

***STANDING ORDERS OF THE PARLIAMENT**

PART ONE ORGANISATION AND OPERATION

CHAPTER 1: COMMENCEMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY TERM

Opening sitting – provisional presidium

Article 1

1. The date of the convocation of the Parliament to the first sitting (opening sitting) of the parliamentary term is specified by the presidential decree for the dissolution of the Parliament or for the termination of the parliamentary term according to the Constitution.
2. The opening sitting of every parliamentary term until the election of the Speaker of the Parliament, is directed by the provisional Speaker assisted by four Secretaries.
3. The duties of the provisional Speaker are discharged by one of the Deputy Speakers of the previous parliamentary term, in the order of their election. If no one of the Deputy Speakers has been elected or those elected are prevented or absent, the duties of the provisional Speaker are discharged by the Member of Parliament of the first in number of seats Party, who has the longest parliamentary tenure and among many, the eldest.
4. The duties of the Secretaries are discharged by the youngest Members of Parliament depending on the strength of the Parliamentary Groups.
5. No debate may take place under the direction of the provisional Speaker.

Proclamation of the commencement of parliamentary term business

Article 2

The proclamation on the commencement of business of the parliamentary term, is made by the President of the Republic in person or through the Prime Minister, after the election of the Presidium of the Parliament according to articles 7 and 8 of the Standing Orders.

CHAPTER 2: MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Announcement of the names and taking of the oath of the Members of Parliament

Article 3

* Published in the Government Gazette No 106 A/24.6.1987

1. The provisional Speaker, immediately after the proclamation on the commencement of business of the first sitting of the parliamentary term, announces to Parliament the list of the Members of Parliament who were qualified according to law. This list is entered to the Minutes and is updated according to any change that occurs during the parliamentary term.
2. Subsequently, the provisional Speaker invites the Members of Parliament who are qualified and present to the sitting, to take the oath specified by article 59 of the Constitution. Members of Parliament who are absent and those who acquire the status of a parliament member during and not at the beginning of the parliamentary term, take the oath in one of the next sittings of the Parliament.
3. Denials or objections to the taking of the oath are not allowed. Any reservations are expressed in a brief written statement, which is submitted to the Presidium of the Parliament before the taking of the oath and is entered to the Minutes.
4. Upon taking the oath, the Members of Parliament resume the discharge of their duties.

Acts of Members of Parliament of whom the status is questioned

Article 4

* 1. Members of Parliament against whom objections for the validity of their election are pending, according to article 58 of the Constitution and to the electoral law in force, or motions for forfeiture of office, according to articles 55§2 and 57 of the Constitution or reports of the special body which, according to article 29§2 of the Constitution, ascertains the violation of the provisions that constitute a ground for the forfeiture of parliamentary office according to that article, participate rightfully to the business of the Parliament until the publication of the final judgment of the Special Highest Court of article 100 of the Constitution, by which the election is annulled or the forfeiture of parliamentary office is ascertained.

2. Members of Parliament referred to in the previous paragraph, discharge all of their duties and enjoy the protection and the rights recognized to the office of Member of Parliament by the Constitution, the Standing Orders and the laws.

3. The acts of the, according to paragraph 1, Members of Parliament exercised until the publication of the final judgment of the Special Highest Court, in case the election was annulled or the forfeiture from parliamentary office was ascertained, are considered as valid.

(The acts of the Members of Parliament mentioned in paragraph 1, are considered as valid if exercised until the publication of the final judgments of the Special Highest Court by which the election is annulled or the forfeiture from parliamentary office is ascertained.)

Resignation from parliamentary office and filling of vacant parliamentary seats

Article 5

1. Every Member of Parliament may resign at any time from parliamentary office. The resignation is effectuated by the submission of a relative written declaration to the Speaker of the Parliament, which according to article 60§2 of the Constitution is irrevocable. The resignation is announced to the Parliament.

**Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 284 A'/18.12.2001)*

2. The filling of parliamentary seats which become vacant during the parliamentary term is effectuated according to the provisions of the electoral law.

CHAPTER 3: PRESIDIUM OF THE PARLIAMENT

Composition – incompatibilities

Article 6

* 1. The Presidium of the Parliament is elected by its members and is composed by the Speaker, seven Deputy Speakers, three Deans and six Secretaries, as specified in the next paragraph.

*2. Of the members of the Presidium, the first, the second and the third Deputy Speaker, two Deans and four Secretaries come from (the first in strength) the strongest Parliamentary Group. The fourth Deputy Speaker, one Dean and one Secretary come from the first in strength Parliamentary Group of the Opposition. The fifth Deputy Speaker and one Secretary come from the second in strength Parliamentary Group of the Opposition. The sixth Deputy Speaker comes from the third in strength Parliamentary Group of the Opposition. The seventh Deputy Speaker comes from the fourth in strength Parliamentary Group of the Opposition.

In case there is no fourth in strength Parliamentary Group of the Opposition, the chair of the seventh Deputy Speaker is not filled. In case there is no third in strength Parliamentary Group of the Opposition, the chair of the sixth Deputy Speaker is not filled. In case there is no second in strength Parliamentary Group of the Opposition, the fifth Deputy Speaker and one Secretary come from the first in strength Parliamentary Group of the Opposition.

3. The office of the member of the Presidium of the Parliament is incompatible with the office of Minister or Undersecretary. Acceptance of the post of Minister or Undersecretary is considered *ipso jure* a resignation from the capacity of a member of the Presidium.

Election of the Speaker

Article 7

1. Once Members of Parliament have taken the oath, they are summoned by the provisional Speaker to elect the Speaker of the Parliament on the following day.

2. Submission of candidacy is not acceptable. A debate never precedes the election of the Speaker.

3. The Speaker of the Parliament is elected by secret ballot and by the absolute majority of the total number of Members of Parliament. If no one receives the absolute majority, the voting is repeated between the two persons with the highest number of votes and the person receiving the majority of votes is elected.

4. The counting of the votes is executed by three vote collectors, two of which come from the first in strength Parliamentary Group and the third from the second in strength Parliamentary Group.

5. The provisional Speaker announces the outcome of the voting and invites the Speaker of the Parliament to immediately assume the chair.

*Amended on 25.6.2008 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 126 A'/2.7.2008)

Election of the other members of the presidium

Article 8

*1. The Parliament under the presidency of its new Speaker, at the immediate following sitting, elects the Deputy Speakers, the Deans and the Secretaries in four consequent, separate, votings. The first (A'), second (B') and third (C') Deputy Speakers are elected in the first voting, the fourth (D'), fifth (E'), sixth (F') and seventh (G') Deputy Speakers are elected in the second voting, the Deans are elected in the third voting and the Secretaries are elected in the fourth voting.

The votings are held with separate special ballots for every office.

2. The members of the presidium mentioned in the previous paragraph are elected by secret ballot and by the conditions and majorities provided in article 67 of the Constitution.

3. The provisions of paragraphs 2 and 4 of the previous article are accordingly applicable to the election of the members of the presidium mentioned in the present article.

4. The provisions of the present article are applicable for the election of Deans and Secretaries at the first sitting of the other regular sessions of the parliamentary term.

Duration and termination of the tenure of the presidium

Article 9

1. The tenure of the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers coincides with the duration of the parliamentary term. The tenure of the other members of the presidium coincides with the duration of the regular session for which they were elected.

2. The Speaker and the Deputy Speakers retain their office even after the dissolution of the Parliament or the termination of the parliamentary term (and) until the commencement of Parliament business of the next parliamentary term. The other members of the presidium retain their office at the period following the termination of the business of the regular session for which they were elected and until the commencement of the business of the next regular session.

3. The tenure of the Speaker and of the other members of the presidium terminates when the Parliament, according to the special procedure of articles 150 and 152 of the Standing Orders, approves a motion of censure against them or ascertains their permanent incapacity to discharge their duties.

Filling of vacant seats of the presidium and replacement of its members

Article 10

1. The seats of the members of the presidium that become vacant due to any reason, are filled immediately by the election of new members, which is held according to the provisions of articles 7 and 8 of the Standing Orders, respectively. The new members of the presidium are elected for the remaining of the tenure of the members whose seats they filled.

**Amended on 25.6.2008 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 126 A'/2.7.2008)*

2. If the seats of the Speaker and of all the Deputy Speakers, of the Deans and of the Secretaries of the Parliament become vacant simultaneously, the provisions of articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Standing Orders apply.

3. If the Speaker of the Parliament is prevented for any reason, is absent or wishes to participate in a debate (according to article 66§2 of the Standing Orders), he/she is replaced by a Deputy Speaker of the Parliament, whom the Speaker designates. If this is not possible, the Speaker of Parliament is replaced by the Deputy Speakers according to the order of their election. If all the Deputy Speakers are prevented or absent, article 1§3 period b' of the Standing Orders is applied accordingly.

4. In case of impediment for any reason or absence of the Secretaries, the Speaker of Parliament appoints as replacements the youngest Members of Parliament.

Competences of the Speaker

Article 11

1. The Speaker of Parliament exercises the competences conferred by the Constitution, the Standing Orders, the laws and in general every competence that derives from the autonomy of the Parliament.

2. The Speaker of the Parliament directs and coordinates, according to the terms specified by the Standing Orders, the entirety of the activities of the Plenum, of the Recess Session of the Parliament and of Parliamentary Committees. Especially: a) he establishes the Recess Session of the Parliament and the Parliament's Committees; b) he instructs the Deans and the Secretaries in the discharge of their duties; c) he communicates to the competent Ministers the bills and law proposals voted by the Parliament; d) he presides over the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen.

3. The Speaker of Parliament is vested with all the necessary powers for the direction of the sittings of the Parliament and in order to ensure the unhindered conduct of Parliament business. Especially: a) he safeguards the accurate observance of the Standing Orders and the free expression of opinion of the Members of Parliament; b) he draws up the order of the day of Parliamentary business; c) he proclaims the commencement and the termination of the sittings, maintains the order, gives the floor, declares the termination of the debates, puts issues to the vote and announces the outcome of the votings; d) directs and retains the debates within the limits of the Standing Orders; e) announces the decisions of the Parliament and interprets its will; f) resorts to all the necessary disciplinary measures against any misbehaving Member of Parliament.

4. The Speaker of Parliament heads the services of the Parliament and coordinates their activity, appoints, according to the provisions of the Organization of the Parliament (Standing Orders of the Parliament, Part B' - Personnel) the personnel of the Parliament, promulgates all acts concerning its professional status, orders the Parliament's expenditures within the framework of its budget and decides on the disposal and use of Parliament's premises.

5. The Speaker of the Parliament cares for the internal and external security of the Parliament and its premises and in the name of the Parliament exercises police authority. He determines the amount of police force and approves the police personnel which must be serving at the Parliament guard that operates exclusively under his orders.

6. The Speaker of Parliament informs the President of the Republic on the composition and the substantial changes in Parliamentary Groups.

7. The Speaker of Parliament represents the Parliament judicially and extra-judicially.

8. The Speaker of Parliament represents the Parliament in its international relations, its relations with Parliaments of other countries, in national celebrations and ceremonies and may delegate to other members of the presidium or other members of parliament this competence.

9. The Speaker of Parliament, if he/she deems necessary, may assign to one or more members of the presidium general or special and *ad hoc* duties that fall within his/her competence, determining at the same time the terms of their discharge.

Competences of the other members of the presidium

***Article 12**

1. The Deputy Speakers of the Parliament exercise the competences conferred by the Standing Orders or vested in them by decisions of the Speaker of the Parliament. Those competences involve the Plenum, the Recess Section of the Parliament, the standing committees, as well as any other Committee, body, activity or work.

2. The Deans of the Parliament assist the Speaker to the organizational and functional matters of the Parliament or to other competences vested by the Speaker's decisions. Especially: a) they supervise all the services of the Parliament and submit every two months a report to the Speaker regarding the organizational and functional needs; b) they propose measures for the improvement of the working conditions of the personnel and for the efficiency of the Parliament's services; c) assist the Speaker of the Parliament to the maintenance of order in the chamber; d) ensure the faithful observance of the decisions and the orders of the Speaker of the Parliament and especially of the issues provided for in article 47 paragraphs 2 and 3.

3. The Secretaries of the Parliament assist the Speaker in the sittings of the Parliament or in other competences vested in them by his decisions. Especially: a) they are obliged to be present at the beginning of every sitting in order to announce the petitions and the questions to the House and in order to read, according to the judgment of the Speaker, the texts and the documents that concern or are addressed to the Parliament; b) they attend to the conduct of voting procedures and they record the decisions of the Parliament; c) they supervise the drafting and the timely printout of the Parliament's Minutes, they sign them after their ratification by the Parliament and they read them to the Parliament, after a relevant decision. The Speaker may assign the reading of documents and the execution of other necessary assisting works of the bench to higher-ranking employees of the Parliament.

CHAPTER 4: CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARY CHAIRMEN (Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen)

Composition – convocation

Article 13

*1. The Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen is composed by the Speaker and former Speakers of the Parliament (provided they have been elected as Members of Parliament), the Deputy Speakers, the Presidents of the standing committees, the President of the Committee on institutions and transparency, the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups and one independent Member of Parliament acting as a representative for the independent Members of Parliament provided that they are at least five (5).

The President of the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen is the Speaker of the Parliament, who is replaced by one of the Deputy Speakers in the order of their election. During the Recess Section of the Parliament the Presidents of the summer term standing committees of each

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 284 A /18.12.2001)

* Amended on 20.6.1996 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 151 A /8.7.1996)

respective composition of the Recess Section participate in the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen instead of the aforementioned Presidents of the standing committees.

*2. The independent Member of Parliament and his/her deputy are appointed at the beginning of each regular session by a jointly signed written statement, which is submitted to the Presidium within three (3) days from the written invitation to appoint a representative. If the independent Members of Parliament do not appoint their joint representative or deputy, the person who was proposed by most of the independent MPs who submitted a personal or joint signed statement is appointed and if no one or two or more are proposed by the same number of proposals, the independent Member of Parliament or his/her deputy who will participate to the sittings of the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen is chosen by lot.

3. The members of the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen are replaced by their legal deputies. The Presidents of Parliamentary Group may be replaced by their deputies according to article 17§2.

**4. The Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen is convoked by its President every week in a regular sitting and when deemed necessary in an extraordinary sitting. The Government is notified on the specific day and time of the sitting, and may be represented by one of its members.

*5. The decisions of the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen are taken by an absolute majority of the present members, unless differently provided by other provisions of the Constitution, the Standing Orders or a law published before the entry into force of the present Standing Orders. In case of a tie vote, the vote of the President is the casting vote.

Competences

*(**)Article 14

1. The Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen: a) examines the order of the day of the following week or of the upcoming weeks, for the better organization of the Parliament's business; b) determines the procedure and the duration of the debates for bills and law proposals in the Plenum and in the Recess Section of the Parliament, as well as the total duration of the general debates within the framework of the order of the day sittings, taking into account the recommendations of the competent Parliamentary Committee; c) decides on the conduct of organized debate on any issue of legislative work or parliamentary control according to article 107 of the Parliament's Standing Orders; d) selects, following a recommendation of the Speaker of the Parliament, unanimously or by a majority of the 4/5 of its members, the members of the Independent Authorities referred to in article 101A of the Constitution and may, in cases that the law provides, recall its selection and decide by the same majority the replacement of a member or of all members of the independent authority, or decide for their disqualification as a consequence of a final judgment on acts referred to in article 3 paragraph 4 of law 3051/2002 or

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 284 A /18.12.2001)

** Amended on 20.6.1996 (Government Gazette No 151A /8.7.1996) and on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette No 284A /18.12.2001) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum

*(**) Amended on 20.6.1996 (Government Gazette No 151A /8.7.1996), on 15.12.1997 (Government Gazette No 258A /17.12.1997), on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette No 284A /18.12.2001) and on 18.6.2003 (Government Gazette No 161A /26.6.2003) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum

decide for the acceptance of their resignation· *e) selects, following the procedure of article 12 paragraph 1 (aa) of law 3832/2010, unanimously or by a majority of the 4/5 of its members, the president, the vice-president and two members of the Hellenic Statistical Authority and may, according to law decide on the replacement of one or all the aforementioned members of the authority or may decide on their disqualification as a consequence of final judgment on acts referred to in article 3 paragraph 4 of law 3051/2002· *f) expresses an opinion, according to law 3051/2010 following an interview of the nominees, unanimously, or by a majority of the 4/5 of its members, for the selection of the President and the Vice-Presidents of the Supreme Administrative Court, the President, the Attorney General and the Vice-Presidents of the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court, of the General Commissioner and the Vice-Presidents of the Court of Audit as well as of the General Commissioner of the Administrative Courts· ** g) invites, when it is deemed necessary, any independent authority regarding issues relevant with the accomplishment of their mission according to the Constitution and relevant to the mission of the Hellenic Statistical Authority according to the law and submits, when deemed necessary, relevant reports and proposals to the Plenum of the Parliament· h) decides, recommends or expresses an opinion or delegates this task to another body, committee or subcommittee of the Parliament regarding issues that fall within the competence of the Parliament or within the competence of a Parliament body according to the Constitution, the Standing Orders or the law.

CHAPTER 5: PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS

Definition – Composition

Article 15

1. For the formation of a Parliamentary Group the minimum required number of Members of Parliament is set to ten (10).

2. The minimum number of Members of Parliament specified in the previous paragraph is reduced to five (5) if the Party with which they have been elected and of which they continue to be members has taken part in the general elections with an electoral list extended to two thirds (2/3) of the country's electoral constituencies and won at least three percent (3%) of the country's total number of valid votes.

3. A Party that has taken part in the general elections in an alliance with other parties is considered – for the application of the previous paragraph- to have received a number of valid votes equal to the product of the multiplication of the number of the party's Members of Parliament with the average number of votes that each Member of Parliament of the coalition has won. This number is calculated from the division of the total number of valid votes of the alliance with the total number of the alliance's elected Members of Parliament.

4. Each Member of Parliament can only belong to one Parliamentary Group.

5. Members of Parliament that do not belong to any Parliamentary Group are considered independent and take part as a single group to the Recess Section as well as to the Parliament's Committees.

6. Parliamentary seats that are vacant for any reason whatsoever belong – in case they have not been legally filled – to the strength of the Parliamentary Group in which their previous possessors belonged.

* *Added on 14.4.2010 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 57A /20.4.2010)*

** *Amended on 14.4.2010 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 57A /20.4.2010)*

Presumptions – formation – alterations

Article 16

1. Provided that the conditions under paragraphs 1 to 3 of the previous article apply, Members of Parliament are considered to be members of the Parliamentary Group with which they have been elected, unless they state by a signed declaration a different preference. Such declaration may be submitted to the Speaker of the House any time during the parliamentary term.

2. The Head of Party is also considered the President of the Parliamentary Group of the relevant party, provided that he/she is a Member of Parliament.

3. Members of Parliament that wish to establish – under the provisions of the previous article – a Parliamentary Group submit a relevant declaration to the Speaker of Parliament. The declaration contains the Party's title and the names of the Group's members and President. It is signed by all members of the Parliamentary Group it is announced in Parliament and is entered to the minutes.

4. Pursuant to the preconditions of paragraphs 2 and 3 of the previous article, Members of Parliament that have been elected with an alliance of two or more Parties, submit to the Speaker – before the election of the final Presidium of the Parliament – a signed declaration as to which Parliamentary Group of the Parties they wish to belong. In case they do not submit such declaration they belong to the Parliamentary Group of the Party whose title is mentioned first in the alliance.

5. In instances of withdrawal, alterations in the composition of a Parliamentary Group are communicated to the Speaker of the Parliament by a signed declaration of the interest party. In instances of removal, alterations are communicated through a signed declaration of the President of the Parliamentary Group and in instances of affiliation through a common statement by the Member of Parliament and the President of the Parliamentary Group. All the above declarations are announced before the House and enter the Minutes.

Representation – replacement - limitations

*Article 17

1. Parliamentary Groups are represented by their Presidents.

2. With a signed declaration communicated to the Speaker, Presidents of Parliamentary Groups can appoint up to two deputies – representatives who represent the President in the event he/she is absent or prevented from discharging his/her duties. The President of the largest in power Parliamentary Group that participates in the Government, as well as the President of the Parliamentary Group of the Opposition may appoint up to three deputies – representatives.

3. The appointment of deputies – representatives can be revoked at any time.

4. If there are more than one appointed deputies, the replacement of the President of the Parliamentary Group in the rights and responsibilities specified in the Standing Orders takes place by one of them only, according to the order or the subject of their appointment.

5. The replacement of the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups by deputies under paragraph 2 is not allowed in the instances of personal matters under article 68 and in the cases of parliamentary control under articles 124 to 133, with the exception of interpellations and current interpellations.

** Paragraph 6 has been repealed and the remaining ones renumbered on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette 284A' /18.12.2001).*

6. The provisions under article 66 of the Standing Orders which regulate the Members' of Parliament' manner of speech are in force for the deputies of the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups as well.

*7. The deputies of the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups may replicate for a third time for a period of three (3) minutes.

Granting of chamber rooms to Parliamentary Groups. Staffing of their administrative secretariats. Use of spaces in the House

Article 18

1. To Parliamentary Groups under articles 15 and 16 a special chamber room is granted with a capacity proportionate to the number of their members. To the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups a private office is granted. If there are not enough rooms, private offices are allocated to the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups according to the order of the Groups' strength.

2. To independent Members of Parliament under article 15 §5 a special chamber room is granted.

*3. The use of rooms and other spaces in the Chamber and other buildings of the Parliament, which are allocated according to paragraphs 1 and 2 or generally serve the operations of the parliament is allowed only for the operations that are in accordance to the relevant decisions of the Speaker of Parliament.

Specifically and indicatively smoking is not allowed.

By decisions of the Speaker of Parliament certain spaces in the chamber and in other buildings are allocated for their temporary use by smokers.

4. The administrative secretariats of Parliamentary Groups are staffed by revocable employees who are appointed by a Speaker's decision and following a proposal by the President of each Parliamentary Group. The number and ranking of the revocable employees' posts as well as their distribution among Parliamentary Groups – according to the latter's strength – are specified by the provisions of article 30 of the organizational part of the Standing Orders (Part B' Personnel).

Determination of the order among Parliamentary Groups and allocation of spaces

Article 19

1. The order between Parliamentary Groups is determined by their strength in Members' of Parliament number. If such numbers are equal, priority is given to the Parliamentary Group of the Party that won most votes in the elections through which the new Parliament emerged. The newly established Parliamentary Group prevails over an older equivalent.

2. At the beginning of each parliamentary term or in the event of the establishment of a new Parliamentary Group, the Speaker of Parliament calls the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups to allocate the seats of the Groups' members in the chamber or to grant according to article 18 rooms and offices. In cases of disputes, the allocation of the above seats is determined by the Speaker according to parliamentary tradition and the strength of Parliamentary Groups.

* Amended on 25.11.1993 (Government Gazette 200A' /26.11.1993) and on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126A' /2.7.2008) by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum.

* Added on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette 284A' /18.12.2001)

Leader of the Opposition

Article 20

The President of the largest in strength Parliamentary Group that does not participate in Government is called Leader of the Opposition and has specific rights recognized by the Standing Orders and existing provisions.

CHAPTER 6: PLENUM OF THE PARLIAMENT

Composition – competences

Article 21

1. The Plenum of the Parliament which is composed by the total number of Members of Parliament has the responsibilities provided by the Constitution and the Standing Orders.

*2. Any reference to Parliament by the Standing Orders indicates, according to their competences, the Plenum, the Recess Section and the Standing Committees.

Convocation of the Plenum in sessions

Article 22

1. The convocation of the Plenum in session is made by a presidential decree with the exception of those instances where according to the Constitution the Parliament convenes *ipso jure*.

2. Without prejudice to article 1§1 of the Standing Orders and article 40 of the Constitution, the Plenum of the Parliament convenes for its annual works *ipso jure* on a regular session the first Monday of October.

3. The first meeting of every regular session or every *ipso jure* convocation of the Plenum takes place at eleven o'clock in the morning.

Proclamation on the termination of the works in sessions and of the parliamentary term

Article 23

1. The works of the regular sessions of the Parliament are proclaimed terminated by a presidential decree which is promulgated after their minimum duration, as this duration is determined by the Constitution.

2. The works of the parliamentary term are proclaimed terminated by the President of the Republic in person or through the Prime Minister.

Operation of the Parliament's Plenum

Article 24

1. Debates and decisions of the Plenum are determined by the conditions and procedures specified in the Constitution and the Standing Orders.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette 284A' /18.12.2001).

2. If the Constitution or the Standing Orders do not specify differently, the Plenum of the Parliament cannot decide without the absolute majority of Members of Parliament present. Such majority cannot be less than one fourth (1/4) of the total number of Members of Parliament. In instances of tie vote the voting is repeated and in the event of a new tie vote the motion is overruled.

CHAPTER 7

{Articles 25, 26, 27, 28 and the subtitle of chapter 7 “A) SECTIONS OF SESSIONS” have been repealed on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Plenum of the Parliament (Government Gazette 284A’/18.12.2001)}

RECESS SECTION

Composition – Competences

*Article 29

1. When Parliament is in recess, the legislative work is exercised by the Recess Section. The Recess Section is constituted and operates according to the provisions of articles 68§3, 70 paragraphs 4 to 7 and 71 of the Constitution and the provisions of the present article and article 30 of the Standing Orders. The Recess Section exercises in addition parliamentary control over competent Ministers according to article 70§6 of the Constitution on its first and third composition two times a week with current questions and once every first and third week, on Friday, with current interpellations, as is specified in articles 130 and 138 of the Standing Orders.

2. The Recess Section of the Parliament is composed by the one third (1/3) of the total number of Members of Parliament.

*3. The constitution of the Section is effectuated by a decision of the Speaker. Such decision is announced in parliament and is entered to the minutes. Without prejudice to the following paragraph, the composition of the Recess Section of the Parliament depends on the strength of parliamentary groups and of independent Members of Parliament pursuant to article 31§5.

4. The composition of the Recess Section changes periodically in a way that guarantees an isochronous as possible, participation of all Members of Parliament.

5. Before the composition of the Section the Speaker of the House requests from Presidents of Parliamentary Groups to declare within three (3) days in which composition of the Section, Members of Parliament of the relevant Parliamentary Group wish to participate. A relevant request is addressed to independent Members of Parliament. In cases that those requests are not answered the Speaker determines the composition of the Section taking into consideration the Members’ probable preferences.

Deputy Speakers can participate - without voting rights – and exercise all competences under article 12§1 in all compositions of the Recess Section, without them being counted to the number of Members of Parliament that correspond for each composition to the parliamentary group of which they are members, unless they replace an absent or prevented Member of Parliament according to the following paragraph 6.

6. Members of the Section that are absent or prevented, are replaced by a decision of the Speaker. The Speaker’s decision follows a proposal by the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups in the composition of which absent or prevented Members of Parliament belong.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Plenum of the Parliament (Government Gazette 284A’/18.12.2001).

* Amended on 27.4.2009 by a decision of the Parliament’s Plenum (Government Gazette 66A □ /4.5.2009).

7. The Section decides in a majority, under article 72§2 of the Constitution on motions of non-competence. The motion is submitted by at least 1/10 of the Section's members.

In the relevant discussion the following Members of Parliament participate: one Member of Parliament from the group that has submitted the motion and one from those that oppose it. Both Members speak for a maximum of five (5) minutes. In the discussion also participates one Member of Parliament from each Parliamentary Group in which none of the previous Members of Parliament belong. Those Members of Parliament speak for a maximum of three (3) minutes.

Operation of the Section

*** Article 30**

1. The meetings of the Recess Section are directed by the Speaker of Parliament. In the event that the Speaker is absent or prevented from discharging his/her duties, the Section is directed by one of the Deputy Speakers of the Parliament according to article 10§3 of the Standing Orders. The duties of Secretaries are exercised in rotation by the Secretaries of the Parliament.

2. If the Constitution or the Standing Orders do not regulate differently, the Recess Section of the Parliament cannot decide without the absolute majority of its members present. Such majority cannot be less than two fifths (2/5) of the total number of Members of Parliament. In the event of a tie vote the voting is repeated and in a new tie vote the proposal is rejected.

3. If the Constitution or the Standing Orders do not determine differently, the operation of the Recess Section of the Parliament is regulated by the provisions that apply to the Plenum.

CHAPTER 8: COMMITTEES OF THE PARLIAMENT

A) STANDING COMMITTEES

Establishment – Composition

Article 31

1. The Speaker of the Parliament establishes six (6) standing committees for the elaboration and examination of bills and law proposals introduced to Parliament. The standing committees are the following: a) committee on cultural and educational affairs, b) committee on national defense and foreign affairs, c) committee on economic affairs, d) committee on social affairs, e) committee on public administration, public order and justice, f) committee on production and trade.

*2. The committees mentioned in the previous paragraph are established at the beginning of each regular session (with regard to the committees' operation during the works of the Plenum) and at the beginning of the Recess Section (with regard to the committees' operation during the works of the Recess Section and for all of its compositions).

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette 284A' /18.12.2001)

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette 284A' /18.12.2001).

*3. The Speaker of the Parliament composes the committees in proportion to the strength of the Parliamentary Groups and of the independent Members of Parliament, with the application *mutatis mutandis* of article 29§5 of the Standing Orders.

*4. Every committee of the Parliament's Plenum is composed by the one eighth (1/8) and up to the one sixth (1/6) of the total number of Members of Parliament. Every committee of the Recess Section of the Parliament is composed by the one seventh (1/7) and up to the one sixth (1/6) of the total number of the Members of Parliament of each composition of the Section.

**5. In order to guarantee the participation of all Members of Parliament to the committees and to uphold a proportional representation of all Parliamentary Groups, the number of members in each committee may fluctuate, by a decision of the Speaker of Parliament, without prejudice to the absolute majority of the Parliamentary Group which has the absolute majority in Parliament.

**6. The decisions by which the Speaker of Parliament establishes and composes the Parliament's committees are announced to the Parliament and entered to the Minutes.

Committee on the financial statement and the general balance sheet of the State and on the execution of the State Budget

*** Article 31A

1. The Speaker of Parliament establishes the committee on the financial statement and the general balance sheet of the State and on the execution of the State Budget. The committee operates annually and is assisted by the scientific service of the Parliament. The committee is composed by 13 members of the standing committee on economic affairs. It examines the financial statement and the general balance sheet of the State, as well as the process of the execution of the State budget.

Once every three months the Minister of Finance and Economics is obliged to inform the committee on the course of the execution of the State budget and on the management of public finances. Through the Speaker of Parliament, the Minister forwards to the committee the monthly execution of the budget's revenues and expenditures.

*2. According to article 3§2 of law 3832/2010 the committee exercises parliamentary control over the operation of the Council of the Hellenic Statistical System. In addition, under article 138A of the Standing Orders and article 9§2 of law 3832/2010, the committee exercises parliamentary control over the operation of the Hellenic Statistical Authority. It discusses the draft Operation and Management Regulation of the authority and monitors the execution of its budget.

Once every four months the president of the Hellenic Statistical Authority is obliged to inform the committee on the course of the execution of the authority's budget. Through the Speaker of the Parliament, the president of the authority once a month forwards to the committee the monthly execution of revenues and expenditures of the authority's budget.

