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# **RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

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## **I. INTRODUCTORY PROVISION**

### **Article 1**

These Rules of Procedure shall regulate the organisation and the work of the National Assembly and the manner of realisation of the rights and duties of the Members of Parliament (hereinafter: MPs), in accordance with the Law on the National Assembly (hereinafter: the Law).

## **II. CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### *1. Convening the first sitting of the National Assembly*

### **Article 2**

The first sitting of the National Assembly shall be convened by the Speaker of the National Assembly from its previous legislature so that the sitting shall be held no later than 30 days following the date of proclamation of the final results of the elections.

### **Article 3**

At the first sitting of the National Assembly, the oldest member of the Assembly present shall chair (the Chairperson) until the election of the Speaker of the National Assembly has been announced. Where the oldest MP is not able or does not wish to chair the sitting, the sitting of the National Assembly shall be chaired by the next oldest MP in attendance.

The Chairperson, or the Speaker of the National Assembly, shall be assisted in his/her work by one, the youngest, MP from each of four electoral lists which gained the greatest number of MPs' mandates, and the Secretary General of the National Assembly.

### **Article 4**

The following shall be conducted at the first sitting of the National Assembly:

- verification of the mandates of MPs,
- the election of the Speaker of the National Assembly,
- the election of the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly.
- the nomination of the Secretary General of the National Assembly

In line with rules, the following shall be conducted at the first sitting of the National Assembly

- election of parliamentary working bodies' members, and
- election of members of standing parliamentary delegations to international institutions.

## *2. Verification of the mandates of MPs*

### **Article 5**

MPs shall assume the rights and duties in the National Assembly on the date when their mandates are verified.

Verification of mandates of MPs shall be conducted on the basis of a certificate on election as an MP and the report of the public authority in charge of implementing the elections of MPs on the elections conducted.

The National Assembly, at its first sitting, acting on a proposal of the Speaker, shall, by a majority vote of those MPs who are present, form a Commission consisting of three members. The Commission shall be chaired by its oldest member.

On the basis of the report of the public authority responsible for conducting the elections of MPs, the Commission shall establish whether the data in the certificate on the election of each MP are identical with the data in the report of the public authority responsible for conducting the elections of MPs, and submit a report thereon to the National Assembly.

### **Article 6**

Based on the report referred to in Article 5 paragraph 4 of these Rules of Procedure, the Chairperson at the first sitting of the National Assembly shall note that the public authority responsible for conducting the elections of MPs has submitted a report on the elections conducted and also the report on which certificates of the election as MPs comply with the report, whereby the mandates of those MPs shall be deemed verified.

### **Article 7**

After the verification of their mandates, MPs shall take an oath of office.

## *3. Election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and Appointment of the Secretary General of the National Assembly*

### **a) Election of the Speaker of the National Assembly**

#### **Article 8**

Candidates for the Speaker of the National Assembly shall be nominated in writing by at least 30 MPs.

Each MP may participate in the nomination of only one candidate for the Speaker of the National Assembly.

The nomination referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall contain the following: the name and surname of the candidate, the name of the electoral list from which the candidate has been elected, the name and surname of the representative of proposers, a reasoning for the nomination, a biography of the candidate and the consent of the candidate.

#### **Article 9**

The nomination of a candidate for the Speaker of the National Assembly shall be submitted to the Chairperson in writing.

MPs shall be notified by the Chairperson of all nominations of candidates for the Speaker of the National Assembly which have been received.

The proposers' representative shall be entitled to substantiate the nomination.

A debate shall be held on the nominations of candidates for the Speaker of the National Assembly.

After the debate, the Chairperson shall draft a list of candidates for the Speaker of the National Assembly, in alphabetical order, by surname.

#### **Article 10**

Before announcing the election of the Speaker of the National Assembly, the National Assembly shall decide whether the vote shall be by secret or by open ballot.

If the National Assembly decides on the vote by open ballot, a roll call vote shall be taken.

#### **Article 11**

Secret ballot votes for the election of the Speaker of the National Assembly shall be conducted in accordance with provisions of these Rules of Procedure regulating votes by secret ballot in the National Assembly.

Voting by secret ballot for the election of the Speaker of the National Assembly shall be administered by the Chairperson at the sitting of the National Assembly.

Candidates for the Speaker of the National Assembly may not administer the vote nor help in its administration.

#### **Article 12**

Each MP may vote for only one candidate for the Speaker of the National Assembly.

#### **Article 13**

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall be the MP who receives the majority of the total number of votes cast.

Where there are two candidates, and neither receives the required majority, the election procedure shall be repeated.

Where there are more than two candidates, and none receives the required majority, a repeated ballot shall be held to choose between the two candidates who received the largest number of the votes cast, or between more candidates who received the largest equal number of the votes cast.

If the Speaker of the National Assembly is not elected in the second round of voting, the election procedure shall be repeated.

### **b) Election of Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly**

#### **Article 14**

The National Assembly, acting on the proposal of the Speaker of the National Assembly, shall determine the number of Deputy Speakers.

#### **Article 15**

One or more Deputy Speakers of the National Assembly may be nominated by a minimum of 30 MPs, but they may not nominate more than the number determined by the decision.

The nomination shall contain the names and surnames of the candidates, their biographies, the names of the electoral lists from which they have been elected, the name and surname of the representatives of the proposers, a reasoning for the nominations and the candidates' consents, in writing.

#### **Article 16**

The nomination of candidates for a Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly shall be submitted to the Speaker of the National Assembly in writing.

MPs shall be notified by the Speaker of the National Assembly of all the nominations received.

The proposers' representative shall be entitled to substantiate the nomination.

A debate shall be held on the nominations.

After the debate, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall establish a list of candidates for Deputy Speakers of the National Assembly, listed in alphabetical order, by their surnames.

#### **Article 17**

Before voting for candidates for Deputy Speakers of the National Assembly, acting upon the proposal of the Speaker of the National Assembly, the National Assembly shall decide whether to vote by open or by secret ballot.

If the National Assembly decides on an open ballot vote, a roll call vote shall be taken.

Where the voting of MPs is by roll call, and more candidates have been nominated than the number determined by the decision, each MP may vote for only as many candidates as are being elected.

#### **Article 18**

Secret ballot vote for the election of Deputy Speakers of the National Assembly shall be administered by the Speaker of the National Assembly.

No candidate for Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly may assist the Speaker of the National Assembly in administering the vote.

#### **Article 19**

Secret ballot voting for Deputy Speakers of the National Assembly shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of these Rules of Procedure which regulate secret ballot votes in the National Assembly.

MPs may vote for no more than the total number of candidates being elected, and only for the candidates whose names are listed on the ballot.

#### **Article 20**

The candidates who receive the majority of votes of the total number of MPs shall be declared elected as Deputy Speakers.

In case there are as many candidates as are being elected, and the number of those elected Deputy Speakers is less than the number of vacancies to be filled in compliance with the decision, a second ballot for the candidates not elected shall be held.

In case there are more candidates than the number of Deputy Speakers being elected, and the number of those elected Deputy Speakers is less than the number of vacancies to be filled in compliance with the decision, a second ballot for the number of Deputy Speakers of the National Assembly from among the remaining candidates not elected shall be held.

If there has been a failure in the second ballot to elect the total number of Deputy Speakers of the National Assembly envisaged by the decision, the procedure shall be repeated for the vacancies that have not been filled.

#### **c) Appointment of the Secretary General of the National Assembly**

#### **Article 21**

The National Assembly shall appoint a Secretary General of the National Assembly, acting on the proposal of the Speaker of the National Assembly.

The proposal shall contain the following: the name and surname of the candidate, a biography of the candidate, reasoning for the nomination and the candidate's consent, all in writing.

The candidate who obtains the majority of the votes cast by MPs shall be declared elected as the Secretary General of the National Assembly.

#### *4. Formation of parliamentary groups*

#### **Article 22**

Parliamentary groups shall be formed in the National Assembly.

Parliamentary groups shall consist of at least five MPs.

Parliamentary groups shall be deemed formed by the submittal to the Speaker of the National Assembly of a list of members signed by every member of the parliamentary group. The Head of the parliamentary group and his/her deputy shall particularly be specified on the list.

An MP may be a member of only one parliamentary group.

#### *5. Constitution of Committees of the National Assembly*

#### **Article 23**

Parliamentary groups shall nominate candidates for members and deputy members of committees in proportion to the number of MPs in the parliamentary group, as compared to the total number of MPs in the National Assembly.

When composing a committee, parliamentary groups shall be proportionally represented as compared to the total number of the committee members and deputy members, and it shall be ensured that those political parties which form the parliamentary majority have the majority in the committee as well.

Where a parliamentary group does not nominate the candidates referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the committee shall be constituted of the members elected based on nominations proposed by other parliamentary groups, provided that more than a half of the total number of committee members envisaged by these Rules of Procedure have been elected.

An MP may be a member of more than one committee.

#### **Article 24**

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall submit to the National Assembly a proposal of a decision on the election of members and deputy members of committees on the basis of parliamentary groups' proposals.

An open ballot vote shall be taken on the entire proposal of decision referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

Committee members and deputy members shall be deemed elected if the proposed decision referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article has received the votes of more than one-half of the total number of MPs.

If the proposed decision referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article is not adopted, the procedure shall be repeated.

#### **Article 25**

The first meetings of committees shall be convened by the Speaker of the National Assembly.

Until a committee elects its Chairperson, its first meeting shall be chaired by the oldest member of the committee in attendance.

At their first meetings, committees elect from among their own ranks, committee Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons.

After the election of committee Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons, their deputies shall remain in a capacity of their deputies as members of the committee.

*6. Constitution of Standing Parliamentary Delegations of the National Assembly to International Institutions*

#### **Article 26**

The National Assembly shall decide on the compositions of standing parliamentary delegations that shall participate in the work of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and other multi-lateral parliamentary institutions and organisations.

The proposal of the decision on the composition of the standing delegations referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be submitted by the Speaker of the National Assembly, in consultations with the heads of parliamentary groups, taking into consideration proportional participation of political parties and genders.

### **III. THE SPEAKER, DEPUTY SPEAKERS, COLLEGIUM, SECRETARY GENERAL AND DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

#### *1. The Speaker of the National Assembly*

#### **Article 27**

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall represent the National Assembly, convene its sessions, chair the sessions and conduct other activities in accordance with the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall ensure the application of these Rules of Procedure.

#### **Article 28**

The Annual Work Plan of the National Assembly shall be determined by the Speaker of the National Assembly, after consultations at a meeting of the Collegium, bearing in mind obligations of the National Assembly defined by the Law and the Annual Work Plan of the Government.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall communicate the Annual Work Plan to all MPs.

#### **Article 29**

The term of office of the Speaker of the National Assembly shall be terminated by resignation, dismissal or expiry of his/her mandate as an MP.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall tender his/her resignation in writing or verbally at a sitting of the National Assembly.

The term of office of the Speaker of the National Assembly shall terminate on the date and hour of tendering his/her resignation.

No debate shall be held, nor decisions taken on the resignation that has been tendered, but the termination of the term of office of the Speaker of the National Assembly on these grounds and the time of the termination shall only be taken note of.

### **Article 30**

The National Assembly may dismiss the Speaker of the National Assembly.

The dismissal of the Speaker of the National Assembly shall be subject to the application of provisions of these Rules of Procedure pertaining to the election of the Speaker of the National Assembly.

### **Article 31**

In the event of a termination of the term of office of the Speaker of the National Assembly, the National Assembly shall elect a new Speaker of the National Assembly at the same sitting or at the next sitting, at the latest, in accordance with provisions of these Rules of Procedure.

Where the term of office of the Speaker of the National Assembly has been terminated, the duties of the Speaker of the National Assembly, until a new Speaker is elected, shall be performed by the oldest of the Deputy Speakers of the National Assembly.

The oldest of the Deputy Speakers of the National Assembly, shall convene a sitting for election of a new Speaker of the National Assembly, immediately after, or at the latest, within seven days from the date of the termination of the term of office of the Speaker of the National Assembly.

Where the oldest of the Deputy Speakers is not able or declines to perform the duties of the Speaker of the National Assembly, the duties shall be performed by the next oldest Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly.

## *2. Deputy Speakers of the National Assembly*

### **Article 32**

Deputy Speakers of the National Assembly shall assist the Speaker of the National Assembly in the performance of activities within his/her scope of work.

The Speaker of the National Assembly, in case of temporary inability to work or absence, shall be substituted by a Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly delegated by the Speaker, of which the Speaker notifies all Deputy Speakers and the Secretary General of the National Assembly in writing. If the Speaker of the National Assembly does not delegate which deputy will substitute him/her, the substitute shall be the oldest of the Deputy Speakers.



Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly who is substituting the Speaker at a Sitting of the National Assembly shall be in the capacity of the Speaker of the National Assembly in accordance with these Rules of Procedures.

### **Article 33**

The term of office of a Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly shall be terminated by resignation, dismissal or expiry of his/her mandate as an MP, in compliance with the procedure and in the manner prescribed for the termination of the term of office of the Speaker of the National Assembly.

In the event of the termination of the term of office of a Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, the election of a Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly shall be performed in compliance with the procedure and in the manner referred to in Articles 14 to 20 of these Rules of Procedure.

### *3. The Collegium of the National Assembly*

### **Article 34**

The Collegium of the National Assembly (hereinafter: Collegium) shall consist of the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Deputy Speakers of the National Assembly and the Heads of parliamentary groups in the National Assembly.

Meetings of the Collegium shall be attended by the Secretary General of the National Assembly, the Head of the Office of the Speaker of the National Assembly, as well as other persons invited by the Speaker of the National Assembly.

The Speaker of the National Assembly, following consultations with members of the Collegium, shall adopt Rules of Procedure of the Collegium of the National Assembly.

### *4. The Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the National Assembly*

### **Article 35**

The Secretary General of the National Assembly shall perform activities stipulated by the Law, these Rules of Procedure and other acts of the National Assembly, or of a competent working body of the National Assembly.

The Secretary General of the National Assembly shall ensure that MPs, parliamentary groups and working bodies of the National Assembly are provided with all the necessary conditions for their work.

The Secretary General of the National Assembly shall be accountable for his/her work to the National Assembly and to the Speaker of the National Assembly.

### **Article 36**

The term of office of the Secretary General of the National Assembly shall be terminated by the appointment of a new Secretary General of the National Assembly, by resignation or dismissal.

Where the term of office of the Secretary General of the National Assembly is terminated by resignation or dismissal, the duties of the Secretary General shall be performed by his/her deputy delegated by the Speaker of the National Assembly, until the appointment of a new Secretary General of the National Assembly.

### **Article 37**

The Secretary General of the National Assembly shall have two deputies who shall assist him in his/her work.

Deputies of the Secretary General shall be nominated by the National Assembly, upon the proposal of the Secretary General of the National Assembly, with the consent of the Speaker of the National Assembly. The candidate for the Deputy Secretary General, who obtains the majority of the votes out of the total number of MPs, shall be declared elected. The Secretary General of the National Assembly shall decide which of the deputies will substitute him/her in the event of his/her absence, of which he/she notifies the Speaker of the National Assembly.

