of one Member from each of the parliamentary groups represented on the Standing Orders Committee, as well as of the observers of this committee from the remaining parliamentary groups. All Members of the sub-committee give their points of view to the Standing Orders Committee in the statements of the sub-committee. The Standing Orders Committee rules on dealing with cases also apply to the sub-committee.

§ 60

It is up to the Standing Orders Committee to decide whether its meetings and those of the subcommittee shall be public or take place behind closed doors.

ANNEX

Rules on the time allotted to speakers etc.

Designation of parliamentary groups

The parliamentary groups may appoint a spokesman to take part in the debates. The person in question shall observe the times allotted to speakers which have been laid down. The term 'parliamentary group' should in this connection be understood to mean a group consisting of several Members,

- a) who – at the latest general election – have been elected to represent a certain party and the parliamentary group in question continues to represent the party concerned,
- b) who found a new parliamentary group or a new party – which has been approved to put up candidates for election,
- c) who join an existing political party which is not represented in the Danish Parliament but whose Members are entitled to stand for election, or
- d) whose affiliation to the political party which the group represents is no longer valid for any of the Members but in which the Members continue to appear as a joint group with a common policy.

The groups mentioned under a)–d) are referred to in the Danish Parliament by a designation decided by the group, and the Speaker will decide on an abbreviation of this designation not exceeding 3

letters. Individual Members who fulfil the obligations mentioned under a–d have the same rights.

Ordinary Bills

Oral introduction: 10 minutes

First reading

	1st time	2nd time	Following times
Spokesmen for the Proposers	10 min.	5 min.	
Party spokesmen and other Members	5 min.	3 min.	
Ministers	15 min.	10 min.	10 min.

Second reading

	1st time	2nd time	Following times
Spokesmen	10 min.	5 min.	
Other Members	5 min.	3 min.	
Ministers	30 min.	10 min.	10 min.

Third reading

I. Amendments	1st time	2nd time	Following times
Spokesmen	10 min.	5 min.	
Other Members	5 min.		
Ministers	20 min.	10 min.	10 min.

II. General debate	1st time	2nd time	Following times
Spokesmen	10 min.	5 min.	
Other Members	5 min.		
Ministers	20 min.	10 min.	10 min.

If the spokesman for the proposers is also spokesman for his/her parliamentary group, the person in question is entitled to speak for the same duration of time as the spokesman for the proposers.

If two or more Bills are to be read during the first or the second reading, the time allotted to speaking is twice that allotted to the reading of one single Bill. The time allotted to speaking when a private proposer submits one single Bill to be read together with other Bills is, however, 15 minutes the first time and eight minutes the second time if the person in question is also spokesman for his/her parliamentary group. Only proposers of Private Members' Bills introducing at least two Bills at the same reading have their speaking time doubled.

When the reading of a Bill is resumed, after its having been suspended owing to its examination by one of the committees, cf. the second clause of Subsection 1 of Section 9, speeches made before the reading has been resumed are not subject to the time limits.

The Finance Bill

Oral introduction. No time limits.

First reading

	1st time	2nd time	Following times
Spokesmen	15 min.	10 min.	
Other Members	10 min.	5 min.	
Ministers	No time limits	No time limits	No time limits

Second reading

(The time limits also apply to the Supplementary Appropriation Bill)

	1st time	2nd time	Following times
Spokesmen	15 min.	10 min.	
Other Members	10 min.	5 min.	
Ministers	30 min.	15 min.	10 min.

Third reading

(The time limits also apply to the Supplementary Appropriation Bill)

	1st time	2nd time	Following times
Spokesmen	15 min.	10 min.	
Other Members	10 min.	5 min.	
Ministers	60 min.	30 min.	10 min.

Proposals for parliamentary resolution

I. *Proposals for parliamentary resolution* moved by the Government or by Members of the Danish Parliament: The time allotted to oral introduction is 10 minutes. At first and second (last) readings, the time allotted is the same as that allotted to first and third readings of Bills.

II. *Other proposals for parliamentary resolution*, unless otherwise provided by the Standing Orders.

The time allotted to first and second (last) readings is the same as that allotted to second and third readings of Bills.

Opening debate and final debate

(Section 38 of the Constitutional Act:

Interpellation debate concerning domestic and foreign policy respectively)

The Speaker lays down the guidelines applying to each debate.

Ministerial statements

Introduction: 30 minutes

Debate:

	1st time	2nd time	Following times
Spokesmen	10 min.	5 min.	
Other Members	5 min.		
Ministers	20 min.	10 min.	10 min.

**Debates held at the request of committees etc.,
cf. Subsections 6–9 of Section 19**

The time allotted to speaking is the same as that allotted to first readings

Questions to the Ministers, cf. § 20, 7

Minister's reply.....	2 min.
Questioner 1 time for	2 min.
Minister's reply.....	½ min.
Questioner 2 times for ½ min., the Minister each time for ½ min.	

Unprepared Question Time, cf. § 20., 10 and 11

Prime Minister's statement.....	5 min.
Questioner 1st time	2 min.
Prime Ministers' reply	2 min.
Questioner 2 times for	1 min.
Prime Ministers in addition to their replies, each time for	1 min.

Interpellations

Justification for the interpellation:	3 min.
Minister's reply.....	15 min.

Subsequently

	1st time	2nd time	Following times
Interpellator	5 min.	5 min.	
Spokesmen	5 min.	3 min.	
Other Members	3 min.		
Ministers	10 min.	5 min.	5 min.

If the interpellator is also spokesman for his/her parliamentary group, he/she is – after the justification for the interpellation has been stated – only entitled to the speaking time allotted to an interpellator.

Proposals to be passed

When a proposal to be passed is moved during the debate on a matter, Members who at that time have spent all their time allotted to speaking are given an extra five minutes to speak. This also applies if new proposals to be passed are moved at a later stage during the same debate (Subsection 3 of Section 24).

Deviations from the periods of time allotted to speaking

The Speaker may allow deviations from the time limits laid down in the Standing Orders and the Annex to them, if the scope of a matter renders this necessary. Applications for extended speaking time should be tabled not later than two days before the sitting in question is to take place (Subsection 2 of Section 28). A wish for extended speaking time – when debating an interpellation – shall be expressed at the point when the interpellation is handed in.

Members elected in the Faroe Islands and in Greenland

Members elected in the Faroe Islands and in Greenland are allotted the same time to speak as spokesmen for the parliamentary groups.

Short remarks

Irrespective of the set speaking times, the Speaker may to the extent which he deems reasonable give Members the floor in order for them to make 2 short remarks, the first one of 1 minute's duration and the second one of half a minute's duration. Under special circumstances, the Speaker may give a Member the floor for several or for more protracted short remarks (Subsection 3 of section 28).

Accounts and interpellations to be read jointly

If an account and an interpellation are read jointly, the rules on speaking time which apply to the reading of interpellations after the Minister's reply to the interpellation shall apply.