** Amended on 25.6.2008 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette 126A' /2.7.2008).

** Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette 284A' /18.12.2001)

*** Added on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A' /18.12.2001) and amended on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126A' /2.7.2008), on 14.4.2010 (Government Gazette 57A' /20.4.2010) and on 16.7.2010 (Government Gazette 139A' /10.8.2010) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum.

* Added on 14.4.2010 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette 57A' /20.4.2010).

3. The provisions of paragraphs 2 to 6 of article 31 and of articles 33 to 41 are accordingly applied.

Committee of Armament Programs and Contracts

***Article 31B**

In the beginning of every regular session the Speaker of the Parliament establishes a special standing committee on armament programs and contracts. The committee is also in operation in periods between sessions.

This committee is composed by fifteen (15) members of the standing committee of national defense and foreign affairs.

The committee of armament programs and contracts has as its main objective the examination and monitoring in advance, of the implementation of armament programs and contracts of defense materials.

With regard to the above contacts, paragraph 9 of article 32 is not applicable.

Meetings of the committee are not public, unless the committee decides otherwise.

The provisions of paragraphs 2 to 6 of article 31 and of articles 33 to 41 are accordingly applied.

The committee has the power to collect information and documents as well as to call and examine persons (implementing accordingly articles 146 and 17 of the Standing Orders).

Committee on the Monitoring of the Social Security System

***Article 31C**

At the onset of every regular session the Speaker of the Parliament establishes a special standing committee on the monitoring of the social security system. The committee is also in operation in periods between sessions.

This committee is composed of fifteen (15) members.

The committee has as its objective the monitoring of the operations and development of the social security system and particularly the monitoring of issues of sustainability and social justice. Through the Speaker of Parliament, the committee has the power to communicate to competent parliamentary committees and Ministers, reports and proposals regarding matters of its competence, including proposals on improvements in conformity to budgetary positions.

The provisions of paragraphs 2 to 6 of article 31 and of articles 33 to 41 are accordingly applicable.

Competences

Article 32

*1. Every standing committee elaborates and examines bills and law proposals. Under the limitations of paragraph 1 article 72 of the Constitution, it discusses and votes bills and law proposals that fall within the competence of the following ministries: a) for the committee of cultural and educational affairs: ministry of national education and religious affairs and ministry

* Added on 16.7.2010 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette 139A' / 10.8.2010). Amended on 16.5.2011 by decisions of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 119A/25.5.2011).

* Added on 16.7.2010 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette 139A' / 10.8.2010).

* Amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A' / 18.12.2001) and on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126A' / 2.7.2008) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum.

of culture, b) for the committee of defense and foreign affairs: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of National Defense and Ministry of Macedonia and Thrace, c) for the committee of financial affairs: Ministry of Economy and Finance and Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, d) for the committee of social affairs: Ministry of Employment and Social Protection, Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity and Ministry of Transportation and Communications, e) for the committee of public administration, public order and justice: Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice as well as the General Secretariats of Communications and Information, f) for the committee of production and trade: Ministry of Development, Ministry of Rural Development and Food, Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Merchant Marine, the Aegean and Islands Policy.

2. In cases of establishing new ministries or of mergers between existing ones, the Speaker of Parliament determines by his/her decision which standing committee is the competent one for the elaboration and examination of the bills and law proposals tabled by the new or merged ministry. The Speaker's decision is announced to the Parliament and is entered to the Minutes.

*3. Under article 70§6 of the Constitution, as specified in article 128B of the Standing Orders, the standing committees of the Session may exercise parliamentary control to competent Ministers.

*4. The committee on financial affairs examines the State budget. The State draft budget is also remitted to the committee for discussion.

**5. When this is provided by the Standing Orders or the law, standing committees and their subcommittees may express their opinion on appointments to specific posts. In such case the provisions of paragraphs 3,4 and 5 of article 49A are accordingly applied. The commission to the competent committee or to its subcommittee is decided each time by the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen according to article 14 of the Standing Orders.

***6. Following a proposal by its President or by one third (1/3) of its members and the concurrent opinion of the Speaker, every standing committee may assemble and discuss matters relevant to its competences. Following the termination of a discussion on a subject, the committee may submit to the Parliament a relevant report. The Parliament considers the report in a single sitting without a vote, according to the application of the provisions of article 137.

For those sittings of the standing committees article 37§2 is not applicable.

*7. Through the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the standing committee of Defense and Foreign Affairs may send for a hearing from the ambassadors of the Country, following the publication of the Presidential Decree on their transfer to embassies abroad or to international organizations. Upon the hearing, members of the committee are informed on the ambassador's new responsibilities and mission.

* Added on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette 284A' /18.12.2001).

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A' /18.12.2001).

** Added on 15.12.1997 (Government Gazette 258A' /17.12.1997), amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A' /18.12.2001) and on 18.6.2003 (Government Gazette 161A' /26.6.2003) and renumbered on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126A' /2.7.2008) [par.5 repealed] by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

*** Added on 16.3.1993 (Government Gazette 36A' /19.3.1993), amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A' /18.12.2001) and renumbered on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126A' /2.7.2008) [par.5 repealed] by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

* Added on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126A' /2.7.2008) and amended on 16.7.2010 (Government Gazette 139A' 10.8.2010) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

Through the Minister of Foreign Affairs the committee may also send for a hearing from the ambassadors of the Country once annually and during the ambassadors' term of service. Members of the committee are informed on matters concerning the promotion of the development of bilateral relations with countries in which the ambassadors are accredited. The committee is also informed on matters concerning the Country's relations with the organizations in which the ambassadors are accredited.

For the call for a hearing, the first section of the previous paragraph is accordingly applied.

The sittings of the committee are public without prejudice to article 57§6. During the hearings before the committee, paragraph 6 of article 41A is accordingly applied with the exception of its last section.

*8. To the standing committee of social affairs a subcommittee on studying and combating narcotics is established. The subcommittee is composed by the one third (1/3) of the total number of the committee's Members of Parliament.

The subcommittee has as its main objective the study of the social problem of narcotics. It submits proposals for an effective treatment of the problem at the stages of prevention and rehabilitation.

The subcommittee's proposals are submitted to the committee and the Speaker of Parliament transmits the proposals to competent Ministers and agencies.

A decision by the Speaker of the Parliament determines the number of sittings in the subcommittee. To the specification of this number article 37 paragraph 2 of the Standing Orders is applied.

**9. Every standing committee is informed on all contracts, before their conclusion, regarding public works or services or procurements, as well as on every contract regarding a purchase, sale or exploitation of real estates, as these contracts are signed by the Ministries which fall in the committee's competence or by legal entities of public law which are supervised by the relevant Ministries and whose management is appointed by the Hellenic Public Services, or contracts signed by other public enterprises and organizations on which, article 49A is applied on the condition that the amount of the contract does not exceed that of twenty million Euros. For this purpose the competent Minister or agency submits a relevant file. The committee assembles for a sitting within ten (10) days from the submission of the file and hears oral evidence from the competent Minister or from a representative of the agency, in which case the representative is accompanied by the supervising Minister. The expiration of this dead line does not obstruct the conclusion of the contract.

Committee of European Affairs

***Article 32A**

1. At the onset of every parliamentary term the Speaker of Parliament establishes by his/her decision a special standing Committee of European Affairs.

* Added on 25.6.2008 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 126A' /2.7.2008).

** Added on 16.7.2010 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 139A' / 10.8.2010)

* Added on 16.3.1993 (Government Gazette 36A' /19.3.1993) and amended on 20.6.1996 (Government Gazette 151A' /8.7.1996) and on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A' / 18.12.2001) by decisions of the parliament Plenum.

2. The Speaker of Parliament establishes the Committee by the congruent application of the provisions of articles 29§5 and 31 paragraphs 3 and 6 of the Standing Orders. The committee is composed by thirty (30) Members of Parliament and one of the Parliament's Deputy Speakers, acting as the committee's President. The President is appointed by the Speaker of Parliament. In the sittings of the Committee Greek Members of the European Parliament can participate with a right to speak.
3. The Presidium of the Committee is composed by the President, two Vice-Presidents and a Secretary. The Vice-Presidents and the Secretary are elected by the members of the committee with the congruent application of the provisions of article 34 of the Standing Orders. One Vice-President belongs to the second in strength parliamentary group while the Secretary to the third.
4. The committee is convoked in a sitting by its President. The convocation of the committee is compulsory if asked by the one third (1/3) of its members or by the Government.
5. By the President's initiative, the committee undertakes the examination of issues that fall within its competence. The Speaker of the Parliament may refer to the committee any issue that he/she deems as relevant or any issue submitted to him/her by the standing or special committees of the Parliament or by Members of Parliament and Members of the European Parliament.
6. Any person that can contribute in providing information to the committee may be called before the committee if this is deemed useful for its works.
7. The Committee may, with the approval of the Speaker of Parliament, send delegations of Members of Parliament to bodies and organizations of the European Union, to other Parliaments and international Organizations.
8. To the competences of the committee belong mainly the following: a) institutional issues of the European Union, b) issues of cooperation between the Hellenic Parliament and other national Parliaments of the European Union, of the European Parliament and of the Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC), c) issues of European policy and d) acts of the bodies of the European Union with a regulative content.
9. On the issues of the previous paragraph and without prejudice to article 41B, the committee can express its consultative opinion through the submission of the respective report to the Parliament and the Government. The report contains the possible opinion of the minority.
10. On issues that are not regulated by the present article, the provisions of the Standing Orders that refer to the organization and operation of the standing committees are accordingly applied.
- *11. On the sittings of the Committee that exceed the number of 4 monthly, article 37 §2 of the Standing Orders is not applicable. In exceptional circumstances this number may be larger with the approval of the Speaker of Parliament.
- *12. Secretarial support to the Committee is provided by the Directorate of European Affairs of the Parliament. Short Minutes shall be kept by the Directorate of Committee Minutes. When the

* Amended on 27.4.2009 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette 66A' /4.5.2009).

* Amended on 27.4.2009 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette 66A' /4.5.2009).

Committee decides on the full documentation of the discussions, stenographic Minutes shall be kept by the Directorate for Stenography and Parliamentary Minutes.

Operation of Standing Committees

Article 33

1. All works in the standing committees of the Parliament's Plenum are interrupted by the proclamation on the termination of the regular session at the beginning of which the committees were established. Works resume at the end of the operations of the Recess Section of the Parliament and until the establishment of the relevant committee in the new regular session.
2. Works in the standing committees of the Recess Section last until the termination of the Section's operations.
3. Works in the standing committees of the Parliament's Plenum that have been interrupted with the termination of the regular session, continue from the point of their interruption by the respective standing committees of the Recess Section of the Parliament. Works in the standing committees of the Recess Section that have been interrupted with the commencement of the new regular session are continued by the respective standing committees of the Plenum.
4. In their new composition, the standing committees of the Recess Section continue the works of the respective previous composition from the point of their interruption.
5. If not stated differently, the operation of standing committees is regulated by the provisions of articles 89 to 91.

Election of presidium

Article 34

1. After their establishment, standing committees are invited by the Speaker of Parliament to elect their presidium in separate sittings. Each presidium is constituted by the President, the Vice-President and a Secretary.
2. The Speaker or one of the Deputy Speakers of the Parliament preside – without a voting right – over the sittings of standing committees for the election of their presidium.
3. Elections for membership in the presidium are held through a closed ballot.
4. The President is elected by the absolute majority of the total number of the committee's members. If an absolute majority is not attained, voting is repeated immediately between the two first-in-votes Members of Parliament. President is the Member of Parliament that obtained the relative majority of the members of the committee present.
5. The Vice-President and the Secretary of every committee are elected by the relative majority of members present.

6. The presidiums of standing committees have all the competences of the Presidium of the Parliament in plenary sittings, except for those competences that appertain to the nature and mission of the committees.

*7. After the election of the Presidium of the standing committees, members of the committees are allocated in subcommittees – constituted by 10 to 20 Members of Parliament at each Ministry. The formation and operation of subcommittees is regulated by those provisions which regulate the formation and operation of the standing committees. The President and the Vice-President of the standing committee act as presidents of the respective subcommittee.

Replacement and substitution of members

Article 35

1. Resigned members of standing committees are replaced by other Members of Parliament who belong to the same Parliamentary Group.

2. Members of standing committees that are for any reason absent or prevented from exercising their duties, are replaced by other Members of Parliament who belong to the same Parliamentary Group.

3. Replacements and substitutions of members of standing Committees are carried out by the Speaker of Parliament by decisions she/he issues following a proposal of the President of the relevant Parliamentary Group or of the President's authorized substitute.

Convocation of sittings

Article 36

1. Specific days, hours and rooms of the committee's sittings are determined by decisions of the Speaker of Parliament.

*2. With the exception of an urgent situation, the sittings of standing committees cannot coincide with the sittings of the Plenum and of the Recess Section when they discuss matters of the committees' competence.

3. Standing committees are convoked in a sitting by their President or when she/he is absent or prevented by their Vice-President. When the Vice-President is also absent or prevented and in any other case, standing committees are convoked in a sitting by the Speaker of Parliament.

4. In the occasion that the President or the Vice-President of a standing committee is not present in a sitting, the duties of the President are exercised by the Member of Parliament who belongs in the first in power Parliamentary Group and has the longest parliamentary tenure. Between many with similar qualifications, the duties of the President are exercised by the elder Member of Parliament who belongs in the above Parliamentary Group.

*5. Standing committees are always convoked in a sitting when the Government requests. Twice in every Session and without prejudice to the provisions of article 41A, Ministers ought to inform the standing committee by their own initiative on matters of their competence.

* Added on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A' /18.12.2001) and amended on 16.7.2010 (Government Gazette 139A' /10.8.2010) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A' /18.12.2001).

* Amended on 25.6.2008 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 126A' /2.7.2008).

6. Every standing committee can be convoked once a month for the elaboration and examination of pending law proposals that belong to its competence.

**7. At the onset of a public consultation on a planned legislative initiative, the Minister or the competent Deputy Minister ought to inform the members of the standing committee in writing, conveying all texts that are given for consultation.

Attendance at Sitzings

Article 37

1. Members of Parliament are obliged to be present at the sittings of the standing committee of which they are regular members or in which they are appointed as deputies.

*2. All present members of the standing committees receive for every full sitting of a committee of which they are regular or substitute members a remuneration fixed at the one twentieth (1/20) of their total remuneration. A similar remuneration can be received by members who participate in missions of the Parliament abroad, following a decision of the Speaker of Parliament and only when such decision states a specific number of sittings in Parliamentary Assemblies or committees and when such participation is officially certified.

*3. Members of Parliament that are not members of a standing committee may follow its proceedings without speaking and voting rights and without prejudice to article 58§5.

**4. Ministers or competent Undersecretaries attend the sittings and take part in the discussions of the standing committees when the latter discuss bills and law proposals. In any other case, Ministers or competent Undersecretaries may attend the sittings of standing committees either by their own initiative or when asked to do so. Additionally, a specific number (set by the President of the Committee) of other official agents may participate when the Minister deems necessary.

*5. Standing committees, if they deem necessary, may request the presence of the competent Minister or Undersecretary. In such case and without prejudice to any exceptional circumstances, the presence of the Minister or Undersecretary is compulsory.

Hearing of non-parliamentarians

Article 38

**1. All sittings of standing committees that concern the discussion of bills and law proposals are public. Sitzings are not public in hearings of non-parliamentarians following a Committee's relative decision which is taken after a proposal of one third (1/3) of its members or after a proposal of its President and according to paragraphs 6,7 and 8 of the present article.

To secure the publicity of sittings paragraphs 2 to 11 of article 56 are applied.

Under the concurrent opinion of the Speaker of Parliament, the committee may decide on the non-publicity of a sitting unless the committee exercises such competence according to

** *Added on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126A'/2.7.2008) and amended on 16.7.2010 (Government Gazette 139A'/10.8.2010) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.*

* *Amended on 6.12.2001 by decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A'/18.12.2001).*

* *Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A'/18.12.2001).*

** *Amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A'/18.12.2001) and on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126A'/2.7.2008) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.*

* *Amended on 27.4.2009 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 66A'/4.5.2009).*

** *Amended on 25.11.1993 (Government Gazette 200A'/26.11.1993) on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A'/18.12.2001) and on 27.4.2009 (Government Gazette 66A'/4.5.2009) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.*

article 72§2 of the Constitution. In such case and without prejudice to the first paragraph, sittings are public.

*2. With regard to bills or law proposals of outmost importance, standing committees may request the hearing of public functionaries, public servants, representatives from local authorities, unions and other social agents and experts or any other person who is in position to enlighten the committee on various special and technical subjects.

*3. The hearing of non-parliamentarians can be decided by the standing committee on its first sitting and after a proposal by the competent Minister or by one tenth (1/10) of the total number of the committee's members or the total number of the members of the parliamentary group. The relevant proposal should mention the name and the capacity of the person whose hearing is requested as well as the subject on which he/she is called to inform the committee.

**4. In the discussion of the proposal mentioned in the above paragraph, participate: the present Minister or the first of the members of the committee who sign the proposal and a member that opposes it. Every speech cannot exceed a duration of three (3) minutes.

*5. The decision in which the standing committee accepts the proposal for the hearing of non-parliamentarians must specify the persons which are about to be called and the object of the hearing proceedings. Those persons cannot be more than six (6). This number may rise in exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the Speaker of Parliament. In cases where three representatives of various authorities are called, one third (1/3) of them must be proposed by the committee's minority. The President of the committee addresses invitations to those persons and informs the competent Minister when state functionaries are invited. The hearing of non-parliamentarians takes place at least twenty four hours before the first sitting of the Committee.

**6. Persons invited for a hearing respond to specific questions posed by: the President of the committee, the sponsors, the special speakers, the Minister and up to three Members of Parliament from the first in power party, two Members from the second in power party and one Member from each of the remaining parties.

7. The hearing of every person is conducted separately unless the committee decides otherwise.

*8. The hearings pertaining to every bill or law proposal under examination cannot exceed (for every summoned person) the duration of one hour and in total the duration of four hours. The hearings are concluded necessarily in one sitting only, for which article 37§2 is not applied.

**9. In a case where the presence in person of non-parliamentarians to committees is evidently not possible, the committee may allow the hearing through teleconference services.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A' /18.12.2001).

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A' /18.12.2001).

** Amended on 27.4.2009 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 66A' /4.5.2009).

* Amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A' /18.12.2001) and on 27.4.2009 (Government Gazette 66A' /4.5.2009) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A' /18.12.2001) by a decision of the Parliament Plenum.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A' /18.12.2001) by a decision of the Parliament Plenum.

** Added on 25.6.2008 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 126A' /2.7.2008)

The application of this paragraph commences with a decision of the Speaker of Parliament. The decision determines the details in applying the previous subparagraph.

Votes and decisions

***Article 39**

1. Open voting in the committees is effectuated only by raising a hand.
2. In case of a tie vote the voting is repeated and after a new tied vote, the provision or the issue put to the vote is rejected.
3. The committees decide by the absolute majority of the present members. Such majority may not be less than one third (1/3) of the total number of the committee members.
4. In the case that the required number in order to take a decision is not met, the President of the committee may suspend the sitting for two hours. After the sitting is reconvened the committee decides by the absolute majority of the present members which may not be less than one fourth (1/4) of the total number of the committee's members.

**5. When the standing committees are performing their legislative work according to article 70§2 of the Constitution, they decide by the absolute majority of members present. This majority cannot be less than the 2/5 of the total number of the committees' members.

**6. The standing committee which undertakes the debate and voting of a bill or law proposal according to article 72§2 of the Constitution may -by decision taken following a written motion of one fifth (1/5) of the total number of its members and according to the majority provided for in article 72§3 of the Constitution and without discontinuing the procedure of debate and voting- refer any dispute regarding its competence to the Plenum. The first of the Members of Parliament who signed the referral motion to the Plenum and one of the opposing Members participate in the relevant debate, each for five (5) minutes.

**7. The decision of the Plenum accepting the motion mentioned in the previous paragraph results in the comprehensive debate and voting of the bill from the beginning.

One of the Members of Parliament who signed the referral motion and one of the opposing Members participate in the debate in the Plenum, each for five (5) minutes.

Minutes of sittings

Article 40

1. The Minutes of each committee sitting include: the summary of the debates, the motions, the additions, the adopted amendments, the result of the votings and the decisions.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 284 A'/18.12.2001)

** Added on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette No 284 A'/18.12.2001) and renumbered on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette No 126 A'/2.7.2008) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum [paragraph 5 was annulled]

2. The standing committee may decide to keep shorthanded minutes of the sittings for a specific bill or a specific law proposal.
3. The Minutes, shorthanded or not, are signed by the President and the Secretary of the standing committee.
4. The Minutes of the standing committees are kept, along with the relevant documents, in the archives of each committee and they are submitted to the Parliament's Archives at the end of each parliamentary term.
- *5. When the standing committees are undertaking legislative work or parliamentary control according to article 70 paragraphs 2 and 6 of the Constitution, article 61 of the Standing Orders applies *mutatis mutandis* for the transcription of the Minutes.

Secretariats of the committees

*Article 41

Every committee has its own secretariat which is staffed, following a decision of the Speaker of the Parliament, by a secretary and the necessary administrative (and other) personnel for the preparation and execution of its work.

**Article 41A

***1. In order to assist the exercise of parliamentary control in the Plenum or the Recess Section, standing committees may invite Ministers or/and the competent Undersecretaries and any other person of any capacity deemed necessary for their work, to a hearing given that the object of the hearing falls within the competence of the inviting committee and notifying the competent Minister when a state functionary is invited.

2. The provision of paragraph 1 of the present article prevails over the provision of article 133§4 of the Standing Orders. In particular, hearings of representatives of the Ministry of Defense and data provided by them are limited to matters of procurement of the Country's Armed Forces. The Minister of Foreign Affairs may deny information regarding issues of ongoing negotiations of national importance. On these negotiations, the briefing is of a general nature and it can only be offered by the Minister.

*3. The hearings mentioned in the two previous paragraphs are conducted either before the standing committees or before their subcommittees.

*4. The hearings of the persons mentioned in paragraph 1 of the present article are mandatory only if this is requested by the two fifths (2/5) of the committee members.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 284 A'/18.12.2001)

** Added on 13.9.1989 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 200 A'/15.9.1989)

*** Amended on 25.11.1993 (Government Gazette No 200 A'/26.11.1993), on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette No 284 A'/18.12.2001), on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette No 126 A'/2.7.2008) and on 27.4.2009 (Government Gazette No 66 A'/4.5.2009) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 284 A'/18.12.2001)

5. The right to conduct a hearing as mentioned in the previous paragraph may be exercised once a month and in two (2) consecutive sittings at the most. The relevant motion has to include the name and the capacity of the person who is recommended for a hearing and the issue on which he/she is called to provide information and data.

**6. The President of the Committee and three Members of Parliament of the first in strength party, two Members of Parliament of the second and one Member of Parliament of each of the remaining parties and the competent Ministers submit questions during the hearing of every person. The questions and the answers are specific and they are strictly limited to the subject of the invitation. The committee may increase the number of persons which may address questions, the allotment and the order of questions, following a proposal by the President. Article 37§2 is not applicable to these sittings.

***7. Following the hearing of the persons mentioned in paragraph 1 of the present article, the committee or the subcommittee may draft a report. The report records also the views of the minority. The report may include recommendations towards any authority, except the judicial. It may also include findings or estimations on a considered case.

*8. The report is introduced to the Plenum and is entered to the Parliament Minutes. Subsequently, and if it is requested by the minority, it is entered to the order of the day of parliamentary control and is discussed in priority in one sitting, applying *mutatis mutandis* article 137, without voting.

Opinions on the regulatory acts Of the European Union

** Article 41B

1. The Government forwards to the Speaker of the Parliament the draft legislative acts of the European Union immediately after they are communicated to the Council of Ministers, in accordance to article 70§8 of the Constitution. All the consultation documents are in addition forwarded concurrently to the Speaker of the Parliament.

2. The Speaker of the Parliament refers the documents mentioned in the previous paragraph to the competent standing committee or / and to the Committee on European Affairs. In cases of cross competence, the Speaker of the Parliament may convoke in a joint sitting two or more standing committees or also the Committee on European Affairs. The Speaker of the Parliament or the committee President or the committee by its own decision, may invite the competent Minister to provide information to the committee or the subcommittee, if it is thus requested by the one third (1/3) of its members and without prejudice to paragraph 4 of article 146 which is *mutatis mutandis* applicable.

***3. The competent committee or committees deliver their Opinion which is forwarded to the competent Minister or Ministers and, if this is provided by a European Union document of

** Added on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 284 A /18.12.2001)

*** Amended on 25.11.1993 (Government Gazette No 200 A /26.11.1993) and on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette No 284 A /18.12.2001) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 284 A /18.12.2001)

** Added on 20.6.1996 (Government Gazette No 151A /8.7.1996) and amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette No 284A /18.12.2001) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum

regulatory content, to the Union's competent bodies. The Government informs the Parliament on any outcome regarding the Opinion on the regulatory acts of the European Union.

*4. By a decision of the Speaker of the Parliament or in case this is requested by the competent committee or the co-competent committees, the issue on which an Opinion is delivered is entered in the Plenum's parliamentary control order of the day and it is discussed in one sitting with the *mutatis mutandis* application of article 137. The Plenum decides definitively by an open voting.

B) SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Establishment – composition – competencies

Article 42

1. If it is necessary for the execution of legislative work or it is deemed necessary for the elaboration and examination of specific bills or law proposals and when the Government requests so, the Speaker of the Parliament establishes special committees to which the bills or the law proposals are referred to for the relative elaboration.
2. The special committees are composed by one tenth (1/10) up to one fifth (1/5) of the total number of the Members of Parliament.
3. The provisions of article 31 paragraphs 3, 5 and 6 of the Standing Orders also apply to the special committees.

Operation of the special committees

Article 43

1. The special committees operate until they reach a final decision on the bills and the law proposals for the elaboration and examination of which they were established. In any case the special committees are dissolved *ipso jure* by the end of the works of the regular session during which they were established.
2. The provisions of articles 34 to 40 and 89 to 91 of the Standing Orders also apply to the special committees.
3. If not provided otherwise, the provisions of article 33 regulate the operation of the special committees.

C) SPECIAL PERMANENT COMMITTEES

* Article 43A

- **1. The Speaker of the Parliament establishes the following special permanent committees:

*** Amended on 16.7.2010 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 139 A /10.8.2010)

* Added on 16.7.2010 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 139 A /10.8.2010)

* Added on 20.6.1996 by decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 151A /8.7.1996)

- a) Special permanent committee on institutions and transparency.
- **b) Special permanent committee on Greeks Abroad.
- *** c) Special permanent committee on environmental protection.
- ****d) Special permanent committee on research and technology.
- *****e) Special permanent committee on equality, youth and human rights.
- *****f) Special permanent committee of the regions.
- *****g) Special permanent committee on road safety.
- *****h) Special permanent committee on parliamentary ethics.

The committee under a' is established at the beginning of every parliamentary term and operates for the whole duration of the term. The committees under b', c', d', e', f', g' and h' are established at the beginning of every regular session.

The permanent committee on institutions and transparency, as constituted by the no. 11640/8502/21.10.2008 decision of the Speaker of the Parliament, operates for the whole duration of the 12th Parliamentary Term.

*2. a) The task of the committee on institutions and transparency is to exercise parliamentary control on the independent administrative authorities, according to article 138A, as well as to research and evaluate every useful element for the study and elaboration of proposals, that contribute to the transparency of the political and in general the public life of the country and to monitor their application. The same committee exercises parliamentary control on electronic Mass Media, according to article 15 paragraph 2 of the Constitution. The committee on institutions and transparency exercises also the parliamentary control on issues regarding the activity of the National Intelligence Service (EYII).

The Government is expected, either on its own initiative or following a committee's request, to inform the committee on the activity of EYII, unless there are reasons of overriding public interest or reasons of protection of personal data, which the competent Minister presents to the committee. The committee may also invite to a hearing the Director General of EYII in the presence of the competent Minister.

The discussions for the activity of EYII are secret and the members are bound to observe the secrecy even after the termination of their term in office.

The committee may publish the findings of the control, bearing always in mind, according to the aforementioned, the obligation to observe the secrecy.

The committee may invite to a hearing state functionaries, as well as any other public person on issues regarding the functioning of institutions and transparency, the attendance of which is compulsory. With regard to operational issues of justice and in order to strengthen transparency, the committee may invite to a hearing the president and the vice-president of the Supreme Administrative Court, of the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court and of the Court of Audit, the

** Amended on 27.4.2009 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 66A /4.5.2009)

*** Added on 17.2.2005 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 49A /25.2.2005)

**** Amended on 17.2.2005 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 49A /25.2.2005)

***** Added on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette No 284 A /18.12.2001) and amended on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette No 126 A /2.7.2008) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum

***** Added on 18.6.2003 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 161A /26.6.2003)

***** Added on 25.6.2008 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 126 A /2.7.2008)

***** Added on 18.6.2003 (Government Gazette No 161A /26.6.2003) and amended on 27.4.2009 (Government Gazette No 66A /4.5.2009) and on 16.7.2010 (Government Gazette No 139A /10.8.2010) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum

* Amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette No 284 A /18.12.2001), on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette No 126 A /2.7.2008) and on 16.7.2010 (Government Gazette No 139A /10.8.2010) and the sections of the paragraph were renumbered on 27.4.2009 (Government Gazette No 66A /4.5.2009) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum

attorney general of the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court, the general commissioner of the Court of Audit and the general commissioner of Administrative Courts. The committee has the power to collect information and documents and the power to call and examine persons by the application *mutatis mutandis* of articles 146 and 147.

At the end of each session, the committee submits a report to the Plenum of the Parliament, which is entered to the Minutes and for which a debate is held in the Plenum in a special sitting, without voting (in applying *mutatis mutandis* article 137).

*b) The task of the committee of the Hellenes Abroad is to preserve and promote the relations and the bonds of the national assembly and of the Greek people with the Hellenes across the world, the coordination of Greek Parliament's actions with the Council of Hellenes Abroad, the study of the problems of the Greeks abroad, the promotion of their resolution, as well as the strengthening of relations with members of other parliaments of Greek origin.

**c) The task of the committee on environmental protection is the monitoring and the assessment of the status of the environment nationally and the evaluation of the environmental impact of different actions. The committee consults and thus contributes to policy decisions and to the drafting of the national strategy for the protection of the environment.

More specifically, the aims of the committee are to protect the urban and natural environment from human actions and natural disasters, the improvement and the renewal of the urban environment and the restoration of the natural environment, the preservation of biodiversity of Greek nature and ecosystems, the efficient management of waste, the protection and management of water resources, the management of mineral resources as well as the promotion of renewable energy sources and the encouragement of sustainable development policies in the fields of agriculture, tourism, industry, transport, biotechnology and energy.

Moreover, it is within the committee's competence to express an opinion on the annual national report on the state of the environment and on the other reports submitted to Parliament, on the national strategy for the reduction of gas emissions, on the national strategy for sustainable development, on the application of community directives and international conventions, etc.

In order to accomplish its mission the committee on environmental protection may affiliate, on a subject-matter basis, with relevant activities: of other countries' parliaments, of international organizations, of government or non-governmental organizations, foundations, research centers et al. The committee also aims at the encouragement of international cooperation and research, especially within the European Union, in the field of environmental protection.

A subcommittee on water resources is established within the committee on environmental protection and it is composed by one third (1/3) of the number of the committee's Members of Parliament.