The office of a deputy Secretary General of the National Assembly shall be terminated on the date of the appointment of a Deputy Secretary General of a new legislature, by resignation or dismissal.

Deputy Secretary General of the National Assembly shall be accountable for his/her work to the National Assembly, the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Secretary General of the National Assembly.

## **IV. PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS**

### **Article 38**

Parliamentary groups shall participate in the work of the National Assembly in the manner stipulated by the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

### **Article 39**

Parliamentary groups shall be represented by the Head of the parliamentary group.

Parliamentary groups shall have deputy heads of the parliamentary groups who shall substitute the heads of parliamentary groups in the event of their absence.

During sessions of the National Assembly, parliamentary groups may authorise one of their members to represent the parliamentary group in a certain item on the agenda, of

which the head of the parliamentary group shall notify the Speaker of the National Assembly in writing, before the opening the debate on that item of the agenda.

If a parliamentary group is represented by a deputy head, or an authorised representative, that person shall assume the competences of the head of the parliamentary group.

#### **Article 40**

The head of a parliamentary group shall notify the Speaker of the National Assembly in writing on changes in the composition of the parliamentary group.

Where a new member joins a parliamentary group, the head of the parliamentary group shall submit to the Speaker of the National Assembly an accession statement signed by the member concerned.

### **V. WORKING BODIES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

#### *1. General Provisions*

#### **Article 41**

Working bodies of the National Assembly may be standing or *ad hoc*.

The standing working bodies shall be committees, and the Committee on the Rights of the Child as a special working body.

The *ad hoc* working bodies shall be inquiry committees and commissions.

#### **Article 42**

The working bodies of the National Assembly shall work in sittings.

The working body sittings shall be held on the premises of the National Assembly.

The working body sittings shall, as a rule, be held every Monday.

The working body sittings may also be held outside the premises of the National Assembly.

#### **Article 43**

The Speaker of the National Assembly may, upon proposal of a working body, entrust scientific or professional institutions, as well as scientists and professionals with a task of considering certain issues falling within the competence of the National Assembly.

#### *2. Committees*

#### **Article 44**

Within their individual scopes of work, committees shall:

- consider Bills and proposals of other acts,
- monitor the implementation of Government policy,
- monitor the execution of laws and other acts,
- consider work plans and reports of competent Ministries and other public authorities, organisations and bodies;
- consider the National Assembly's Annual Work Plan;
- issue assents to the acts of state authorities, organisations and bodies which shall, in accordance with the Law, submit them to the National Assembly for its approval;
- launch initiatives and submit proposals to the National Assembly, pursuant to the Law and these Rules of Procedure;
- consider initiatives, petitions, complaints and proposals which are within its scope of work;
- consider other issues within the scope of work of the National Assembly.

Decisions on disputed issues related to the scope of work of committees shall be made by the Speaker of the National Assembly.

Committees shall engage in mutual co-operation.

Committees may hold joint sittings to discuss issues of common interest.

Decisions on the issue referred to in paragraph 4 of this Article shall be taken separately by committees.

Committees may form sub-committees from the ranks of their members to consider certain issues from within their scopes of work and prepare proposals on those issues, and the Chairperson of a committee may form a special working group.

Sub-committees, i.e. working groups shall perform activities for the needs of committees and shall not be authorised to make decisions on their own, unless decided otherwise by the competent committee.

#### **Article 45**

Acting on the proposal of a parliamentary group, the National Assembly may adopt a decision on the termination of the duty of a member or deputy member of a committee elected from the ranks of that parliamentary group and on the election of a new member or deputy member of the committee.

Decisions on the termination of the duty of a member or deputy member of a committee and the election of a new member or deputy member of the committee shall be taken by

the National Assembly at its first sitting following the submittal of the parliamentary group's proposal.

Deputy members of committees substitute committee members in the event of their absence or termination of duty of a committee member until the election of a new committee member.

#### **Article 46**

The following committees shall be formed in the National Assembly:

1. Committee on Constitutional and Legislative Issues,
2. Defence and Internal Affairs Committee
3. Foreign Affairs Committee,
4. Committee on the Judiciary, Public Administration and Local Self-Government,
5. Committee on Human and Minority Rights and Gender Equality,
6. Committee on the Diaspora and Serbs in the Region,
7. Committee on the Economy, Regional Development, Trade, Tourism and Energy;
8. Committee on Finance, State Budget and Control of Public Spending,
9. Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management Committee,
10. Committee on Spatial Planning, Transport, Infrastructure and Telecommunications,
11. Committee on Education, Science, Technological Development and the Information Society,
12. Committee on Kosovo and Metohija ,
13. Culture and Information Committee,
14. Committee on Labour, Social Issues, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction,
15. Health and Family Committee
16. Environmental Protection Committee
17. European Integration Committee,
18. Committee on Administrative, Budgetary, Mandate and Immunity Issues,
19. Security Services Control Committee.

#### **Article 47**

The Committee on the Rights of the Child shall be formed as a special standing working body.

The Chairperson of the Committee shall be the Speaker of the National Assembly.

Along with the Speaker of the National Assembly, members of the Committee shall be: Deputy Speakers, representatives of parliamentary groups in the National Assembly

and the Chairperson of the Committee on Labour, Social Issues, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction.

#### **Article 48**

The Committee on Constitutional and Legislative Issues shall consider:

- motion for the amendment of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia;
- Act proposals amending the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia;
- Bills, proposals of other regulations and general acts from the aspect of conformity with the Constitution and the legal system and justification of their adoption;
- Bills related to the organisation of the Constitutional Court, proceedings before the Constitutional Court and the legal effect of its decisions;
- Statutes of autonomous provinces in the procedure for granting approval of the National Assembly;
- Motions for initiating a procedure for the dismissal of the President of the Republic;
- Principle issues regarding the application of the Constitution;
- - Issues regarding the election and appointment of the Constitutional Court judges, the election of the Protector of Citizens [Ombudsman] and other public officials in accordance with the Law;
- - Notifications of the Constitutional Court on the existing situation and problems referring to the realisation of constitutionality and legality, opinions and indications of the Constitutional Court to the necessity of amending laws and undertaking other measures to protect constitutionality and legality, as well as proposals and initiatives to start procedures of assessing the constitutionality of laws and other general acts adopted by the National Assembly;
- - Proposals for adoption of authentic interpretations of the law, and shall draft a proposal of the authentic interpretation of the law.

The Committee shall prepare a proposal of an act on the amendment of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, unless the National Assembly decides otherwise, and shall prepare a proposal of the constitutional law on implementing the Constitution.

The Committee shall examine formal compliance of an interpellation with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure, and submit a report thereon to the Speaker of the National Assembly.

The Committee shall monitor the construction of the legal system and inform the National Assembly thereon.

The Committee shall adopt an act regulating unique methodological rules for drafting regulations.

The Committee shall determine which amendments to Bills are identical in their content, which is important for the application of the Article 158 paragraph 5 and 6 of these Rules of Procedure, and shall reject amendments that are incomplete or have offensive content.

The Committee shall monitor the implementation of these Rules of Procedure, consider and issue proposals for its amendments and, upon the request of the National Assembly, it shall deliver an opinion to the National Assembly on the implementation of certain provisions of these Rules of Procedure.

The Committee shall perform other activities in accordance with the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

The Committee shall have 17 members.

#### **Article 49**

The Defence and Internal Affairs Committee shall consider the following:

- Bills and proposals of other general acts on conscription, labour and material obligations, mobilisation, state of emergency and state of war, status and other issues of professional personnel in the Serbian Armed Forces, the military education system, international co-operation in the area of defence and military co-operation; maintaining public law and order, public gatherings; road traffic safety; security of national borders and border control, as well as the control of movement and stay in border zones; residence of foreign nationals; trade and transport of weapons, ammunition, explosive and other hazardous materials from the scope of work of the ministry in charge of internal affairs; fire protection; citizenship; a citizen's unique personal identification number [JMBG]; temporary and permanent residence of citizens; personal ID cards of citizens; travel documents; international assistance and forms of international co-operation in the area of internal affairs, including re-admission; illegal migrations; asylum;
- Other issues referring to the Serbian Armed Forces, the defence of the Republic of Serbia, production, trade in and transport of weaponry and military equipment and sending the Serbian Armed Forces' service personnel and other defence forces to multinational operations outside the borders of the Republic Serbia.
- the National Security Strategy and the Defence Strategy;
- issues regarding the realisation of parliamentary control of the Serbian Armed Forces and the defence system;
- Proposals of budgetary resources necessary for the activities of the Serbian Armed Forces and control of spending of the budgetary resources;

- Reports of the Ministry of Defence submitted on a quarterly basis by the Minister for Defence to the Committee during sessions of the National Assembly;
- Public and state security issues;
- Report on the performance of the Ministry responsible for internal affairs, related to the security situation in the Republic of Serbia submitted to the National Assembly upon its request;
- Other issues in the area of defence and internal affairs.

The Committee shall perform other activities in accordance with the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

The Committee shall have 17 members.

### **Article 50**

The Foreign Affairs Committee shall consider Bills and proposals of other general acts, as well as other issues regarding the following:

- foreign policy;
- relations with other countries, international organisations and institutions;
- ratification of international treaties in the area of foreign-policy relations;
- regulation of the procedure of concluding and enforcing international treaties;
- protection of the rights and interests of the Republic of Serbia and its citizens and national legal entities in foreign countries.

The Committee shall conduct interviews with the ambassadors of the Republic of Serbia before they assume their diplomatic duties.

The Committee shall decide on the composition of delegations which are not standing, as well as the objectives and tasks of the delegations of the National Assembly.

The Committee shall designate heads and members of parliamentary groups of friendship and approve decisions on exchanges of visits with parliamentary groups of friendship of other countries' representative bodies and shall keep records on membership in parliamentary groups of friendship.

Where the Committee is not able to decide on the composition of the delegation referred to in paragraph 4 of this Article or approve the decisions on exchanges of visits with parliamentary groups of friendship of other countries' representative bodies, the relevant decision shall be made by the Speaker of the National Assembly, or a deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and the Chairperson of the competent committee of the National Assembly.



The Committee shall perform other activities relating to the co-operation of the National Assembly with representative bodies of other states and to the participation of its representatives in the work of certain international organisations and missions.

The Committee shall consider and adopt reports of the National Assembly's delegations' visits and their participation in international meetings.

The Committee shall submit annual reports on international cooperation to the National Assembly.

The Committee shall perform other activities in accordance with the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

The Committee shall have 17 members.

### **Article 51**

The Committee on the Judiciary, State Administration and Local Self-Government shall consider Bills and proposals of other general acts, as well as other issues in the following areas:

- criminal legislation and legislation in the area of economic offences and misdemeanours;
- law of obligations and inheritance;
- proceedings before courts;
- organisation and activities of the judiciary,
- control of criminal sanction execution, introduction of national mechanisms for prevention of torture, cruel, inhumane and humiliating punishments and proceedings;
- international legal assistance and extradition;
- amnesties and pardons;
- expert-witnessing, the lawyer's profession and other legal professions;
- organisation and work of state authorities and execution of public powers;
- administrative procedure and administrative disputes;
- organisation of authorities, electoral system and associations of citizens;
- the territorial organisation of the Republic of Serbia;
- the organisation of local self-government and elections, funding and manner of work of bodies and services of the local self-government units;
- registration books and seals;
- holidays, decorations of the Republic of Serbia and the use of state symbols.

The Committee shall deliver its Opinion on the proposed decision on the election of the President of the Supreme Court of Cassation and the State Public Prosecutor.

The Committee shall consider the proposed decision on the election of the members of the High Judicial Council, members of the State Prosecutorial Council, court presidents, public prosecutors, and judges and deputy public prosecutors elected for the first time.

The Committee shall deliver an opinion on proposals of decisions on the election and dismissal of public officials, in accordance with the law.

The Committee shall perform other activities in accordance with the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

The Committee shall have 17 members.

### **Article 52**

The Committee on Human and Minority Rights and Gender Equality shall consider Bills and proposals of other general acts, as well as other issues in the following areas:

- realisation and protection of human rights and freedoms and the rights of the child;
- implementation of ratified international treaties which regulate the protection of human rights;
- exercising of the freedom of religion;
- the status of churches and religious communities;
- realisation of ethnic minority rights and inter-ethnic relations in the Republic of Serbia.

The Committee shall cooperate with National Minority Councils.

The Committee shall consider Bills and proposals of other general acts from the aspect of the advancement and achievement of gender equality, carry out the review of policies pursued by the Government, execution of laws and other general acts by the Government and other authorities and public officials accountable to the National Assembly, from the aspect of respecting gender equality.

The Committee shall perform other activities in accordance with the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

The Committee shall have 17 members.

### **Article 53**

The Committee on the Diaspora and Serbs in the Region shall consider Bills and proposals of other general acts, as well as other issues regarding:

- preservation, fostering and establishing relations between the kin-state and the Serbs in the region;
- improving the position and protection of rights and interests of the Diaspora and Serbs in the region;
- creating conditions for use, learning and preservation of Serbian language and Cyrillic Script, preservation and fostering of the Serbian cultural, ethnic, language and religious identity of the Diaspora and Serbs in the region;
- creating conditions for return of the Diaspora members to the Republic of Serbia and their inclusion into political, economic and cultural life of the Republic of Serbia;
- creating conditions for return of the Serbian refugees to the places of their prior residence and shall propose measures for protection of their rights aimed at sustainable return.

The Committee shall cooperate with state institutions, organizations and bodies dealing with protection of the rights of the Diaspora and Serbs in the region, as well as with organizations and the Diaspora and Serbs in the region.

The Committee shall perform other activities in accordance with the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

The Committee shall have 17 members.

#### **Article 54**

The Committee on the Economy, Regional Development, Trade, Tourism and Energy shall consider Bills and proposals of other general acts and other issues in the following area:

- economy and economic development, equal regional development, business companies and other forms of businesses, business and financial restructuring;
- entrepreneurship, bankruptcy, investments, standardisation, accreditation;
- foreign economic relations, international trade agreements, foreign trade, foreign investments, concessions;
- economic, bilateral and regional co-operation of the Serbian state institutions with international trade organisations;
- industry, except for the food industry;
- mining, geological and seismological research,
- energy sector, the oil and natural gas economy,
- the operation of public enterprises in the areas of industry, mining and energy,
- trade and supply of goods and services, control of services, standards and units of measurement;

- the use of trademarks and service marks, quality marks and denominations of origin of products;
- functioning of the market, prevention of monopolistic activities and unfair competition;
- commodity reserves and the consumer protection;
- establishment and functioning of commodity markets;
- tourism development planning, zoning plans, protection and use of areas intended for tourism and promotion of tourism;
- measures and precious metals;
- privatisation.

The Committee shall consider monthly reports of the Ministry responsible for privatisation activities during the privatisation process, concluded capital/property sale contracts, initiated privatisation procedures and the work of entities in charge of implementing privatisation procedures, and shall deliver to the National Assembly opinions and proposals regarding privatisation issues.

The Committee shall perform other tasks in accordance with the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

The Committee shall have 17 members.

#### **Article 55**

The Committee on Finance, State Budget and Control of Public Spending shall consider Bills and proposals of other general acts and other issues in the following areas:

- the system of financing public functions, taxes, duties and other public revenues;
- state budget and financial plans of compulsory social insurance organisations;
- the Budget Financial Statement, final financial statements of financial plans of compulsory social insurance organisations and audit of the final financial statements;
- loans, guarantees and lottery;
- the public debt and the financial assets of the Republic of Serbia,
- public procurement;
- the credit and monetary, banking, foreign-exchange and customs systems;
- insurance of assets and persons;
- ownership relations and expropriation;
- payments and payment operations, securities and the money market;
- prevention of money laundering and combating corruption;
- accounting and auditing;

- other issues in the field of finance.

The Committee shall:

- consider reports of the State Audit Institution and submit a report with opinions and recommendations thereof to the National Assembly;
- control the implementation of the state budget and accompanying financial plans in regard to legality, purposefulness and efficiency of public spending, and submit a report thereof with recommendations of measures to the National Assembly;

The Committee shall perform other tasks in accordance with the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

The Committee shall have 17 members.

#### **Article 56**

The Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management shall consider Bills and proposals of other general acts and other issues in the following areas:

- agriculture and the food industry;
- agricultural cooperatives and rural development;
- veterinary medicine and plant protection;
- forestry and water management.

The Committee shall perform other tasks in accordance with the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

The Committee shall have 17 members.

#### **Article 57**

The Committee on Spatial Planning, Transport, Infrastructure and Telecommunications shall consider Bills and proposals of other general acts and other issues in the following areas:

- railway, road, water and air transport;
- urbanism and spatial planning, and housing and utility issues-related activities;
- construction and civil engineering, regulation and use of buildable land and land surveying and land register;
- postal traffic and telecommunications.

The Committee shall consider the proposal of the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia, by the procedure stipulated in these Rules of Procedure.

The Committee shall perform other activities in accordance with the law and these Rules of Procedure.

The Committee shall have 17 members.

#### **Article 58**

The Committee on Education, Science, Technological Development and the Information Society shall consider Bills and proposals of other general acts and other issues in the following areas:

- pre-school, elementary and secondary education;
- college and university education;
- schoolchildren's and students' standards of living;
- scientific research activities;
- scientific and technological development and innovation policies;
- nuclear energy research and security of nuclear facilities;
- production and storage of radioactive materials, except in nuclear power plants;.
- developing an information society and an information infrastructure;
- sports and physical culture, the status of the youth and the protection of their interests.

The Committee shall perform other activities in accordance with the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

The Committee shall have 17 members.

#### **Article 59**

The Committee for Kosovo and Metohija shall consider Bills and proposals of other general acts and other issues regarding the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija taking care of the Serbian national interests and state interests of the Republic of Serbia.

The Committee shall propose to the National Assembly relevant decisions, declarations and resolutions and monitor their implementation or realisation by relevant bodies and institutions.

The Committee shall perform other activities in accordance with the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

The Committee shall have 17 members.

### **Article 60**

The Committee on Culture and Information shall consider Bills and proposals of other general acts and other issues in the following areas:

- development of culture and artistic creation;
- protection of cultural monuments and cultural heritage;
- literature, translation, music and theatre;
- fine arts, applied arts and design;
- feature films and other creative audio-visual media activities;
- library, publishing, cinematographic and musical performance activities;
- endowments, foundations and funds;
- public information.

The Committee shall perform other activities in accordance with the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

The Committee shall have 17 members.

### **Article 61**

The Committee on Labour, Social Issues, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction shall consider Bills and proposals of other general acts and other issues in the following areas:

- labour relations and rights stemming from labour, occupational health and safety;
- employment;
- the right to strike and trade union organisation;
- social protection system;
- the system of pension and disability insurance, social insurance and protection of insured military personnel;
- protection of ex-servicemen, disabled military personnel, civilians with disabilities and war victims, members of their families and the members of families of conscripted servicemen.

The Committee shall consider Bills and proposals of other general acts from the aspect of social inclusion and monitor the decision-making process and allocation of the budget in the area of social inclusion; provide suggestions, views and assessments related to policy realization; develop partner relations at all levels in order to achieve efficient, rational and opportune realization of the social inclusion process with an aim to achieve

the European standard and full social inclusion of all citizens and marginalised groups; engage in institutionalisation and participation of citizen's representatives in the decision-making process.

The Committee shall perform other activities in accordance with the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

The Committee shall have 17 members.

### **Article 62**

The Health and Family Committee shall consider Bills and proposals of other general acts and other issues in the following areas:

- health care, the system and organisation of the health-care activity;
- the system of health insurance;
- protection of the population from communicable diseases;
- production and trade in medicaments and other pharmaceuticals;
- production and trade in narcotics and precursors of prohibited narcotics;
- requirements for harvesting and transplanting human body parts;
- family-legal protection, marriage, family planning and social care about family;
- other issues in the area of health care ensuring the required legal preconditions for regulating the health care system, as well as the preservation and advancement of public health.

The Committee shall perform other activities in accordance with the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

The Committee shall have 17 members.

### **Article 63**

Environmental Protection Committee shall consider Bills and proposals of other general acts and other issues in the following areas:

- environmental protection and improvement;
- protection and sustainable use of natural resources;
- removal of threats to natural resources and prevention of pollution of natural resources;
- production and trade in poisons and other hazardous materials, except for narcotics and precursors.

The Committee may allow attendance, i.e. participation of the citizens' or citizens' associations representatives at the committee meeting, when deliberating on environmental issues.



The Committee shall perform other activities in accordance with the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

The Committee shall have 17 members.

#### **Article 64**

The European Integration Committee shall:

- consider Bills and proposals of other general acts from the aspect of their conformity with the EU *Acquis* and the Council of Europe legislation and issue preliminary opinion on justification of the abbreviated procedure;
- consider plans, programmes, reports and information on the EU Stabilisation and Association Process;
- monitor the implementation of the Association Strategy, propose measures and launch initiatives for accelerating the realisation of the Association Strategy within the competences of the National Assembly;
- propose measures for the establishment of a general, national agreement on Serbia's association with the European institutions;
- develop international co-operation with parliamentary committees of other countries and parliamentary institutions of the European Union.

The Committee shall perform other activities in accordance with the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

The Committee shall have 17 members.

#### **Article 65**

Committee on Administrative, Budgetary, Mandate and Immunity Issues shall:

- - adopt general and individual acts on status and material matters of MPs, rights and duties of MPs and officials elected by the National Assembly, in accordance with the law, and issue opinions on another public office held by these persons;
- - submit a proposal of the Code of Conduct of MPs;
- - submit the proposal of the Act on design and use of official emblems, insignias and other symbols and accoutrements of the National Assembly ;
- - adopt the Act on the management of acts submitted in an electronic form, acts treated as secret, stenographic notes and issue an approval for the Act on Back Office and Electronic Back Office Operations.
- - adopt the Act on the internal order in the building of the National Assembly, the distribution of seating for MPs and other persons in the session chamber of the

National Assembly, and the Act on the use of the area around the building and official vehicles;

- - adopt the Act on the accreditation and work conditions for the public media representatives in the National Assembly;
- - adopt the Act on employing consultants in parliamentary groups of the National Assembly and on cost compensation for engaging scientists and experts in the work of the National Assembly;
- - submit a proposal of the Decision on the Organisation and Activities of the National Assembly Service;
- - approve of the Rulebook on Internal Organisation and Job Classification (*Systematisation*) in the National Assembly Service;
- - adopt acts on the Establishment of Tender and Complaints Commission;
- - make appointments in the National Assembly Service, acting on a proposal of the Secretary General of the National Assembly, make decisions on remuneration of the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General of the National Assembly, as well as civil servants in appointed positions or appointed persons in the National Assembly Service;
- - determine the parliamentary budget and see to the regularity of the use of the parliamentary budget funds and perform control of expenditures, in line with these Rules of Procedure, and submit annual reports to the National Assembly thereof;
- - adopt the Act on property records and other issues of interest for managing the property of the National Assembly;
- - consider the objections to the minutes from the National Assembly sittings and submit a report to the National Assembly thereof.

The Committee shall consider:

- reasons for the termination of mandates of MPs, along with proposals for verification of mandates, and submit a report to the National Assembly thereof;
- issues regarding the establishing or waiving the immunity of MPs and other elected persons, in accordance with the Constitution and the law, and submit a proposed decision thereon to the National Assembly;
- requests for approving deprivation of liberty of a public prosecutor, deputy public prosecutor and member of the State Prosecutorial Council, and render a decision thereon;

The Committee shall perform other activities in accordance with the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

The Committee shall have 17 members

### **Article 66**

The Security Services Control Committee shall:

- supervise the constitutionality and legality of the work of security services;
- supervise conformity of the work of security services with the National Security Strategy, the Defence Strategy and the Security and Intelligence Policy of the Republic of Serbia;
- supervise preservation of political, ideological and interest neutrality in the work of the security services;
- supervise the legality of the application of special procedures and measures for secret collection of data;
- consider proposal of budget resources necessary for the work of security services and supervise the legality of budget and other resources spending;
- consider and adopt reports on the work of the security services;
- consider Bills, other regulations and general acts from the scope of work of the services;
- launch initiatives and submit Bills from the scope of work of the services;
- consider proposals, petitions and complaints of citizens addressed to the National Assembly regarding the work of the security services and propose measures to resolve them, and notifies the applicant thereof;
- determine facts on identified illegal acts or irregularities found in the work of the security services and their personnel and deliver conclusions thereon;
- inform the National Assembly on its conclusions and proposals.

The Committee shall perform other activities in accordance with the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

The Committee shall have 9 members.

### **Article 67**

The Committee on the Rights of the Child, as a special standing working body, shall consider Bills from the aspect of the protection of rights of the child; shall monitor the implementation and application of laws and other acts regulating the status of the rights of the child; shall assess conformity of national legislation with international standards in the area of the rights of the child; shall co-operate with national and international institutions and bodies, and with local authorities; shall initiate amendments of regulations and propose the adoption of certain acts and taking measures aimed at the

protection of the rights of the child; shall promote the rights of the child; shall consider other issues of importance for the rights of the child.

The Committee shall perform other activities in accordance with the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

### *3. Inquiry Committees and Commissions*

#### **Article 68**

The National Assembly shall establish the Inquiry Committee or Commission for the purpose of assessment of the situation in a certain area or establishment of facts on certain occurrences or events.

The Decision Establishing Inquiry Committee shall lay down the Committee's composition and tasks, and the time period for executing the tasks.

The Decision Establishing the Commission shall lay down its tasks and composition.

The Inquiry Committee shall be composed of MPs, and the Commission of MPs, representatives of institutions and organisations, scientists and experts.

The Inquiry Committee and the Commission may not perform investigative and other judicial actions.

The Inquiry Committee and the Commission shall be entitled to demand data, documents and information from state institutions and organisations and to take statements from individuals which they require.

Representatives of state institutions and organisations shall respond to the invitation of the Inquiry Committee or Commission and provide truthful statements, data, documents and information.

The Inquiry Committee or Commission shall submit to the National Assembly reports with recommended measures.

The Inquiry Committee or Commission shall terminate their activities on the date its report is decided upon at a sitting of the National Assembly.

#### **Article 69**

Provisions of these Rules of Procedure regulating the work of committees shall accordingly apply to the work of the Inquiry Committees and Commissions.

### *4. Sitzings of Committees*

#### **Article 70**

The Chairperson of a committee shall:

- convene sittings of the committee and chair the sittings of the committee;
- harmonise the work of the committee with other committees and the work of the National Assembly;
- co-operate with the Speaker of the National Assembly, Chairpersons of other committees and representatives of the state institutions regarding the issues within the committee's scope of work;
- ensure that all received materials are communicated to all committee members without delay;
- propose actions to the committee regarding initiatives, petitions, complaints and proposals relating to issues within the scope of work of the committee;
- ensure the implementation of the committee's conclusions;
- perform other tasks envisaged by these Rules of Procedure.

The Chairperson of a committee, in the event of temporary inability to work or absence, shall be substituted by the Deputy Chairperson of the committee.

In case the term of office of the Chairperson of a committee is terminated, the duty of the Chairperson of the Committee shall be performed by the Deputy Chairperson until the election of a new Chairperson.

#### **Article 71**

The Chairperson of a committee shall convene a sitting of the committee, acting upon the request of at least one-third of the total number of committee members, or upon the request of the Speaker of the National Assembly.

The request referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be submitted to the Chairperson of the committee in writing and it shall contain an agenda and time period for convening the sitting.

If the Chairperson of the committee does not convene a sitting within the proscribed time period, the sitting of the committee shall be convened by the Deputy Chairperson of the committee or the Speaker of the National Assembly.

At the sitting convened in the manner referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the committee shall work according to the agenda specified in the request for holding the sitting.

#### **Article 72**

The Convocation of a committee sitting shall contain the date, hour and location of the sitting and a proposal of the agenda.

The Convocation of a committee sitting shall be communicated in writing to the committee members, parliamentary groups and the Government and posted on the notice board of the National Assembly, at latest three days prior to the date of the committee sitting. By exception, the Convocation may be communicated within a shorter period, which the committee Chairperson shall substantiate at the sitting.

The agenda of the sitting shall be determined by the committee, by a majority of votes cast by those members present, provided the majority of the total number of committee members is present.

Debates at committee sittings, according to the determined agenda, shall be conducted irrespective of the number of committee members present.

A committee may hold sittings without the quorum required for making decisions, if the sitting is held for the purpose of a debate aimed at informing the committee on issues within its scope of work.

### **Article 73**

Committee members shall participate in the work of the committee.

Committee members prevented from attending a committee sitting shall, in a timely manner, notify their deputies and the committee Chairperson thereon and on the reasons for the absence.

Deputy of a committee member shall attend the sitting at which the member he/she substitutes is not present.

### **Article 74**

Committee sittings may be attended by MPs who are not members of the committee, and they may participate in the committee's work without decision-making powers, except where specified otherwise by these Rules of Procedure.

Where Draft Bills and amendments to Draft Bills are considered at committee sittings, their proposers, or their authorised representatives, shall also be invited to the sitting.

Representatives of the Government and Government Commissioners shall take part in committee sittings.

When reports, initiatives and issues within the scope of work of state institutions, organisations and bodies are discussed at committee sittings, their authorised representatives shall be invited to the sitting.

Scientists and experts may, upon the invitation, take part in the work of committees, .

In the performance of activities within its scope of work, a committee may require from a Ministry or other state institutions data and information of importance for the committee's work.