The task of the subcommittee on water resources is to continually monitor, evaluate and record the state of water resources in the Country, to investigate and assess issues related to the their sufficient quantity and to submit proposals for their effective management. The proposals of the subcommittee are submitted to the committee and forwarded by the Speaker of the Parliament to the competent standing committees, the competent Ministers and the competent authorities.

*d) The task of the committee on research and technology is to monitor and evaluate the developments of scientific research and technology. A task of the committee is also to study and

* Amended on 27.4.2009 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No. 66A/4.5.2009).

** Added on 17.2.2005 (Government Gazette No 49A/25.2.2005) and amended on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette No 126 A/2.7.2008) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette No 284 A/18.12.2001) and on 17.2.2005 (Government Gazette No 49 A/25.2.2005) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum

follow issues of bioethics. The committee consults and thus contributes to policy decisions and to the drafting of strategies for research and technology on a national level, taking into account the special social, economic, political, scientific and cultural characteristics of the country.

In order to accomplish its mission the committee may affiliate, on a subject-matter basis, with relevant activities of other countries' parliaments, of international organizations, of government or non-governmental organizations, foundations, research centers et al. It also aims at the encouragement of international cooperation, especially within the European Union, in the fields of research, technology and technological assessment. It also fosters the exchange of information between respective parliamentary bodies.

*e) The task of the committee on equality, youth and human rights is:

aa) To study, examine and draft proposals aiming to promote the principle of gender equality in education, family and other social institutions, especially in the fields of employment, respect and protection of human rights and every other action that contributes to the guarantee and implementation of that principle by the Administration and the public authorities in general, according to the provisions of paragraph 2 of article 4 and of paragraph 2 of article 116 of the Constitution.

bb) To follow the needs and the problems of youth, to submit relevant proposals to competent authorities on a national and European level, to explore the possibility of cooperation with the Parliaments of other countries and international organizations on issues that concern young people, to take initiatives and action for the free development of personality, as well as to evaluate the views expressed in the sessions of Youth Parliament and to forward them to competent Ministers.

A subcommittee on issues of people with disabilities is established with the permanent committee on equality, youth, and human rights and it is composed by one Member of Parliament of each Parliamentary Group of the opposition, taking into account paragraph 5 of article 31 regarding the participation of the first in strength Parliamentary Group.

The task of the subcommittee on issues of people with disabilities is to record and study the problems faced by the people with disabilities, to guarantee equal opportunities of access to the social, economic, cultural and life goods and to submit proposals for the completion and the improvement of the institutional framework currently in force. The proposals of the subcommittee are submitted to the committee and they are forwarded by the Speaker of the Parliament to the standing committee on social affairs and to competent Ministers.

*f) The task of the committee of the regions is to monitor and inform the Parliament for the operation of the regional administrations of the State and especially on issues of planning and implementation of the policy on regional development. In order to accomplish its task the committee may invite to its sittings representatives of the Government, of the regions, or of the local administration and every other person whose participation is deemed useful for its works.

A subcommittee on insular and mountainous areas is established within the special permanent committee of the regions and it is composed by the third (1/3) of the number of the Members of Parliament in the committee.

The task of the subcommittee is: (1)to study the problems of these areas, (2)to submit proposals for their sustainable economic growth, for the protection of their residential and natural habitat and for the preservation and promotion of their cultural tradition, (3)the monitoring of the regulatory acts of the legislator and the administration in order to be harmonized with the specific characteristics of the insular and mountainous areas, and, especially, (4)the elaboration and formulation of proposals in order to deal with: (a)permanent

* Added on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette No 284 A /18.12.2001) and amended on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette No 126 A /2.7.2008) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum

* Added on 18.6.2003 (Government Gazette No 161A /26.6.2003) and amended on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette No 126 A /2.7.2008) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum

disadvantages of transport, energy, water supply and of the solid and liquid waste networks, (b) development and competitiveness of small and family businesses, (c) health issues, education, primary and secondary sector of development and tourism.

The proposals of the subcommittee are submitted to the committee and forwarded by the Speaker of the Parliament to the competent standing committees, to the competent Ministers and the competent authorities.

*g) The task of the committee on road safety is the investigation of the causes of road accidents and the submission of proposals to competent Ministers for the creation of standards for a safer transport of persons and products.

**h) The task of the committee on parliamentary ethics is, especially, to study the file of the case and draft reports to the Parliament regarding requests to waiver according to articles 61 and 62 of the Constitution. Following a relevant request by the Speaker of Parliament or with his/her approval, the committee's task is also to study and recommend measures and to publicly intervene, when necessary, for the protection and the strengthening of parliamentary institutions and of the Members of Parliament prestige.

***3. The special permanent committees or their subcommittees may decide or propose or formulate an opinion, given that it is thus conferred upon them by the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen, on any issue that the Parliament or its bodies have the relevant competence provided by the Constitution, the Standing Orders or the law. In that case the provisions of paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of article 49A apply accordingly.

During the elaboration of a bill or a law proposal by the competent parliamentary committee and until the second reading of the articles, every special permanent committee may formulate an opinion if there is an issue of special importance that falls within its competence and concerns the aforementioned bill or law proposal.

*4. The committee on Greeks Abroad is composed by one tenth (1/10) and up to one fifth (1/5) of the total number of Members of Parliament. The committees on 1) institutions and transparency, 2) environmental protection, 3) research and technology, and, 4) equality, youth and human rights are composed as follows: by thirteen (13) Members of Parliament the first and fourth committee, (30) members of parliament the second and twenty-five (25) members of parliament the third. The committee of the regions is composed by one tenth (1/10) of the total number of Members of Parliament. The committee on road safety is composed by one twentieth (1/20) of the total number of Members of Parliament. The special permanent committees are established according to the strength of Parliamentary Groups and care is taken in order to participate in them at least one Member of Parliament from each Parliamentary Group. More specifically, an equal number of male and female Members of Parliament participate, to the possible extent, in the committee on equality, youth and human rights. The committee on parliamentary ethics is composed by one Deputy Speaker of the Parliament as President (who is appointed by the Speaker of the Parliament), the President of the standing committee of public administration public order and justice and one Member of Parliament from each Parliamentary

* Added on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette No 126 A /2.7.2008) by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum

** Added on 18.6.2003 (Government Gazette No 161 A /26.6.2003) and amended on 16.7.2010 (Government Gazette No 139 A /10.8.2010) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum

*** Added on 15.12.1997 (Government Gazette No 258 A /17.12.1997) and amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette No 284 A /18.12.2001) and on 16.7.2010 (Government Gazette No 139A /10.8.2010) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum

* Amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette No 284 A /18.12.2001), on 18.6.2003 (Government Gazette No 161 A /26.6.2003), on 17.2.2005 (Government Gazette No 49 A /25.2.2005), on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette No 126 A /2.7.2008) and on 27.4.2009 (Government Gazette No 66 A /4.5.2009) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum

Group. They operate according to the provisions of articles 31 paragraphs 3, 5 and 6, 33 paragraph 1, 34 to 41A and 89 to 90 which apply respectively. The provision of article 37§2 applies for up to two sittings per month. The number of subcommittees' sittings (up to which article 37 of paragraph 2 of the Standing Orders applies) is determined by a decision of the Speaker of the Parliament. At the committees of the present article, two Vice-Presidents and one Secretary are elected by the members of each committee from the first, second and third in order of strength Parliamentary Group of the Opposition respectively, following the procedure of article 34.

*5. Following the study and elaboration of an issue the special permanent committees draft a report or a proposal which is submitted to the Speaker of Parliament.

**6. Each committee at the end of every session submits a report to the Plenum of the Parliament, that is entered to the Minutes and on which a discussion may be held according to article 137, without voting, in a special sitting at the beginning of the following session.

7. The committee on institutions and transparency may request the Parliament to be concerted to an investigation committee. The Parliament resolves according to the procedure of articles 68§2 of the Constitution and 144 et seq. of the Standing Orders of the Parliament.

D) COMMITTEES ON MATTERS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OR GENERAL INTEREST

Establishment – composition – competencies

Article 44

**1. The Parliament, following the Government's proposal, may decide to establish a committee consisting of its members for the study of matters of national or general interest. The Speaker of Parliament and the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups may submit relevant proposals (only once for each session).

***2. The proposal mentioned in the previous paragraph may be submitted to the Speaker of the Parliament and may be accepted by the Parliament without debate, notwithstanding the right of the representatives of the Parliamentary Groups to speak for two (2) minutes each. In case that at least one Parliamentary Group disagrees with the establishment of the committee, the proposal for its establishment is entered to the order of the day a week after its submission, is debated on a parliamentary control day according to the provision of article 137 and is concluded in one sitting.

*3. The committees on matters of national significance or general interest are composed by one twentieth (1/20) and up to one fifteenth (1/15) of the total number of Members of Parliament. Following a decision of the Speaker of Parliament, the Greek Members of the European

* Added on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 284 A /18.12.2001)

** Amended on 27.4.2009 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 66 A /4.5.2009)

*** Amended on 20.6.1996 (Government Gazette No 151A /8.7.1996), on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette No 284 A /18.12.2001) and on 27.4.2009 (Government Gazette No 66 A /4.5.2009) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum

* Amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette No 284 A /18.12.2001) and on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette No 126 A /2.7.2008) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum

Parliament may participate and speak in the committee sittings, in cases there is a debate on issues related to their mission in the European Parliament.

4. When the Parliament resolves on their establishment, the committees are composed following a decision of the Speaker which is announced and entered to the Minutes.

**5. The provisions of paragraph 3 and 5 of article 31 of the Standing Orders apply accordingly to the committees of the present article.

6. The decision of the Parliament, which establishes a committee on a matter of national significance or general interest must determine the subject of the committee's work and set a date for the submission of its proposals. This time-limit may be extended by subsequent resolutions of the Parliament.

*** 7. A decision of the Speaker of Parliament determines the number of sittings in each committee as this number is sufficient for the implementation of article 37§2 of the Standing Orders.

Operation of the committees

Article 45

1. The committees on matters of national significance or general interest operate for as long as it is needed for the study of the subject for which they were established, according to the terms of article 44§6. In any case these committees dissolve *ipso jure* by the end of the parliamentary term or the dissolution of Parliament.

****2. The committees study the matter which is specified in the Parliament's resolution that establishes them and they draft a report on the expressed proposals and on any minority opinion. The report is submitted to the Parliament and to the Government and is of a consultative nature. Following a proposal by the Government or by one fifth (1/5) of the total number of the Members of Parliament or by the President of the Parliamentary Group, the report is entered to the order of the day of parliamentary control and is discussed without voting by the application *mutatis mutandis* of the provision of article 137.

*3. Of the members of the Presidium of the committees, the Vice President comes from the first in strength Parliamentary Group of the Opposition and the Secretary from the second in strength group of the Opposition.

**4. The provisions of articles 34 to 36, 37 paragraphs 1-5, 38 to 40 and 89 to 91 of the Standing Orders apply *mutatis mutandis* to the committees of the present article without prejudice to the provisions of the previous paragraph and of paragraph 7 of article 44.

** Amended on 25.6.2008 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 126 A /2.7.2008)

*** Added on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 284 A /18.12.2001)

**** Amended on 20.6.1996 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 151A /8.7.1996)

* Added on 20.6.1996 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 151A /8.7.1996)

** Amended on 20.6.1996 (Government Gazette No 151A /8.7.1996) and on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette No 284 A /18.12.2001) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum

5. If not stated differently, the operation of the committees on matters of national significance or general interest is regulated by the provisions of article 33. These committees do not exercise investigation duties in any case and do not have the competencies of the investigation committees of the Parliament.

E) COMMITTEES ON PARLIAMENT'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Establishment – composition

Article 46

1. At the beginning of every parliamentary term the Speaker of Parliament establishes the Committee on the Standing Orders of the Parliament and at the beginning of every session the committee on Parliament finances and the committee on the Parliament's library.

2. The Committee on the Standing Orders of the Parliament is composed by the Speaker of the Parliament as President and nine Members of Parliament, of which four come from the Parliamentary Group of the Opposition.

*3. The committee on the Parliament's finances is composed by three Deans of the Parliament, by four Members of Parliament from the first in strength Parliamentary Group and by one Member of Parliament from every Parliamentary Group of the Opposition, applying *mutatis mutandis* paragraph 5 of article 31.

*4. The committee on Parliament's library is composed by three Deans of the Parliament, by four Members of Parliament from the first in strength Parliamentary Group and by one Member of Parliament from every Parliamentary Group of the Opposition, applying *mutatis mutandis* paragraph 5 of article 31.

5. The Speaker of Parliament may, at his judgment, establish committees of Members of Parliament, according to the strength of the Parties, determining simultaneously the particulars of their competences.

6. The Speaker freely appoints the members of the committees on Parliament's internal affairs.

Competences

Article 47

1. The committee on the Standing Orders of the Parliament: a) elaborates and examines the drafts and the proposals for the amendment of the Standing Orders and draws up the relevant report forwarded to the Parliament; b) incorporates the changes of the Standing Orders of the Parliament to the original text and proceeds to the codification of the old and the new provisions of the Standing Orders, according to article 118; c) approves, following a proposal of the Speaker, the drafting of new operation regulations for the scientific service and for the Parliament's library or the amendment of the provisions in force.

* Amended on 27.4.2009 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 66 A /4.5.2009)

2. The committee on the Parliament's finances: a) monitors the course of the Parliament's expenditures and submits a relevant report to the Speaker of the Parliament every trimester· b) submits proposals to the Speaker for the effectuation or the restrain of specific expenses· c) elaborates and examines, under the presidency of the Speaker of the Parliament especially for this case, the budget, the general balance sheet and the financial statement of the Parliament and drafts reports (provided for in article 120) to the Parliament.

3. The committee on the Parliament's library: a) supervises the operation in general of the Parliament's library and proposes to the Speaker of the Parliament every necessary organizational modification according to its judgment· b) has the competences provided for by the Standing Orders of the Parliament (Standing Orders, Part B') and by the internal operation regulations of the library.

Operation of the committees of Parliament's internal affairs

Article 48

1. The operation of the Committee on the Parliament's Standing Orders terminates with the dissolution of the Parliament or by the end of the parliamentary term. The operation of the committees of Parliament's finances and of the library terminates with the establishment of the new committees of the regular session.

2. The provisions of article 34 apply also for the election of the presidium of the committees of Parliament's internal affairs without prejudice to article 46§2.

3. The President and the Vice President of the committees of the finances of the Parliament and of the library are elected among the three Deans of the Parliament who participate to the committees.

*4. The provisions of articles 35, 36, 37 paragraphs 1-3, without prejudice to paragraph 4 of article 43A, 38 to 40 and 89 to 91 apply *mutatis mutandis* to the committees of Parliament's internal affairs.

5. If not stated differently, the operation of the committees of the parliament's internal affairs is regulated by the provisions of articles 33 and 34.

F) COMMITTEES OF THE PARLIAMENT'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Article 49

1. The Speaker of the Parliament establishes the committees, the delegations and the missions (provided for by international conventions) or those that he deems necessary for the promotion of the international cooperation of the Parliament with the European Parliament, the parliaments of other countries and other international organizations.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 284 A'/18.12.2001).

2. Other service or non-service officials which are necessary for the performance of the task of the committees, the delegations and the missions mentioned in the previous paragraph, may also participate in them.

3. The expenses and the compensation of the persons participating to the committees, the delegations and the missions are determined by a decision of the Speaker of the Parliament.

*Article 49A

**1. At the beginning of each parliamentary term, the Speaker of the Parliament establishes by its members a Committee on State-owned Enterprises, Banks, Public Utility Enterprises and Social Security Agencies. The Committee operates throughout the parliamentary term, including also the intervals between sessions.

*** 2. The Committee mentioned in paragraph 1 of the present article is composed by fifteen (15) Members of Parliament including the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers. The Members of Parliament are selected according to the strength of the Parliamentary Groups and of the Independents, taking also into account the origination of the members of the Presidium. The provisions of articles 29§5 and 31 paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Standing Orders apply *mutatis mutandis*. The Committee is presided by the Speaker of the Parliament and in cases of his/her absence, by one Deputy Speaker, in the order of their election. For all the rest, the provisions for the operation of the standing committees apply *mutatis mutandis*.

****3. If there is not a Managing Director, of State-owned Enterprises, Banks, Public Utility Enterprises and Social Security Agencies mentioned in paragraph 6 of the present article, the Committee mentioned in paragraph 1 of the present article expresses an opinion on the suitability of the nominations proposed for appointment or reappointment or renewal of tenure of the positions of the Chairman of the Executive Board, Director or Managing Director or General Manager. To this end, the competent government officer or the Minister who exercises supervision on the State-owned Enterprise, the Bank, the Public Utility Enterprise or the Social Security Agency, informs the President of the Committee on the intention to nominate for appointment a specific person as Chairman of the Executive Board, Director or Managing Director or General Manager if there is not a Managing Director, of one of the legal entities mentioned in paragraph 6 of the present article. At the same time he/she submits the nominee's curriculum vitae, which includes his formal and essential qualifications. Within five (5) days of the curriculum vitae's submission the Committee convenes in a public sitting in order to hear the nominee and within four (4) days (at the most) from the public hearing the Committee expresses its opinion on the nominee in a form of a written report to the proposing Minister. In the report it is also recorded any opinion of the minority.

The Minister may participate without voting rights to the Committee's sitting.

* Added on 13.9.1989 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 200 A /15.9.1989)

** Amended on 25.6.2008 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 126 A /2.7.2008)

*** Amended on 20.6.1996 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 151A /8.7.1996)

**** Amended on 20.6.1996 (Government Gazette No 151A /8.7.1996) and on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette No 126 A /2.7.2008) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum

*4. With the curriculum vitae of the previous paragraph are also necessarily submitted the original or a legally certified copy of the academic titles and in cases of foreign academic titles, their official translation, any previous experience and a full copy of the nominee's criminal record.

**5. In case the above time-limit of nine (9) days elapses with no result, the Minister proceeds to a proposition of appointment to the competent body or directly to the appointment of the nominee.

***5a. The committee may call to a hearing any of the persons mentioned in paragraph 3 at any time after six (6) months of their appointment or of their last hearing. It may also invite higher officials of the same enterprises, banks, social security organizations and agencies or even persons outside the aforementioned who have an acclaimed status and special experience in their subject.

***5b. The committee expresses its opinion for the abovementioned persons, the management and the course of the enterprises, banks, social security organizations and agencies of which they lead, taking into account the strategic and operational plans and suggests to competent Ministers the measures, actions and practices that the committee deems appropriate and beneficial for the public interest.

**** 6. The State-owned Enterprises, the Banks, the Public Utility Enterprises and the Social Security Agencies on which the present article apply are exclusively the following:

1. Agricultural Bank of Greece (A.T.E. A.E.)
2. Hellenic Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (A.DI.P)
3. Attiko Metro S.A.
4. Attiko Metro Operation Company S.A. (AMEL A.E.)
5. Public Gas Corporation S.A. (D.EP.A A.E.)
6. Public Power Corporation S.A. (D.E.I. A.E.)
7. National Gas System Operator (D.E.S.F.A. A.E.)
8. EGNATIA S.A.
9. Hellenic Defense Systems S.A. (E.A.S. A.B.E.E.)
10. Hellenic Post (E.L.T.A. A.E.)
11. Hellenic Aerospace Industry S.A. (E.A.B. A.E.)
12. National Radio and Television (E.R.T. A.E.)
13. Hellenic Organization of Small and Medium Enterprises and Handicraft (E.O.M.M.E.X.)
14. Self-employed Single Fund (E.T.A.A.)
15. Single Insurance Fund of Mass Media Personnel (E.T.A.P. M.M.E.)
16. Single Supplementary Insurance Fund of Employees (E.T.E.A.M.)
17. Hellenic Capital Market Commission
18. Private Insurance Supervisory Committee (EP.E.I.A.)

* Added on 5.7.1990 (Government Gazette No 92 A /11.7.1990) and amended on 20.6.1996 (Government Gazette No 151A /8.7.1996) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum

** Amended on 15.12.1997 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 258 A /17.12.1997)

*** Added on 20.6.1996 (Government Gazette No 151 A /8.7.1996) and amended on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette No 126A /2.7.2008) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum

**** Amended on 20.6.1996 (Government Gazette No 151A /8.7.1996), on 15.12.1997 (Government Gazette No 258 A /17.12.1997), on 18.6.2003 (Government Gazette No 161 A /26.6.2003), on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette No 126 A /2.7.2008) and on 27.4.2009 (Government Gazette No 66 A /4.5.2009) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum

19. Board Games Supervisory and Control Committee (E.E.E.P.)
20. Committee for Accounting Automation and Inspections (E.L.T.E.)
21. Projects of the Hellenic Railways Organization S.A. (ERGA O.S.E. A.E.)
22. Thermal Buses S.A. (E.THE.L. A.E.)
23. Hellenic Touristic Development Company (E.T.A. A.E.)
24. Water Supply and Sewerage Company S.A. (E.YD.A.P. A.E.)
25. Thessaloniki Water Supply and Sewerage Company S.A. (E.YD.A.TH. A.E.)
26. Athens Piraeus Electric Railways S.A. (I.S.A.P. A.E.)
27. Athens Piraeus Electric Buses S.A. (I.L.P.A.P. A.E.)
28. Social Security Foundation – Single Insurance Fund of Employees (I.K.A. – E.T.A.M.)
29. Hellenic Public Real Estate Corporation S.A. (K.E.D. A.E.)
30. Olympic Airlines S.A. (O.A. A.E.)
31. Olympic Airways Services S.A. (O.A.Y. A.E.)
32. Labourer’s Union (O.E.E.)
33. State Employment Services (O.A.E.D.)
34. Athens Urban Transport Organization S.A. (O.A.S.A. A.E.)
35. Insurance Organisation for the Self – Employed (O.A.E.E.)
36. Organization of Agricultural Vocational Education Training and Employment (O.G.E.E.K.A.) “DIMITRA”
37. Agricultural Insurance Organization (O.G.A.)
38. Workers Housing Organization (O.E.K.)
39. Thessaloniki Port Authority S.A. (O.L.TH. A.E.)
40. Piraeus Port Authority S.A. (O.L.P. A.E.)
41. Hellenic Railways Organization S.A. (O.S.E. A.E.)
42. Banks and Public Utility Enterprises Employees’ Insurance Fund (T.A.Y.T.E.K.O.)
43. Bank Employees’ Single Insurance Fund (E.T.A.T.)
44. Civil Servants’ Supplementary Insurance Fund (T.E.A.D.Y.)
45. Private Sector Supplementary Insurance Fund (T.E.A.I.T.)
46. Civil Servants’ Welfare Fund (T.P.D.Y.)
47. Public Sector Welfare Fund (T.A.P.I.T.)
48. Transport – Passengers and Cargo Transport Services Railway Company S.A. (TRAINOSE A.E.)
49. TRAM S.A.
50. Bank of Greece S.A.

*7. In case the participation of the Greek State in the stock capital, including that held by public law legal entities, is reduced in a percentage lower than 50%, or if the administration of companies mentioned in paragraph 6 is not appointed by the Greek State, the present article, with the exception of the Bank of Greece, does not apply.

*Article 49B

The Committee on State-owned Enterprises, Banks, Public Utility Enterprises and Social Security Agencies may call to a hearing the Chairmen or also the Managing Directors of companies in which the participation of the Greek State, including the participation of public law legal entities, comes up to at least 10%, and also the Chairmen of organizations and legal entities of private law of which the administration is appointed by the Greek State.

Parliamentary Friendship Groups

* Added on 25.6.2008 by a decision of the Parliament’s Plenum (Government Gazette No 126 A /2.7.2008)

*Article 49C

1. By a decision of the Speaker of Parliament, following a written request of the Members of Parliament, Parliamentary Friendship Groups are established in which members of all Parliamentary Groups participate to the possible extent.
2. The presidium of the Parliamentary Friendship Groups consists of the President, the Vice President and the Secretary and is composed by the Speaker of Parliament taking into account the strength in numbers of Parliamentary Groups.
3. The task of the Parliamentary Friendship Groups is to enhance parliamentary diplomacy at an international bilateral level and to promote and disseminate the Country's positions on national and international issues.
4. To Parliamentary Friendship Groups apply *mutatis mutandis* paragraphs 2 and 3 of article 49.

CHAPTER 9: ORDER OF THE DAY**Composition and distribution**

Article 50

- *1. When they exercise legislative work (according to article 72§2 of the Constitution) or parliamentary control, the Plenum, the Recess Section and the standing committees are convoked to a sitting according to the order of the day, as it is presented by the Speaker.
- *2. The order of the day of the Plenum and of the Recess Section of the Parliament is composed at the end of every week and contains the subjects to be discussed in the sittings of the following week.
3. The special order of the day is composed for the Plenum and concerns matters specified in article 51 paragraphs 3 and 4.
4. The order of the day is distributed to MPs and is situated at the Parliament's announcement board at least two days ahead of the day of the first sitting.
- *5. In urgent or extraordinary cases, especially after intercalary sittings during a holiday, the order of the day can be distributed without the restrictions of the previous paragraph.
6. A complementary order of the day of the Plenum or the Recess Section of the Parliament is composed when demanded by the requirements of parliamentary work and in such case it is distributed without the restrictions of paragraph 4.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).

Content

Article 51

1. To the order of the day of the Plenum enter: a) bills and law proposals that are entered for discussion and voting or for voting as a whole only, b) means of parliamentary control, c) any other subject that falls into the Parliament's competence.

2. To the order of the day are not entered: a) MPs' requests for leave of absence, b) oaths taken by individual MPs during a parliamentary term, c) announcements of article 63 of the Speaker of the Parliament.

*3. To the special order of the day enter: a) MPs' oath at the beginning of the parliamentary term and requests for their prosecution according to articles 61 and 62 of the Constitution, b) the election of the Speaker and of the members of the Presidium, motions of censure against the Speaker of Parliament or a member of the Presidium, c) projects of altering the provisions of the Standing Orders, d) motion for the issuing of the Parliament's permission on the extension of the effects of a decree that puts the country in a state of siege (according to article 48 of the Constitution), e) the announcement of the Government's declarations on general policy and the responses of Members of Parliament to them, motions of confidence and censure against the Government or its members and motions for indictment against members of the Government and Deputy Ministers (according to article 86 of the Constitution), f) motions on establishing the incapacity of the Prime Minister to discharge his/her duties (according to article 38 §2 of the Constitution), g) the election and oath of the President of the Republic, motions on establishing the incapacity of the President of the Republic to discharge his/her duties (article 34 §2 of the Constitution) and motions of indictment against the President of the Republic (article 49 of the Constitution), h) proposals on the revision of the Constitution on the first two stages of the procedure as specified in article 110 of the Constitution.

*4. To the special order of the day of the previous paragraph may belong, when this is decided by the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen and is provided by the Standing Orders and the law, reports and findings (submitted by the Parliament's committees to the Plenum) on issues of utmost importance. To the special order of the day also enters any other issue which is not related to the legislative or oversight function of the Parliament and for which the Constitution, the Standing Orders and the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen specify or deem that a special discussion and resolution of the Parliament is necessary.

5. The special order of the day can contain more than one issue unless the Constitution or the Standing Orders determine differently.

Priority in entering issues to the order of the day

Article 52

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).

* Amended on 15.12.1997 (Government Gazette 258A/17.12.1997) and on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

1. The Speaker of the Parliament enters in priority issues which are provided by the Constitution or the Standing Orders or for which the Constitution and the Standing Orders set specific deadlines for their discussion and voting, or only for their discussion.
2. To the order of the day of the last Wednesday of every month enter in priority law proposals that are pending.

CHAPTER 10: SITTINGS

Days of sittings in the Plenum, the Recess Section of the Parliament and the standing committees

*Article 53

1. The Plenum of the Parliament convenes three times a week, every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for the transaction of legislative work and two times a week on Mondays and Fridays for the exercise of parliamentary control. The Plenum may convene by exception on any other day of the week.

*2. Parliamentary committees convene Monday from 14:00, Tuesday morning until 18:00, Wednesday afternoon and Thursday from 15:00 to 19:00 unless the Speaker determines differently.

This paragraph takes effect from the B' Session of the IB' parliamentary term following a decision of the Speaker.

3. For the transaction of legislative work the Recess Section of the Parliament convenes at least three days a week indicated by the Speaker of the Parliament.

4. At the start of every session or when the requirements of parliamentary work demand it, the Parliament may, after a relevant proposal by the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen, determine specific sitting days of the Plenum, different from those specified in paragraph 1 of the present article.

Commencing times of sittings

*Article 54

**1. The sittings of the Plenum commence Monday and Tuesday at 18:00, Wednesday at 10:00, Thursday at 9:30 and Friday at 10:00.

* Amended on 13.10.2000 (Government Gazette 230A/25.10.2000) and on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) and its provisions renumbered by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

* Amended on 25.6.2008 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 126A/2.7.2008).

* Paragraph 2 repealed and the provisions renumbered on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).

** Amended on 25.11.1993 (Government Gazette 200A/26.11.1993), on 13.10.2000 (Government Gazette 230A/25.10.2000) and on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126A/2.7.2008) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

2. The commencing times of the sittings of the Recess Section are set through a decision of the Speaker who is responsible for the Section's composition.

3. In exceptional cases the Parliament may, following the Speaker's proposal, set a different commencing time from that specified in previous paragraphs.

***4. Except for exceptional circumstances, the sittings of the Plenum and the Recess Section are not prolonged beyond midnight.

Distribution of Parliamentary work in the Plenum sittings

Article 55

*1. Questions can be debated at the sittings of legislative work. The debate is held at the beginning of the sitting and cannot last less than an hour and more than one and half-hours.

2. In the sittings of parliamentary work, voting of bills and law proposals as a whole is allowed. By a unanimous opinion of the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups, which is endorsed by the Parliament, the discussion and voting of urgent bills, before or after the exercise of parliamentary control, is allowed.

Publicity of sittings and audience obligations

Article 56

1. The Plenum and the Recess Section of the Parliament convene in the Chamber of the House.

**2. The sittings of the Plenum, the Recess Section and the standing committees are public without prejudice to the provisions of the following article and of article 38.

*3. Citizens may be present at the sittings of the Plenum, the Recess Section and the standing committees provided they have been supplied with a necessary permit of entry. Citizens watch the sittings from the "general" loges of the chamber room.

4. Permits of entry are signed by the Speaker of Parliament or by specially authorized personnel. Permits are handed to Parliamentary Groups in the order of their strength and distributed by MPs.

5. Entry to the special lodges is regulated by the Speaker of the House.

*** *Added on 20.6.1996 (Government Gazette 151A/8.7.1996) and amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.*

* *Amended on 20.6.1996 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 151A/8.7.1996).*

** *Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).*

* *Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).*

6. It is forbidden for individuals in the audience to carry weapons, explosive material or any other dangerous object. The Speaker may order a body search, deny the entry or oust from the chamber room any suspicious person.

7. Individuals in the audience should have a civilized appearance, keep silent and prevent from smoking. It is also forbidden to openly express approval or disapproval by jeer or yelling or in any other way through the entire duration of the sitting.

8. Any individual in the audience who does not comply with the above paragraph is expelled from the lodges by the Speaker's order. In cases of severe breaches the Speaker refers to the competent authorities.

9. If there are loud disturbances from the audience and order cannot be maintained in any other way, the Speaker instructs the evacuation of the lodge from where the noise is located and – through the Parliament's consent- the evacuation of all lodges.