#### **Article 75**

Committee members shall be granted the floor for up to ten minutes during the debate in principle.

The proposer of Bills or other general acts, or the authorised representative of the proposer, shall be granted the floor for up to twenty minutes in total.

The Chairperson of the committee, as a participant in the debate, shall have the same right to speak as a member of the committee.

An MP from the parliamentary group which has a member within the committee shall be granted the floor within the timeframe allocated for the committee member from the same parliamentary group, in agreement with the member of the committee.

An MP from a Parliamentary group which does not have a member in the committee shall be granted the floor for up to ten minutes.

Independent MPs, who are not members of the committee, shall be granted the floor for up to five minutes.

Members of the Committee may allocate the time from the paragraph 1 of this Article to another member of the Committee, i.e. an MP.

The time referred to in paragraphs 1 to 6 of this Article does not have to be used to its full extent.

#### **Article 76**

The Committee may decide, upon the proposal of the member of the Committee, to hold a cognate debate in principle at the committee sitting.

#### **Article 77**

The time for the debate in detail shall equal the time referred to in Article 75 of these Rules of Procedure.

#### **Article 78**

The committee may decide, upon the proposal of a member of the committee, to abbreviate, extend or not to limit the time referred to in Articles 75 and 77 of these Rules of Procedure.

### **Article 79**

When a debate on the item of the agenda of the committee sitting is opened, the Chairperson of the committee shall grant the floor to the participants at the committee sitting in the following order:

- The proposer of the document, i.e. the authorised representative of the proposer, who shall be given the floor upon his/her request;
- Scientists, experts and other persons invited to the committee sitting, in the sequence of their requests to be granted the floor;
- Members of the committee, in the sequence of their requests to be granted the floor;
- MPs who are not members of the Committee.

### **Article 80**

A committee shall make decisions by a majority vote of committee members present, at the sitting at which majority of committee members are present, unless stipulated otherwise by the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

The member of the committee present in the chamber in which the committee sitting is held shall be deemed present in a line with the paragraph 1 of this Article.

A deputy committee member shall have decision-making powers in the absence of the member he/she is substituting.

### **Article 81**

Minutes shall be kept at committee sittings.

The minutes shall contain basic data on the work performed at the sitting, the names of those present and absent members or deputy members of the committee, the names of other participants at the sitting, verbal and written proposals, the committee's positions, the results of every vote taken, and the name of the rapporteur designated by the committee.

The minutes shall be signed by the committee Chairperson and Secretary.

At sittings of the Committee on Constitutional and Legislative Issues, and the Committee on Administrative, Budgetary, Mandate and Immunity Issues, shorthand notes shall be kept, and audio recordings shall be made, and at sittings of other committees, this shall be kept upon their request.

Stenographic notes or a processed audio recording shall be attached to the minutes and be its constituent part.



## **Article 82**

Provisions of these Rules of Procedure on sittings of the National Assembly shall be applied to the proceedings of committee sittings, if not otherwise regulated by these Rules of Procedures.

### *5. Public Hearings*

## **Article 83**

Committees may organise public hearings for the purpose of obtaining information, or professional opinions on proposed acts which are in the parliamentary procedure, clarification of certain provisions from an existing or proposed act, clarification of issues of importance for preparing the proposals of acts or other issues within the competences of the committee, as well as for the purpose of monitoring the implementation and application of legislation, i.e., realisation of the oversight function of the National Assembly.

## **Article 84**

Proposals for organising public hearings may be submitted by any committee member.

The proposal referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall contain the topic of the public hearing and list of persons who shall be invited.

Decisions to hold public hearings shall be made by the committee.

The Chairperson of the committee shall notify the Speaker of the National Assembly on the decision referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article.

The Chairperson of the committee shall invite committee members, MPs, and other persons whose presence is of importance for the public hearing topics.

The invitation referred to in paragraph 5 of this Article shall contain information on the topic, time and location of the public hearing, and a list of invited participants.

Public hearings shall be held regardless of the number of committee members present.

After the public hearing, the committee Chairperson shall draft a memo and communicate it to the Speaker of the National Assembly, the committee members, and to the participants in the public hearing. The memo shall contain the names of the participants in the public hearing, a brief overview of the opinions, attitudes and proposals presented at the public hearing.

Members of the committee and participants in the public hearing may submit written complains on the memo of the public hearing to the committee Chairperson who shall forward them to persons referred to in paragraph 8 of this Article.

## **VI. SITTINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AT REGULAR SESSION**

### *1. Preparing and convening sittings*

#### **Article 85**

The agenda of a sitting of the National Assembly shall be proposed by the Speaker of the National Assembly.

Only those proposed acts which have been submitted in accordance with the Constitution, the law and these Rules of Procedure may be included in the proposed agenda of the sitting of the National Assembly.

#### **Article 86**

Sittings of the National Assembly shall be convened by the Speaker of the National Assembly in writing, as a rule, at least seven days before the date designated for the start of the sitting.

Sittings of the National Assembly may also be convened within a time-limit shorter than that referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, which the Speaker of the National Assembly shall substantiate at the beginning of the sitting.

The convocation to the sitting of the National Assembly shall contain the date, hour and location of the sitting and the proposed agenda.

The Speaker of the National Assembly may postpone the hour or date of the beginning of the sitting of the National Assembly, on which he/she shall notify the MPs in a timely manner, and substantiate the delay at the beginning of the sitting.

#### **Article 87**

Sittings of the National Assembly shall, as a rule, be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 10:00 am until 06:00 pm, with a one-hour break.

The Speaker of the National Assembly may decide that a sitting of the National Assembly is held on a different day, or that the National Assembly extends its work past 06:00 pm, if there are justified reasons for this, which the Speaker shall explain to MPs.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall notify the National Assembly on the intention to extend the Assembly's work past 06:00 pm, by 16:00 pm, at the latest, on that date.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall notify the National Assembly on the time-limit referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article even when the extension of the sitting might include a possibility of voting on the items on the agenda which have been completed.

The National Assembly shall make its decisions on the Voting Day which shall be determined by the Speaker of the National Assembly. The Speaker of the National Assembly may decide that the Voting Day on a Bill take place immediately following the conclusion of the debate on the Bill.

During a sitting, the Speaker of the National Assembly may decide that a part of the sitting be held in another location, of which the Speaker shall notify MPs no later than 24 hours before the beginning of work in that location.

## *2. Opening and Participation in a Sitting*

### **Article 88**

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall call the sitting of the National Assembly to order and, on the basis of official records on the number of MPs present, shall declare the number of MPs present in the National Assembly.

If the Speaker declares that at the beginning of a parliamentary workday fewer than 84 MPs are present in the session chamber, the beginning of work shall be postponed by one hour.

If the necessary conditions for initiating the work at the sitting of the National Assembly do not exist even after the delay, the sitting shall be postponed for the next workday.

Debate on the items on the adopted agenda of the sitting of the National Assembly shall be held irrespective of the number of MPs present in the session chamber.

The quorum necessary for the work of the National Assembly on the Voting Day, for the adoption of the minutes and adoption of the agenda, and at the first sitting of the National Assembly, shall exist if a majority of the total number of MPs are present at the sitting of the National Assembly.

The quorum shall be determined by the application of the electronic voting system in that all MPs shall identify themselves by inserting their identification cards into MPs' voting units.

If the Head or an authorised representative of a parliamentary group express doubt in the existence of the quorum established by the application of the electronic voting

system, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall make available a computer printout of the list of MPs present.

If the electronic voting system is not in operation, of which the Chairperson of the National Assembly shall notify MPs, the quorum shall be established by a count of MPs. The Speaker of the National Assembly may decide to establish the quorum by a count of MPs in other cases as well.

If the Head or an authorised representative of a parliamentary group express doubt in the existence of the quorum established by a count of MPs, he/she may request that the quorum be established by a roll call of MPs, on which the National Assembly shall decide without a debate.

#### **Article 89**

Sittings of the National Assembly shall, besides MPs, also be attended by the Prime Minister and Government members, authorised representatives of other Bill proposers and the Head of the Republic Secretariat for Legislation, and other persons invited by the Speaker of the National Assembly.

On the invitation of the Speaker of the National Assembly, sittings of the National Assembly may be attended by Presidents of foreign countries, Prime Ministers and foreign Government members, delegations of representative bodies of other countries, representatives of international organisations, heads of diplomatic missions and other guests.

#### **Article 90**

At the beginning of the work at a sitting of the National Assembly, on each day the National Assembly is at session, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall notify the National Assembly on which of the MPs are not able to attend the sitting of the National Assembly, and on who has been invited to the sitting.

Furthermore, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall provide necessary explanations related to the work at the sitting and other issues.

### *3. The Course of the Sitting*

#### **Article 91**

Minutes of the preceding sitting of the National Assembly shall, as a rule, be adopted before the conclusion of the following sitting of the National Assembly.

MPs may propose postponement of the adoption of the minutes, on which the National Assembly shall decide without a debate by a majority of the votes cast by MPs present, provided the sitting is attended by a majority of all MPs.

If the minutes of the preceding sitting of the National Assembly had not been delivered to MPs at least 72 hours before a decision on the minutes was taken, the adoption of those minutes shall be postponed until the following sitting of the National Assembly.

Objections to the minutes shall be delivered in writing to the Committee on Administrative, Budgetary, Mandate and Immunity Issues, no later than 24 hours before the beginning of the sitting of the National Assembly at which the minutes are to be adopted.

The Committee on Administrative, Budgetary, Mandate and Immunity Issues shall consider the objections to the minutes received and submit to the National Assembly a report with a proposal to accept or reject the objections.

The National Assembly shall decide on the objections to the minutes without a debate.

Any objections adopted shall become a constituent part of the minutes.

The National Assembly shall decide on the minutes without a debate.

## **Article 92**

The National Assembly shall determine the agenda of a sitting.

MPs, the Government and other authorised proposers may propose the withdrawal of certain items on the proposed agenda, amendments to the proposed agenda, cognate debates, debate in detail immediately after the finalisation of the debate in principle on a Bill, and changes of the sequence of items on the proposed agenda.

MPs may propose reduction of time dedicated to the debate on an act proposal.

Proposals and Bills referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article shall be submitted to the Speaker of the National Assembly in writing, no later than 24 hours before the time scheduled for the beginning of the sitting of the National Assembly.

If the proposal referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article has been submitted by a group of MPs, a representative of the proposer shall be named in the proposal. Where this has not been done, the first MP who signed the proposal shall be deemed the representative of the proposer.

If the proposals referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article have not submitted in accordance with provisions of these Rules of Procedure, the National Assembly shall not consider them nor decide on them.

A debate shall be held on the proposed amendments to the agenda, in which only the following may take part:

- the proposer of the amendments to the agenda, or authorised representative of the proposer;
- the proposer of the act to which the amendment refers, or authorised representative of the proposer, if the proposal calls for withdrawing the proposed act from the proposed agenda.

Participation in a debate on the proposed amendments to the agenda may not last longer than three minutes.

### **Article 93**

In establishing the agenda, the National Assembly shall decide, without a debate, on every motion, in the following order:

- for an urgent procedure;
- for withdrawal of particular items on the proposed agenda;
- for making amendments to the proposed agenda;
- for shortening the debate (abbreviated procedure);
- for cognate debates;
- for a debate in detail immediately after closing a debate in principle on a Bill and
- for changing the sequence of particular items.

New items introduced in the agenda by the adoption of a motion for an urgent procedure, or for making amendments to the proposed agenda, shall be introduced in the agenda according to the order in which they have been proposed, except where the proposer has proposed a different order of the debate, on which the National Assembly shall vote without a debate.

The National Assembly shall decide on the agenda in its entirety, without a debate.

### **Article 94**

The National Assembly shall adopt laws and other acts:

- by a regular procedure, and
- by an urgent procedure.

Both regular and urgent procedures may, given the duration of the debate at the sitting of the National Assembly, be:

- standard and
- abbreviated.

### **Article 95**

MPs may propose a shorter time of a debate on an act proposal, if what is concerned is:

- ratification of international treaties;
- minor amendments to existing laws, not altering material provisions substantially;
- cessation of the effectiveness of a law;
- harmonisation of legislation with the legal system of the Republic of Serbia and the EU *Acquis*;
- amendments to laws related to decisions of the Constitutional Court;
- authentic law interpretation;
- election and dismissal of persons elected by the National Assembly in accordance with the Constitution and the law, unless specified otherwise by these Rules of Procedure.

### **Article 96**

In the standard procedure, after the opening of a debate in principle on every item on the agenda of the sitting of the National Assembly, the floor shall be given in the following sequence and in the following duration, to the following:

- the proposer of the act, or authorised representative of the group of proposers, who shall be given the floor upon his/her request and shall not be subject to limitations in respect of the duration of the address;
- the rapporteur of the competent committee, who shall be given the floor once, for up to 5 minutes,
- head, or representatives of parliamentary groups, who shall be entitled to speak for up to 20 minutes, and may divide this time into two periods;
- MPs, alternately, according to whether they support or oppose the proposal, which they shall state when they submit an application for the floor. If MPs do not state whether they support or object to the proposal in the application for the floor, those MPs shall be granted the floor at the end of the sequence of applications for the floor.

The Prime Minister and other Government members shall be granted the floor upon their request and shall not be subject to limitations in respect of the duration of their address. The Head of the Republic Secretariat for Legislation shall be granted the same rights as Government members, but only when the National Assembly is discussing a Bill prepared for the Government by the Republic Secretariat for Legislation, on which the Government shall appropriately notify the National Assembly.

MPs who are not members of parliamentary groups shall, by mutual agreement, shall select at most three participants in the debate, each entitled to address the National Assembly once for up to five minutes. If no such agreement is reached, three MPs who first submitted the applications for the floor, shall be allowed to address the National Assembly, each of them once for up to five minutes.

Applications for the floor, together with the order of MPs, shall be submitted in writing by parliamentary groups and MPs who are not members of parliamentary groups, before the opening of the debate, and the other participants in the debate shall ask for the floor verbally, after opening of the debate.

#### **Article 97**

In the standard procedure, total time envisaged for the debate in principle for parliamentary groups shall amount to five hours.

The time referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be allocated to parliamentary groups in proportion to the number of members of that parliamentary group.

The Head, or a representative of a parliamentary group shall, before opening the debate, be entitled to propose a longer debate for parliamentary groups than the time-limit referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article. The National Assembly shall decide on such a motion by a majority vote of MPs, at a sitting where majority of MPs are present, without a debate.

#### **Article 98**

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall grant the floor to MPs, according to the order submitted by their parliamentary group and until the expiry of the total time for debate allocated to that parliamentary group.

If MPs from several parliamentary groups have applied for the floor, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall grant them the floor alternately, so that the first speaker shall be an MP who is a member of the smallest parliamentary group in the number of MPs composing it,, and so on until the largest parliamentary group, as long as there are speakers who have applied for the floor.

A parliamentary group does not need to use the time it is allocated, or does not need to use it in its full duration.

When the Speaker of the National Assembly determines that there are no more MPs who applied to take part in the debate, or when the time for debate has expired, the Speaker shall declare the debate closed.

#### **Article 99**



In the abbreviated procedure the total time for the debate shall amount to 50% of the time allocated for speakers referred to in Articles 96 and 97 of these Rules of Procedure.

#### **Article 100**

When the Speaker of the National Assembly is chairing a sitting and wants to take part in the debate, he/she shall cede the chair to one of the Deputy Speakers of the National Assembly.

#### **Article 101**

The Speaker of the National Assembly may adjourn a sitting of the National Assembly for the purpose of holding a new sitting of the National Assembly, and shall substantiate the adjournment.

The Speaker of the National Assembly may order a break at a sitting of the National Assembly in order to conduct consultations that may be required or to obtain an opinion.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall adjourn the National Assembly in the Voting Day when he/she determines a lack of a quorum necessary at a sitting of the National Assembly, until a quorum is established.

The Speaker of the National Assembly may adjourn the sitting of the National Assembly in other cases, if the National Assembly should so decide.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall notify MPs on the resumption of the sitting.

#### **Article 102**

After the debates on all items of the agenda and vote on them have been concluded, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall conclude the sitting of the National Assembly.

#### **Article 103**

MPs shall be entitled to point verbally to a violation of procedure by the Speaker of the National Assembly, if they believe that it is not in accordance with the provisions of these Rules of Procedure, and the violation has been made at a sitting of the National Assembly in progress, immediately after the violation.

MPs may not point to violations of procedure by the Speaker of the National Assembly which have already been indicated.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall grant the floor to the MP pointing to the violation referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, immediately after the conclusion of the address of the preceding speaker, with the proviso that heads of parliamentary groups enjoy precedence.

MPs shall state which Article of these Rules of Procedure has been violated by the conduct of the Speaker of the National Assembly and substantiate the violation, and may address the National Assembly for no longer than two minutes.

If the Speaker of the National Assembly considers that no violation has been committed, he/she shall provide an explanation, and if he/she considers that a violation has been committed, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall rectify the violation committed.

If even after the explanation given by the Speaker of the National Assembly, the MP considers that a violation has been committed, the MP may request, without a right to substantiate, from the National Assembly to vote on the matter during the Voting Day.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall pronounce measures referred to in Articles 108 - 111 of these Rules of Procedure to MPs who do not abide by the provisions referred to in paragraphs 1, 2, 4 and 6 of this Article, or in other obvious manner abuse the rights envisaged by this Article.

In the case referred to in paragraph 7 of this Article, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall deduct the time used by the MP when abusing the right referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article from the total time allocated to his parliamentary group in the debate on the current item on the agenda, if his/her parliamentary group still has time left for a debate.

If the MP considers that the Speaker of the National Assembly did not act in accordance with the provisions of these Rules of Procedure before the beginning of the sitting of the National Assembly, he/she shall notify the Speaker of the National Assembly thereof in writing, on which the Speaker of the National Assembly shall inform the MPs at a sitting of the National Assembly and provide an explanation.

If even after the explanation of the Speaker of the National Assembly referred to in paragraph 9 of this Article, the MP considers that the violation has been committed, he/she may request, without a right to substantiate, from the National Assembly to vote on the matter, without a debate, on the Voting Day.

#### **Article 104**

If an MP, while addressing the National Assembly, uses offensive language for an MP who is not the member of the same parliamentary group, specifying his/her name and surname, or title, or incorrectly interprets that MP's address, the MP involved shall be entitled to a rebuttal.

If the offensive language relates to a parliamentary group, or a political party to which the MPs in that group belong, the right to rebuttal on behalf of the parliamentary group shall belong to the Head of the parliamentary group.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall decide on the use of the rights referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article.

Rebuttals may not last for more than two minutes.

#### *4. Maintaining order at a sitting*

#### **Article 105**

No one may speak at a sitting of the National Assembly before requesting and obtaining the floor from the Speaker of the National Assembly.

MPs shall speak from their seats in the session chamber of the National Assembly after being granted the floor by the Chairperson of the National Assembly, except in cases stipulated by these Rules of Procedure.

The following may address the National Assembly from the speaker's platform in the session chamber of the National Assembly: the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, and other persons with the approval of the Speaker of the National Assembly.

No one may approach the speaker's platform before being provided an approval by the Speaker of the National Assembly.

#### **Article 106**

Speakers may speak only about the item on the agenda which is the subject of the debate.

No one may interrupt the speaker or caution the speaker, except for the Speaker of the National Assembly in cases stipulated by these Rules of Procedure.

During addresses by MPs or other participants in the debate, it shall be prohibited to heckle or otherwise distract the speaker, or to undertake any other action that violates the freedom of speech.

#### **Article 107**

Speakers at sittings of the National Assembly shall respect the dignity of the National Assembly.

At a sitting of the National Assembly, an MP may not address another MP directly, may not use offensive language, nor present facts or judgements concerning the private lives of other persons.

### **Article 108**

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall ensure the order at sittings of the National Assembly.

In case of breaches of order at sittings, the Speaker of the National Assembly may pronounce the following measures: reprimand, denial of the floor, or expulsion from the sitting.

On the basis of the measure referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article the Committee on Administrative, Budgetary, Mandate, and Immunity Issues shall impose a fine in accordance with the provisions of Article 114 of these Rules of Procedure.

Records on measures imposed referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article shall be kept by the General Secretary of the National Assembly.

### **Article 109**

MPs shall be given reprimands for:

- approaching the speaker's platform without the permission of the Speaker of the National Assembly;
- speaking before requesting the floor and being given the floor;
- speaking about an issue not on the agenda, in spite of being warned by the Speaker of the National Assembly;
- interrupting or heckling speakers, or hindering the speaker, or threatening the freedom of speech in other manner;
- speaking directly to another MP;
- resorting to swearing and insulting language;
- presenting facts and opinions relating to other people's private lives;
- violating the order at the sitting by other actions or acting in contravention of the provisions of these Rules of Procedure.

### **Article 110**

The measure of being denied the floor shall be pronounced to MPs who, despite being previously reprimanded twice, continue to violate the order at the sitting or act contrary to these Rules of Procedure.

MPs who have been denied the floor shall stop their speeches. Failing to do so will result in deactivating the public address system by the Speaker of the National Assembly, who shall, if needed, order a break.

### **Article 111**

The measure of being expelled from a sitting shall be pronounced to MPs who, after being denied the floor, continue to hamper or prevent work at the sitting, do not abide by decisions of the Speaker of the National Assembly on the pronouncement of the measure of being denied the floor, or continue to make other breaches as provided for in Article 109 of these Rules of Procedure, as well as in other cases specified by these Rules of Procedure.

The measure of being expelled from a sitting may also be pronounced to an MP who has not been sanctioned previously, in the event of a physical assault on another person in the building of the National Assembly.

MPs expelled from a sitting shall immediately leave the chamber where the sitting is being held.

If an MP refuses to leave the sitting of the National Assembly, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall order the service in charge of maintaining order in the building of the National Assembly to remove that MP from the sitting, and order a break pending execution of order.

#### **Article 112**

If the Speaker of the National Assembly is unable to maintain order at the sitting by use of regular measures, he/she shall call a break until order is restored.

#### **Article 113**

The measures of reprimand and denial of the floor shall be applied on the same day they were pronounced at the sitting of the National Assembly.

The measure of expulsion from the sitting shall apply over a period of twenty days of the sitting (work) of the National Assembly following the day of pronouncement, or for the entire sitting at which it was pronounced, if the sitting should last more than twenty sitting (work) days of the National Assembly.

Without prejudice to paragraph 2 of this Article, the MP who is expelled from the sitting of the National Assembly shall have the right to attend the sitting of the National Assembly during the Voting Day.

#### **Article 114**

An MP, subject to a measure of reprimand, shall be fined by 10% of his/her salary.

An MP to whom two reprimands have been pronounced during the same sitting shall be fined by 20% of his/her salary.

An MP who has been denied the floor shall be fined by 40% of his/her salary.

An MP who has been expelled from a sitting shall be fined by 50% of his/her salary.

Where several measures have been pronounced to an MP during the same sitting of the National Assembly, the fines shall not be added up and only the highest of the fines shall be applied.

#### **Article 115**

Decisions on imposing fines on MPs shall be made by the Committee on Administrative-Budgetary and Mandate-Immunity Questions.

Fines imposed on MPs permanently employed with the National Assembly shall be deducted from their salaries for the current month, or for the current and for the following month if they have not been expelled from a sitting of the National Assembly.

Fines imposed on MPs not permanently employed with the National Assembly shall be deducted from their emolument in the National Assembly (the difference between the salary of an MP permanently employed with the National Assembly and the income received from employment or pension, or the MPs' allowance), for the current month, or also for the following months if the monthly emolument of an MP in the National Assembly is smaller than the amount of the fine, until the moment the full amount of the fine has been deducted.

MPs fined for being reprimanded or denied the floor shall be entitled to allowance for the use of a car, meals and hotel accommodation, while MPs fined in connection with being expelled from a sitting shall be entitled to allowance for the use of a car, in accordance with an act of the Committee on Administrative, Budgetary, Mandate, and Immunity Issues.

#### **Article 116**

Provisions of these Rules of Procedure on order at the sittings of the National Assembly shall be applied to all other participants at the sitting, besides MPs.

#### **Article 117**

Chairpersons of committees shall ensure the order at committee meetings.

Chairpersons of committees shall notify the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Secretary General of the National Assembly of the measures pronounced at committee sittings.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall notify the Committee on the Administrative, Budgetary, Mandate and Immunity Issues on the measures pronounced.

Provisions of these Rules of Procedure on order at the sittings of the National Assembly shall be accordingly applied to the sittings of committees and other working bodies of the National Assembly.

## *5. Minutes*

### **Article 118**

Minutes of the National Assembly sittings shall be taken.

Minutes shall include principal data on the work at the sitting, in particular the proposals discussed, with the names of participants in the debate and the names of MPs who submitted their addresses in writing, on the conclusions adopted at the sitting and the results of the votes on particular issues, and the measures pronounced.

At the sittings of the National Assembly shorthand notes shall be taken in the text whereof each ten-minute period shall be marked with slanting brackets, and an audio recording of the course of the sitting shall be made. The shorthand notes shall include the text as it was uttered, and no words or expressions shall be omitted.

All MPs shall be entitled to have an insight, upon their request, into the stenographic transcripts and/or audio recordings. MPs who wish to authorise the texts of their addresses shall do so within three days from the day of the sitting.

Stenographic transcript shall be delivered to parliamentary groups no later than the following day.

An integral part of the stenographic transcript shall be an address of an MP delivered in a written form.

The adopted minutes shall be signed by the Speaker and the Secretary General of the National Assembly.

Materials discussed at the sitting and the stenographic transcript of the sitting shall be attached to the adopted minutes.

The Secretary General of the National Assembly shall see to the drafting and keeping of the minutes.

## **VII SPECIAL AND SOLEMN SITTINGS**

### **Article 119**

The National Assembly may hold special sittings.

Special sittings shall be convened by the Speaker of the National Assembly.

Special sittings shall be convened for the adoption of the proposal of the Constitution; promulgation of the Constitution and constitutional law for the implementation of the Constitution; when the President of the Republic is to take an oath of office; when the candidate for prime minister office presents the programme and proposes the Government composition; for the election of the Government and when the Prime Minister and the Government members are to take an oath of office; and when elected persons who, in accordance with the law, take their oath of office before the National Assembly, are to take an oath of office.

The Speaker of the National Assembly may convene a special sitting at which the President of the Republic, the President or a representative of a foreign country, a foreign country parliamentary representative or a representative of an international organisation may address the National Assembly.

Upon the invitation of the Speaker of the National Assembly and depending on the matters to be discussed, the National Assembly may be addressed by the representatives of other bodies, organisations and institutions.

Special sittings may also be convened in connection with reports submitted by institutions or bodies, in accordance with the law, to the National Assembly.

#### **Article 120**

The National Assembly may hold solemn sittings.

The Speaker of the National Assembly may, for state and international holidays, convene a solemn sitting of the National Assembly and invite the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, the representatives of other bodies and organisations from the country and abroad to address the National Assembly.

#### **Article 121**

The agenda of a special and solemn sitting shall be established by the Speaker of the National Assembly.

As regards the manner and time-limits for notifying MPs of the time and venue of special and solemn sittings, provisions of these Rules of Procedure relating to convening sittings of the National Assembly shall apply.

### **VIII VOTING**

#### *1. General provisions*

#### **Article 122**

The National Assembly shall decide by the voting of MPs, in accordance with the Constitution, the Law and these Rules of Procedure.



### **Article 123**

MPs vote "in favour" of a proposal, "against" the proposal, or abstain from voting.

#### *2. Voting by Open Ballot*

### **Article 124**

The National Assembly and its working bodies shall vote by open ballot: by means of electronic voting system, by a show of hands, or by a roll call.

### **Article 125**

Open ballot voting by use of the electronic voting system shall be conducted in the manner specified by these Rules of Procedure.

Voting by a show of hands shall be conducted if the electronic voting system is not operational, if the sitting is taking place on the premises where no such system exists, or if the National Assembly decides on it in advance.

Upon the request of MPs, the National Assembly may, without a debate, decide to take a roll-call vote, in the manner specified by these Rules of Procedure.

### **Article 126**

MPs shall vote by means of electronic voting system by pressing appropriate push-buttons preceded by identification of MPs.

The voting period by means of electronic voting system shall be 15 seconds.

After the period referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article expires, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall conclude the vote and announce its result.

A decision shall be deemed adopted if it receives the votes of more than one-half of the identified MPs, i.e., the majority specified by the Constitution, the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

The result of every vote shall be shown on screens.

A computer printout of every vote shall be delivered to parliamentary groups upon their request and presented to representatives of the public media.

### **Article 127**

MPs shall use only their own identification cards, and identify themselves upon entering the Assembly chamber by inserting their cards in their electronic voting units, as well as log out when leaving the chamber.

MPs who use the identification card of another member, or abuse the electronic voting system in other manner, shall be sanctioned by the Speaker of the National Assembly by expelling them from the sitting, and the vote in which the abuse took place shall be annulled and immediately be followed by the identification of MPs and a repeated vote. MPs who fail to identify themselves in the manner referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall not be entitled to address the National Assembly.

#### **Article 128**

MPs shall carry their identification cards with them upon leaving the National Assembly chamber.

If an MP leaves the National Assembly chamber and leave his/her identification card in the voting unit, or close to it, the National Assembly Service shall deliver such cards immediately to the Secretary General of the National Assembly. The cards shall be returned to the MPs on entering the chamber.

#### **Article 129**

MPs shall immediately report the disappearance of their identification cards to the Secretary General of the National Assembly.

MPs who fail to bring their identification cards with them or lose them during a sitting of the National Assembly, shall be issued a temporary card by the Secretary General of the National Assembly, who shall notify the Speaker of the National Assembly thereof.