10. If anyone in the chamber room employs verbal abuses against the President of the Republic, Members of Parliament and the Government, against the Parliament, the Government and Justice, against any known religion or proceeds with other punishable acts is immediately arrested and referred to the authorities.

*11. The Speaker of Parliament establishes by his decisions all necessary measures to be taken for the observance of order in the chamber and all other rooms of the Parliament without obstructing the right of citizens to be present at sittings.

Closed sittings

Article 57

*1. The Plenum of the Parliament and the Recess Section can decide to convene in a closed sitting following the Government's request or proposal, which is co-signed by at least fifteen (15) MPs.

2. The request or proposal for a closed sitting is entered for discussion within 5 days the latest from the date of its submission. To the discussion participate: the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups, the first among the MPs who sign the proposal, each for fifteen (15) minutes of the hour and the Government.

3. The closed sitting continues without interruption. At the end of this sitting the Parliament decides whether to repeat the discussion on the same subject in an open sitting. The Parliament also decides on the publication or not of the Minutes of the closed sitting.

4. In closed sittings the entry and presence to the room of any other person is forbidden. The Minutes of those sittings are kept by Secretaries of the Parliament with the aid of younger MPs appointed by the Speaker.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).

5. The general rules that are in force in public sittings are applicable to closed sittings (if they are compatible with their nature) and are not amended by the provisions of this article.

*6. Standing committees may convene in a closed sitting following a Government's request or a proposal of five (5) MPs. The request or proposal for a closed sitting is entered for discussion within three (3) days the latest from its submission. To the discussion participate: the first MP between those that sign the proposal one MP from the rest of Parliamentary Groups and the Government, each for five (5) minutes of the hour.

For all other issues paragraphs 3,4 and 5 of the present article apply.

Participation and presence in the sittings

Article 58

1. MPs and members of Government participate in the sittings of the Plenum.

*2. At the sittings of the Recess Section participate those MPs who are members of the Section. Members of Government and Presidents of Parliamentary Groups who are not regular or substitute members of the Section may participate without voting rights.

3. At the sittings of standing or special committees the right to participation belongs to the MPs who are members of the committees. Members of Government and Presidents of Parliamentary Groups may participate without voting rights.

*4. Without prejudice to the following paragraph, MPs who are not regular or substitute members may participate without a voting or speaking right to the sittings of the Recess Section and to the sittings of the standing and special committees.

*5. MPs who are not members of the Recess Section or the standing committee which is responsible for the discussion and voting of bills and law proposals according to article 72§2 of the Constitution have a right to speak at the debate in principle in order to support additions or amendments that themselves have submitted. They may also speak during the debate on current interpellations that they have submitted.

Proclamation of commencement, termination and recess of sittings

Article 59

1. The Speaker proclaims the commencement of the Parliament's sitting and with the Parliament's consent the Speaker proclaims its termination.

* Added on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).

* Added on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) and amended on 27.4.2009 (Government Gazette 66A/4.5.2009) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

2. Before the announcement on the termination of the sitting, the Speaker informs the Parliament on the day, the time and the subject of the order of the day of the next sitting.
3. The Speaker can suspend the sitting for a specific period of time, which is announced in Parliament.
4. In case the sitting is very noisy and the Speaker cannot maintain the order, he/she is standing, warning MPs that he/she is obliged to suspend the sitting. If order is still not maintained the Speaker suspends the sitting for a specific period of time which is announced at the Speaker's decision for suspension. During the suspension MPs leave the chamber room.

Entry and presence to the chamber room

Article 60

1. The right of entry and presence to the chamber room belongs only to those who participate or are present at the sittings, as well as the competent employees of the Parliament who are on service in accordance with the Speaker's orders.
2. Following a relevant request of the competent Minister, the Speaker of Parliament may allow the entry and presence to the chamber room to all necessary service and associate employees.
3. Following a relevant request by the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups the Speaker may allow the entry and presence to the chamber room of employees working at the Groups' services.
4. Permits of entry and presence to the chamber rooms are issued especially for persons referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3.

Transcription, ratification and publication of Minutes

Article 61

1. Speeches and everything that takes place during the sittings is transcribed 'word for word' and published in special issues under the title 'Minutes of the Parliament'.
2. Minutes are transcribed via the stenographic system or any other modern technical system that the Speaker specifies in a relevant decision.
3. Every speaker reviews, before their printing, the Minutes that contain his/her speech. For this purpose speakers may take exact transcripts of the Minutes one hour from the end of the sitting to 10:00 of the next day in order to review their speech and return the transcripts to the competent services of the Parliament. Transcripts should be returned until 21:30 on the day that follows the sitting.

4. Reviewing consists of checking the exact transcription of speeches. Correction of phrasal or numbering mistakes is allowed. Additions or alterations to what has been said is not allowed; if different, the competent service of the Parliament is obliged to report this to the President that directed the sitting. The President can decide irreversibly on accepting or not any additions or alterations.

5. When speakers omit the reviewing of the transcripts which contain their speeches within the deadline set in paragraph 3, the task is accomplished by the competent service of the Parliament.

6. Within eight days, the latest, from the day of the relative sitting, the final transcripts of the Minutes are printed and distributed to MPs.

7. Following the Speaker's proposal, the Parliament ratifies the Minutes without voting. The Minutes which are distributed during the sitting are ratified at the end of the same or the next sitting. Minutes that have been distributed and refer to older sittings are ratified at the beginning or during the sitting.

*8. Possible objections on specific subjects of the Minutes are expressed at the announcement of the Speaker's proposal on their ratification and within five (5) minutes of the hour. After providing all necessary clarifications the Speaker invites the Parliament's consent on the correction or not of the Minutes. If objections are still raised, the Minutes are ratified by voting which is held by raising a hand or standing and without a debate.

9. In cases of matters of an urgent nature or when an interruption of the Parliament's work is imminent, the Parliament may authorize the Speaker to ratify the Minutes under his/her responsibility.

*10. The Minutes that have been ratified in accordance to the above three paragraphs are signed by the Speaker of the Parliament or the Deputy Speaker who had the direction of the ratifying sitting. They are also signed by the Secretaries who took part in the sitting.

CHAPTER 11: Debates

General Provisions

Article 62

1. The Parliament may discuss only matters included in the order of the day and in the order of their appearance unless otherwise stated in other provisions of the Standing Orders.

2. Speech is unhindered.

3. Yet no one is able to speak:

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).

- a) On any subject without the prior permission of the Speaker.
- b) On any subject that is not included in the order of the day unless otherwise stipulated explicitly by other provisions of the Standing Orders.
- c) For more than two times on the same subject unless otherwise provisioned by the Standing Orders. One may speak for a third time only after the Speaker's suggestion and the Parliament's relative consent.

4. To the speaking time set out by the Standing Orders belong all interruptions that appear with the speaker's consent.

*5. If not otherwise stated by the Constitution or the Standing Orders, the discussion is not terminated until all registered speakers deliver their speech provided they are not absent at the announcement of their names or resigned from their speaking right. Subsequently the Speaker declares the discussion completed.

Speeches of Heads of States, Heads of Governments and internationally acclaimed persons in Parliament

*Article 62A

Heads of States, Heads of Governments and internationally acclaimed persons may address the Parliament following a Speaker's proposal, an opinion by the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen and a Plenum's resolution.

Announcements of the Speaker before the Parliament

Article 63

1. Immediately after the declaration on the commencement of the sitting and before the commencement of the discussion on the issues of the order of the day the Speaker announces to the Parliament:

- a) Any matter with outmost national importance.
- b) The submission of bills and law proposals, reports of the parliamentary committees, plans and proposals on the alteration of the Standing Orders and proposals on the revision of the Constitution.
- c) Acts and proposals of the Speaker of the Parliament and of the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen whose announcement is deemed necessary by the Speaker or imposed by the provisions of the Standing Orders.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).

* Added on 25.6.2008 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 126A/2.7.2008).

- d) Reports submitted by MPs or communicated by the presidium.
 - e) Proposals related to the mission and operation of the Parliament.
 - f) Information that is of the Parliament's interest or documents addressing it, only when the Speaker deems necessary.
2. Documents of any type that have been composed in an indecent and offensive manner, are anonymous or carry illegible signatures are not announced in the Parliament.
3. According to paragraph 1, a discussion on the content of the Speaker's announcements is not allowed unless those announcements refer to festive or unfortunate events. In such cases, members of the Government or Presidents of Parliamentary Groups may speak for a short time.

Order of Speakers

*Article 64

1. Speeches are delivered in accordance to their entry in the list of speakers. Without prejudice to the following paragraph and to the speaking right of the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups (or their substitute deputies), Presidents of Parliamentary Groups may speak outside the above order of entry.

*2. In the debates of bills and law proposals competent Ministers take the floor should they pose such request. If not, priority is given to rapporteurs, special speakers and six (6) MPs in the order of their registration. Speakers interchange with the exception of paragraph 4 of article 65. At this stage speakers may intervene once for approximately four (4) minutes and Presidents of Parliamentary Groups and their substitute deputies for approximately two (2) minutes.

**3. When the floor is requested by the President of a Parliamentary Group or a deputy representative of another Parliamentary Group, priority is given to the President.

When a particular critique is directed against a Parliamentary Group in a Minister's speech (through his/her comments, positions and opinions) priority is given to the deputy representative (should he/she requests the floor) of this Parliamentary Group in order to provide a response to such critique.

Registration to the list of speakers

Article 65

*1. An MP that requests the floor also requests in person from the Speaker of Parliament his/her entry to the list of speakers. By a decision of the Speaker of Parliament an entry to the above list may also be electronic.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).

* Amended on 27.4.2009 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 66A/4.5.2009).

** Added on 27.4.2009 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 66A/4.5.2009).

2. The registration to the list of speakers takes place at the beginning of a debate unless otherwise stated in the Standing Orders.
3. Entries to the list of speakers remain valid even after an interruption of the debate of a subject for which the entry took place.
4. Alterations to the order of registering to the list of speakers are not allowed unless otherwise stated in the Standing Orders.
- **5. Following a proposal of the Speaker of Parliament or of the President of a Parliamentary Group, the Parliament, in matters of general interest and especially of articles 123, 141, 142 and without prejudice to article 64§2, may decide on the interchange between speakers or on the submission of a list of speakers on behalf of the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups by an interchange as well and by exception from the previous paragraph.

Manner of speech

Article 66

- *1. Speeches are delivered from the podium or the MPs' seats. To the podium corresponds an allocated speaking time that exceeds seven (7) minutes.
2. The Speaker of Parliament exercises his speaking right only from the Speakers' podium. In case he/she wishes to speak on the substance of a specific matter he/she offers the podium to the Deputy Speaker and cannot return to it until the finalization of the debate.
3. Members of Government and Presidents of Parliamentary Groups speak only from the podium.
4. Speakers remain standing at the Parliament and seated at the committees. In special occasions the Speaker may allow the opposite.
5. Speakers address the Parliament exclusively and never an MP or MPs. From their seat they address the Speaker and from the podium the Parliament.
- *6. Written speeches are not allowed, with the exception of the Government's declarations on general policy, responses to them and opening speeches of rapporteurs, special speakers, competent Ministers and their deputies in the debate in principle of a bill or law proposal. Nonetheless the use of notes for reminding or highlighting particular subjects (especially in debates concerning the budget) is allowed.

* Amended on 20.6.1996 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 151A/8.7.1996).

** Added on 20.6.1996 (Government Gazette 151A/8.7.1996) and amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) and on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126A/2.7.2008) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

* Amended on 25.11.1993 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 200A/26.11.1993).

7. Conversations are not allowed. Interruptions are allowed only by the speakers themselves and by the Speaker's consent. In such occasions interruptions cannot exceed a duration of five (5) minutes without an equal extension of another five minutes to the original speaking time.

8. A speaker may not divert from the subject under discussion. If not, the Speaker of Parliament requests the return to the original subject-matter. In case the speaker does not conform he/she is advised by the Speaker of Parliament on the possibility of being cut off. In case the speaker still does not conform he/she is being cut off.

9. The Speaker cuts off an MP when the latter takes the floor and refers to matters that are irrelevant to the subject contained in the order of the day or when he/she takes the floor without permission or continues the speech despite the Speaker's call on its termination.

10. In any instance of a breach of the above three paragraphs the Speaker of Parliament forbids the entering of the relative speeches into the Minutes. When the speaker MP insists of continuing the speech the Speaker of Parliament calls the MP to order.

When the speaker MP still does not conform to the Speaker's promptings the Parliament may decide, either by standing or raising a hand on forbidding any further participation of the speaker MP to the discussion of the subject specified in the order of the day.

Incidental issues

Article 67

1. Incidental, is an issue that emerges at the process of parliamentary business and according to the provisions of the Standing Orders obstructs or affects the discussion or the decision on the central subject.

2. Incidental issues are mainly the following: a) the reason for the infringement of a specific provision of the Standing Orders, b) the reason of not conforming to the specific arrangement of the order of the day, c) the motion on the postponement of the debate on any subject, d) the motion on prioritizing other subjects of the order of the day.

3. The reasons a) and b) of the previous paragraph are submitted in writing to the Speaker of Parliament by at least 2 MPs. In any other case, incidental issues are also proposed in writing by at least 1/30th of the total number of MPs. The floor is taken by the first MP who signs the proposal.

4. Competent Ministers and Presidents of Parliamentary Groups may invoke orally an incidental issue.

5. Anyone who raises an incidental issue is obliged in 2 minutes to define and support the issue on a specific provision of the Standing Orders otherwise the Speaker rejects the invocation. In case the Speaker approves the invocation it allows the MP to elaborate the issue in five (5) minutes of the hour.

6. An examination of the incidental issue precedes the debate and voting of its main subject. An invocation of an incidental issue is not allowed after the commencement of a voting on the main subject-matter of the issue.

7. The Speaker of Parliament resolves on incidental issues. When objections are raised the House resolves either by standing or raising a hand and without further discussion.

Personal issues

Article 68

1. A personal issue is defined by a censure that contains abusive conduct against an MP or a member of Government. A personal issue is also defined as the attribution of an opinion other than the one claimed to be expressed. A personal issue may be invoked and managed in the same sitting in which it has emerged.

2. Anyone invoking a personal issue against her/his person asks the Speaker of Parliament the permission to speak. This request cannot be submitted before the termination of the speech that instigated the revocation.

3. If the Speaker of Parliament deems that there does not exist a personal issue he/she denies the floor.

4. If the MP that raises the issue insists and certain doubts appear the Speaker addresses directly the House. When the House or the Speaker deem that the floor can be taken, the MP is called to develop for one (1) minute the particulars of the personal issue.

5. In the affairs of the previous paragraphs a debate is not allowed.

6. When after the elaboration of the personal issue (according to paragraph 4) the Speaker or the House decides to offer the floor the aggrieved MP has the right to speak: a) on a matter of censure after the end of the speech of the MP who posed the censure and b) on attributing a different opinion from the one expressed at the end of the discussion of the main subject and in any case at the end of the sitting.

7. The elaboration of the personal issue and of any explanations and clarifications provided by the person against whom a censure is directed cannot exceed a duration of five (5) minutes for each.

8. The Speaker of Parliament resolves on the existence or not of a personal issue. When the aggrieved MP insists, the Parliament votes by standing and without a debate.

9. If it is deemed that a personal issue exists, the Speaker calls the person who raised the issue to recall or refute the motion. At his/her denial, the provisions of articles 77 to 81 are implemented.

10. The member of Parliament or of the Government who is accused of any actions or omissions that offend his/her reputation or honor may request through a written statement the establishment of an investigation committee.

11. The discussion of the request of the above paragraph is finalized in one sitting. In it, participate the following: the person who requests the establishment of the committee, members

of Government and Presidents of Parliamentary Groups. The relative decision of the Parliament is taken through a secret vote and with the required (by article 67 of the Constitution) majority.

12. For the operation and establishment of the aforementioned committee the provisions of articles (on investigation committees) 144 to 148 are implemented.

CHAPTER 12: VOTINGS

General provisions

Article 69

1. The Speaker of Parliament proclaims the commencement and termination of every voting procedure.
2. Following the commencement of the voting procedure and until this procedure is finalized no debate is allowed including one concerning a reasoned vote. Any remark on the observance of the Standing Orders is acceptable only after the announcement of the voting results.
3. During the voting process only the Speaker of Parliament may intervene for securing the regularity of the process.
4. The confirmation on the presence or not of the required (by the Constitution or the Standing Orders) number of MPs for the conduct of the voting process and for taking the relative decisions, belongs to the Speaker of Parliament.
- *5. During the voting procedures at the Recess Session and the standing committees, MPs who are present at the sittings and do not participate as regular or substitute members withdraw to the back benches of the room.
6. The result of the vote is announced by the Speaker of Parliament and enters the Minutes.

Manners of voting processes

Article 70

- *1. Without prejudice to article 70A, MPs' votes are personal.
2. Votes are either open or secret. If there is no provision for the contrary, a vote is open.
3. An open vote is held by standing or raising a hand or by roll call. In a secret vote a ballot is used.
4. A voting may also be held by electronic means and in a way that does not compromise the secrecy of vote.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).

Voting of MPs that are in the Parliament's or Government's mission abroad

*Article 70A

MPs who are in the Government's or the Parliament's mission abroad, can participate to a voting when the latter is held by a roll call or when a special majority is required. The vote may be sent by letter or facsimile which must bear the MP's signature and a relevant mention of the subject under vote. In particular, on bills and law proposals MPs vote in principle, by article, on amendments and additions and as a whole. The letter or facsimile makes reference to the title of the bill or law proposal which is under discussion and voting, as well as to articles, amendments and additions. In the same way they may take part in a petition of a vote by roll call (according to article 72 paragraph 1,a') in which case a personal presence is not required during the announcement of the names of the MPs who sign the petition. They can, as well, participate in a secret voting through a sealed letter. The letter, the sealed letter and the facsimile are addressing (according to each case) the Speaker of Parliament.

Open voting by standing or raising hand

Article 71

1. A voting on any subject is held either by raising a hand or by standing unless the Constitution or the Standing Orders explicitly specify a different manner.
2. In a voting by raising a hand, MPs who support a motion are called by the Speaker to raise a hand. In a voting by standing they are called to stand.
- *3. Any objections on the result of a voting which has been held according to the above 2 paragraphs, may be presented in a written petition signed by at least one twentieth (1/20) of the total number of MPs and in accordance to the terms specified in the following article. Objections of this form may be posed only when the Constitution or the Standing Orders do not explicitly specify that a voting should be held by raising a hand or standing.

Voting by roll-call

Article 72

1. A voting by roll-call is held: a) under a signed petition of at least one twentieth (1/20) of the total number of MPs, b) under objections that have been presented according to article 71§3, c) when the Speaker deems necessary.
2. The names of the MPs who sign the petition of case 'a' above, are announced only after the end of the debate. The petition is considered un-submitted when the necessary number of MPs present (among those who sign the petition) is not attained.

* Added on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) and amended on 16.7.2010 (Government Gazette 139A/10.8.2010) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) by a decision of the Parliament Plenum.

3. When the above necessary number of MPs is met, or when the motion comes from the Speaker, the sitting is necessarily terminated followed by a relative announcement to the House. After ten minutes of this announcement the sitting is repeated. In it, the Speaker, after estimating the requirements of parliamentary business instead of proceeding with a roll-call voting, may dissolve the sitting.
4. A roll-call vote is either held by an electronic system of registering the names of MPs or by a call of each MP's name.
5. The Speaker instructs one MP from the Government and one from the Opposition to announce the list of MPs and count the votes. Before the announcement of the list the Speaker presents the House with the question expressed in the debated subject.
6. Following the announcement of his/her name, every MP expresses his/her choice by a 'Yes', 'No' or 'Present' while vote-collectors -each individually- take notice of every vote.
7. Following the announcement of all MPs' names the announcement of names is repeated for the MPs who were not present. Subsequently the Speaker asks whether any of the present MPs did not vote and proclaims the termination of the voting process. After such termination no one can vote.
8. Vote-collectors count the votes, which are in favour and those, which are against the proposal or the subject under vote. The result is announced by the Speaker of Parliament and enters the Minutes.
9. When the Constitution and the Standing Orders specify exactly the manner of voting, a voting is held compulsorily in the specified manner.

Voting by secret ballot

Article 73

1. A vote on the election of a person or on any issue that concerns a named person (MP or not) is secret, without prejudice to the provisions of article 140 of the Standing Orders.
2. Without prejudice to paragraph 4 of article 70, a secret voting is held by closed ballots. Before the commencement of the voting, each MP receives identical, white ballot papers and a sufficient numbers of blank ballot papers. The distributed papers should not bear any distinctive mark or insignia. A sufficient number of ballot papers is simultaneously placed next to the ballot-box and is available to MPs. Should envelopes are used, those are of the same colour and shape and totally non-transparent.
3. The MP notes by hand in one only side of the ballot paper the indication or the name of his/her choice or more names of those about to be elected – when this is specified-. She/he may also use blank ballot papers of the same size to those distributed, or pre-printed ballot papers of also the same size.
4. Before the commencement of the debate the Speaker instructs one MP from the Government and one MP from the Opposition to announce the list of names. He also instructs one MP from the Government and one MP from the Opposition to collect the votes casted.

5. Those instructed to announce the list take their seats next to the Speaker and those for the collection of votes take their seats next to the ballot-box.
6. The supervisory committee is composed by the Speaker and comprises the vote collectors, one Deputy Speaker and a Dean. The Deputy Speaker or the Dean presides over the committee.
7. On the stipulation that article 72 paragraphs 7 and 8 do not provide the contrary, its provisions are implemented in the commencement of the voting procedure, its termination and the announcement of the list of names.
8. After the announcement of her/his name, the MP proceeds to the ballot box and casts her/his vote while the vote collector announces the vote and those in charge of the list take note of the vote.
9. At the end of the voting process, MPs in charge of the list after comparing the number of MPs who voted with the number of the names on the list, co-sign a relevant record.
10. In a clearly visible place and close to the Presidium seats, vote-collectors count the votes in the ballot box. If numbers between votes and names do not agree, the process is repeated. If it is finally concluded that the number of votes casted is larger than the number of the names that appear in the list of those who have voted, a number of ballot papers equal to the number of the superfluous papers is destroyed.
11. The President of the supervisory committee announces to the members of the committee the content of each ballot paper while signing it. The content of every individual ballot paper is simultaneously recorded by each vote-collector. The records are compared and in cases of disagreement the process is repeated.
12. At the end of the casting process the supervisory committee signs the counting and collecting records. The records are co-signed by the Speaker and the Secretary General of the Parliament.
13. Ballot papers are destroyed after the authorization of the Minutes of the sitting on which the voting process was held.

MPs percentages, majorities, resolutions

Article 74

1. Wherever the Constitution or the Standing Orders determine a necessary percentage of MPs for the submission of a petition, for taking a decision or for any other reason, this percentage is estimated on the basis of the total number of the MPs of the Plenum or the Recess Section. In such cases and without prejudice to contrary provisions of the Constitution or the Standing Orders the fraction is omitted.
2. Wherever the Constitution and the Standing Orders require the absolute majority of the total number of MPs, such majority is estimated on the basis of the total number of seats in Parliament.

3. A proposal that was put under vote and does not acquire the majority provided by the Constitution and the Standing Orders is rejected.

4. The resolutions of the Parliament are announced by the Speaker with the phrases: “The Parliament adopted” or “The Parliament did not adopt”. A different phrasing is also possible.

CHAPTER 13: RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MPs – LIFTING OF PARLIAMENTARY IMMUNITY

General provisions

Article 75

1. MPs have the rights and responsibilities provided by the Constitution, the Standing Orders and the laws.

2. MPs enjoy an unlimited right in a conscientious expression of opinion and vote.

3. In the sittings of the Parliament MPs are obliged to: a) appear and behave in a manner that corresponds to the importance of their task, b) abstain from actions that hamper the regular progress of business, c) contribute individually to a respectable appearance of the Parliament.

Presence of MPs in sittings Leave of absence

Article 76

*1. MPs are obliged to be present at the entire duration of the sittings of the Plenum and of the Recess Section of which they are members.

**2. At every sitting a list is presented containing the names next to which a signature is to be placed. The reasons for absence as well as the ways of its confirmation are determined by a decision of the Speaker of Parliament and by the concordant opinion of the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen.

*3. A leave of absence is required when MPs are absent for more than five sittings a month or when they are away at a mission abroad on the days of Plenum and Recess Section sittings.

4. The leave of absence is supplied following a written application of the interested MP. The largest number of MPs who are allowed to be absent cannot exceed one sixth (1/6) of the total number of MPs.

*5. The absence, without permit, of an MP in more than 5 sittings of the Plenum, the Recess Section and the Committees is considered an unreasoned one and results in a deduction of 1/30th of the monthly remuneration for every sitting of absence.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) by a decision of the Parliament Plenum.

** Amended on 20.6.1996 (Government Gazette 151A/8.7.1996) and on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) by a decision of the Parliament Plenum.

6. The MP can provide explanations for her/his absence to the Speaker of Parliament. If she/he does not do so, or if the explanations are not satisfactory, the Speaker orders a reduction of the MP's remuneration as specified in the previous article.
7. The provisions of the present article are not implemented for MPs who are members of Government.

Observance of the Standing Orders – disciplinary measures

Article 77

1. MPs are obliged to abide by the Standing Orders and comply with the Speaker's directions.
2. MPs that believe that a colleague violates the Standing Orders do not address the violating person, but directly the Speaker, following the provisions of article 67§3.
3. The Speaker adopts disciplinary measures against any MP who violates the Standing Orders or behaves in an inappropriate manner at the sittings and debates of the Parliament.
4. A disorderly conduct is defined as follows: a) obstructing the regular progress of sittings or debates by producing noise and disorder in any way; b) disapproving or interrupting speakers without their consent or the consent of the Speaker; c) speaking without a prior permission by the Speaker; d) disorderly conduct by acts or deeds; e) showing disrespect towards the Presidium, the importance of parliamentary business and towards the Parliament's mission; f) non – compliance to the Speaker's instructions; g) the use of offensive language against the honor and integrity of the President of the Republic, of Members of Parliament and its Presidium and of members of Government; h) contempt towards the Constitution and institutions of the polity by words or deeds.
5. [Disciplinary measures against MPs for disorderly conduct are the following: a) recall to order; b) deprivation of the right to speak; c) censure for un-parliamentary conduct; e) temporary exclusion from sittings.
6. Without prejudice to article 81§3 disciplinary measures are enforced in the same sitting in which unaccepted or disorderly conduct occurs.

Recall to order

Article 78

1. The Speaker warns, before recalling to order the MP who has displayed an unaccepted or disorderly conduct (as such behaviour is specified in paragraph 4 of article 77).
2. A recall to order is not enforced insofar as the MP retracts from his words or expresses her/his regrets or provides satisfactory explanations of her/his behaviour.

** Amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) by a decision of the Parliament Plenum.*

3. When after her/his recall to order the MP proceeds into a satisfactory redress, the Speaker instructs the deletion from the Minutes of all details of disorderly conduct, of recall to order and of the relative discussion.

Denial of speech

Article 79

1. If the MP that has been recalled to order continues with her/his improper conduct, the Speaker may deny the MP's right to speak until the end of the debate on the specific issue in which such conduct has occurred. In exceptional circumstances the Parliament denies the right to speak until the end of the sitting.

2. Before denying the speech of an MP the Speaker rises from his/her seat and orders the MP to discontinue with the inappropriate behavior. In case of non-compliance the Speaker announces the penalty of denial.

Censure for un-parliamentary conduct

Article 80

1. In exceptionally serious occasions the Speaker instead of exercising any disciplinary measures may submit a motion of censure against an MP who maintains an un-parliamentary conduct as specified in paragraph 4 of article 77.

2. Following the Speaker's motion the MP has a maximum of five (5) minutes to provide explanations of his conduct. If the Speaker holds on the motion the Parliament resolves by standing or raising a hand and without a debate.

3. The acceptance of the above motion results *ipso jure* in the reduction of one forth (1/4) of the monthly remuneration of the MP that has conducted him/herself in a disorderly manner.

Temporary exclusion from sittings

Article 81

1. A temporary exclusion from sittings is enforced to the MP that: a) insists on a disorderly conduct regardless of the Parliament's motion against it, b) imposes or attempts to impose by the use of violence or by the threat of violence the action or the omission of action that appertains to the mission of an MP or of the Parliament, c) obstructs with intent and with any other way the conduct of a free and unhindered voting.

2. Immediately following the perpetration of the acts of the above paragraph the Speaker may order the deposition of the MP or request necessary explanations. When these are not given the Speaker orders the deposition.

3. The Parliament following the Speaker's proposal or the proposal of one twentieth (1/20) of the total number of its members, may extend the deposition for a maximum of 15 days. The relevant decision is taken by raising a hand, following a hearing by an MP that supports the

proposal, an MP who is against it and the offender MP. Each may speak for a maximum of ten (10) minutes.

4. The exclusion of an MP from the Parliament's sittings results *ipso jure*: a) to the denial of speech in the sittings of the Plenum, the Recess Section and the Committees and b) to the reduction of a half (1/2) of the monthly remuneration.

5. The MP against whom a disciplinary exclusion has been enforced has the right to participate in roll-call and closed votings. After the votings are held, the MP exits the chamber room.

6. The Speaker of Parliament, by the use of all available means gives the necessary orders for the execution of the decisions specified in paragraphs 2 and 3.

***Mutatis mutandis* implementation of provisions to the committees**

Article 82

1. The provisions of articles 77 to 81 as amended or added in the following clauses are *mutatis mutandis* implemented in the sittings of the Parliament's committees.

*2. The provisions of articles 67, 68, 93, 99, 100 and 106 are implemented *mutatis mutandis* to the sittings of the standing committees when the latter exercise legislative work under article 72 § 2 of the Constitution. In such case the percentages specified in articles 67, 93, 99 and 106 are determined to 1/10 of the total number of the committee members. The deputy Presidents of Parliamentary Groups who are not members of the committee may be present and take the floor but without voting rights (subject to article 97).

3. The exclusion of an MP from the committee sittings entails the deprivation of his/her right to participate in those sittings.

4. An MP that has been excluded from the sittings of the Parliament's committees has the right to participate in voting procedures. After the voting process the MP exits the sitting room.

Leave for prosecution

*Article 83

1. A request of the public prosecutor's office for a leave for prosecution of an MP (articles 61 §2 and 62 § 1 of the Constitution) after being assessed by the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court prosecutor, is submitted to the Parliament via the Minister of Justice. The request enters a special book in the order of its submission.

* Added on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) and amended on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126A/2.7.2008) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001), on 18.6.2003 (Government Gazette 161A/26.6.2003) and on 16.7.2010 (Government Gazette) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

2. The requests immediately after their submission are referred from the Speaker of Parliament to the Committee of Parliamentary Ethics (article 43A§1η').

3. The Committee invites for a hearing the MP for whom a leave for prosecution is requested. In at least three (3) days before the Committee's sitting, the Committee addresses an invitation for a hearing if the MP him/herself wishes to be heard. The Committee examines whether the request to waiver is related to the political or parliamentary activity of the MP, or whether it entails a biased intent. In such cases the committee denies the request.

4. The Committee does not examine the foundations of the accusation and prepares its report within the deadline set by the Speaker's referral document.
The Committee's report must be reasoned.