MPs shall return their temporary identification cards to the Secretary General of the National Assembly immediately upon the conclusion of the sitting for which the cards have been issued.

#### **Article 130**

Where a vote is taken by a show of hands, MPs shall first declare who is in favour of a proposal, then who is against the proposal, and finally, who abstains from voting.

Parliamentary groups may designate a member to monitor the counting of votes.

After the voting, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall conclude the vote and announce its result.

A decision shall be deemed adopted when the Speaker of the National Assembly declares that a majority prescribed by the Constitution, the Law and these Rules of Procedure voted in favour of it.

#### **Article 131**

If the National Assembly decides on a vote by roll call, the Secretary General of the National Assembly shall call out MPs in alphabetical order of their surnames, and those called shall say either "for", "against", or "I abstain". The Speaker of the National Assembly shall repeat the name and surname of an MP and his/her statement, or shall declare that the deputy is absent or does not wish to cast a vote.

The Secretary General of the National Assembly shall record the statements made by the MPs or their absence, next to their names on the list.

A decision shall be deemed adopted when the Speaker of the National Assembly declares that it has received the majority vote prescribed by the Constitution, the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

If the National Assembly decides to take a vote by roll call in an election procedure in which two or more candidates have been nominated, the MPs who vote shall utter the full name and surname of the candidate they support.

### *3. Voting by Secret Ballot*

#### **Article 132**

The National Assembly shall adopt decisions by secret ballot where envisaged so by the Law, these Rules of Procedure or a special decision of the National Assembly.

Secret votes shall be taken by means of ballot paper.

A total of 250 ballot papers shall be printed in the same size, shape and colour, and shall be certified with the seal of the National Assembly.

For every repeated vote, ballot papers shall be printed in a different colour.

#### **Article 133**

A special commission shall be established for printing and stamping ballot papers, and it shall be composed of one representative of every parliamentary group, and until the parliamentary groups are established, the commission shall be composed of four youngest MPs, each from the electoral lists which gained the largest number of MPs' seats. The chairperson of the commission is the oldest MP from the ranks of the commission members.

The Commission shall take minutes which shall be signed by all commission members.

The commission's work shall be concluded by submittal of ballot papers and signed minutes to the person responsible for administering the vote.

Ballot papers shall contain the proposal on which the vote is taken, and the words "in favour" and "against". In the lowest part of the ballot paper, the word "in favour" shall be on the left hand side, and the word "against" on the right. MPs shall vote by circling either the word "in favour" or the word "against".

#### **Article 134**

During elections and appointment procedures, candidates shall be listed on the ballot card in the sequence established on the list of candidates. An ordinal number shall precede each of the candidates' names.

The vote shall be taken by circling the number printed before the name of the candidate for whom the MP is voting.

MPs may only vote for the maximum number of candidates that are to be elected, and only from among the names listed on the ballot paper.

#### **Article 135**

Secret ballot votes shall be administered by the Speaker of the National Assembly, who shall be assisted by the Deputy Speakers of the National Assembly and the Secretary General of the National Assembly (hereinafter: the Voting Commission).

#### **Article 136**

MPs shall be handed their ballot papers upon approaching the Speaker's desk after being previously roll-called. The Speaker of the National Assembly shall hand the ballot paper to the MP, and the Secretary General of the National Assembly shall make a mark next to the name of the MP in order to note that the ballot paper has been handed to that MP. Before starting the vote, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall determine the duration of the vote.

The ballot box shall be empty and made of transparent material.

After an MP fills in the ballot paper, he/she shall approach the place where the ballot box is located and shall insert the ballot paper in the box, and the Secretary General of the National Assembly shall make a mark next to the MP's name on the list, noting that an MP has voted.

On expiry of the voting period, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall close the vote.

#### **Article 137**

After the voting has been completed, the Voting Commission shall determine the result of the vote in the same chamber where the voting has taken place.

Before opening the ballot box, the number of undelivered ballot papers shall be counted and placed in a special envelope which shall be sealed.

### **Article 138**

Determination of the results of the vote shall encompass data on the number of:

- delivered ballot papers;
- used ballot papers;
- unused ballot papers;
- invalid ballot papers;
- valid ballot papers;
- votes "in favour" and votes "against", or, if the MPs are voting for more candidates for the same function, the votes received by individual candidates.

The determination of the results of the vote shall also include a statement that the proposal has either been carried or rejected, or, where the ballot paper in election or appointment votes carries the names of more than one candidate for the same office, which candidate was elected, or appointed.

### **Article 139**

Ballot papers that have not been filled in and ballot papers from which it can not be clearly ascertained how the MP voted, shall be deemed invalid papers.

During election and appointment votes, ballot papers on which more than the required number of candidates' numbers is circled shall be deemed invalid papers.

### **Article 140**

Minutes shall be taken related to the assertion of the results of a vote and it shall be signed by all members of the Voting Commission.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall declare the result of the vote at the sitting of the National Assembly.

## **IX PROCEDURES FOR ADOPTION OF ACTS AND OTHER PROCEDURES**

### **Article 141**

Bills and proposals of other general acts shall be submitted to National Assembly in writing or in an electronic form.

#### *1. Procedure for amendment of the Constitution*

### **Article 142**

Proposals for the amendment of the Constitution shall be submitted in writing, with an explanation of the proposal.

The competent committee shall determine that the proposal referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article is submitted by a proposer authorised by the Constitution and that it is submitted in a prescribed form.

### **Article 143**

The National Assembly shall debate the proposal referred to in Article 142 of these Rules of Procedure at its first next sitting, and no earlier than 30 days after the proposal has been submitted.

The proposer of the proposal for the amendment of the Constitution shall be present at the sitting of the National Assembly when the proposal referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article is considered.

After the conclusion of the debate, the National Assembly shall decide on the proposal referred to in Article 149 of these Rules of Procedure.

The proposal for the amendment of the Constitution shall not be changed.

### **Article 144**

If the National Assembly adopts the proposal referred to in Article 142 of these Rules of Procedure, the authorised committee shall determine the draft proposal of an act on the amendment of the Constitution, with explanation, and a draft constitutional law for implementation of the Constitution, by majority vote of the total number of the committee members.

The proposer of the amendment to the Constitution shall be invited to the sitting of the committee.

When the proposers of the amendment of the Constitution are MPs or voters, their representative shall be invited to the sitting of the competent committee.

If the representative from the paragraph 3 of this Article is not specified, the first signed MP, i.e. voter, is invited to the sitting of the competent committee.

### **Article 145**

The competent committee shall submit a proposal for the amendment of the Constitution, and the draft of the constitutional law for implementation of the Constitution amendments to the Speaker of the National Assembly, who shall forward these proposals on to MPs.

Along with the proposal of acts referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the competent committee shall submit a decision proposal on calling the referendum, in case when the National Assembly is obliged by the Constitution to call the state referendum on the act amending the Constitution for verification, i.e. if the competent Committee decides that there is a need for citizens to confirm the act amending the Constitution in referendum.

#### **Article 146**

Proposals for the amendment of the Constitution and the constitutional law for the implementation of the amendments to the Constitution shall be considered at a sitting of the National Assembly.

After the conclusion of a debate, the National Assembly shall vote individually on the proposal of an act amending the Constitution and on the draft constitutional law for implementation of the amendments to the Constitution.

#### **Article 147**

In the event the National Assembly is obliged to, according to the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, call for the state referendum on the amendment of the Constitution for the purpose of verification, the National Assembly shall make a decision on calling a referendum to confirm the abovementioned document.

In case the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia does not envisage the obligation of the verification of the act amending the Constitution in the state referendum, the National Assembly may adopt a decision to call a referendum to verify the act, acting on a proposal of the proposer authorised by the Constitution to submit proposals for the amendment of the Constitution, with two-thirds of votes of a total number of MPs.

#### **Article 148**

Upon verification of the act amending the Constitution in the state referendum, the National Assembly shall adopt a decision on promulgation of the act amending the Constitution and a decision on promulgation of the constitutional law for implementation of the amendments to the Constitution on the date following the submittal of the final report of the competent institution on the referendum conducted.

#### **Article 149**

Unless otherwise stipulated by these Rules of Procedure, as concerns the procedure for the amendment of the Constitution, provisions of these Rules of Procedure regulating the procedure for adoption of Bills shall be applied..

### *2. Procedure for law adoption*

#### **Article 150**

All MPs, the Government, the Assembly of the Autonomous Province or at least 30,000 voters shall be entitled to propose Bills and proposals of other general acts.

The Ombudsman and the National Bank of Serbia shall be entitled to propose Bills from their scope of work.

### **Article 151**

Authorised proposer of Bills shall submit the Bill in the form in which the law will be adopted, with a rationale.

The rationale shall contain the following:

1. the constitutional, and/or legal basis for adopting the regulation;
2. the reasons for adopting the regulation, in particular: an analysis of the current situation, problems that shall be resolved by the regulation; objectives to be attained by the regulation, the discussed options for resolving the problems without regulation adoption and the answer to the question why the regulation adoption is the best way to resolve the problem(s);
3. explanation of the basic legal institutions and individual solutions;
4. an estimate of the funds necessary to implement the regulations, including the sources of those funds;
5. the general interest owing to which the retroactive effect is being proposed, if the Bill contains provisions with retroactive effect;
6. reasons for adopting the Bill by an urgent procedure, if an urgent procedure has been proposed for the adoption of the Bill;
7. reasons for proposing the regulation to come into effect before the eighth day following its publication in the *Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*;
8. a list of the provisions of the valid regulation which are being amended (by crossing out the part of the text being modified, and inserting the new text in capital letters).

The rationale may also contain an regulatory impact analysis, containing the following explanations: the subjects to be most probably affected by the regulation including the manner and the additional costs that will be incurred to citizens and the economy (particularly to small and medium enterprises) by the regulation implementation, whether the positive effects of regulation adoption are of the kind that will justify the expense it will create, whether the regulation supports the creation of new economic entities on the market and market competition, whether all interested parties have had an opportunity to have their say on the regulation and what measures will be taken



during the regulation implementation to accomplish the objectives intended by regulation adoption.

Together with the Bill, the proposer shall attach a Statement of Compliance of the Bill with the European Union *Acquis*, or a statement confirming that there is no obligation for such compliance, or that there is no possibility to harmonise the Bill with the European Union *Acquis*, and a Table of Compliance of the Bill with European Union regulations. Where the Bill proposer is a group of MPs, a representative of the proposer shall be specified. Where this has not been done, the first of the MPs who signed the bill shall be considered a representative of the proposer.

#### **Article 152**

Immediately upon receipt of a Bill submitted to the National Assembly, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall communicate the Bill to MPs, the competent committee and the Government, if the Government is not the proposer.

A Bill shall be also forwarded to the Ombudsman, or the National Bank of Serbia, if it regulates matters within their scope of work.

#### **Article 153**

If the Bill has not been prepared in accordance with these Rules of Procedure, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall, within three days from the receipt of the Bill, request the proposer to harmonise it with the provisions of these Rules of Procedure, specifying in detail wherein the incompatibility is identified.

The Bill proposer may submit, within 15 days, a Bill harmonised with the provisions of these Rules of Procedure or, if the proposer does not agree with the opinions of the Speaker of the National Assembly, he/she may request in writing that the National Assembly vote on the issue. The National Assembly shall vote on that issue at the following sitting, before proceeding with the agenda, without a debate. Before the vote, the proposer shall be entitled to present his/her position in five minutes' time at most.

If the proposer of the Bill does not act in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article, the Bill shall be deemed withdrawn.

#### **Article 154**

A Bill prepared in accordance with the provisions of these Rules of Procedure may be included in the agenda of sittings of the National Assembly within no less than 15 days from the date of its submittal.

#### **Article 155**

Before being discussed at a sitting of the National Assembly, a Bill shall be discussed by competent committees and the Government, if it is not the Bill proposer.

The competent committee and the Government, if it is not the Bill proposer, in its report, i.e., opinion, may propose to the National Assembly to accept or reject the Bill in principle..

If the competent committee and the Government propose acceptance of the bill in principle, they shall specify whether they accept the Bill in its entirety or with changes they are proposing in the form of amendments.

The competent committee and the Government shall submit a report to the National Assembly, or an opinion, as a rule, within at least five days before the beginning of the National Assembly sitting at which the Bill will be discussed.

If the competent committee does not submit the report, or the Government does not submit its opinion on the Bill, the Bill shall be considered without the report and/or the opinion.

#### **Article 156**

A Bill shall be initially subjected to a debate in principle at sittings of the competent committee, and then to a debate in detail..

The debate in detail shall be conducted on the articles of the Bill to which amendments have been submitted and on the amendments proposing introduction of new provisions, and the following may participate in the debate: committee members, the Bill proposer or its representative, a Government representative if the Government is not the proposer, and the proposer of the amendments or every MP attending the sitting of the competent committee, as well as other persons invited.

On the conclusion of the debate, the competent committee shall submit to the National Assembly a report which contains the opinion and proposals of the committee, and a dissenting opinion of a committee member. The committee designates a rapporteur who shall be entitled to substantiate the report of the committee at a sitting of the National Assembly.

#### **Article 157**

Initially, at the sitting of the National Assembly, a Bill shall be put to a debate in principle.

The National Assembly may decide to have a cognate debate in principle on several Bills on the agenda of the same sitting, which are mutually conditioned, or provisions in them are related, provided that each Bill shall be voted on separately.

After the conclusion of the debate in principle, the National Assembly shall open a debate in principle on the Bill, or a single debate on a proposal of another act that is on the agenda, and then it shall continue with the debate in detail.

Without prejudice to paragraph 3 of this Article, a debate in detail on the Bill on the Budget of the Republic of Serbia shall begin immediately upon the conclusion of the debate in principle.

To begin a debate in detail on a Bill, at least 24 hours must pass from the conclusion of the debate in principle.

During the period between the conclusion of the debate in principle and opening the debate in detail, the competent committee may submit amendments to the Bill.

The National Assembly may decide to hold a debate in detail on some Bills immediately upon the conclusion of the debate in principle.

### **Article 158**

Debates in detail shall be held on the Articles to which amendments have been submitted and on amendments which propose introduction of new provisions, whereby the total time for a debate in detail for the parliamentary groups shall be equal to the total time used for the debate in principle on the Bill, or for the cognate debate in principle of several Bills for parliamentary groups.

The total time for a debate in detail for a parliamentary group shall be allocated to the parliamentary group in proportion to the number of MPs who are members of that parliamentary group.

The heads or authorised representatives of parliamentary groups shall have additional 15 minutes for the parliamentary group for the debate in detail, which is not included in the total time for the debate in detail for parliamentary groups.

Each amendment proposer shall be entitled to substantiate his/her amendment within up to two minutes, and the total duration of the debate in detail on this basis may not exceed ten hours.

If more than one MP have submitted an amendment jointly, only one of the MPs who signed the proposal shall be entitled to substantiate the amendment on behalf of the proposers, within up to two minutes.

If more MPs from the same parliamentary group submit amendments which are identical in their content, it shall be deemed as a single amendment submitted by more MPs jointly and the provision referred to in paragraph 5 of this Article shall be applied.

The Bill proposer, or authorised representative of the Bill proposer, shall be entitled to speak on each amendment for up to two minutes, and the total duration of the debate in detail on this basis may not exceed three hours.

MPs who are not members of parliamentary groups shall designate, by mutual agreement, three participants at most to speak, in the debate in detail, for up to five minutes each. If no mutual agreement is reached, the first three MPs who applied for the floor shall be entitled to speak once for up to five minutes each.

If more amendments with identical wording have been submitted to the same Article of a Bill, those amendments shall be decided upon as one amendment.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall, upon determining that there are no more participants applied for the debate or time envisaged for the debate has expired, conclude the debate.

#### **Article 159**

The Bill proposer shall be entitled to withdraw the Bill from the procedure until the conclusion of the debate on the Bill at a sitting of the National Assembly.

The National Assembly, acting on a reasoned proposal by the Bill proposer, may decide to withdraw a certain item from the agenda of an ongoing sitting, before the beginning of the debate on that item at the sitting of the National Assembly, provided the sitting is being attended by the majority of total number of MPs.

#### **Article 160**

The National Assembly shall vote on the Bill in principle on amendments to the Bill, or on the Bill in its entirety, on the Voting Day.

If the Bill is approved in principle, the National Assembly shall vote on the amendments.

If no amendments to the Bill have been submitted, the National Assembly shall vote on the Bill only in its entirety.

Where a Bill contains provisions which envisage retroactive effect, the National Assembly shall vote separately on whether such an effect is in the general interest.

If the Bill stipulates that the law comes into effect less than eight days after its publication, the National Assembly shall vote separately on whether there are particularly justified reasons for that.

After voting on the amendments, the National Assembly shall vote on the Bill in its entirety.

## **a) Amendments**

### **Article 161**

An amendment is a proposal for a modification or addition to the Bill. Amendments may be submitted by the proposers authorised by the Constitution, as well as the competent committee of the National Assembly, in accordance with these Rules of Procedure.

Amendments shall be submitted to the Speaker of the National Assembly in writing or electronically, starting from the date the receipt of the Bill in the National Assembly, and three days at the latest, before the date scheduled for holding the sitting at which a debate on that bill has been proposed, except if a sitting of the National Assembly is called within a shorter time-limit than envisaged by these Rules of Procedure, when deadline for submitting amendments is the beginning of the debate in principle on the Bill at a sitting of the National Assembly.

Amendments to the Bill, which are considered by an urgent procedure, may be submitted before the beginning of the debate in principle on that Bill.

The submitter of the amendment may not, alone or together with other MPs, submit more than one amendment to the same Article of the Bill.

### **Article 162**

Amendment shall contain the following:

- the appropriate Article of the Rules of Procedure as the legal basis for submitting the amendment;
- the title and Article of the Bill to which the amendment has been submitted;
- the suggested provision;
- a rationale containing explanation of the proposed provision and its intended objective by adoption of the amendment, and if necessary, an assessment of its impact on the budgetary resources.

The unique methodological rules for drafting regulations shall be applied to drafting of amendments.

### **Article 163**

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall communicate the duly submitted amendments to the Bill proposer, to MPs, to the competent committee and to the Government.

The competent committee shall reject amendments which are incomplete and containing offensive language, and will submit a report thereof to the National Assembly.

The Secretary General of the National Assembly shall notify the proposers of untimely submitted amendments that the amendments have not been submitted within the time limit stipulated by these Rules of Procedure

Rejected and untimely submitted amendments may not be subject to a debate and no vote on them may be taken.

#### **Article 164**

A Bill proposer, or the authorised representative of the Bill proposer and the competent committee, shall, before the sitting of the National Assembly, consider the amendments submitted to the Bill and inform the National Assembly which amendments they propose to be accepted by the National Assembly, and which to be rejected.

The Government, if it is not a Bill proposer, may deliver an opinion to the National Assembly on the amendments submitted.

An amendment which is in line with the Constitution and legal system, and accepted by the Bill proposer and the competent committee shall become an integral part of the Bill and shall not be a subject to a separate debate at the sitting of the National Assembly.

#### **Article 165**

In the course of voting in detail, amendments in writing may be submitted by the Bill proposer, the competent committee, and the Government, only if the need for the amendment has arisen owing to the prior adoption of another amendment.

If the adoption of one or more amendments ensues in a need to conduct a legal and technical revision of the text of the Bill, the National Assembly shall suspend the voting and shall ask the Committee on Constitutional and Legislative Issues to conduct a legal and technical revision of the text of the Bill, and shall ask the competent committee to align the adopted amendments mutually and with the text of the Bill.

In the case referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, the competent committee, i.e. the Committee on the Constitutional Issues and legislation, shall submit to the National Assembly a report on the non-compliance that has arisen, together with the amendment by which that non-compliance shall be rectified.

#### **Article 166**

During a Voting Day, the National Assembly shall, after the adoption of the Bill in principle, vote on the amendments submitted according to the sequence of Articles of the Bill.

If more amendments have been submitted to the same Article of the Bill, the first vote shall be taken on the amendment proposing the deletion of a provision of that Article, and then on the amendment proposing modifications of the entire Article.

The National Assembly shall take separate votes on each amendment, except on an amendment which has become an integral part of the Bill.

#### **b) Urgent procedure**

##### **Article 167**

A law may be adopted by urgent procedure.

Only a law regulating issues and relations which arose under unforeseeable circumstances, where the non-adoption of such a law by urgent procedure could cause detrimental consequences for human lives and health, the country's security and the work of institutions and organisations, as well as for the purpose of fulfilment of international obligations and harmonisation of legislation with the European Union *Acquis*, may be adopted by urgent procedure.

The Bill proposer shall specify the reasons for adoption of the law by urgent procedure.

##### **Article 168**

A Bill, for the adoption of which an urgent procedure is being proposed, may be put on the agenda of a sitting of the National Assembly if it has been submitted no later than 24 hours before the scheduled beginning of the sitting.

Bills which regulate defence and security issues, for the adoption of which an urgent procedure is proposed, may be placed on the agenda of a session of the National Assembly even if submitted on the date of holding the sitting, two hours before the scheduled beginning of the sitting, and where the proposer is the Government, a Bill may be placed on the agenda even if submitted during the sitting of the National Assembly, provided the sitting is being attended by a minimum of 126 MPs.

By exception, during a sitting of the National Assembly the following proposals may be put on the agenda, under urgent procedure: proposals for election, appointment and dismissal and termination of office, a proposal for a vote of no confidence in the Government or a Government member, on the basis of a reasoned proposal by an authorised proposer, provided the sitting is attended by the majority of the total number of MPs. The Speaker of the National Assembly shall schedule a Voting Day on the proposal of no confidence in the Government or any of its members, immediately upon the conclusion of the debate on that item, without waiting for the conclusion of debates on other items of the agenda.

The National Assembly shall decide on every proposal for placing acts under urgent procedure on the agenda without a debate, during the determination of the agenda, or during a sitting, immediately upon receipt of the proposal, provided the sitting is attended by the majority of the total number of MPs.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall communicate the bill, for adoption of which an urgent procedure is requested, to MPs and the Government, if it is not the proposer of the Bill, immediately upon receipt of it.

### *3. Procedure for ratification of international treaties*

#### **Article 169**

A Bill on ratification of international treaties shall contain the text of the international treaty the ratification whereof is proposed, with a translation into the Serbian language. Bills on ratification of international treaties shall be reasoned. The rationale shall contain the reasons for which the ratification of the international treaty is proposed, whether the international treaty will create expenditures in its execution, as well as an estimate of the funds necessary for its implementation.

No amendments may be submitted to the Articles of Bills which contain the text of the international treaty.

#### **Article 170**

The procedure for adopting Bills on ratification of international treaties shall be the subject to the provisions of these Rules of Procedure on the procedure for adoption of laws, with the proviso that the Bill is the subject to a single debate.

A Single debate shall mean that a debate in principle and a debate in detail are held simultaneously.

### *4. Procedure for adoption of the Budget of the Republic of Serbia and the final financial statement*

#### **Article 171**

The Bill on the Budget of the Republic of Serbia (hereinafter: budget proposal), shall be submitted, with rationale, to the National Assembly by the Government, within a time-limit prescribed by law.

The rationale of the budget proposal shall contain the following:

- the constitutional basis for adoption of the budget;
- reasoning for the proposed necessary resources by each budget beneficiary (expenditure);



- explanation of the structure of revenue in the budget of the Republic of Serbia.

The budget of the Republic of Serbia shall, for the following year, be adopted by the National Assembly within the time limit prescribed by the law regulating the budget system.

#### **Article 172**

The debate on the Bill on the budget may begin no earlier than on the fifteenth day from the date the budget proposal is received in the National Assembly..

#### **Article 173**

Before the debate at a sitting of the National Assembly, the budget proposal may be considered by committees of the National Assembly which communicate their reports, in accordance with their scope of work, to the competent committee.

The report of the committee referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall contain an opinion and proposals, or initiatives for submitting amendments, and the name of the committee rapporteur.

The committee rapporteur shall be entitled to substantiate the report at the beginning of the debate on the budget proposal, at a sitting of the competent committee.

The relevant minister shall attend the committee sitting when the budget proposal is considered.

#### **Article 174**

The competent committee shall consider budget proposal and reports of the committees referred to in Article 173 of these Rules of Procedure and shall submit the report to the National Assembly.

Besides the authorised proposers, an amendment to the budget proposal may be tabled also by the competent committee.

The report of the competent committee shall contain the opinion and proposals of the committee, summary of the opinions and proposals from the reports of other committees, and the name of the competent committee rapporteur.

#### **Article 175**

A debate in principle and in detail on a budget proposal shall be carried out at a sitting of the National Assembly.

Voting on the budget proposal in principle, in detail and in its entirety shall be held on a Voting Day.

The Speaker of the National Assembly may schedule the day for voting on the budget proposal during the sitting of the National Assembly, regardless of whether or not the debate in principle and in detail on other items on the agenda has been concluded.

#### **Article 176**

During a year, amendments to the budget may be made pursuant to the provisions of the Rules of Procedure regulating the procedure for adoption of the budget..

#### **Article 177**

The competent committee shall consider the final financial statement proposal and the report of the State Audit Institution on the audit of the financial statement of the Republic of Serbia, financial statements of the financial plans of the compulsory social insurance organisations and consolidated financial reports of the Republic of Serbia, and shall submit a report thereof to the National Assembly in compliance with the law regulating the State Audit Institution.

#### **Article 178**

Unless otherwise specified by these Rules of Procedure , the procedure for budget adoption shall be the subject to the provisions of these Rules of Procedure on the procedure for law adoption..

#### *5. The procedure for determining the budget of the National Assembly*

#### **Article 179**

The Secretary General shall prepare the parliamentary budget proposal and shall submit it to the competent committee.

The parliamentary budget proposal shall be submitted with a rationale.

The rationale shall contain the following:

- the legal basis for adoption of the parliamentary budget;
- reasoning of the proposal of the resources required for the operation of the National Assembly.

The parliamentary budget proposal shall be prepared on the basis of instructions for drafting the budget, in accordance with the Memorandum on the Budget and economic and fiscal policy, which is submitted to the National Assembly by the Ministry responsible for finances.

The parliamentary budget proposal shall include the expenditures and costs of the National Assembly in accordance with the budget classification defined by the law regulating the budgetary system.

The Secretary General shall adopt an act regulating the preparation procedure of the parliamentary budget proposal.

#### **Article 180**

The competent committee shall consider the parliamentary budget proposal within time-limits which enable the determination of the parliamentary budget in accordance with time-limits prescribed by the law regulating the budgetary system.

Following determination of the parliamentary budget proposal, the committee shall deliver the proposal to the Ministry responsible for finances, for its opinion.

#### **Article 181**

The competent committee shall consider the reasoned opinion of the Ministry responsible for finances at a sitting attended by the Minister.

At a sitting of the competent committee, the committee members shall harmonise positions on the parliamentary budget proposal with the position of the Minister responsible for finances.

The parliamentary budget shall be determined when consensus is reached on it at a sitting of the competent committee.

If the consensus is not reached at a sitting of the competent committee, the Minister responsible for finances shall incorporate, without amendments, the parliamentary budget proposal referred to in Article 180 of the present Rules of Procedures into the Draft Budget of the Republic of Serbia, and the Government shall incorporate it without amendments into the Bill on the Budget of the Republic of Serbia.

The parliamentary budget, or the parliamentary budget proposal, referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Article, shall be communicated to the Ministry responsible for finances, within the time-limit prescribed by the law regulating budgetary system, for the purpose of including it in the Budget draft or proposal of the Republic of Serbia.

*6. Procedure for adopting Development Plan and Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia*

#### **a) Procedure for adopting the Development Plan of the Republic of Serbia**

#### **Article 182**

The proposals of the Development Plan shall be submitted by the Government, with a rationale and necessary documentation.

Before a debate at a sitting of the National Assembly, the proposed Development Plan shall be considered by the National Assembly committees which shall submit their reports, with reasoned proposals, to the Committee on Economy, Regional Development, Privatisation and International Economic Relations

The competent committee shall consider the proposed Development Plan and the reports of individual committees and shall submit a report thereof to the National Assembly.

### **b) Procedure for adoption of the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia**

#### **Article 183**

The Spatial Plan proposal shall be submitted by the Government, with a rationale and necessary documentation.

Before a debate at a sitting of the National Assembly, the Spatial Plan proposal shall be considered by the National Assembly committees which shall submit their reports, with reasoned proposals, to the Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Telecommunications.

The competent committee shall consider the proposed Spatial Plan and the reports of individual committees and shall submit a report thereof to the National Assembly.

#### **Article 184**

The Development Plan proposal of the Republic of Serbia and the Spatial Plan proposal may not be adopted by urgent procedure.

#### **Article 185**

The procedure for adoption of the Development Plan and Spatial Plan shall be the subject to the provisions of these Rules of Procedure on the procedure for law adoption , unless otherwise stipulated by these Rules of Procedure .

### *7. Procedure for granting prior consent to the Statute of the Autonomous Province*

#### **Article 186**

The Assembly of the Autonomous Province shall submit the Proposal of the Statute of the Autonomous Province to the National Assembly.

The Assembly of the Autonomous Province shall submit to the National Assembly the proposal of the Statute of the Autonomous Province together with a proposal of the decision on granting prior consent for the Statute of the Autonomous Province.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall submit to MPs and the competent committee the proposal of the Statute of the Autonomous Province and the proposal of the decision referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, immediately upon receiving them.

#### **Article 187**

Before the debate at a sitting of the National Assembly, the proposed acts referred to in Article 186 of these Rules of Procedure shall be considered by the competent committee which shall submit a report thereof to the National Assembly.