5. The Committee may request from the Government the supply of all documents necessary for its decision. The Government can deny such request only for reasons of national defense and security. In this case the Government hands the documents to the Speaker who informs the interested members on their content. When the whole process is finalized the documents are returned.

6. Petitions for waiver enter the order of the day of the Plenum following the submission of the committee's report.

In any case petitions enter compulsorily the order of the day at least 10 days before the elapse of the deadlines set by articles 61§2 and 62§1 of the Constitution. If there is not a timely submission of the Committee's report, the Speaker appoints one special orator from the majority and one from the minority in order to refer to the facts (only) mentioned in the petition.

7. The Parliament resolves either by standing or raising a hand on the request of the prosecutor's office according to the procedure specified in article 108§1 second subparagraph. The floor is taken firstly by the MP connected to the petition and by the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups or their deputies.

The provisions of articles 71 and 72 are accordingly applied.

8. A new petition for waiver based on the same actual facts is not acceptable.

SECOND PART

PROCEDURES OF PARLIAMENTARY WORK

CHAPTER 1: SUBMISSION OF BILLS, LAW PROPOSALS, AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS

Legislative initiative

Article 84

1. The right to introduce bills and law proposals belongs to Parliament and the Government.

2. MPs submit to Parliament law proposals, amendments and additions.

3. Competent Ministers submit to Parliament bills, amendments and additions.

Submission and content of bills and law proposals

Article 85

*1. Bills and law proposals are introduced to the Parliament and enter a special book in a chronological order and according to each ministry. Bills and law proposals are submitted on Thursdays, at 20:00 the latest.

2. Bills and law proposals should not include provisions that are irrelevant to their subject-matter.

*3. It is mandatory that bills and law proposals be accompanied by an explanatory report which must contain the reasons and the aims of the proposed provisions, as well as the entire text of those provisions that according to the bill or the law proposal are amended.

It is also mandatory that bills are accompanied by an impact assessment report and by a public consultation report that has preceded their submission. An impact assessment report and a public consultation report are not necessary when the bill falls within the framework of implementing the special legislative procedures of articles 111-112 and 114-123, or when the bill has been designated by the Government as urgent. In this last case the bill should be accompanied by a short evaluation report.

4. In the case of a partial amendment of a provision, the text of the bill or the law proposal should contain the entire provision as it is formulated by its amendment, according to article 74 § 4 of the Constitution.

**5. Following article 75 § 1 of the Constitution, every bill that entails a burdening of the budget should be accompanied by a report of the State General Accounting Office. Depending on the bill's content, it should also be accompanied by: a) a special report of the competent Minister and the Minister of Finance as specified in article 75 § 3 of the Constitution and b) the opinion provided by the Court of Audit in accordance to article 73§2 of the Constitution. Bills, with which European directives are harmonized to national law, are introduced along with any necessary element for an efficient discussion.

On bills whose content is concerned with labour relations, social security, taxation, the general socio-economic policy and in particular with issues of regional development, investments, exports, consumer protection and competition, the Economic and Social Committee (O.K.E.) expresses a reasoned opinion according to the first subparagraph of paragraph 2 of article 1 of law 2232/1994 (Government Gazette 140 A'). The opinion is submitted to the Speaker of Parliament, the latest until the beginning of the bills' discussion in the Plenum or in the Recess Section of the Parliament.

6. Every law proposal is communicated to the competent Ministers who are obliged to respond on whether the law proposal belongs to the limitations described in article 73§3 of the

* Amended on 16.7.2010 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 139A/10.8.2010)

* Amended on 16.7.2010 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 139A/10.8.2010)

** Amended on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126A/2.7.2008) and on 27.4.2009 (Government Gazette 66A/4.5.2009) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum

Constitution. The law proposal is also submitted to the State General Accounting Office which prepares a relevant report as specified in article 75 § 1 of the Constitution. The State General Accounting Office has an obligation to submit to Parliament a relevant report within fifteen days from the receipt of the proposal. Beyond this deadline, the law proposal is discussed without the report.

7. Bills, their explanatory report and the special report specified in article 75 § 3 of the Constitution are undersigned by the competent Ministers. When the Minister is replaced, introduced bills must be adopted by the new Minister either through a written statement to the Speaker of Parliament, or through an oral declaration to Parliament. Law proposals are signed by the MPs or the MP who submits them.

8. The submission of a bill or a law proposal is operative for the entire parliamentary term without prejudice to the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 of the following article.

Announcement, printing and distribution of bills and law proposals

Article 86

1. Bills and law proposals that are introduced to the Parliament are announced during the first sitting which follows their submission. Bills and law proposals are then printed and distributed to MPs along with the required (by the Standing Orders and the Constitution) reports and opinions.

2. Bills can be withdrawn by the Government before their voting as a whole.

3. Until the beginning of a vote in principle, MPs can withdraw a law proposal through a written statement addressed to the Speaker of the Parliament or through an oral declaration addressed to the Parliament.

4. At the beginning of each week or fortnight a detailed list containing introduced bills and law proposals is distributed. The list contains also the stage of their elaboration.

Submission of amendments

*Article 87

1. Additions and amendments are signed by the MPs and Ministers who submit them to the relevant office of the Parliament. Additions and law proposals enter a special book of continuous numbering according to the dates of their submission. On Fridays additions and amendments are submitted on 13.00 the latest.

A certification of the submission of amendments and additions is provided by the competent office of the Parliament which prepares at the end of the text a relative act stating the number, the date and the time of the submission.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) and on 16.7.2010 (Government Gazette 139 A/10.8.2010) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

2. Additions or amendments are introduced to the Plenum, the Recess Section or the competent standing committee at least three days before the commencement of the relevant debate. In case of a dispute, the Speaker addresses the Parliament which takes a final decision by standing or raising hands and without a debate.

Content, printing and distribution of amendments

Article 88

1. Amendments either modify specific articles and specific provisions of a bill or law proposal, or add new articles or provisions.

*2. The main text of amendments is preceded by a short explanatory report which contains the reasons that make necessary the proposed modifications. Amendments introduced by Ministers must contain a short impact assessment report.

3. Amendments should be connected with the main subject of a bill or law proposal.

4. Amendments that derive from the Parliament must be in agreement with the provision of article 73§3 of the Constitution.

5. When requested by competent Ministers, amendments that entail a burdening of the State budget are communicated, before their discussion in Parliament, to the General Accounting Office of the State. The General Accounting Office is obliged to present its report within three days from the receipt of the amendments. Beyond this deadline amendments can be discussed without the report.

6. Before the debate by article of the relative bill or law proposal, amendments are printed and distributed to MPs.

CHAPTER 2: REGULAR LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE

ELABORATION AND EXAMINATION-DISCUSSION AND VOTING OF BILLS AND LAW PROPOSALS IN THE COMMITTEES

Referral to the competent committee

Article 89

1. The Speaker of Parliament refers all bills and law proposals for elaboration and examination to the competent standing committee or to a special committee, which has been established for this reason.

*2. Bills and law proposals that belong to the competence of more than one ministry and more than one standing committee are referred for elaboration and examination to a committee that

* Amended on 16.7.2010 (Government Gazette 139 A/10.8.2010) by a decision of the Parliament Plenum.

* Amended on 25.6.2008 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 126A/2.7.2008)

according to the Speaker's judgment is competent for their central subject. The Speaker of Parliament may convoke to a common sitting two or more competent standing committees or standing committees with other committees or subcommittees. To this common sitting the oldest in service committee President, acts as President.

*3. In exempting paragraph 1 of the present article, the Speaker of Parliament may, with the concurrent opinion of the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen and after his/her evaluation of the requirements of legislative work, refer any bill or law proposal to any standing committee. In those cases and after a relevant decision of the Speaker of Parliament and the relevant proposals of the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups, members between different committees can be substituted. Similarly, through the concurrent opinion of the Conference, a bill or law proposal that falls within the provision of article 72§2 of the Constitution, may be entered for discussion and voting in the Plenum.

*4. At the referral of a bill or law proposal to any standing committee the Speaker may set a deadline within which the report of article 91§6 has to be submitted, or the debate and voting of the cases of article 70 §2 of the Constitution be completed.

5. The President of the competent committee, after advising with the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups, determines the majority and minority rapporteurs and calls the members of the committee into a sitting.

*6. The document with which the members of the committee are called into a sitting must state exactly the date and the time of the meeting, the bills and law proposals that are about to be discussed and examined as well as the names of the rapporteurs. This invitation must be communicated to all members of the committee at least three days before the day of the first sitting. In exceptional cases and after a previous agreement with the Speaker of Parliament, the invitation may be communicated at least two days before the commencing of the first sitting.

**7. The Speaker of Parliament may convoke the committee when the Order of the Day includes bills or law proposals for which article 70§2 of the Constitution is implemented. In such cases the Speaker of Parliament may, judging upon the requirements of legislative work, assign the direction of sittings - apart from the President and the Vice-President of the committee - to one or more Deputy-Speakers of the Parliament. Deputy-Speakers enjoy all the rights and responsibilities of a member of the committee but not the right to vote unless they subrogate for members of the committee that belong to the same parliamentary group.

The debate in principle may commence at least a week from the day of the submission of a bill or law proposal and only after following the provisions of articles: 73 paragraphs 2,3,5, 74 paragraphs 1,2,4,5, 75 paragraphs 1 and 3 of the Constitution and article 85 § 6 of the Standing Orders.

Number and duration of committee sittings

Article 90

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001)

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001)

* Amended on 20.6.1996 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 151A/8.7.1996)

** Added on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001)

*1. A bill or law proposal is elaborated and examined in two stages between which there is a distance of at least 7 full days. The first stage concerns the conduct of the debate in principles and by articles, while the second, the second reading of the bill or law proposal and the debate by each article. During the period between the two stages, the members of the committee may submit in writing to the President of the committee any proposals of improvement. The proposals are communicated to the competent Minister who considers them during the second reading. Following a recommendation of the competent Minister and if it is deemed necessary, the Committee may decide on the contraction of the period between the two stages when the second stage is at a distance of two days from the termination of the first. The elaboration and examination of bills and law proposals in two stages is not necessary in the case of the submission of an urgent bill or law proposal or in the case of implementing the special legislative procedures of articles 111 et seq.

*2. The total number of sittings for each standing committee is determined by its President following a prior agreement with the Speaker of Parliament. Committee sittings cannot exceed the number of 4. The first sitting is organized for a debate in principle. In the last sitting are conducted a second reading, a discussion and a voting by article. In cases of hearings of non-parliamentarians the voting in principle of a bill or law proposal is held at the end of the sitting or at the beginning of the next.

**3. In very exceptional cases and when the length and the importance of a bill or law proposal demands it, the committee may, upon the Speaker's approval, increase the total number of sittings to 5.

**4. In cases where the elaboration and examination of a bill or law proposal lasts for more than one sitting, the duration of every full sitting cannot be less than two hours or more than five.

*5. In the case that the above mentioned time framework is not sufficient for the finalization of the elaboration of the bill or law proposal, the committee without prejudice to article 89§4 may decide the extension of the duration of sittings or increase their number. For these extra sittings article 37§2 is not applied.

6. Every standing committee can elaborate and examine more than one bill or law proposal in the same sitting.

**7. The provisions of the present article are applicable for the cases where standing committees exercise legislative work according to article 70§2 of the Constitution.

Discussion in standing committees

* *Added on 16.7.2010 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 139A/10.8.2010). Amended on 15.12.2011 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 272A/31.12.2011).*

* *Amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) and on 16.7.2010 (Government Gazette 139A/10.8.2010) by a decision of the Parliament Plenum*

** *Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001)*

** *Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001)*

* *Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001)*

** *Added on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001)*

Article 91

1. Standing committees can determine the way of conducting discussions within the framework of the number of sittings and of any probable proposal or resolution for the hearing of non parliamentarians according to article 38.

*2. The determination of the procedure specified in the above paragraph is decided after a relevant proposal of the President of the committee. In the relevant discussion can take part: one MP from each Parliamentary Group and one from the group of the independents. Each MP participates for three (3) min.

3. If, for any reason the committee does not issue a resolution in accordance to previous paragraphs, the provisions of articles 95 to 103 are applied.

**4. According to article 70§2 of the Constitution an MP who is not a member of a standing committee can participate and speak for five (5) minutes in the debate in principle. An MP that has submitted a law proposal or an amendment can be present at the debate in the competent committee of which he/she is not a member, and may expound orally the law proposal for ten (10) minutes and the amendment for three (3) minutes.

5. A collective law proposal or amendment is presented orally by the MP who is appointed by the rest of the MPs who co-sign a relative statement to the Speaker of Parliament. In a different case it is presented by the MP who signs first the collective law proposal or amendment.

*6. After the examination and elaboration of a bill or law proposal, the competent standing committee prepares and submits to the Parliament a report signed by the President and the Secretary of the committee. The report contains the following: a) the number and duration of sittings, as well as the names of the MPs that participated in the examination and elaboration of bills and law proposals, b) the endorsement or rejection of a bill or law proposal or the resolution upon the cases of applying article 70§2 of the Constitution and c) the amendments that have been incorporated and - in cases of extensive changes – the final text of the bill or law proposal as it has been formulated by the committee and been accepted by the competent Minister, or as it has been voted by the committee in the cases of implementing article 70§2 of the Constitution.

7. The report of the standing committee is distributed to MPs at least two days before the first sitting which has been designated for the discussion of the bill or law proposal.

8. If the sitting is canceled or the debate postponed, or when the works of the parliamentary session are terminated, a new report is neither prepared nor the old one distributed.

Referral to the scientific service of the Parliament for legal-technical elaboration

Article 92

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001)

** Amended on 25.11.1993 (Government Gazette 200 A/26.11.1993) and on 6.12.2001(Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001)

1. Bills and law proposals can be committed to the scientific service for legal-technical elaboration according to the provisions of article 65§5 of the Constitution and article 162 of the Standing Orders.
2. Bills and law proposals are committed to the scientific service after a relative proposal of the competent committee to the Speaker of Parliament, or with no such proposal.
3. The scientific service elaborates from a legal-technical aspect the text of the bill or law proposal within the time-limit set by the Speaker of Parliament. The service prepares a relative report with its remarks.
- *4. The report of the scientific service is printed and distributed to MPs at least two days before the relative sitting of the committee.
5. The referral of bills and law proposals to the scientific service, as well as the non-submission of the service's report and the expiration of the deadline for its submission do not obstruct the entering of those bills and law proposals to the order of the day or to the relative debate.

B) ENTRY TO THE ORDER OF THE DAY AND PROCESS OF DEBATE

Entry to the order of the day

Article 93

1. Bills and law proposals enter the order of the day after the submission or the elapse of the deadline for the submission of the committee's report and only on the application of the provisions of articles 73 paragraphs 2,3 and 5, 74 paragraphs 1,2,4 and 5 and 75 paragraphs 1 and 3 of the Constitution.
2. Bills and law proposals enter the order of the day at an appropriate time, in order for the commencement of the debate in principle to be at least three days away from the day of the submission of the report or from the expiration of the deadline for the submission of the report of the competent committee.
3. The limitations of the previous paragraph do not take effect for a bill or law proposal that has been designated as urgent by the competent Minister.
4. Without prejudice to article 52, the Speaker of Parliament enters a bill or a law proposal to the order of the day. The Speaker also determines the order of the bill's or law proposals' entry.
5. The Parliament can, after an application of the competent Minister or an application of 1/30th of the total number of MPs, decide on the alteration of the discussion order of the bills and law proposals that have entered the order of the day.
- *6. In the debate related to the application of the previous paragraph participate: the competent Minister or one of the MPs that have submitted the application, one from those against it and

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001)

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001)

the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups, each for three (3) minutes of the hour. The relevant decision is taken either by standing or by raising a hand.

****7.** Without prejudice to paragraph 1 article 72 of the Constitution, a legislative work that has begun and interrupted due to the termination of the Session continues from the same stage to the Recess Section and the interrupted works of the Section continue from the Plenum of the Parliament.

Process of debate

***** Article 94**

*1. With the exception of cases described in paragraph 4 of article 72 of the Constitution and without prejudice to the following paragraph, bills and law proposals are debated and voted only once in principle, by article and as a whole according to the provisions of the present and the following articles.

*2. A voted bill or law proposal that is sent back to Parliament following article 42 of the Constitution is discussed and voted twice in the Parliament's Plenum in two different sittings with at least two days distance between them. In the first sitting a discussion and voting in principle and by article and in the second by article as a whole.

3. The debate in principle and by article is situated on the basis of the text of the bill or the law proposal as this has been finalized by the relevant committee.

4. For discussions and the issuing of resolutions the provisions of articles 50 to 83 are applied unless otherwise stated by the provisions of articles 95 to 107.

C) DISCUSSION AND VOTING IN PRINCIPLE

Content and commencement of the discussion in principle – order of speakers

Article 95

1. The debate in principle of a bill or law proposal refers exclusively to its goals and content.

*** Added on 20.6.1996 (Government Gazette 151A/8.7.1996) and amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001)*

**** Paragraph 3 repealed and the rest renumbered on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001)*

** Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001)*

** Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001)*

*2. The debate in principle of a bill begins with its oral presentation by the competent Minister. The debate in principle of a law proposal begins with its oral presentation by the MP who signs the law proposal. In cases where a law proposal is signed by more MPs the provisions of article 91§5 are applied. In the following process and without prejudice to article 64§2, speak the rapporteurs, the special orators and the MPs that registered with the list of speakers.

3. When rapporteurs are absent, the President may assign the presentation of a bill or law proposal to a member of the relevant committee.

Entry to the list of speakers of the debate in principle

Article 96

1. Entering the list of speakers of a debate in principle of a bill or law proposal is possible from the beginning of the debate to the end of the rapporteurs' speech.

2. The right at a second speech during the debate in principle belongs to those MPs that have registered with the list of speakers (as such registration is described in the previous paragraph) and only if the relevant MPs pose such requirement by the end of the debate in principle.

Speaking time in the debate in principle

Article 97

*1. In the debate in principle of a bill or law proposal speaking times cannot exceed:

- a) Seven (7) minutes for the MPs that have registered with the list of speakers.
- b) Fifteen (15) minutes for the rapporteurs and the special speakers and twelve (12) minutes for the substitute representatives of Parliamentary Groups.

*2. Upon the reservations of the previous paragraph, the speaking time of the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups cannot exceed fifteen (15) minutes of the hour and of Ministers ten (10) minutes of the hour.

*3. The speaking time cannot exceed twenty (20) minutes for the Presidents of those Parliamentary Groups whose power is at least one sixth (1/6) of the total number of MPs and

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001)

* Amended on 25.11.1993 (Government Gazette 200A/26.11.1993), on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) and on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126A/2.7.2008) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

* Amended on 25.11.1993 (Government Gazette 200A/26.11.1993), on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) and on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126A/2.7.2008) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

* Amended on 25.11.1993 (Government Gazette 200A/26.11.1993), on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) and on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126A/2.7.2008) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

eighteen (18) minutes for the competent Ministers. If a Deputy Minister requests the floor he/she is entitled for half of the time that a Minister is entitled.

**4. In extending the allocated time described in the previous paragraphs, Ministers and Presidents of Parliamentary Groups can speak whenever they request. Speeches last for five (5) minutes in the first time and three (3) minutes for the second time.

***5. At the second speech of the debate in principle of a bill or law proposal, the speaking time of the speakers of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 is limited to ½ of the duration of the first speech. At the debate in principle, the substitute representatives of Parliamentary Groups have the right for a third speech for three (3) minutes.

*6. With the exception of paragraph 4 article 143, former Prime Ministers that have acted as MPs and Party Leaders in Governments that have received a vote of confidence and do not participate in Government, may speak for fifteen (15) minutes for each time, whenever they request. The same right is enjoyed by former Speakers of Parliament. The latter can speak for ten (10) minutes.

**7. When, after the preceding oration of the President of a Parliamentary Group the President is substituted, his/her substitute may deliver a second speech for six (6) minutes and a third speech for three (3) minutes.

Special Speakers

Article 98

1. At the debate in principle of bills and law proposals every Parliamentary Group must appoint a special speaker. Parliamentary Groups whose power is at least equal to one fifth (1/5) of the total number of MPs may appoint up to two special speakers.

2. The appointment of special speakers takes effect after a relevant statement by the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups addressed to the Speaker of Parliament. The statement is submitted at the beginning of the debate in principle.

*3.

Evident completion of the subject matter

Article 99

** Amended on 25.11.1993 (Government Gazette 200A/26.11.1993), and on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

*** Amended on 25.11.1993 (Government Gazette 200A/26.11.1993) and on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126A/2.7.2008) and renumbered on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001)[paragraph 5 repealed] by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

* Added on 14.5.1991 (Government Gazette 82A/30.5.1991) and renumbered on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001)[paragraph 5 repealed] by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

** Added on 25.6.2008 by decisions of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 126A/2.7.2008).

* Repealed on 27.4.2009 by decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 66A/4.5.2009).

1. In the discussion in principle of a bill or law proposal the Parliament can decide, according to the terms specified in the following paragraphs, on the restriction of the allocated speaking-time of those who have registered with the list of speakers.
2. The limitation of the speaking-time can be requested by the one fifteenth (1/15) of the total number of MPs when the discussion of a subject has been evidently completed.
- **3. In the discussion of the proposal of the previous paragraph participate one of the MPs who sign the proposal and one MP from each Parliamentary Group. MPs speak for 3 minutes each. The relevant decision is taken either by standing or raising hand.
4. Following the decision on the restriction of the speaking time, the latter is limited to the one second (1/2) of the time provided for in article 97.
- *5. Presidents of Parliamentary Groups and Ministers are allowed a second speech for a duration that cannot exceed ten (10) minutes of the hour.

Matters of unconstitutionality

Article 100

1. At the stage of the debate in principle, the Speaker of Parliament and every MP or member of Government may request by the Parliament to resolve on specific objections raised about the constitutionality of a bill or law proposal.
2. To the debate of the above paragraph participate: one person among those that posed the objections, a person among those that oppose the proposal, the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups and competent Ministers, each for five (5) minutes of the hour. The relevant resolution is adopted either by standing or raising a hand.

D) DEBATE AND VOTING OF ARTICLES AND AMENDMENTS

Manner of debating and voting articles and amendments

*Article 101

1. The debate and voting of articles and any amendments commences after the debate in principle of a bill or law proposal.

*** Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).*

** Amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) and on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126A/2.7.2008) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.*

** Paragraph 5 is repealed and the rest renumbered on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) by a decision of the Parliament Plenum.*

2. The debate and voting of articles follows their successive sequence in the text of the bill or law proposal.
3. Amendments are debated and voted in common with the article to which they refer and according to the order of their submission. Amendments which are not related to a specific article are discussed and voted according to the order of their submission following the finalization of the debate by article.
4. The order of debate of an article or amendment can change only upon the Government's request.
5. Amendments that have been introduced in violation of the provisions of articles 73§3 and 75§2 of the Constitution are not entered for debate or voting. In case of a dispute, the Speaker addresses the Parliament which resolves exclusively by standing or raising hand and without a prior discussion.
- *6. Disputes (according to article 74 § 5 subparagraph c' of the Constitution) as to the relevance of the amendment to the main subject of a bill or law proposal, are submitted by the competent Minister or by a written statement signed by one tenth (1/10) of the total number of MPs. In the discussion of the disputes participate (per case): the competent Minister or the first of the MPs who sign the dispute or one from those that oppose it. Each speaks for three (3) minutes. The relevant resolution is adopted exclusively by standing or by raising a hand.
7. Amendments which result in the burdening of the budget are introduced only after the submission of the General Accounting Office's report or when the time-limit set in article 75 paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Constitution has elapsed.
8. The provisions of the Constitution and the Standing Orders which refer to amendments are also applied for additions.

Entry to the list of speakers in the debate by article

Article 102

1. The entry to the list of speakers in the debate by article can be requested at any time between the commencement of the debate and the termination of the speech of the fourth in order speaker.
2. Entries that take place after the end of the fourth speech and until the completion of the first speech of each article are considered second speeches as depicted in the following paragraph.
3. The right at a second speech in a debate by article belongs only to those who have delivered a first speech and when they request the exercise of such right until the end of the stage of second speeches.

* Amended on 6 .12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) by a decision of the Parliament Plenum.

4. The above paragraph is also applicable for those that have registered in time with the list of first speeches and have resigned from this right at the announcement of their name.

Speaking times in the debate by article

***Article 103**

1. In the debate by article, the duration of speech of those listed in the list of speakers cannot exceed four (4) minutes for first speeches and two (2) minutes for second speeches.

2. In the debate referred to in the previous paragraph, Ministers and Presidents of Parliamentary Groups can be heard whenever they request for four (4) minutes for the first time and three (3) minutes for every second time. Substitutes of the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups have also the right to speak for four (4) minutes for the first time and three (3) minutes for another two times.

*3. If by any exception the debate is situated according to sections of articles the speaking time of paragraphs 1 and 2 is doubled. Through a recommendation of its Speaker/President, the Parliament or the committee may decide on the further expansion of the speaking time.

E) VOTING AS A WHOLE

Time and manner of voting as a whole

Article 104

1. After voting for all articles and amendments follows the voting of a bill or law proposal as a whole.

2. When, during the discussion, new articles are added or amendments are adopted, the voting as a whole is postponed until the new articles and amendments are incorporated to the original text of the bill or law proposal.

3. New articles and amendments are incorporated to the initial text by the competent services of the Parliament and under the supervision of the Speaker and the collaboration of the competent Minister.

4. The newly articulated (according to the previous paragraph) text of the bill or law proposal is voted as a whole 24 hours after its distribution to MPs.

* Amended on 25.11.1993 (Government Gazette 200 A/26.11.1993) and on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284 A/18.12.2001) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

* Added on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284 A/18.12.2001) by a decision of the Parliament Plenum.

5. During the voting as whole of the new version of a bill or law proposal no further alteration is admissible. Alterations are approved when they exclusively concern: the correction of phrasal or legal-technical errors or omissions, the numbering of articles and provisions, references to other provisions and improvements in the use of language, syntax or grammar. These corrections and improvements should not affect the meaning of the text.
6. The final text of the bill or law proposal as it has been voted in its entirety enters the Minutes of the Parliament.
7. The Speaker of Parliament edits and transmits to competent Ministers a segment of the ratified Minutes which contains the text of the voted-as-a-whole bill or law proposal.

Reconsideration and voting of bills and law proposals that have been rejected by the Parliament

*Article 105

1. When a bill or law proposal has not received the minimum required number of votes (of the total number of MPs) as specified in articles 67 and 70 § 5 of the Constitution and is thereby rejected during the voting as a whole by the Plenum or the Recess Section of the Parliament, it can be re-entered for debate and voting in the same Session or in the Recess Section of the Parliament and on the condition that in the initial voting positive votes are more than negative ones.
2. The bill or law proposal of the above paragraph can be introduced to the Parliament no sooner than a month.

F) CLOSING OF THE DEBATE

Prerequisites and procedures

Article 106

1. Following a recommendation of one fifteenth (1/15) of the total number of MPs the Parliament can decide on the closing of the debate in principle or by article. Exemptions are: a) bills and law proposals that are debated in compliance to the provisions of articles 107, 109 and 110, b) bills and law proposals of electoral law, c) the State budget, d) proposals on the revision of the Constitution.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284 A/18.12.2001) by a decision of the Parliament Plenum.

2. The proposal on the closing of the debate in principle can be submitted only after the speech of at least twelve speakers. To this number are counted, if they have spoken, rapporteurs, special speakers and the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups.
3. In the discussion of the proposal of the above paragraph participate: one of the MPs that sign the proposal and one MP from each Parliamentary Group. Each speaks for five (5) minutes of the hour. The relevant resolution is adopted exclusively by standing or raising a hand.
4. The debate in principle of a bill or law proposal cannot close when written objections are submitted by the one fourth (1/4) of the total number of MPs. MPs that sign the objections should be present, otherwise objections are not taken into consideration.
5. When, following the resolution adopted in paragraph 3, there are Parliamentary Groups that have not participated in the debate, or have participated with less than two speakers (including the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups, rapporteurs and special speakers), the floor is taken by speakers of those Groups following the order of their entry to the list of speakers and until the requirement of at least two speakers for every Parliamentary Group is met.
6. The provisions of paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 are applied accordingly for the closure of the debate by article. The relevant resolution is adopted without a discussion by standing or raising a hand.

G) ORGANIZING THE DEBATES

Requirements and procedure

Article 107

- *1. With the exception of those bills and law proposals that according to article 72 of the Constitution are debated and voted in the Plenum, all other bills and law proposals can be entered for debate and voting following the procedures of the present article (organized debate). Bills and law proposals are introduced to the Parliament when the competent committee has examined them in at least three meetings or when there has been a previous hearing of non-parliamentarians (following article 38 of the Standing Orders).
- *2. The Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen decides on the holding of an organized debate when it has been ascertained that the requirements of the previous paragraph are met.
3. By a majority of four fifths (4/5) of its members, the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen may decide on the conduct of the debate of a bill or law proposal even when the competent committee has not examined the bill or law proposal in three full meetings or if a hearing of non-parliamentarians has not been preceded.
- **4. When, during the commencement of the debate in Parliament objections are raised by the one twentieth (1/20) of the total number of MPs, the Parliament may cancel the holding of an

* Amended on 20.6.1996 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 151A/8.7.1996).

* Amended on 20.6.1996 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 151A/8.7.1996).

** Added on 20.6.1996 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 151A/8.7.1996).

organized debate even if the requirements of the previous paragraphs are met. In such cases the debate and voting is finalized compulsorily during the total number of sittings that has been determined by the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen according to the following paragraph.

*5. Simultaneously to its decision on the holding of organized debate, the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen may determine the total number as well as the duration of sittings which will be available for the finalization of the debate and voting of bills and law proposals.

6. The Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen distributes to Parliamentary Groups the time allocated for the debate in principle in the following manner: initially, a minimum equal time is guaranteed for every Parliamentary Group. Subsequently the sum of the minimum equal time is deducted from the total time that has been determined for the debate in principle. The remaining is distributed to Parliamentary Groups according to their strength. In combination to the speaking time allocated to Parliamentary Groups, the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen also determines the speaking time allocated to independent MPs in relation to their number.

7. With the commencement of the debate in principle, Parliamentary Groups submit to the Presidium a list of speakers. The Groups determine the order and the speaking time, along with any possible replications and within the time limits that have been allocated to the rapporteurs' Group.

8. The speaking time of Ministers, of Presidents of Parliamentary Groups and their substitutes is settled on the one second (1/2) of the time of article 97 and is not counted to the overall time allocated to each Parliamentary Group.

9. On the basis of the lists of paragraph 7, the Presidium compiles a common list determining the order of speakers interchanging between rapporteurs and special speakers and according to the order of Parliamentary Groups as specified in article 19 §1. After the termination of the last speaker's speech follows the rapporteurs' second speech for ten (10) minutes and the voting on the principle of a bill or law proposal.

10. Within the time limit allocated for the debate by article, the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen determines the section or the number of articles which are to be discussed and voted in every sitting or within a specific time limit of this sitting. The debate concerns the whole section or number of articles and is held through a corresponding application of the previous paragraphs on the debate in principle.

11. Article 103§2 specifies the speaking time, in the debate by article, of Ministers, Presidents of Parliamentary Groups and their substitutes.

12. The debate on articles is finalized through the speech of the last speaker registered in the list. Articles are voted separately at the end of the sitting that has been specified for a particular section or number of articles.

13. If the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen resolves on the organization of the debate, it determines its overall duration, taking into consideration any amendments that have been submitted until the last day before the convocation of the Conference. For any amendments which are submitted after the scheduling drawn by the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen,

* Amended on 20.6.1996 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 151A/8.7.1996).

a necessary time for discussion is allocated by a resolution of the Parliament and following the Speaker's relevant recommendation.

CHAPTER 3: CONCISE LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES

Voting of bills and law proposals without/ with limited discussion

Article 108

- *1. At the beginning of the sitting and before the commencement of the debate on the issues contained in the order of the day, the Parliament may vote without a debate on bills and law proposals in principle, by article and as a whole. When objections are raised the Speaker asks for the MP or MPs that raised the objections to take the floor.
2. Following a unanimous recommendation by the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen, the Parliament may, without a debate, vote in principle, by article and as a whole bills and law proposals as they have been introduced and formed by the competent committee.
3. Bills and law proposals of the previous paragraph enter in priority the order of the day and are accompanied by a written report of the relevant unanimous recommendation of the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen.
4. When objections are raised, the Parliament may decide on the voting, by a limited discussion, of the bills and law proposals of paragraph 2. The debate takes place either in the same or in another sitting.
- *5. To the limited discussion of the previous paragraph can participate only: the competent Minister, the rapporteurs, the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups and the MPs that put forward the objections. Each has a speaking time of five (5) minutes.
- **6. Bills and law proposals that have been approved either unanimously or by a majority of fourth fifths (4/5) of the total number of the members of the competent committee, are voted by the Parliament without a debate according to the relevant application of paragraph 1 of the present article.
- ***7. A bill or law proposal that has been discussed and voted by the competent standing committee is introduced to the Plenum in compliance to paragraph 4 of article 72 of the Constitution. The bill or law proposal is discussed and voted in one sitting by article, in principle and as a whole. In such cases the provisions of articles 104 paragraphs 5,6,7 and 107 paragraphs 6,7,8 and 9 subparagraph 1 and 13.

* Amended on 20.6.1996 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 151A/8.7.1996).

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).

** Added on 20.6.1996 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 151A/8.7.1996).

*** Added on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) and amended on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126A/2.7.2008) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

Very urgent bills and law proposals

Article 109

1. Bills and law proposals designated by the Government as very urgent, pursuant to article 76§4 of the Constitution, are referred to the competent committee immediately after their introduction to Parliament. The Speaker of Parliament sets a corresponding deadline for the submission of the report in compliance to article 89§4.
2. If the committee accepts the designation of a bill or a law proposal as very urgent it proceeds to the elaboration and examination in a single sitting.
3. After the committee submits its report or misses the submission deadline, the bills and law proposals of the previous paragraph take precedence in the order of the day in derogation of article 91§7.
4. Debate and voting of very urgent bills and law proposals are concluded in a single sitting which may last ten hours at the most.
5. At the beginning of the sitting and following the Speaker recommendation, the Parliament may determine the duration of the debate in principle and the debate by article.
6. If for any reason a Parliament's resolution is not reached according to the previous paragraph, four hours are allocated to the debate in principle and six hours to the debate by article.
7. Apart from the rapporteurs, the Prime Minister or the competent Minister, the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups and one representative of each group may participate to the debate in principle and to the debate by article. Their speaking time is limited to one second (1/2) of the time provided in articles 97 and 103.
8. Once the speakers' list mentioned in the previous paragraph is exhausted and in any case after the completion of ten hours, the debate shall be closed no matter the stage it has reached and voting is conducted in principle, by article and as a whole.

Bills and law proposals of an urgent nature

Article 110

- *1. At the beginning of the debate, and in compliance to the provisions of article 76§5 of the Constitution, the Government may request the Parliament to determine by a resolution the total number of sittings for the debate and voting of a bill or a law proposal of an urgent nature. The sittings cannot be more than three without prejudice to paragraph 3.
2. During the discussion of the Government's recommendation one MP argues in favour and one against the recommendation for five (5) minutes each. The same speaking time is allocated to the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups. The resolution of the Parliament is adopted only by raising hands or by standing.

**Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette No 284 A' /18.12.2001)*

3. Following a proposal of one tenth (1/10) of the total number of Members of Parliament, which is submitted either by the end of the discussion of the previous paragraph or during the third sitting, the Parliament may extend the debate of the bill or the law proposal by two sittings at the most. In the last case paragraph 2 applies.

4. At the beginning of the sitting, following the Speaker's recommendation, the Parliament determines the number of the sittings for the debate in principle and the debate by article.

5. If for any reason the Parliament does not reach a decision according to the previous paragraph, one sitting is provided for the debate in principle and two sittings for the debate by article, when the total number of sittings has been set to three (3). In case there are more than three, two sittings are provided for the debate in principle and the rest for the debate by article, provided that the relevant decision determining the number of sittings has been taken at the beginning of the first sitting.

****6.** During the debate of bills and law proposals of an urgent nature the speaking time in the debate in principle for Ministers, Presidents of Parliamentary Groups and rapporteurs is fifteen (15) minutes, for the special speakers is eight (8) minutes and for the Members of Parliament enlisted to speak is five (5) minutes. During the debate by article the speaking time is three (3) minutes for all the speakers.

****7.** When bills and law proposals are debated following the procedure of the present article, second speeches are allowed only during the debate in principle for rapporteurs for ten (10) minutes and for special speakers for five (5) minutes.

8. The debate of bills and law proposals which is conducted according to this article closes at the twelfth hour of the evening of the last sitting and in any case at the latest by the completion of six hours from its beginning.

CHAPTER 4: SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES

Bills and law proposals for the establishment of special committees on the compilation and ratification of codes.

Article 111

1. Without prejudice to article 118 §6, bills and law proposals which establish special committees on the compilation and ratification of codes and on the codification of provisions that exist pursuant to article 76 §6 of the Constitution, must necessarily contain provisions relevant to the composition and establishment, as well as to any other matter that concerns the work and operation of the special committees.

2. Special committees on the compilation of one or more codes of a different subject may be established under the same bill or law proposal.

**** Amended on 25.11.1993 (Government Gazette No 200 A/26.11.1993) and on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette No 284 A' /18.12.2001) by decisions of the Parliament's Plenum.**

3. At the voting through of judicial or administrative codes and during the codification of provisions that exist pursuant to article 76§6 of the Constitution, the debate is held once, in principle, followed by voting as a whole.

Bills and law proposals for the ratification of international treaties or conventions

Article 112

1. The Parliament approves or rejects bills and law proposals that ratify international treaties or international conventions without any alterations of the content of the treaties and conventions.
2. Bills and law proposals of the previous paragraph are ratified according to the procedure specified in article 108.
3. The previous paragraph is not applicable to bills and law proposals for the ratification of conventions according to articles 27 and 28 paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Constitution.

Bills on the ratification of acts of legislative content

Article 113

1. Bills that concern the ratification of acts of legislative content pursuant to article 44 §1 of the Constitution enter in priority the order of the day.
2. Bills of the previous paragraph must necessarily contain an article which ratifies unabridged the act of legislative content. Other provisions which regulate matters relevant to the ratified act can be added.

Bills and law proposals sent back to Parliament

Article 114

1. Bills and law proposals that have been voted and sent back to Parliament pursuant to the provisions of article 42 of the Constitution, as well as the relevant, on this act, document of the President of the Republic, are distributed to MPs within three days from their receipt.
- *2. Bills and law proposals that are sent back to Parliament enter directly and in priority the order of the day and are discussed in compliance to the procedure specified in article 76 §2 of the Constitution and article 94 §2 of the Standing Orders.
3. Voting through requires the absolute majority of the total number of MPs.

Cabinet proposals on holding a referendum

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001)

Article 115

1. Pursuant to article 44 §2 subparagraph a' of the Constitution, a Cabinet's proposal on the holding of a referendum that concerns a crucial national matter, is printed and distributed to MPs and enters in priority the order of the day.
2. The proposal must state the national matter on which the holding of a referendum is requested. It must also state the deadline for its holding and determine with clarity the question or questions which are to be answered by the people.
3. The proposal is discussed by the congruent application of the provisions of articles 95 to 100.
4. The adoption or not of the proposal is effectuated by a roll call vote and concerns the text of the proposal as it has been submitted or formed at the debate in Parliament.
5. The proposal is approved by the absolute majority of the total number of MPs.
6. The Parliament's resolution to accept the Cabinet's proposal on the holding of a referendum is published under the Speaker's order to the Government Gazette within ten days the latest.

MPs proposal on holding a referendum

Article 116

1. The proposal of two fifths (2/5) of the total number of MPs which requests, following article 44§2 subparagraph b' of the Constitution, the holding of a referendum on a voted bill that regulates an important social matter, is introduced to the Parliament, printed and distributed to MPs and enter in priority the order of the day.
2. The proposal must refer to the particular bill on which the holding of a referendum is requested.
3. The provisions of articles 95 to 100 are applicable accordingly to the discussion of the proposal. The discussion is finalized in three sittings.
4. The proposal is approved or rejected by a roll call vote.
5. The proposal is approved by the majority of three fifths (3/5) of the total number of MPs.
6. The resolution of the Parliament which accepts the proposal for the holding of a referendum must contain with clarity the question or questions addressing the people. The resolution must also contain the deadline within which the referendum is proclaimed.
7. Paragraph 6 of the previous article applies for the Parliament's resolution referred to in the present article.
8. The proclamation of a referendum is effectuated by a presidential decree co-signed by the Speaker of Parliament.

Proclamation of a state of siege

Article 117

1. The Government's proposal to the Parliament to resolve according to article 48§1 of the Constitution on the implementation of the law on a state of siege, the establishment of extraordinary courts and the suspension of articles of the Constitution may be submitted without prior entering to the order of the day. The proposal is debated and voted in one sitting only, following article 48§6 of the Constitution. The same resolution of the Parliament determines the duration of force of the imposed measures. Such duration cannot exceed fifteen days.
2. The provisions of the previous paragraph are also in force when the Parliament is called to resolve on the approval of a presidential decree as provided in paragraph 2, article 48 of the Constitution. At the fifteenth day the latest from the release of the decree, the Parliament resolves on its approval even if the parliamentary term has ended and the Parliament dissolved.
3. Before the termination of the deadline for the measures of paragraphs 1 and 2, the Parliament can decide on its extension, each time for a fortnight. In such cases the provisions of the previous 2 paragraphs are applied.
4. Voting on the decisions of paragraphs 1 to 3 are always by roll-call. For the resolution of paragraph 1 a majority of three fifths (3/5) of the total number of MPs is required. For the resolutions of paragraphs 2 and 3 the absolute majority of the total number of MPs is necessary.
5. The resolution of paragraph 1 is published by the President of the Republic. The resolutions of paragraphs 2 and 3 are published in the Government Gazette by an act of the Speaker of Parliament.

Proposals on amending the Standing Orders

Article 118

1. Proposals on amending the Standing Orders of the Parliament are submitted by the Speaker or MPs and are referred for elaboration and examination to the Committee on the Standing Orders.
2. The Committee on the Standing Orders of the Parliament submits to Parliament all projects of altering the Standing Orders with all amendments and additions that are deemed necessary. These projects enter the special order of the day, are debated and voted by the Plenary Session pursuant to the provisions of article 76 of the Constitution.
3. The resolution of the Parliament that amends provisions of the Standing Orders is published by an order of the Speaker in the Government Gazette within a month of the Parliament's vote.

4. Following every amendment the Committee on the Standing Orders proceeds with the incorporation of the new provisions in the original text, taking note of the relevant resolution of the Parliament with which they have been adopted.

5. In the case of extended alterations the Committee of the Standing Orders proceeds with the codification of old and new provisions. The codification allows: a) the general re-arrangement of the content, alterations in the sequence of articles, paragraphs and subparagraphs their unification, division or creation of new ones, b) phrasal alterations which do not modify the meaning of old and new provisions. Mentioning the resolution by which articles or special provisions are adopted is compulsory.

6. The provisions of the Standing Orders of the Parliament that concern the organization and function of its services (Part B' - Personnel) are amended through proposals of the Speaker. These proposals enter the Parliament for voting following their elaboration in the Committee of the Standing Orders. Debate and voting take place through the procedure for codes.

Proposals for the revision of the Constitution

Article 119

1. Proposals on the revision of the Constitution are submitted in writing to the Parliament by at least 50 MPs. The proposals are accompanied by an explanatory report and state the provisions which are about to be revised.

*2. Following their submission, the proposals on the revision of the Constitution are announced in Parliament, then printed, distributed to MPs and referred for elaboration to the Committee for the Revision of the Constitution. The Committee is established by the Speaker of Parliament.

3. For the establishment, composition and function of the Committee on the Revision of the Constitution, the provisions of articles 31 to 34 (apart from the provision of article 37 §2) are accordingly applied.

4. The Parliament by its resolution which, following the Speaker's recommendation and by the regular majority specified in article 67 of the Constitution, specifies a deadline for the submission of the Committee's report. This deadline can be extended by newer decisions of the Parliament. A debate takes place following a specification of the initial deadline and is terminated in one sitting.

5. With the submission of the report of the Committee on the Revision of the Constitution, or with the termination of the deadline for its submission, relevant proposals enter the special order of the day and are discussed in the Plenum by application of articles 95 to 104. The discussion evolves exclusively around the necessities for revision and the provisions to be revised.

6. The Parliament's resolution, which ascertains the need for revision and specifies exactly the provisions to be revised, is adopted in two roll-call votes and by the majorities specified in article 110 paragraphs 2 and 4 of the Constitution. Between the two rounds of roll-call voting

* Amended on 20.6.1996 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 151A/8.7.1996).

there must be a distance of at least one month. The second voting concerns the provisions that have been approved in the first voting.

7. Everyone of the roll-call votings of the above paragraph is held once the debate has been terminated and concerns all the provisions that are about to be revised. MPs vote for each provision separately.

8. If the Parliament has resolved on the Revision, the Speaker of the next Parliament establishes at the beginning of the first session a Committee of the Revision of the Constitution. The Committee examines the exact provisions that have been designated by the resolution referred in paragraph 6.

9. The provisions of paragraphs 2 and 5 of the present article are applicable for the establishment of the Committee of the Revision of the Constitution, the setting of the deadline for the submission of its report and the entry of the relevant subject to the order of the day. The debate concerns the content of the provisions to be revised.

10. The Parliament's resolution that contains the revised provisions is adopted in one and only roll-call vote. The vote takes place in accordance to the provisions of paragraph 7 of the present article and by the majorities provided in article 110 paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Constitution.

Expenses budget and general balance sheet – financial statement of the Parliament

Article 120

1. The expenses budget and general balance sheet – financial statement of the Parliament are compiled by the competent service of the Parliament and are debated and voted in the Plenum.

2. The Parliament's budget includes its expenses for the coming fiscal year and is voted at every regular session.

3. The Parliament's budget is accompanied by a report of the committee on Parliament's finances, it is printed, distributed to MPs and enters in priority the order of the day.

*4. The Parliament's budget is entered by the Speaker for discussion and voting at least 40 days before the commencement of the fiscal year and in any case before the vote on the general budget of the State. At the event that the fiscal year has began without the prior voting of the Parliament's budget, the expenses of the new fiscal year are executed in accordance to the budget of the previous year.

5. The Parliament's budget is discussed and voted only once in principle, by category of expenses and as a whole.

6. The execution of the Parliament's budget which has been approved by a Parliament's resolution is compulsory, and the budget enters with no further alterations the general budget of the State.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001)

7. The execution of the Parliament's budget belongs exclusively to the Parliament and is independent from the execution of the general budget of the State, as well as from the terms and conditions that the State budget sets for the allotment of appropriations.
8. The balance sheet and the financial statement of the budget contain the operating results of the last fiscal year.
9. The balance sheet and the financial statement are accompanied by a report of the committee on Parliament's finances, they are printed and distributed to MPs. The Speaker introduces them to the Parliament for discussion and voting.
10. The balance sheet and the financial statement of the Parliament are entered to the order of the day, and are debated and voted once, by expenses, by results and as a whole. Debate and voting are held in the same sitting in which the expenses budget is debated.

Submission, debate and examination of the State budget by the competent standing committee

Article 121

1. The State budget includes revenues and expenses of the following fiscal year and is examined in the Plenum of the Parliament at every regular session following the provisions below.
- *2. The first Monday of October, the competent Minister submits a draft of the budget for debate in the standing committee of economic affairs.
- *3. Following the submission of the draft budget to the standing committee, the committee's President, after consulting with the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups, appoints, among the members of the committee, one general rapporteur and other special rapporteurs from each Parliamentary Group.
- *4. The debate on the draft of the budget is finalized in three (3) sittings. The Minutes of these sittings are communicated to the Ministry of Finance.
- *5. The Minister of Finance, after taking into consideration the committee's remarks introduces the budget to the Parliament at least forty (40) days before the beginning of the fiscal year.
- *6. At the submission of the budget to the Parliament, the Minister of Finance may proceed to short statements with regard to the content of the budget. Presidents of Parliamentary Groups

** Added on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).*

** Added on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).*

** Added on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).*

** Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).*

** Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).*

may reply to those statements for at least five (5) minutes of the hour. Both statements and replies cannot be longer than one (1) hour in total.

7. The State budget is distributed to MPs and is referred for examination to the standing committee of financial affairs.

8. Following the referral of the budget to the standing committee, the President of the committee after consulting with the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups appoints among the committee's members: a) one general rapporteur from each Parliamentary Group, b) special rapporteurs from every Parliamentary Group and c) one special rapporteur nominated by independent MPs.

*9. General and special rapporteurs submit their report to the committee within eight days from the first sitting.

*10. The examination of the budget of the state by the standing committee is completed within a maximum of four (4) consecutive sittings as they are held within the time-limit specified in the previous paragraph. Debates in the committee are public.

*11. The committee's report along with the proposals of general and special rapporteurs is printed and distributed to MPs at least three days before the commencement of the debate in the Plenary Session of the Parliament.

Submission and examination of the financial statement and the general balance sheet of the State by the competent committee.

Article 122

*1. The financial statement and the general balance sheet of the State along with the accompanying report (of article 98§1 of the Constitution, division e') of the Court of Audit are introduced to the Parliament the latest within a year from the termination of the fiscal year.

*2. The financial statement and the general balance sheet of the State are introduced to the Parliament by the Minister of Finance, distributed to MPs and referred for examination to the special committee of article 31A.

*3. The committee examines the financial statement and the general balance sheet of the State in two sittings and prepares the relevant report which is printed and distributed to MPs according to article 121 §11.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).

**4. The financial statement and the general balance sheet of the State are discussed within one (1) year from their submission to the Parliament.

Discussion and voting of the budget, the financial statement and the general balance sheet of the State

Article 123

*1. The budget of the State is debated and voted in the Plenum of the Parliament within five (at the most) consecutive sittings.

*2. The debate begins with the speeches of the general rapporteurs who speak in rotation and in an order according to the strength of Parliamentary Groups. In the same order, follow the speeches of special rapporteurs where one special rapporteur interchanges between Parliamentary Groups. The speeches of those who have entered the list of speakers follow. Speeches are delivered according to the order of the list of speakers without prejudice to the provision of article 65§5.

3. Speakers may register with the above list until the end of the speeches of general rapporteurs.

*4. Speaking times at the discussion of the State budget cannot exceed: a) thirty five (35) minutes for the competent Minister and the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups which have a strength of at least one sixth (1/6) of the total number of MPs, b) thirty (30) minutes for general rapporteurs, c) thirty (30) minutes for Presidents of Parliamentary Groups and d) twenty (20) minutes for Ministers and special rapporteurs. For remaining issues the provisions of article 97 apply.

5. The discussion of the budget is completed at 12:00 in the evening of the last sitting. Voting immediately follows.

6. The voting of the budget is held by roll-call and occurs simultaneously with separate lists and vote-collectors for the revenues and expenses of each ministry. Records of the voting enter the Minutes.

7. The voting of the budget of public investments and affixed budgets, of the regular budget of prefectures and of the budget of special funds and services is held separately and consecutively by standing or raising a hand.

** Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).*

*** Added on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).*

** Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).*

** Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).*

** Amended on 25.11.1993 (Government Gazette 200A/26.11.1993), on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) and on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126A/2/7/2008) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.*

*8. The debate of the financial statement and the general balance sheet of the State is held in two sittings with the congruent application of article 107.

**9. The ratification of the financial statement and the general balance sheet of the State occurs just once, according to ministry and special fund exclusively by standing or raising hand.

PART THREE PROCEDURES OF PARLIAMENTARY CONTROL

CHAPTER 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Parliamentary control

Article 124

1. The Parliament exercises control over the Government in compliance to the procedure and terms of the following provisions.

2. Parliamentary control is exercised in the Plenum of the Parliament at least twice a week according to article 53§1.

*3. Parliamentary control may be exercised by the Recess Section and the standing committees of the session according to articles 128B et seq.

4. Apart from the motion of censure which is regulated by article 142, the means of parliamentary control are: a) petitions, b) questions, c) current questions, d) requests for the submission of documents, e) interpellations and f) current interpellations.

**5. The documents by which the abovementioned means of parliamentary control are exercised, are submitted to the Parliament and must name the Minister to whom they are addressed. The competent service of the Parliament registers the documents, following the order of their submission, in a special book of consecutive numbering for each means of parliamentary control. A copy of the submitted document is transmitted to the Minister to whom it is addressed. The means of parliamentary control as well as the written replies to them

* *Added on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).*

** *Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).*

* *Added and the following provisions were renumbered on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284 A'/18.12.2001).*

** *Amended on 25.6.2008 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 126 A'/2.7.2008)*

may also be submitted in electronic form. A decision of the Speaker of Parliament determines the details for the implementation of the previous section.

6. If the Minister to whom the relevant document is addressed deems that he has no competence, he transmits the document to the competent Minister within the deadline of article 125 § 5 or 126 § 4. A copy of the transmission document is simultaneously communicated to the service of the Parliament and the MP who submitted the document. In this case, the deadline for reply to the Parliament by the competent Minister begins five days after the date of the transmission document.

*7. Without prejudice to articles 130 and 138, the means of parliamentary control of paragraph 4 are exercised within the session in which they were submitted. If they are pending and they are not discussed until the termination of the regular session, they can be re-submitted. In this case the order of their register to the relevant book is determined by the order of re-submission.

**8. Without prejudice to articles 125 § 6, 126 § 5, 130 § 8 and 138 § 2, the submission and re-submission of the means of parliamentary control of paragraph 4 within the period between the two regular sessions begins from the day that follows the commencement of operation of the Recess Section of the Parliament. In this case, the order of their register in the respective book is determined by the order of their submission or re-submission. The deadline for reply begins the next day from the commencement of the works of the new Session of the Plenum, without prejudice to articles 125 § 6 and 126 § 5.

9. The documents of the means of parliamentary control of paragraph 4 are printed in special table layouts and distributed periodically to MPs.

*10. In assisting the exercise of parliamentary control by the Plenum or the Recess Section of the Parliament, standing committees exercise the competence of article 41A.

CHAPTER 2: PETITIONS

Content, submission and discussion

Article 125

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284 A/18.12.2001).

** Amended on 20.6.1996 (Government Gazette 151 A/8.7.1996), on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284 A/18.12.2001) and on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126 A/2.7.2008) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

* Added on 13.9.1989 (Government Gazette 200A/15.9.1989) and amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284 A/18.12.2001) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

1. Individuals or groups of citizens may address the Parliament with written petitions, which include complaints or requests. Petitions are introduced by MPs or they are brought before the Speaker of the Parliament.

2. Petitions must contain the name, the capacity and the address of those who sign them.

3. MPs that wish to adopt the petition they co-sign it at the time of submission or proceed to a relevant statement at its announcement in Parliament.

4. Petitions are registered in a special book following the order of their submission, provided they fulfill the conditions set in paragraph 2. If not, they are filed in the archives.

*5. The Minister to whom the petition is transmitted, must reply to the Parliament within twenty-five days from the day of its submission. The reply is simultaneously communicated to the MPs who adopted the petition and to the person who submitted it. In the cases of paragraph 3, when the Minister has not provided a reply or when his reply is overdue, the petition may be discussed in compliance to the procedure stipulated in articles 129 et seq. of the Standing Orders.

**6. The Minister's obligation to reply also applies for petitions that are submitted between two Parliamentary sessions.

CHAPTER 3: QUESTIONS

Content and reply

Article 126

1. MPs have the right to address written questions to competent Ministers with regard to any public matter.

2. Written questions must be clear, brief and aiming towards informing on whether an incident has actually taken place or on what measures the Government plans to adopt in order to deal with a specific issue of general or local interest.

3. Immediately after their submission, questions are transmitted to the Minister they are addressed to.

4. Ministers must reply in writing within twenty five days from the submission of the questions, otherwise all replies are considered overdue.

* Amended on 20.6.1996 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 151 A/8.7.1996).

** Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284 A/18.12.2001).

*5. Ministers may also reply to questions during the operation of the Recess Section of the Parliament.

6. Ministers' replies to MPs' questions are documented in the Minutes of Parliament.

Entry to the order of the day

** Article 127

When the competent Minister fails to reply to a question or when such reply is overdue, the question may be discussed in compliance to the procedure of articles 129 et seq. of the Standing Orders.

Discussion of questions

* Article 128

At the onset of every Tuesday sitting, petitions and questions are discussed as provided for in the previous article and in the last section of paragraph 5 of article 125.

CHAPTER 4: CURRENT QUESTIONS

** Article 128 A

Discussions in committees by MPs initiatives

*** Article 128 B

During the exercise of legislative work in a standing committee, a discussion may be held, as specified in article 32, under MPs' initiative, regarding one or two issues of general importance or interest that fall within the competence of the Ministry that has tabled the relative bill or law proposal. The debate is held at the beginning of the sitting allocated for it. The debate concerns the articles and may not last for more than one and a half hour.

* *Added on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284 A/18.12.2001).*

** *Amended on 20.6.1996 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 151 A/8.7.1996.)*

* *Amended on 20.6.1996 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 151 A/8.7.1996.)*

** *Initially added on 5.7.1990 (Government Gazette 92 A/11.7/1990) and repealed on 25.11.1993 (Government Gazette 200 A/26.11.1993) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.*

*** *Added on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284 A/18.12.2001) and amended on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126 A/2.7.2008) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.*

When the issues to be discussed are more than one, their selection and the determination of the order of discussion is regulated by the provisions of article 132A.

At the discussion of each issue participate: The MP-rapporteur for ten (10) minutes, the competent Minister for ten (10) minutes and six (6) MPs, at least one from each Parliamentary Group, for three (3) minutes each. The right to replication belongs to the MP-rapporteur and the Minister, each for five (5) minutes.

Content

* Article 129

1. For current issues every MP has the right to submit relevant questions which are tabled and discussed in compliance to the procedure specified in the following provisions (current questions).

**2. Current questions are addressed to the Prime Minister or to the competent Ministers who reply orally, before the Parliament and in person.

*3. In any occasion, at least once a week the Prime Minister replies to two questions that he selects unless the question refers to a matter of a Minister's sole competence, in which case the Minister replies. At the discussion of current questions addressed to the Prime Minister but not replied by him, the President of Parliamentary Group may be replaced by one of his deputies. A Minister that is called for a second time in the same week to reply to a question may authorize another Minister or an Undersecretary to reply to questions tabled in the subsequent sittings of this week.

*4. A current question must be written and brief and contain the elements that are absolutely necessary for the exact specification of the issue to which it refers as well as of the relevant two, at the most, questions that need to be answered.

The Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen determines, by its decision, the form, the length, the current nature and any other relevant element of the question, according to the Standing Orders. Current questions that do not correspond to the terms of this decision are not discussed, if so decided by the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen or by authorized members of the Conference including a member which belongs to the Parliamentary Group of the MP whose question is examined.

In these cases the competent service of the Parliament follows the procedure specified in paragraphs 3, 4 and 6 of article 126.

* Amended on 20.6.1996 (Government Gazette 151 A/8.7.1996) and on 13.10.2000 (Government Gazette 230 A/25.10.2000) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

** Amended on 13.10.2000 (Government Gazette 230 A/25.10.2000) by a decision of the Parliament Plenum.

* Amended on 13.10.2000 (Government Gazette 230 A/25.10.2000) by a decision of the Parliament Plenum.

* Amended on 13.10.2000 (Government Gazette 230 A/25.10.2000) by a decision of the Parliament Plenum.

5. The text of the question is signed by the MP who submits it and it is tabled to the Parliament until 10.00 am of every day there is a sitting.

6. The Speaker of the Parliament, following the registration of the question to the special book of current questions, immediately transmits the question either to the Prime Minister or to the competent Minister.

Day of discussion and selection of current questions to be discussed

***Article 130**

**1. Current questions are discussed at the Parliament Plenum sittings each Monday, Thursday and Friday. Petitions and questions are discussed every Tuesday during the sitting of the Plenum following the procedure of paragraph 5 of this article. Current questions are not discussed during the sittings for debates outside the order of the day (article 143) or for a different special subject decided by the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen. The Speaker of the Parliament announces during each sitting the specific current questions to be discussed at the next sitting, selected or drawn by lot following the provisions of the next paragraphs.

*2. The selection of the current questions submitted by 10.00 am Monday and scheduled for discussion on Thursday, takes place by 12.00 noon Monday and of those submitted by 10.00 am Tuesday and scheduled for discussion on Friday, takes place by 12.00 noon Tuesday.

The President of each Parliamentary Group selects the questions of the Group's MPs or assigns this right to another member of the Parliamentary Group in writing, in a document addressed to the Speaker of the Parliament. The selection of the current questions of the independent MPs is made according to the alphabetic order of their surnames and when this order is completed a new cycle begins.

3. The President of each Parliamentary Group, in a written statement submitted to the Speaker of the Parliament, selects for discussion two current questions, at the most, and determines which is the first choice and which the second. In case the selection is not made within the deadline of paragraph 2, a first choice is considered to be the first current question in the order of submission by an MP of the Parliamentary Group that did not initially made a selection. A second choice is considered the current question that the same Group submitted next.

*4. Current questions not selected for discussion at the sittings of Thursday or Friday, are discussed at the sitting of the following Monday. The order of discussion of these questions is determined by lot during the meeting of the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen and, in case

* Amended and renumbered on 20.6.1996 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 151 A/8.7.1996).

** Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284 A/18.12.2001).

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284 A/18.12.2001).

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284 A/18.12.2001).

there is no meeting, by the Speaker of the Parliament and the Presidents of the Parliamentary Groups or their deputies. During this procedure only one MP's current question may be discussed. If more questions are drawn, the MP has to choose. In case the meeting of the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen does not take place for any reason or the MP does not choose, the questions of this paragraph are discussed in the order of their submission, one for each MP. These questions are elaborated alternately in the order provided for in article 19§1.

*5. Petitions and questions unanswered by the competent Ministers are discussed according to the procedure of the current questions and upon selection by the MPs, at the sitting of each Tuesday. The MP may propose one petition or question per week until 10.00 am Wednesday and the order is determined in two cycles, by lot drawn by the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen or, in case there is no meeting, by the Speaker of the Parliament and the Presidents of the Parliamentary Groups or their deputies. The first cycle includes six petitions or questions and in it participate two MPs of each of the two first in strength Parliamentary Groups and one MP of each of the remaining Parliamentary Groups. The second round includes four petitions or questions and within it participate one MP of each Parliamentary Group. In case a petition or a question of an independent MP is drawn by lot, it is added in the second round and discussed last. The elaboration takes place alternately in the order provided for in article 19§1. In case of an alteration to the strength of the parties, the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen determines again the number of the MPs who participate to this procedure.

*6. Current questions not discussed according to the aforementioned procedure are deleted. The same applies in case the respective sitting is cancelled.

7. In case the Parliament is not operating on the days provided by paragraphs 1 and 2, the selection of the current questions and their announcement by the Speaker is made at the last day that the Parliament is operating.

**8. Current questions addressed to Ministers are also discussed in one cycle in the Recess Section of the Parliament every Tuesday and Thursday, according to article 29. In these cases, current questions that are scheduled for discussion on Tuesday are submitted by 10.00 am of the previous Thursday and those discussed on Thursday are submitted by 10.00 am on Monday. The order of discussion is determined by lot at a meeting of the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen, with the application *mutatis mutandis* of paragraph 4.

Current questions not discussed by the aforementioned procedure are deleted.

Order of discussion of current questions

* Added on 20.6.1996 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 151 A/8.7.1996).

* Amended on 25.11.1993 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 200 A/26.11.1993).

** Added on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284 A/18.12.2001).

*Article 131

1. Current questions of the first choice of each Parliamentary Group are discussed in the order provided for in article 19§1 and the question of the independent MPs follows.

2. If, due to exceptional reasons, especially because the MP who signs the question or the competent Minister is hindered, or in case that the MP quits the question, the first choice current question cannot be discussed. Instead the second choice current question of the same Parliamentary Group is discussed.

3. If there is not an adequate number of current questions of first choice or there is time left, the discussion is continued in the order determined in paragraph 1.

4. Current questions referring to the same issue, are discussed simultaneously without prejudice to the right of the speakers regarding their speaking time.

Procedure for the discussion of current questions

*Article 132

1. The discussion of each current question begins with its formulation by the asking MP for two (2) minutes. For the current question addressed to and answered by the Prime Minister, the answering time is six (6) minutes. The asking MP has the floor for four (4) minutes, the Prime Minister may reply for three (3) minutes. In case the sole competent Minister replies to the current question addressed to the Prime Minister, the following paragraph applies accordingly as to the answering and the speaking time of the asking person.

2. For the current question addressed to and answered by the competent Minister or by the designated by him Minister or Undersecretary, the answering time is three (3) minutes. The MP who signs the current question has the floor for three (3) minutes. The addressee may reply for three (3) minutes also.

3. The discussion is limited exclusively between the aforementioned persons. It is not permissible to exceed the speaking time provided in paragraphs 1 and 2.

Discussions in the Plenum following an initiative of a Member of Parliament

*Article 132A

** Amended on 20.6.1996 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 151 A/8.7.1996).*

** Amended on 25.11.1993 (Government Gazette 200 A/26.11.1993), on 20.6.1996 (Government Gazette 151 A/8.7.1996), on 27.4.2009 (Government Gazette 66 A/4.5.2009) and on 16.7.2010 (Government Gazette 139 A/10.8.2010) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.*

** Added on 20.6.1996 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 151 A/8.7.1996).*

1. Each MP, during the session and every week until his request is satisfied, has the right to submit to the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen a request for discussion of at least one issue of general importance or interest.

**2. The Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen may decide that a sitting of legislative work is allocated to the discussion of the issues mentioned in paragraph 1, under the condition that the Plenum of the Parliament has voted at least one bill during the previous week, according to the provision of the first section of paragraph 4 of article 72 of the Constitution.

3. The date, the time and the total duration of the discussion for each issue referred to in paragraph 1, is determined by the same decision of the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen.

4. The Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen draws by lot up to four issues, from all that have been proposed until the eve of the meeting and determines the order for their discussion, applying accordingly paragraph 1 of article 135.

5. At the discussion of each issue participate: the MP rapporteur for ten (10) minutes, the competent Minister, and in case he is hindered, the one designated by the Prime Minister for ten (10) minutes and in case of co-competence one more Minister designated by the Prime Minister for five (5) minutes and also at least ten (10) MPs of which one comes from each Parliamentary Group for three (3) minutes each. The MP rapporteur and the competent or the first of the designated Ministers have the right to replication for five (5) minutes each.

6. The Presidents of Parliamentary Groups or their deputies or other MPs or Ministers do not participate in the discussion.

CHAPTER 5: REQUESTS FOR THE SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

Article 133

1. MPs have the right to ask from the competent Ministers, following a written request to the Parliament, the submission of documents relevant in general to a public affair.

2. Immediately after their submission, the requests for the submission of documents are transmitted from the Parliament to the Minister they are addressed to.

*3. The Minister has, within thirty (30) days following receipt of the request, either to send to the Parliament the requested documents or to report to the Parliament the reasons for which the submission of all or some, specifically determined, is not possible.

** Amended on 25.6.2008 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 126 A/2.7.2008).

* Amended on 20.6.1996 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 151 A/8.7.1996).

4. The Minister must not submit documents regarding diplomatic or military or national security secrets.

5. The documents sent to the Parliament by the Minister, are immediately transmitted to the interested MP by the competent service of the Parliament.

6. In case of original documents from the public archives, the competent service of the Parliament notifies in writing the interested MP in order to be informed of/access the content in the Chamber. The MP signs that he had access and was informed of the content.

CHAPTER 6: INTERPELLATIONS

Definition - content

Article 134

1. MPs have the right to address the Ministers with interpellations aiming to control the Government regarding its actions or omissions.

2. The MP who submitted a question or a request for the submission of documents has the right to submit an interpellation if he deems that the answer of the Minister was insufficient or the requested documents or part of them were not given in due time.

3. Interpellations must express with clarity the issue they refer to.

Interpellation entry in the Order of the Day and discussion in the Plenum

Article 135

*1. Interpellations enter the Order of the Day of the Plenum according to their order of register in the interpellations book and they are discussed in the same order. Both the number and the strength of Parliamentary Groups are taken into account, as well as the justified absence of the Ministers the interpellations are addressed to.

*2. Interpellations submitted by MPs according to paragraph 2 of article 134 due to insufficient reply to a question or due to non submission or untimely submission of documents, are referred to the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen. The Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen within a reasonable time and three times a month depending on the number of interpellations of this category in combination with the provisions of article 133, taking also

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284 A/18.12.2001).

* Amended on 25.6.2008 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 126 A/2.7.2008)

into consideration the importance of the documents that were not submitted and the practicability of their gathering, decides on their priority entry in the Order of the Day of Friday; alternatively, they are discussed in the order and conditions specified in the previous paragraph.

**3. The first MP to sign the interpellation may elaborate it orally for ten (10) minutes and the discussion is limited exclusively to the non submission of the requested documents. Paragraphs 2 to 5 of article 97 apply accordingly.

*4. At the discussion of the interpellations participate only the MP or the MPs who sign the interpellation and the competent Minister. The President of the Parliamentary Group to which the MPs who submitted the interpellation belong, may in exceptional cases elaborate the interpellation for ten (10) minutes following the first interpellant MP, and he or his deputy may participate in the discussion in compliance to the terms of article 97 paragraphs 1 to 3 and 5. The President of every other Parliamentary Group or his deputy may participate to the discussion after the first speeches and the answer of the competent Minister, only once and for a half (1/2) of the time provided in article 97 paragraphs 1 to 3.

5. The discussion of the interpellations is limited exclusively to the issue mentioned in the text of the interpellation and is concluded within one sitting. The discussion of any other issue, similar or pertinent to the issue of the interpellation, is not allowed, without prejudice to the provision of article 137.

*6. The interpellants elaborate the interpellation following the order of their signatures, unless -and upon their approval- the order is altered within the time frame they are entitled. The MP who signs the interpellation elaborates it orally and the competent Minister replies. The duration of the speech of the MP who signs first the interpellation is ten (10) minutes, of the next four MPs is five (5) minutes and for each of the next two, three (3) minutes. The duration of the Minister's speech may not exceed twenty (20) minutes. The time for replication is not added to the time of the first speech.

7. At the replication, the speaking time of the previous paragraph is limited in half (1/2).

8. The Minister may, only once and for exceptional reasons, ask the postponement of the discussion of an interpellation for a coming sitting of parliamentary control. For this sitting there is a priority entry to the Order of the Day.

**9. If, within the discussion of an interpellation, actions of an MP who was a member of the present or former Government are also being criticized, he may speak at the end of the

** Amended on 25.11.1993 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum. (Government Gazette 200 A/26.11.1993)

* Amended on 25.11.1993 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum. (Government Gazette 200 A/26.11.1993)

* Amended on 25.11.1993 (Government Gazette 200 A/26.11.1993), on 20.6.1996 (Government Gazette 151 A/8.7.1996), on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284 A/18.12.2001), on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126 A/2.7.2008) and on 27.4.2009 (Government Gazette 66 A/4.5.2009) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

** Amended on 25.11.1993 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum. (Government Gazette 200 A/26.11.1993)

discussion for five (5) minutes and only regarding his actions in question.

Simultaneous discussion of interpellations

Article 136

1. The Parliament may, following an oral recommendation by the Minister or a written proposal of at least fifteen MPs present, decide on the uniform and simultaneous discussion of more than one interpellations entered in the Order of the Day and referring to the same issue. At the discussion of the proposal participate one MP of those in favour and one of those against, the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups and the Minister to whom the interpellation is addressed, each for five (5) minutes.

*2. In case of a simultaneous discussion of more than one interpellations on the same issue signed by MPs of the same or different Parliamentary Groups, the MP who signs first each interpellation speaks for ten (10) minutes, the following four in the line of signatures of each interpellation for five (5) minutes each in rotation and the two next in the line of signatures of every interpellation for three (3) minutes in rotation of the speakers. The replication time is five (5) minutes for the first who signs each interpellation, three (3) minutes for each of the following four who sign each interpellation and two (2) minutes for every one of the next two. Every other detail is regulated by article 135 paragraphs 3 to 6.

Generalization of the discussion of interpellations

Article 137

1. Following the procedure specified in paragraph 1 of the previous article, the Parliament may resolve on the generalization of the discussion of an interpellation. The resolution may include the simultaneous generalized discussion of more interpellations, if the preconditions of paragraph 1 of the previous article are met.

*2. If the generalization of the discussion is decided, it is effectuated in compliance to the provision of paragraph 2 of the previous article on the interpellant MPs, as well as according to article 97 paragraphs 1 to 3 on Ministers, Presidents of Parliamentary Groups and their deputies. The discussion continues with the speeches of those who have enlisted to speak and is not terminated until the end of the speeches of all the interpellants, each speaking for five (5) minutes. The generalized discussion must conclude within two sittings at the most.

* Amended on 25.11.1993 (Government Gazette 200 A/26.11.1993), on 20.6.1996 (Government Gazette 151 A/8.7.1996), and on 27.4.2009 (Government Gazette 66 A/4.5.2009) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

* Amended on 25.11.1993 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum. (Government Gazette 200 A/26.11.1993)

Current interpellations

Article 138

1. For prominent current issues, MPs have the right to submit interpellations which are submitted and discussed following the procedure of the next paragraphs (current interpellations).

*2. Current interpellations are discussed at the sitting of the parliamentary control of each Monday in the Plenum and once every first and third week, on Friday, during the Recess Section of the Parliament, in its first and third composition.

3. The text of the interpellation must have a current content, mentioning on the header that it is a "current interpellation", to be signed by the MP or the MPs who submitted it and to be submitted to the Parliament until twelve noon on Friday.

4. Current interpellations are addressed to the competent Ministers and are registered at the general interpellations book and at a special book. A copy is transmitted at the latest until 10.00 am Monday to the President of the Parliamentary Groups or the representative of the independents according to article 13§1. The transmission is effectuated by the competent service of the Parliament to their respective offices of the Parliament building.

*5. The President of each Parliamentary Group or the specified deputy selects by 8 pm Monday, (following article 130§3) two of the current interpellations submitted by the MPs of his Parliamentary Group, regarding different competent Ministries. For the interpellations of the independent MPs, the selection is made by their representative following article 13§1. In case that the President of a Parliamentary Group or the representative of the independent MPs omits the selection or does not select up to two interpellations, this Parliamentary Group is not included to the procedure of selection of the next paragraph. If no current interpellation is selected by none of the Parliamentary Groups or the independent MPs, the Plenum discusses interpellations following article 135 et seq.

*6. Of the interpellations of the previous paragraph, the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen selects only one, enlisted to the Order of the Day of the Plenum or the Recess Section of the Parliament of the next Monday or the relevant Friday, taking also into account the current element and considering also the terms of article 135§1. In case there are interpellations of the same or similar content, the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen may decide their simultaneous discussion. Such discussion must take place following the procedure of article 107 paragraphs 4 to 8, which apply accordingly.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284 A/18.12.2001).

* Amended on 25.11.1993 (Government Gazette 200 A/26.11.1993) and on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284 A/18.12.2001) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

* Amended on 25.11.1993 (Government Gazette 200 A/26.11.1993) and on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284 A/18.12.2001) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

7. The interpellations of the present article that are not entered in the Order of the Day according to the previous paragraph, maintain their order in accordance to the time of their submission and are discussed following article 135, unless the MP who submitted them asks in writing for their deletion.

8. If it is not provided otherwise in this article, articles 135 and 136 apply *mutatis mutandis* for current interpellations.

CHAPTER 7: CONTROL ON INDEPENDENT AUTHORITIES

*Article 138A

1. Every independent authority that is provided by the Constitution or established by law submits to the Speaker of Parliament a report on its operations of the previous year. The report is submitted by the 31st of March of each year. The Speaker communicates the report to the permanent committee of institutions and transparency or to the competent standing committee or to a relatively established committee by the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen.

2. Every independent authority may submit special reports on matters relative to its competences. The reports are submitted to the relative committees following the provisions of the previous paragraph.

3. For the purpose of informing the Parliament, the competent (according to paragraph 1) committee may order the preparation of special reports on matters of general interest. This order is transmitted to independent authorities by the Speaker of Parliament.

*4. The permanent committee of institutions and transparency, the competent standing committee or a committee established according to the specification of paragraph 1, submit to the Speaker of Parliament the findings of their discussions on the works of each independent authority. The Speaker transmits those findings to the competent Minister and to the relative authority. A minority's opinion is included in the findings. Paragraph 6 of article 43A is accordingly applied.

5. For the hearing of Presidents or members of independent authorities, the provisions of the first section of paragraph 1 of article 38 and of sections a' and b' of paragraph 6 of article 41A are accordingly applied.

6. The permanent committee of institutions and transparency, the competent standing committee or the committee established according to the specifications of paragraph 1, examine the conclusions of the authorities' reports and findings and may apply the provisions on hearing procedures as specified in paragraphs 1 to 6 of article 41A (the last section of paragraph 6 is excluded). Following the completion of the hearing proceedings the committee may prepare a report applying accordingly the provisions of paragraphs 7 and 8 of article 41A.

* Added on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) and amended on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126A/2.7.2008) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

* Amended on 27.4.2009 (Government Gazette 66A/4.5.2009) by a decision of the Parliament Plenum.

*7.a) Every independent authority provided in the Constitution may refer to the Parliament for the promotion and solution of any issue that relates to the accomplishment of its mission. The Speaker of Parliament communicates all relative reports to the committee of institutions and transparency. The committee may express its opinion in writing to the Speaker.

b) All independent authorities provided by the Constitution submit to the Speaker of Parliament a copy of their draft budget. The draft budget is originally submitted to the Minister of Finance.

PART FOUR

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

CHAPTER 1: ELECTIONS

General provisions

Article 139

1. Elections are held in compliance to the provisions of article 73 unless otherwise regulated by special provisions.
2. Candidacies for elections are not allowed.
3. An election is not preceded by a debate.
4. MPs are presented with printed ballot papers containing the names of those nominated by Parliamentary Groups. Blank ballot papers are also distributed.
5. During a secret voting, MPs that are to be elected are not allowed to participate in the Presidium of the Parliament or in the supervisory committee which is responsible for the conduct of the elections.
6. Unless otherwise stated in the Constitution or the Standing Orders, those elected assume their duties immediately after the announcement of the result by the Speaker of Parliament.

Election of the President of the Republic

Article 140

1. The election of the President of the Republic is held by a roll-call vote in a special sitting convoked by the Speaker of Parliament in at least one month before the termination of the mandate of the acting President and according to the provisions that follow.
2. In the event of an incapacity of the President of the Republic to discharge her/his duties (according to the provisions of article 34§2 of the Constitution), as well as in the event that the

* Added on 27.4.2009 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 66A/4.5.2009).

President of the Republic resigns, dies or is proclaimed ousted according to the relevant provisions of the Constitution, the Parliament is convoked in a sitting for the election of a new President of the Republic. The sitting is convoked within ten days the latest from the premature termination of the mandate of the previous President.

3. The election of the President of the Republic is introduced to a special order of the day which is announced in at least five full days before the determined date of the election (following article 32§3 of the Constitution).

4. The election of the President of the Republic is not preceded by a debate.

5. The Parliament's vote follows proposals that have been submitted only by Parliamentary Groups. The right for a proposal belongs also to the group of independent MPs (according to the contents of article 16§5) and a candidate is considered the independent MP who has gathered the majority of the recommendations amongst the Group's members. There are no other candidacies announced in Parliament.

6. The voting for the election of the President of the Republic is always held by a roll-call. The Speaker calls one MP from the Government and one from the Opposition to announce the list of MPs and count the votes. Every MP following the announcement of her/his name states her/his preference and vote-collectors take note of each individual vote. MPs that do not wish to express a preference in favour of a specific candidate, declare themselves "present". In no case a reasoned vote is allowed. Article 72§8 is accordingly applied.

7. Following the close of the roll-call voting a particular record is prepared containing the names of MPs present or absent, each individual vote and the results of the voting procedure. This record is co-signed by vote collectors, the Speaker and the Secretaries of the Parliament and enters the Minutes.

8. A President of the Republic is proclaimed the candidate who has gathered the majority specified in article 32 paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Constitution.

9. When the Speaker of Parliament replaces the President of the Republic he is substituted by the deputies specified in article 10.

CHAPTER 2: MOTIONS OF CENSURE AND CONFIDENCE

Motion of confidence

Article 141

1. Within 15 days of the taking of the Prime Minister's Oath, and following the debate on the Government's declaration on general policy, the Prime Minister and the government have to appear before the Parliament and ask for its vote of confidence. If the Parliament is in recess, article 84 §1 of the Constitution is applied.

2. The Speaker of Parliament after consulting with the Government specifies the day in which the debate on the Government's declarations on general policy and the vote of confidence are to be held.
3. The reading of the Government's declarations on general policy and the vote of confidence are introduced to a special order of the day. The debate progresses following articles 96§2 and 97 which are applied accordingly and cannot be extended for more than three days from its commencement. The entry to the list of speakers takes place after the announcing of the Government's declarations on general policy and after the termination of the speech of the third listed speaker. The voting for the motion of confidence is held immediately after the termination of the debate on the Government's declarations on general policy and the latest, at 12:00 p.m. of the third day from the commencement of the debate unless the Government requests the postponement of the voting for forty eight hours.
4. At any other time the Government may request a vote of confidence by a written or oral declaration of the Prime Minister in the Parliament. In this case the vote of confidence is also introduced to a special order of the day. The debate commences within two days from the submission of the request and is finalized with a voting following the specifications of the previous paragraph.
5. A voting for the motions of confidence of the previous paragraphs is always held by roll-call. Ministers and Deputy Ministers may also vote if they are Members of the Parliament.
6. The Government has the confidence of the Parliament when the motions of the previous paragraphs are approved by the absolute majority of the MPs present. Such majority cannot be less than the two fifths (2/5) of the total number of MPs.

Motion of censure

Article 142

1. By a resolution and following a submission of a motion of censure, the Parliament may withdraw its confidence towards the Government or towards one of its members. The motion of censure must be signed by at least one sixth (1/6) of the MPs and include the specific matters that are to be discussed.
2. The motion of censure is introduced by the Speaker in a public sitting of the Parliament.
3. When it is assured that the motion is signed by the lowest necessary number of MPs, the Parliament interrupts its business for two days unless the Government requests an immediate commencement of the debate.
4. Without prejudice to the discretion presented to the Government by the previous paragraph, the debate on the motion of censure begins two days following the submission of the motion. The debate is terminated through a roll-call vote on 12:00 p.m. of the third day from the commencement of the debate. The voting is held following paragraph 3 of the previous article.

5. The debate commences with the speech of two MPs among those who sign the motion and are appointed following the congruent application of article 91§5. Other speakers enter the relative list until the termination of the speech of the above two MPs. Discussion and voting are held in compliance to the provisions of paragraphs 3 to 5 of the previous article.

6. Unless it is signed by the absolute majority of the total number of MPs, a new motion of censure cannot be introduced sooner than a period of six months from the rejection of an earlier motion.

7. A motion of censure is adopted only if it is approved by the absolute majority of the total number of MPs.

***CHAPTER 3**

INFORMATION AND BRIEFING

Announcements and declarations of the Government before the Parliament

Article 142A

1. For the timely and reliable information and briefing of the Parliament, the Government, through the Prime Minister, in addition to a debate not subject to a program order as specified in the following article, may ask at any time to make announcements and declarations before the Parliament for any important public matter.

2. The request for an announcement or declaration is addressed to the Speaker of Parliament and is communicated by the Speaker to the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups of the Opposition within 24 hours the latest.

3. The declaration or announcement of the Government is acted by the Prime Minister in person and may take place at any time during the sittings of legislative work or parliamentary control before the commencement of the debate specified in the order of the day. The announcement or declaration cannot be more than ten (10) minutes long.

4. The Presidents of the Parliamentary Groups of the Opposition may express in person their views on the content of the Government's announcement or declaration for a maximum of five (5) minutes for each person. When a President of a Parliamentary Group is absent or ill, she/he appoints a person as a substitute.

5. The reply of the Prime Minister to the views of the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups cannot be prolonged for more than five (5) minutes.

6. A replication of the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups of the Opposition cannot be extended for more than three (3) minutes and of the Prime Minister -who speaks last- for more than five (5) minutes.

* *Added on 16.3.1993 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 36A/19.3.1993).*

*7. Without prejudice to paragraph 4 of the present article, substitutes-representatives of Parliamentary Groups cannot take the floor when the Government's declarations or announcements are acted by the Prime Minister.

**8. Through its Ministers, the Government informs the Parliament on matters of their competence. Ministers cannot speak for more than ten (10) minutes and representatives – substitutes of Parliamentary Groups for more than five (5) minutes. Ministers' replications cannot last for more than five (5) minutes and those of substitutes-representatives of Parliamentary Groups for more than three (3) minutes.

Debate not subject to a program order (Order of the Day)

Article 143

1. For national matters or matters of general interest the Prime Minister (by exception of the provision of article 62§1) may inform the Parliament where a debate immediately follows (debate not subject to the program order).

*2. During a parliamentary session there are 7 compulsory sittings of a debate outside the program order. One of those debates is the right of the Government, one of the Speaker of Parliament and the rest 5 of the Opposition. The debate instigated by the Government must refer to the country's relation with the European Union and should this be possible, it must be accompanied with the submission of the relevant report provided in article 3 of Law 945/1979. The matters contained in the debates instigated by the Opposition are determined by the latter as follows: two matters from the strongest party of the Opposition, one from the second in power political party, one from the third in power political party and one from the fourth in power political party. The above requests must be signed by at least two thirds (2/3) of the MPs that belong to each Parliamentary Group. The requests may also be signed by the President of each Parliamentary Group. The request is submitted to the office of the Speaker of Parliament and is immediately communicated to the Prime Minister. The relevant debate commences within a month from the submission of the request and in any case within twenty five (25) days from a previous debate not subject to a program order.

3. A debate not subject to a program order takes place at a date which is determined after an agreement between the Speaker of Parliament and the Prime Minister. The former notifies the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups and proceeds to the relevant announcement before the Parliament.

* Amended on 25.6.2008 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 126A/2.7.2008).

** Added on 25.6.2008 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 126A/2.7.2008).

* Amended by decisions of the Parliament Plenum on 5.7.1990 (Government Gazette 92A/11.7.1990), on 25.11.1993 (Government Gazette 200A/26.11.1993), on 15.12.1997 (Government Gazette 258A/17.12.1997), on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126A/2.7.2008) and on 27.4.2009 (Government Gazette 66A/4.5.2009).

*4. The debate begins with the speech of the Prime Minister which is followed by the speeches of the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups and of one or two Ministers. The debate is finalized in one sitting without a vote.

The speech of the Prime Minister lasts for twenty five (25) minutes, of the Leader of the Opposition and of the Presidents of the rest Parliamentary Groups for twenty (20) minutes and of the Ministers for ten (10) minutes. The speech of the person that has initiated the discussion is increased for five (5) minutes.

The right to replication is exercised for fifteen (15) minutes for the Prime Minister and ten (10) minutes for the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups and for Ministers. The Prime Minister may speak for a third time for another five (5) minutes. Speeches of Ministers that intervene at the stage of first or second speeches and before the conclusion of speeches and replications of the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups are reduced to the half of the allocated time.

*5. Speaking times allocated to a debate outside the program order which is proposed by the Speaker of Parliament are the same with those of a debate not subject to the order of the day proposed by the Prime Minister.

CHAPTER 4: INVESTIGATION COMMITTEES

Composition, establishment, function

Article 144

1. The Parliament's Plenum can establish investigation committees composed by its members and with the purpose of examining special issues of public interest.
2. The proposal for the establishment of the committee must be signed by one fifth (1/5) of the total number of MPs and specify the reasons for which the establishment is required. The proposal must also specify the exact issue with which the committee is to be concerned.
3. Following its submission the proposal is announced before the Parliament, it is printed, distributed to MPs and enters the order of the day of parliamentary control.
4. The discussion of the proposal begins with the speech of one of the MPs appointed in accordance to the provisions of article 91§5. The discussion progresses following the provisions on the procedure of a generalized interpellation and is finalized compulsorily in one sitting.
5. The resolution of the Parliament's Plenum on the establishment of an investigation committee as provided in article 68§2 section a' of the Constitution is voted by the absolute majority of the MPs present. This majority cannot be lower than the two fifths (2/5) of the total number of MPs.

** Amended on 13.10.2000 (Government Gazette 230A/25.10.2000) and on 25.6.2008 (Government Gazette 126A/2.7.2008) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum. [Paragraph 5 is repealed on 13.10.2000 (Government Gazette 230A/25.10.2000)].*

** Added on 27.4.2009 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 66A/4.5.2009).*

6. For issues relating to national defense and foreign policy the above resolution must be adopted by the absolute majority of the total number of MPs.
7. The Parliament's resolution must determine the number of MPs comprising the committee as well as the deadline for the submission of the relevant report. This deadline may be extended in exceptional circumstances by special resolutions of the Parliament.
8. The composition and operation of investigation committees is regulated by the corresponding provisions on the composition and operation of standing committees unless otherwise provided by the following articles.

Powers

Article 145

1. Investigation committees have all the competences of the public prosecutor of misdemeanor courts and of interrogation authorities and conduct every necessary in their judgment investigation. The Parliament by a resolution may restrict the powers of the investigation committee.
2. The powers of investigation committees are exercised within the terms and specifications of articles 146 and 147 and within the terms and specifications of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The powers vested to investigation procedures are not suspended with the termination of the regular session of the Parliament. However they are suspended with the dissolution of the Parliament that have established them or with the termination of the parliamentary term.

Collection of information and documents

Article 146

1. The investigation committee has the right to ask for oral or written information from public authorities, administrations of legal persons of private or public law, as well as from citizens under the terms of the following provisions of the present chapter.
2. The investigation committee may require the supply of any public or other document that exists in the State archives.
3. Documents of legal, private or public law entities are requested directly or through the Minister who exercises the supervision as provided by law. The administrations of legal entities have the obligation to supply the requested documents.
4. The Minister has the obligation to supply original or ratified copies of the requested documents. If, however, the Minister deems that the promulgation of such documents may result in a possible damage for the interests of the State, especially when it is a matter of a military or diplomatic secret that may put national security at risk, the Minister may deny the supply of such information.

Recourse to other evidence

Article 147

1. The committee has the right to summon and examine witnesses, conduct an autopsy or order an expert's report with the terms and specifications provided by the Code of Criminal Procedure.
2. Summons of witnesses and warrants of their forceful bringing are signed by the President of the committee or (by occasion) by the person ordered to conduct a particular investigation. Summons and warrants are then transmitted to the public prosecutor who has the responsibility of their execution.
3. Articles 224 and 225 of the Penal Code are applicable for witnesses examined by the committee or by the persons mentioned in paragraph 6.
4. Compensations of witnesses, experts and generally of persons assisting the investigation are specified in compliance to the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Compensations of civil servants are determined in compliance to the provisions of the Code of Civil Services specifying also travel expenses.
5. In cases of disorder and disturbance of the committee's works and orders, its President has the powers of the investigator according to article 252 §3 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.
6. The investigation committee may assign the execution of explicitly specified acts of investigation to one or more of its members as well as to a judge of a court of appeals or a judge of misdemeanor courts who serve in the constituency in which the relative investigation is to be carried out. Acts of investigation that are to be carried out in a country abroad are assigned to the competent consular authorities.
7. Those authorized to carry out investigations are vested for their activities with the same powers with those of the investigation committee and of its President, unless the committee decides on their restriction whenever it deems necessary.

Findings

Article 148

1. Following the termination of the investigation the committee assesses all collected evidence and prepares a reasoned report, which must contain any minority opinions.
2. Within the deadline (or its extension) set by the resolution on the committee's establishment, the committee's findings are submitted to the Plenum, announced and entered in the Parliament's Minutes.
3. By the proposal of one fifth (1/5) of the sum total of MPs the committee's findings enter the order of the day. The findings are discussed following the congruent application of the provisions of article 137.

Committees on public enterprises and organizations

Article 149

In accordance to the terms of articles 144 et seq., the Parliament may establish (by resolutions) investigation committees for the monitoring and control of every State owned organization or enterprise.

CHAPTER 5: MOTIONS OF CENSURE AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDIUUM OF THE PARLIAMENT – ESTABLISHING THE INCAPACITY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND OF MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDIUUM OF PARLIAMENT TO DISCHARGE THEIR DUTIES

Motion of censure against the Speaker of Parliament or against a member of the Presidium.

Article 150

1. Following a written proposal of at least fifty Members of Parliament, the Parliament may reprimand the Speaker or any other member of the Presidium. The adoption of the motion results in the termination of the tenure of those against whom the motion is addressed.
2. The motion is introduced during the Plenum's sitting and must determine specifically the reasons for the censure. If the proposal is signed by the minimum required number of Members of Parliament, the motion of censure is discussed, following the Government's proposal, on a determined date in one of the two following sittings of parliamentary control.
3. The discussion of the motion of censure is finalized in a single sitting. In it, participates a maximum of five MPs among those who submit the proposal, a maximum of five MPs among those who are not members of the Parliamentary Group whose members submitted the proposal, the member of the Presidium against whom the motion is addressed, the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups and the Government. Article 97 is applied regarding the duration of speeches. The member of the Presidium against whom the motion is addressed, speaks at a maximum of sixty (60) minutes.
4. The motion of censure is approved in compliance to the terms of article 142 § 7.
5. Unless it is signed by the absolute majority of the total number of MPs, a motion of censure against the Speaker of Parliament cannot be introduced earlier than six months from the rejection of a similar motion. In case that a motion of censure is addressed against any other member of the Presidium, a new motion cannot be introduced earlier than three months.

Proposal for establishing the incapacity of the President of the Republic to discharge his/her duties

Article 151

1. The proposal for establishing the incapacity of the President of the Republic to discharge his/her duties as specified in article 34§2 of the Constitution, is submitted in writing by the Government to Parliament and enters a special Order of the Day within two days from its submission.
2. When the Parliament is not in operation - because it is dissolved or because the parliamentary term or session is terminated - the parliament convenes in a compulsory sitting within ten days and in any case the Parliament convenes *ex officio*, the latest at the fifteenth day from the submission of the proposal.
3. According to article 66§1 of the Constitution the Parliament convenes in a closed sitting and votes by roll call.
4. The discussion of the proposal is finalized in a single sitting until 12.00 am, followed by the voting procedure. In the discussion participate: the Government, the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups and those MPs registered with the list of speakers. Each person speaks for ten (10) minutes.
5. In the case of an election of a new President of the Republic the Parliament decides by a majority of three fifths (3/5) of the total number of its members.

Proposal for establishing the incapacity of the Prime Minister to discharge his/her duties

***Article 151A**

1. The proposal for establishing the incapacity of the Prime Minister to discharge his/her duties, as specified in article 38§2 of the Constitution, is submitted by the absolute majority of the Parliamentary Group of the party in which the Prime Minister belongs and in the case that the party has the absolute majority of seats in Parliament. If the Parliamentary Group in which the Prime Minister belongs does not have the absolute majority of seats in Parliament, the proposal is submitted by the 2/5ths, at least, of the total number of Members of Parliament.
2. The proposal of paragraph 1 is submitted in writing to the Speaker of Parliament and enters a special order of the day within two days from its submission.
3. The discussion of the proposal is finalized in a single sitting until 12.00am the latest, followed by the voting procedure. In the discussion participate up to five MPs from those that signed the proposal, up to five MPs who are not members of the Parliamentary Group that submitted the proposal, the Presidents of the Parliamentary Groups and the Government. For the duration of speeches article 97 is applied.
4. When the Prime Minister is unable to discharge his/her duties due to health reasons, the Parliament decides by the absolute majority of the total number of its members.
5. Voting is held by roll call.

* Added on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001)

Proposal for establishing the incapacity of members of the Presidium of Parliament to discharge their duties

Article 152

1. In case that the Speaker of Parliament or any other member of the Presidium is unable to discharge his/her duties for a prolonged period of more than three months, the Parliament, after a written proposal of at least 50 MPs present, decides whether there is a reason for a substitution due to a conclusive inability of discharging duties.
2. The provisions of article 150 paragraphs 2 to 4 are accordingly applied.
3. Voting is secret.

CHAPTER 6: IMPEACHMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, UNDERSECRETARIES AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

General Provisions

*Article 153

1. According to the provisions of article 86 of the Constitution and the Law on Ministers' Liability, the Parliament has the capacity to impeach those that are, or were members of the Cabinet, or Undersecretaries for penal offences that have been committed during the discharge of their duties.
2. In implementing article 86§2 subsection b' of the Constitution, the Speaker of Parliament communicates to the Plenum or the Recess Section all evidence, immediately after their submission to Parliament.

Motion to prosecute a member of the Cabinet or an Undersecretary

*Article 154

1. The prosecution referred to in the previous article against a person who is or was a member of the Cabinet or an Undersecretary requires a proposal to bring charges and a resolution of the Parliament which adopts such proposal.
2. The proposal to bring charges against the persons specified in paragraph 1 of article 153 is submitted in writing and is signed by at least thirty (30) Members of Parliament. Otherwise the proposal is not adopted.

** Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A /18.12.2001).*

** Amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A /18.12.2001) and on 16.5.2011 (Government Gazette 119A /25.5.2011) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.*

3. The proposal for prosecution has to specify exactly all actions or omissions which according to Law on the Liability of Ministers are deemed as punishable. It must also mention all provisions that have been breached. With the submission of the proposal MPs may recommend the assignment to a three-party opinion council of the inspection of all evidence and the evaluation of their substantive reliability.

Discussion of the proposal

*Article 155

1. All matters related to the process of impeachment of members of the Cabinet or Undersecretaries enter to a special order of the day.

2. Immediately after its submission, the motion for prosecution is announced to the Plenum, it is printed and distributed to MPs along with the probable proposal (of those MPs that sign the motion for prosecution) on the assignment to a three-party opinion council, of the inspection of all evidence and the evaluation of their substantive reliability.

3. If the proposal for the assignment to a three-party opinion council of the inspection of all evidence and the evaluation of their substantive reliability is not co-submitted with the motion for prosecution, such proposal can be submitted in writing by at least thirty (30) MPs within seven (7) days from the announcement of the motion for prosecution.

If the motion for prosecution is not accompanied by the above proposal and if such proposal is not submitted within the deadline of the previous sentence, the Speaker of Parliament enters the motion for prosecution to a special order of the day within fifteen (15) days following the termination of this deadline. In case there is a proposal for assignment to a three-party opinion council of the inspection of all evidence concerning the prosecution and the evaluation of their substantive reliability, the Speaker enters such proposal to a special order of the day within fifteen days following the proposal's submission. With the Parliament's decision accepting the proposal for the establishment of an opinion council, a specific deadline is set for the conduct of inspection and the handing out of its opinion to the Speaker of Parliament.

In case the Parliament rejects the proposal for an assignment to a three-party opinion council of the inspection of evidence, the Speaker of Parliament enters the motion for prosecution to a special order of the day within fifteen (15) days from the rejection of the proposal.

4. The opinion council of the above paragraph is composed by one deputy prosecutor of the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court two public prosecutors of the Court of Appeals who are chosen by lot along with their substitutes in a public sitting of the Parliament's Plenum which is convoked especially for this reason between all the deputy prosecutors of the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court and the public prosecutors of the Court of Appeals that serve in the Athens' prosecutors office of the Court of Appeals. For the conduct of the selection process the Minister of Justice conveys to the Speaker of Parliament a list of the above magistrates who serve in the Athens prosecutors offices of the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court and the Court of Appeals. Remaining issues are regulated accordingly by the provisions of article 158.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A /18.12.2001).

5. The opinion of the tripartite council is handed to the Speaker of Parliament, announced in the Plenum and distributed to MPs. Following the announcement of the opinion, MPs that signed the motion can withdraw (within 7 days, in which case the prosecution process is terminated) or amend it taking into consideration the council's opinion. The Speaker of Parliament enters in a special order of the day the motion for prosecution within seven days from the quiescent elapse of the above deadline or the submission of the amendments of the proposal.
6. During the discussion on the motion for prosecution or on the establishment of the inspection and evaluation council, the Parliament may allow the presence of the person against whom the motion is addressed, in order to hear his/her views. In any case this person has the right to submit a memorandum which enters the Minutes.
7. The discussion for all issues mentioned in article 86 of the Constitution is conducted according to article 137§2 of the Standing Orders which is correspondingly implemented.
8. Voting for all issues related to article 86 of the Constitution is secret. In it, the person against whom the motion for prosecution is addressed does not participate if she/he is a Member of Parliament.
9. The resolution for the establishment of the committee or the three-party opinion council is voted by the absolute majority of the total number of MPs otherwise the relevant motion is rejected.
10. If the Parliament decides not to establish a special committee, a new proposal for prosecution based on the same actual facts cannot be submitted.
11. If for any other reason – including an invalidation by prescription – the process of prosecution against a person who acts or acted as a member of the Cabinet or an Undersecretary is not completed, the Parliament may, after an application of this person or an application of his/her heirs, establish a special committee in which magistrates exercising a control on the accusations, may participate. The relevant discussion takes place in one sitting.
12. To the special committee of the previous paragraph, one of the Deputy Speakers of Parliament acts as president. The number of its members, its composition and establishment are determined by a resolution of the Parliament. By the same resolution, a time-limit for the submission of the committee's findings is set. After the submission of the findings and following an application of the interested person or of his/her heirs, or a proposal of one tenth (1/10) of the total number of MPs, the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen decides on the conduct of discussion which is finalized in one sitting.
13. By the process and the majority specified in previous paragraphs, the Parliament may at any time withdraw its resolution or suspend the prosecution or the preparatory and main proceedings.

Conduct of Preliminary Examination

*Article 156

** Amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A /18.12.2001) and on 16.5.2011 (Government Gazette 119A/25.5.2011) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.*

1. If the Parliament resolves on a preliminary examination, it establishes, from its members, a twelve-member committee which will carry out the examination. The Parliament simultaneously determines the deadline within which the committee is obliged to submit its findings and the relevant evidence.

*2. The number of members of the Committee is increased so that at least one (1) member acts as a representative of a Parliamentary Group. Representation should correspond to the strength of each recognized - by the Standing Orders - Parliamentary Group.

3. The committee is established and functions in compliance to the provisions that regulate the operation of Standing Committees. After its establishment the committee appoints two of its members as rapporteurs.

4. When conducting a preliminary examination, the committee has all the powers of the public prosecutor of misdemeanor courts. The committee may assign to a public prosecutor of misdemeanor courts or to an attorney general of the court of appeals specific actions that relate to the subject of the preliminary examination. During the preliminary inquiry the person against whom the motion for prosecution is directed, is summoned by the committee to provide justifications of his/her actions. When the act for which a preliminary inquiry is conducted results in financial gains for the Minister (according to the meaning of article 76§1 of the Penal Code) the committee orders their confiscation.

5. The committee's report must be reasoned and contain mostly: a) all facts and the evidence leading to them as these have been ascertained during the preliminary inquiry, b) the submission of facts to the relevant penal conditions and c) a specific proposal on the opening or not of formal criminal proceedings. Any possible proposal of the minority must also be reasoned and enters a separate chapter in the committee's findings. The findings of the committee and the relevant evidence material are submitted to the Speaker of the Parliament who announces their submission to the House.

6. The findings are printed and distributed to Members of Parliament within ten days from their submission.

7. Members of Parliament as well as the person against whom the motion for prosecution is directed are entitled to the knowledge of all evidence-material submitted to Parliament.

8. If the committee does not submit its findings within the predetermined date, the Parliament either extends the deadline or proceeds with the discussion of the motion for prosecution.

9. The powers of the committee are not suspended with the termination of the parliamentary session, however they cease with the dissolution of the Parliament or with the termination of the parliamentary term.

10. If the findings of the committee are not submitted when the Parliament is dissolved or at the termination of the parliamentary term, the Parliament at the first regular session of the new term

* Added on 1.2.1994 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 6A/2.2.1994).

establishes a new committee for the conduct or the continuation of the preliminary examination without prejudice to the provisions of article 86 § 3, 2nd subparagraph of the Constitution.

Discussion of the committee's findings

***Article 157**

1. Within five days from the distribution of the committee's findings to Members of Parliament a special order of the day for the Plenum is compiled.
2. The discussion begins the latest within fifteen days from the notification of the special order of the day. The discussion is general and refers to the endorsement or not, of the motion for prosecution. During the discussion the Parliament may invite any person to appear before it for a hearing, even if the respected person is not a member of the Cabinet, an Undersecretary or a Member of Parliament. The last sentence of paragraph 6 of article 155 is accordingly applied.
3. Immediately after the termination of the discussion, the Parliament votes in secret on: the committee's proposal and separately, on every denounced act or omission for which a prosecution is requested.
4. If after the submission of the committee's proposal the parliamentary session is terminated or the Parliament is dissolved or the parliamentary term is at an end, the general discussion on the acceptance of the proposal takes place accordingly on the next session or the first session of the next parliamentary term and in conformity to the reservations of article 86 §3, 2nd section of the Constitution.
5. If the committee's proposal is rejected, a new proposal for prosecution cannot be submitted against the same person and based on the same facts.

In case that the committee's findings are rejected any possible implementation of confiscation of assets is *ipso jure* removed. The Speaker of Parliament may issue a relevant executory act following an application of the owner of the confiscated assets or of his/her inheritors.

Selection by lot of members of the Special Court, of the Judicial Council and of the public prosecutor's office

***Article 158**

1. If the Parliament decides to adopt the motion for prosecution it proceeds with a selection by lot of members of the Special Court, of the Judicial Council and of the public prosecutor's office, according to article 86 of the Constitution and the law on the liability of Ministers.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A /18.12.2001) and on 16.5.2011 (Government Gazette 119A/25.5.2011) by decisions of the Parliament Plenum.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A /18.12.2001)

2. The selection of regular and substitute members of the Special Court takes place before the Plenum and the Speaker of Parliament. Following a relevant request by the Speaker of Parliament, the Minister of Justice forwards the names of members of the Supreme Administrative Court and of the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court who can participate in the composition of the Special Court and of the Judicial Council according to article 86§4 of the Constitution. If the formation of the Special Court or of the Judicial Council is not possible a new selection by lot follows. The process through which the composition of the Judicial Council or of the Special Court is established is the same.

3. When the selection of members of the Special Court or of the Judicial Council does not occur or is interrupted due to the termination of the session or of the parliamentary term or due to the dissolution of the parliament, the process is recurred at the next session or at the first session of the next parliamentary term without prejudice to the provision of article 86 §3 2nd section of the Constitution.

4. Immediately after the effectuation of the selection process as described in paragraph 2 of the present article, the Speaker of Parliament forwards to the President of the Supreme Administrative Court or to the President of the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court the resolution of the Parliament on the acceptance of the motion for prosecution. The Speaker also forwards the names of regular and substitute members that have been selected, as well as the relevant case file.

Proposal to bring charges against the President of the Republic

Article 159

1. In order to bring charges and impeach the President of the Republic, a proposal to bring charges and a relevant parliamentary resolution on its adoption is necessary.
2. The proposal to bring charges has to be submitted in writing and be signed by at least one third (1/3) of the total number of MPs. Otherwise it cannot be adopted.
3. The proposal to bring charges has to specify all acts or omissions of the President of the Republic which according to article 49§1 of the Constitution establish the President's liability.
4. For the adoption of the proposal to bring charges and impeach the President of the Republic a majority of two thirds (2/3) of the total number of MPs is necessary. Voting is secret and by roll call.
5. If the proposal to bring charges is adopted, the President of the Republic is indicted to the Special Court as the later is specified in article 86 of the Constitution. All relevant to article 86 provisions are implemented accordingly also for the President of the Republic.
6. The provisions of articles 153 to 158 that specify the process of impeachment of members of the Cabinet or Undersecretaries are accordingly implemented for the impeachment of the President of the Republic.

PART FIVE

THE SCIENTIFIC SERVICE OF THE PARLIAMENT

Article 160

1. A scientific service of the parliament is established. The service consists of: a) the scientific council of the Parliament, b) the first directorate of scientific studies, c) the second directorate of scientific studies and d) the directorate of scientific supervision.
2. At the discharge of their duties all directorates of the scientific service act exclusively in accordance to the general principles and rules of science.
3. The scientific council answers directly to the Speaker of Parliament. With the assistance of the directorate of scientific supervision the President of the Scientific Council exercises the scientific supervision of all the directorates of scientific studies, of the directorate of the Parliament's library, the directorate of Benakios library of the collections of political personalities and of the directorate of computer science and new technologies. The President of the Scientific Council informs the Speaker and the Scientific Council on issues pertaining to his authorities.
4. The competences of the administrative direction of the scientific service belong to the Speaker of Parliament who can bestow them. The same values for the competences of article 3§1 section e' of the special internal rules of the Parliament's library (Government Gazette 753B'/18.12.1985) and for the competences described in articles 88 and 90 §1, section c' of the internal Standing Orders of the Parliament (Part B' - Personnel).
5. The parliamentary supervision of the library of Parliament belongs to the committee of article 46§4 of the Standing Orders. The committee proposes to the Speaker of the Parliament every measure that is deemed necessary for the rational and effective operation of the library.
6. Articles 7 section c', 22 and 30 of the internal Standing Orders (Part B' - Personnel) are repealed.

Scientific Council

Article 161

*1. The scientific council of the Parliament consists of nine members of which one is a university professor specialized in constitutional law and with experience in parliamentary law acting as the President of the council. The council also consists of a professor of public law, a professor of private law, a professor of European law, a professor of penal law, a professor of political science, a professor of economics, a professor of statistics and a professor of computer science. The first three members should be acting or not professors of the first grade.

The scientific council convenes under the direction of its President either in plenum or in sections. The composition of the sections is determined by the Speaker of Parliament following a proposal by the council's President.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A'/18.12.2001)

2. The President and the members of the scientific council are appointed by the Speaker of Parliament on a contract of private law for a full or part-time employment without a commitment to general or special provisions of labour or other legislation and especially to paragraph 12 of article 65 of the Services Regulations of Parliament (part B' Personnel). Paragraph 2 of article 64 and paragraphs 7,8 and 9 of article 65 of the Services Regulations of Parliament (part B' Personnel) are accordingly implemented. A termination of this contract is allowed for the same reasons that allow the discharge of the Parliament's permanent staff.

3. The posts of the President and of members of the scientific council are not incompatible with the practice of law or with their posts as members of university faculty.

*4. To the competence of the scientific council belong: a) the organization, supervision and review of the outcomes of the research and studies of the directorates of scientific studies, of computing science and new technologies and of the directorate of the library. In this framework and during the first fortnight of every session the council presents diagrammatically the subject areas of study and research, which are then submitted to the Speaker of Parliament for approval. At the end of each session the council submits the relative accountability reports, b) the supervision of the bibliographical updating of the library's collection. The ordering of books or other printed material by the council or its President is executed after an approval of the Speaker of Parliament, c) the organization of seminars to the directorates that comprise the scientific service of the Parliament d) recommendations on the selection of heads of departments and research personnel in the directorates of scientific studies e) the supervision of the research publications of the service, f) recommendations on the collaboration with relative research departments of other parliaments and international organizations and the systematic monitoring of their works for the drafting of comparative studies.

To the competence of the President of the scientific council belong: a) the assignment to the members of the scientific council of the review of the relative reports on bills and law proposals, b) the coordination of the collaboration of the different directorates that comprise the scientific service of the Parliament.

5. The Speaker of the Parliament can assign through the issuing of a resolution other relative competences to the scientific council.

Directorates of scientific studies

Article 162

*1. By decisions of the Speaker of the Parliament the following departments are established and allocated to the first and second directorate of scientific studies: a) first department of legal-technical elaboration of bills and law proposals, b) second department of legal-technical elaboration of bills and law proposals, c) department of parliamentary research and studies, d) department of European studies, e) department of international and defense studies, f)

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A /18.12.2001)

* Amended on 6.12.2001(Government Gazette 284A /18.12.2001) and on 27.4.2009 (Government Gazette 66 A / 4.5.2009) by a decision of the Parliament Plenum.

department of economic and environmental studies, g) department of documentation, h) department of parliamentary history, j) secretarial department. The Head of each department is responsible for the coordination of its operation, for executing the Council's directives and for the recommendations to the Council of all issues concerning the service.

*2. The Heads of the Directorates and of the above eight departments, as well as the scientific associates and the special scientific associates who are employed in them, are appointed to their posts after a published contract notice which states the required qualifications. Following a decision of the Speaker of Parliament, those who at the publication of the present Standing Orders already serve as Heads and scientific associates, occupy *ipso jure* relative posts. The relative contract notice is published in at least two daily Athens newspapers. The scientific council evaluates and examines the candidates' education qualifications, their research work as well as their personality and submits to the Speaker of Parliament a relative recommendation of selection. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the previous article are implemented for the appointment of the staff of the present paragraph.

The appointment is effectuated by a decision of the Speaker of Parliament. The provision of case (j) of paragraph 2, article 2 of law 2530/1997 as amended, is in force for the members of the directorate of scientific studies.

*3. The competences of the directorates of scientific studies are the following: a) the scientific, especially from the viewpoint of comparative law and the legal-technical assistance to the Parliament in the execution of its legislative and general parliamentary work; b) the systematic monitoring of the discussions in Parliament as well as the collection and analysis of data relevant to its work; c) the carrying out of studies concerning parliamentary custom and practice of the Hellenic Parliament; d) the carrying out of studies and the submission of proposals regarding the improvement of the Parliament's organization of services and operations; e) the monitoring of the works of international parliamentary conferences, the informing of the Parliament on the object of its works and the delivery of the necessary scientific assistance to the relative parliamentary delegations of the Hellenic Parliament; f) the monitoring of the works of the conferences of the European Union and of international organizations and conferences, the informing of the Parliament on their subject of work and the delivery of the necessary scientific assistance to MPs and parliamentary delegations; g) the cooperation with the programming, research and studies sector of the "Hellenic Parliament Foundation for Parliamentarism and Democracy".

4. By his/her decision the Speaker of the Parliament can commit to the directorates of the scientific service any other competence that is relevant to the support of the Parliament's works.

*5. Through a decision of the Speaker of Parliament, scientific associates of the directorates of scientific studies can be assigned a post to parliamentary committees in order to contribute to a better legal-technical elaboration of bills and law proposals, or in order to provide any scientific assistance. Scientific associates provide information to specific questions of the Presidents of the Committees.

* Amended on 15.12.1997 (Government Gazette 258 A/17.12.1997), on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) and on 27.4.2009 (Government Gazette 66 A/4.5.2009) by a decision of the Parliament Plenum.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001) by a decision of the Parliament Plenum.

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).

6. Ministries, public services, local government organizations, universities, research institutes, public libraries and all other legal entities of the public sector are obliged to provide any requested information or data that is useful for the execution of the works of the scientific service of the Parliament.

*7. Within three months from the effectuation of the present Standing Orders the Speaker of Parliament publishes by decree and after the concurring opinion of the scientific council, the special internal rules of the scientific service. This publication takes place according to article 49 of the Standing Orders (Part B') according to which the provisions of articles 160 to 163 of the present Standing Orders can be amended or supplemented by the internal rules. The internal rules of the scientific service can be supplemented or amended by similar decrees which are published in the Government Gazette.

*8. Forty eight (48) posts at the directorates of scientific studies are established. The posts are filled by open-ended contracts of private law. Scientific associates of the directorates of scientific studies which are about to be employed must have obtained a doctorate degree on the subject in which they are about to be employed. A decision of the Speaker of Parliament, following a recommendation of the scientific council determines the allocation of the above posts in the directorates' departments. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the previous article regulate the filling of the posts and their service status. In order to meet possible service requirements, the Speaker of Parliament, following a recommendation by the scientific council may alter the numerical composition of the departments of the directorates of scientific studies. The Speaker after a recommendation of the scientific council may also transfer scientific associates from department to department and from directorate to directorate.

*9. a) The following posts are established for the support of the work of the scientific council: Two (2) posts of special scientific associates, employed by an open contract of private law. The candidates must be awarded a postgraduate degree on the subject on which they are employed. One (1) secretarial post of an open contract of private law. The candidate must have experience in library organization.

b) Thirty two (32) posts of special scientific associates are established in the directorates of scientific studies. The candidates are to be employed by an open contract of private law and must have obtained a postgraduate degree on the subject of their job position. Special scientific associates are allocated in the departments of the directorates of scientific studies after a recommendation of the scientific council and following a decision by the Speaker of Parliament. In order to provide technical and scientific assistance to the work of parliamentary committees, up to two (2) scientific associates are to be positioned in each committee in accordance to the subject of the committee's competences.

The provisions of paragraph 8 are applied for the staff of the present article.

*10. Other employees of the Parliament may apply and be positioned to the directorate of scientific studies according to their qualifications and the service's demands. In order to adjust

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A /18.12.2001)

* Amended on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A /18.12.2001)

* Added on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A /18.12.2001)

* Renumbered on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A /18.12.2001).

and update the parliament's services to the requirements of modern technology, the scientific council may organize special seminars to be attended by the Parliament's staff.

* Article 162A

Following a recommendation of the President of the scientific council and a decision by the Speaker of Parliament, the Parliament may assign to research centers and scientific agencies of the private or public sector scientific or research studies, providing also for the relevant remuneration.

Directorate of data processing

** Article 163

PART SIX

FINAL AND TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

CHAPTER 1: FINAL PROVISIONS

Submission of documents to Parliament Supply of copies

Article 164

1. All documents submitted to Parliament by members of the Government, Undersecretaries, MPs, public authorities and individuals are handed to the competent office of the Parliament and enter the relevant books.
2. MPs have the right to ask from the head of each office to present to them any required document that have been submitted to Parliament and supply the relevant copies.
3. Upon the Speaker's judgment, ratified documents that have been submitted to Parliament may be supplied.

Parliamentary Archives

* *Added on 6.12.2001 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 284A/18.12.2001).*

** *Repealed on 27.4.2009 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 66A/4.5.2009).*

Article 165

1. At the end of each regular session the “Parliamentary Archives” are edited and book-bound. The “Archives” are divided to those of parliamentary work and those of parliamentary control.

*2. To the archives of parliamentary work - and according to each ministry -, enter the following: a) explanatory reports, bills, law proposals, amendments, reports of the standing and special committees, as well as the texts of bills and law proposals as they have been finalized after they have been voted as a whole by the Parliament; b) explanatory reports and the text of the budget, financial statement and general balance sheet of the State, as well as the relevant reports prepared by the *rapporteurs* of the majority and minority of the committee of financial affairs and the committee of the financial statement and the general balance sheet of the State and the control of the execution of the State budget.

3. In addition, to the archives of parliamentary work enter the following: a) explanatory reports and texts of drafts and proposals on modifying the Standing Orders and the relative amendments, as well as the report of the Committee on the Standing Orders and the text that contains all alterations in the Standing Orders as it has been voted as a whole by the Parliament; b) explanatory reports and texts of the budget and financial statement of the Parliament; c) resolutions of the Parliament.

4. To the archives of parliamentary control enter, according to each category, the means of parliamentary control as they have been submitted to Parliament, as well as the findings of investigation committees.

5. In a special issue of the Archives of Parliament are published explanatory reports and the texts of the proposals and acts on the revision of the Constitution.

Bookbinding of the Parliament Minutes and composition of the general subject index of contents

Article 166

1. The issues of the Minutes of Parliament’s sittings are book-bound in special volumes by the title: “Parliament Minutes”. At the end of each volume of every session and of every Recess Section are attached: a) a table with the numbers and dates of sittings, b) alphabetical list with the names of the speakers of sittings and c) analytical subject index of all sittings.

2. By a decision of the Speaker of Parliament and for a more facile search and use of the contents of the Parliament Minutes and of the Sittings Gazette that have been published in the past, a general subject index is periodically compiled.

Special provisions on the implementation of the Standing Orders

Article 167

* Amended on 25.6.2008 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 126A/2.7.2008).

1. Without prejudice to a different ruling by the provisions of each law on the Cabinet, the provisions of the Standing Orders that concern the rights and responsibilities of Ministers in relation to Parliament works are accordingly implemented for Undersecretaries.
2. The deputy or deputies that act as representatives of a Parliamentary Group cannot speak for more than three times in total for the same subject. If a speech of the President of a Parliamentary Group has already taken place and he/she is substituted by a deputy, the latter has the right to speak only for another two times for a period that corresponds to replications.
3. For the expenses for which a written credit has entered the budget of the Parliament no special resolution is necessary. In such case the first subparagraph of article 136 §3 of the service regulations of the Parliament (Part B' – Personnel) is implemented, while the second subparagraph of the same paragraph is repealed.
- *4.
5. The provision of article 37 § 2 of the Standing Orders is extended for those members of the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen who are not members of the standing committees of the Parliament. The details of implementing the provision of article 37 § 2 are regulated through a resolution of the Speaker of Parliament.

Authorization Provisions

*Article 167A

Through a proposal of the Speaker of Parliament and by the concurrent opinion of the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen, the Parliament may establish a legal entity in the form of a foundation or any other legal type with the following aims: the diffusion of the principles of democracy and parliamentarianism, the participation of the Parliament in the cultural, social and educational matters of the country as well as the support to the general efforts of strengthening the international position of Greece. The new foundation is governed by a nine-member administrative council in which participate in an honorary and unremunerated basis: the current Speaker of Parliament acting as President. Members also include former Speakers of Parliament and former Prime Ministers and party leaders that have received a vote of confidence. Working capital and expenditures of establishment are burdening the Budget of the Parliament. The new legal entity's financial recourses are the annual subsidy from the Budget of the Parliament, a state subsidy, donations, inheritances or bequests of parliamentary or non-parliamentary persons as well as subsidies of state or non-state banks, companies and individuals. The aforementioned legal person will operate on private-financial standards and have flexibility in derogation from public accounting. All special objectives, the brand name, the legal form, the administration, the executive committee, resources and expenditures, supplies, the execution of works, the management, issues relating to personnel, the budget and in general every necessary detail shall be regulated by the statute or the statutory organization of the legal entity. The statutory text will be debated and voted during the process of codes. It will

* Repealed on 1.4.1997 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Part B' – Personnel, Government Gazette 51A'/10.4.1997).

* Added on 20.6.1996 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 151A'/8.7.1996)

be drafted after an explicit authorization to the Speaker of Parliament and to the Conference of Parliamentary Chairmen.

Incorporation of employees AP

* Article 168

Recognition of previous service

* Article 169

Ratification of a special act

Article 170

Since its publication in the Government Gazette (791B'/20.10.1982) the special act 4148/8.10.1982 is ratified. The act orders the following: "We construe that the meaning of the provisions of article 10 of the second part of the organization charter of the Parliament's services and the status of its staff is that it includes those who retired from service from December 31, 1979 until the entering into force of the above charter (Government Gazette 146A'|21.6.1980)".

CHAPTER 2: TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

Article 171

1. The Works Regulation Code of the Parliament as ratified in the fifth (E') sitting of October 14th, 1975 of the Parliament Plenum (Government Gazette 238A'/23.10.1975) is repealed. Paragraphs 1 and 2 of article 20 of the repealed Regulations remain in force until the end of the present fourth (D') parliamentary term.
2. The Standing Orders of the Parliament are in force by the commencement of the third (C') session of the fourth (D') parliamentary term. The Speaker of Parliament orders the publication of the Standing Orders to the Government Gazette.
3. Within a month of the entering into force of the Standing Orders the Parliament shall elect its fourth and fifth Vice-President according to articles 8 and 10 paragraph 1, last subparagraph.
4. Until the constitution of the new standing parliamentary committees according to the provisions of the present Standing Orders, the previous standing parliamentary committees are responsible for the elaboration of pending bills and law proposals. Immediately after the commencement of the operation of the new committees, bills and law proposals whose elaboration is not yet finalized are transferred to the newly established committees.

* Repealed on 1.4.1997 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Part B' – Personnel, Government Gazette 51A'|10.4.1997)

* Repealed on 1.4.1997 by a decision of the Parliament Plenum (Part B' – Personnel, Government Gazette 51A'|10.4.1997)

5. Without prejudice to the previous paragraph, the debate of pending bills and law proposals as well as the debate of pending means of parliamentary control takes place in compliance to the provisions of the present Standing Orders from its entering into force.

*6. By the opening of the second session of the twelfth (IB') parliamentary term, the Parliament shall elect the sixth and seventh of its Vice-Presidents according to article 8 of the Standing Orders.

Article 172

Every provision that is contrary to the present Standing Orders or concerns matters which are regulated by it, is repealed.

Athens, June 22, 1987

THE SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT

GIANNIS N. ALEVRAS

* *Added on 25.6.2008 by a decision of the Parliament's Plenum (Government Gazette 126A/2.7.2008)*