#### **Article 188**

A single debate shall be held at a sitting of the National Assembly on the proposed acts referred to in Article 186 of these Rules of Procedure.

#### **Article 189**

The procedure for granting prior consent for the Statute of the Autonomous Province shall be the subject to provisions of these Rules of Procedure on the procedure for law adoption, unless otherwise stipulated by these Rules of Procedure.

*8. Procedure for adoption of declarations, resolutions, recommendations and strategies*

#### **Article 190**

Proposals of declarations, resolutions, recommendations and strategies may be submitted by proposers authorised by the Constitution.

The proposed acts referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be communicated by the Speaker of the National Assembly to MPs and a single debate is conducted thereof.

#### **Article 191**

The procedure for adoption of declarations, resolutions, recommendations and strategies shall be subject to application of provisions of these Rules of Procedure for the law adoption, unless otherwise stipulated by these Rules of Procedure.

*9. Procedure for adoption of the Rules of Procedure and other general acts*

#### **Article 192**

Proposed Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly, as well as proposals for amending them, may be submitted by MPs or the competent committee.

Proposed decisions or conclusions may be submitted by the authorised proposer, in accordance with the Constitution, the law and these Rules of Procedure.

A single debate shall be held on the proposals of the acts referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article.

### **Article 193**

The procedure for adoption of the Rules of Procedure and other general acts shall be subject to the application of the provisions of these Rules of Procedure on law adoption, unless stipulated otherwise by these Rules of Procedure.

#### *10. Procedure for authentic interpretation of laws*

### **Article 194**

A proposal for the adoption of authentic interpretation of laws may be submitted by a law proposer authorised by the Constitution.

If the competent committee assesses that the proposal referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article is justified, it shall prepare a proposal of an authentic interpretation and shall communicate it to the submitter of the proposal and to the National Assembly, which shall vote on it.

If the competent committee assesses that the proposal referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article is unjustified, it shall notify the submitter of the proposal thereof and shall submit a report to the National Assembly. In that case, the National Assembly shall decide on the proposal referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

If the National Assembly approves the proposal referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, it shall instruct the competent committee to draft a proposal of an authentic interpretation.

### **Article 195**

The procedure for authentic interpretation is subject to the provisions of these Rules of Procedure on the procedure for law adoption, unless otherwise stipulated by these Rules of procedure.

#### *11. Procedure for adoption of unique methodological rules for drafting regulations*

### **Article 196**

A proposal for adoption of unique methodological rules for drafting regulations, or a proposal for their amendment may be submitted by a member of the competent committee.

If the competent committee assesses that the proposal referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article is justified, it shall begin drafting it and notify the submitter of the proposal thereof.

If the competent committee assesses that the proposal referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article is unjustified, it shall notify the submitter of the proposal thereof.

#### *12. Procedure for verification and termination of MPs' mandates*

### **Article 197**

Procedure for verification of MPs' mandates shall be applied on the first sitting of the National Assembly and during the legislature of the National Assembly, in order to fill vacant MP seats.

**a) Procedure for termination of the MPs' mandates**

**Article 198**

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall be notified of reasons for the termination of the mandate of an MP before expiry of the period for which he/she was elected.

An MP shall tender a resignation in writing and submit it to the Speaker of the National Assembly, via the registry office, who shall immediately communicate it to MPs and the competent committee. The resigning MP shall be summoned to a sitting of the competent committee at which his resignation shall be considered.

The competent committee shall consider the reasons for the termination of the mandate of the MP before the expiry of the period for which he/she was elected and shall submit a report thereof to the National Assembly, with a proposal that the National Assembly acknowledge the termination of the mandate of the MP.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall notify the state institution responsible of administering elections of MPs of the termination of the mandate of the MP.

**b) Procedure for verification of MPs' mandates during the legislature of the National Assembly**

**Article 199**

In the procedure of filling a vacant MP seat, the competent committee shall consider the report of the state institution responsible for administering elections of MPs on granting a mandate to a newly-elected MP, and the certificate on being elected as an MP, for the purpose of verifying that the data are identical.

If the competent committee establishes that the data in the report of the state institution responsible for administering elections of MPs are identical with data in the certificate on election as an MP, it shall submit a report thereof to the National Assembly with a proposal for verification of the mandate of the newly-elected MP.

The National Assembly shall conclude that the mandate of the newly-elected MP has been verified, immediately upon receipt of the report referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article.

*13. Procedure for election and termination of term of office*

**Article 200**

Proposals for the election of judges of the Constitutional Court, proposed candidates for appointment as judges of the Constitutional Court and requests for termination of office

of a judge of the Constitutional Court shall be communicated to the MPs by the Speaker of the National Assembly.

A debate shall be opened at a sitting of the National Assembly on the proposals and requests referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

The National Assembly shall decide on the election of judges of the Constitutional Court and on the election of candidates for the appointment as judges of the Constitutional Court, and the termination of office of a judge of the Constitutional Court individually, by secret ballot vote, unless it decides to have an open ballot vote, and shall notify the President of the Republic, the Supreme Court of Cassation and the Constitutional Court of its decisions.

### **Article 201**

A proposal for the election of the President of the Supreme Court of Cassation, court presidents, judges, members of the High Judicial Council, the State Public Prosecutor, public prosecutors and deputy public prosecutors, and the members of the State Prosecutorial Council, elected for the first time, submitted by an authorised proposer, , shall be communicated, together with a rationale, by the Speaker of the National Assembly to MPs.

Debates on the proposals referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be open at a sitting of the competent committee and at a sitting of the National Assembly.

During the debates at a sitting of the competent committee and a sitting of the National Assembly, an MP may dispute a proposal for the election of some officials referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, and the challenge must be explicitly reasoned.

The National Assembly shall vote individually on each proposal for the election of each of the candidate who has been disputed, and on the candidates who have not been disputed, it shall decide in entirety, by an open ballot vote.

### **Article 202**

The National Assembly shall decide, in accordance with the law, on proposals of authorised proposers for the termination of term of office of the officials referred to in Articles 200 and 201 of these Rules of Procedure,.

The procedure for termination of term of office of the officials referred to in Article 195 paragraph 1 of these Rules of Procedure shall be subject to the application of the provisions of these Rules of Procedure on their election.

### **Article 203**



Proposals for the election and dismissal of the Governor of the National Bank of Serbia, the Council of Governors of the National Bank of Serbia, the Ombudsman, the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and the President, Vice President and members of the Council of the State Audit Institution and other officials established by the law, , shall be submitted with a rationale to the National Assembly by authorised proposers.

If an authorised proposer for the election of the official referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, elected by the National Assembly, is not stipulated by the law, the proposal shall be submitted by the competent committee of the National Assembly.

Prior to the election of the officials referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, nominated by the competent committee of the National Assembly, interviews shall be carried out with the candidates, before the competent committee of the National Assembly.

#### *14. Procedure for control of the work of the Government*

##### **a) Parliamentary Questions**

###### **Article 204**

MPs shall be entitled to pose a parliamentary question to individual Ministers or the Government, within their competences.

Parliamentary questions must be formulated clearly.

Parliamentary questions shall be communicated to the competent Minister or the Government.

Parliamentary questions shall be posed in writing or verbally, and the address of the MP posing the question may not last more than three minutes.

Parliamentary questions may also be posed between two sittings of the National Assembly, in writing, through the Speaker of the National Assembly, who shall refer them to the competent Minister or to the Government.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall caution an MP posing a parliamentary question if the question is not posed in accordance with the provisions of these Rules of Procedure, or if it is not directed to the competent authority.

###### **Article 205**

Parliamentary questions shall be posed to the Government, in the presence of Government members, every last Thursday of the month during an ongoing parliamentary sitting, between 16:00 and 19:00 hours, when the work performed according to the agenda shall be adjourned..

The Government shall inform the National Assembly in writing on the Government members who are prevented from attending the sitting of the National Assembly, at which parliamentary questions are posed to the Government, three days before the day referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, at the latest.

During extraordinary session, parliamentary questions may be posed at a sitting of the National Assembly on other days of the month, if the party who requested the extraordinary session anticipated that in its request.

#### **Article 206**

The Government, or a Minister, shall immediately reply verbally to a parliamentary question posed. If a certain preparation is required for providing the reply, they shall substantiate it immediately, and provide the reply to the MP, in writing, no later than eight days after the question was posed.

The written reply of the Government, or the competent Minister, shall be communicated to MPs.

Without prejudice to paragraph 1 of this Article, if the preparation of the reply to a parliamentary question requires determination of certain facts the assertion of which requires a longer period of time or a more complex analysis, the time-limit for providing the reply to a parliamentary question may be extended, by 30 days at most.

#### **Article 207**

After the reply to a parliamentary question has been provided, the MP who had posed the question shall be entitled to comment on the reply for three minutes at most, or pose a supplementary question. Upon hearing the reply to the supplementary question, the MP shall be entitled to declare his/her opinion on the reply received, within two minutes at most.

#### **Article 208**

If a reply to a parliamentary question contains data which are a state, military or official secret, the Minister, or the Government, may move for the reply to be heard without the public being present.

### **b) Parliamentary questions relating to a topical subject**

#### **Article 209**

The Speaker of the National Assembly, acting on a proposal of a parliamentary group, shall appoint, at least once a month, a day when individual Ministers shall reply to parliamentary questions relating to the topical subject.

#### **Article 210**

Proposals of parliamentary groups shall be submitted to the Speaker of the National Assembly in writing and must contain a precise specification of the topical subject on which questions will be posed, the name of the competent Minister, or the function of another responsible person who should reply to the questions.

If the proposal does not contain all the elements referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall require from the proposer to rectify the proposal, explaining the nature of the irregularity.

If the proposer does not rectify the proposal within three days, the uncorrected proposal shall not be considered. In this case, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall be under no obligation to summon the Minister.

Proper proposals of parliamentary groups shall be communicated immediately by the Speaker of the National Assembly to MPs and the competent minister.

#### **Article 211**

A parliamentary group shall submit the proposal referred to in Article 210 of these Rules of Procedure within three days, at the latest, before the date appointed for the minister's replies to parliamentary questions.

If more than one proposal has been submitted by parliamentary groups, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall determine the sequence of topics according to the time of receipt of the proper proposals.

#### **Article 212**

The reply time for parliamentary questions may last 180 minutes at most, and shall be provided irrespective of the number of MPs present in the Assembly chamber. If within the envisaged period of time all parliamentary questions have not been answered, the Speaker of the National Assembly may appoint another day when the Minister will reply to the remaining questions.

#### **Article 213**

All MPs shall be entitled to pose questions to the competent Minister, as follows: representatives of the proposer, heads or authorised representatives of parliamentary groups who requested the floor, starting from representatives of the smallest parliamentary group to the largest one, and MPs, as they applied for the floor, until the expiry of the total time for posing questions and providing answers. MPs shall submit applications to pose questions to the Speaker of the National Assembly in writing until the time appointed for the Minister's answers, and verbally during the question and answer time. One MP may pose three questions at most.

#### **Article 214**

MPs shall be entitled to pose verbal questions within a time period of up to three minutes at most.

The competent Minister shall address the National Assembly for five minutes at most to answer the question.

After the reply of the competent Minister, the MP who had posed the question may pose another two associated questions at most, of a total duration of two minutes at most.

The competent Minister shall provide a reply of a total duration of five minutes at most.

Subsequently, other MPs shall be entitled to pose questions according to the order of application, in the manner specified in paragraphs 1 and 3 of this Article.

#### **Article 215**

During the days when Ministers reply to parliamentary questions, live broadcast shall be provided on television.

#### **Article 216**

The question and answer time shall be subject to the application of provisions of these Rules of Procedure, with the proviso that no rebuttals and indications to violations of these Rules of Procedure shall be allowed (Articles 103 and 141 of the Rules of Procedure).

#### **c) Motion of no confidence in the Government or a Government member**

##### **Article 217**

A minimum of 60 MPs may table a motion of no confidence in the Government or a Government member.

The motion shall be tabled in writing to the Speaker of the National Assembly.

The motion shall specify the reason for tabling the motion of no confidence.

The motion must specify a representative of the proposer. Where the proposer has not been specified, it shall be considered that the representative of the proposer is the first MP who signed the motion of no confidence.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall immediately communicate the motion to the Prime Minister, or to a Government member, and to MPs.

#### **Article 218**

The motion of no confidence in the Government or a Government member shall be discussed by the National Assembly at the first subsequent sitting or no earlier than five days after the date of the submittal of the motion.

At the beginning of the sitting, the representative of the proposer shall be entitled to substantiate the motion referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, and the Prime Minister, or a Government member, shall be entitled to a reply.

The debate on the issue of no confidence in the Government or a Government member shall be subject to provisions of these Rules of Procedure relating to the duration of debates in principle on Bills.

Immediately on the conclusion of the debate on no confidence in the Government or a Government member, the motion shall be put to vote.

If the National Assembly passes a vote of no confidence in the Government or a Government member, the signatories of the motion may not table a new motion of no confidence before the expiry of a period of 180 days from the date of the vote on the motion.

#### **Article 219**

If the National Assembly passes a vote of no confidence in the Government or a Government member,, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall immediately notify the President of the Republic thereof.

If the National Assembly passes a vote of no confidence in the Government or a Government member, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall immediately notify the Prime Minister thereof.

#### **d) Interpellations relating to the work of the Government**

##### **Article 220**

A minimum of 50 MPs may submit an interpellation relating to the work of the Government or a Government member.

##### **Article 221**

Interpellations shall be submitted to the Speaker of the National Assembly in writing.

Interpellations shall contain a clearly and concisely formulated issue which needs to be considered, a rationale of no more than two pages, the name of the authorised representative of the submitter of the interpellation, and the signatures of all MPs who submitted it.

##### **Article 222**

The text of the interpellation shall be harmonised with the provisions of these Rules of Procedure.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall communicate the interpellation immediately to the competent committee to assess the compliance of the interpellation with the provisions of these Rules of Procedure.

If the text of the interpellation is not submitted in accordance with the provisions of these Rules of Procedure or contains offensive or other language reprehensible for the National Assembly and MPs, the Administrative committee shall request the submitter of the interpellation to harmonise it with the provisions of these Rules of Procedure within 15 days.

If the submitter of the interpellation does not harmonise the text of the interpellation with the remarks provided, within the time period referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article, the interpellation shall be deemed withdrawn.

Upon receipt of a report from the competent committee, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall communicate the interpellation to MPs and the Prime Minister.

#### **Article 223**

The Government or a Government member shall communicate to the Speaker of the National Assembly their reply to the text of the interpellation no later than 30 days from the date of receipt of the interpellation.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall immediately communicate the reply of the Government or a Government member to the interpellation to MPs .

#### **Article 224**

The reply of the Government or a Government member to the interpellation shall be placed on the agenda of the first subsequent sitting of the National Assembly, which must be held within 15 days from the date of receipt of the reply of the Government or a Government member relating to the interpellation.

The Speaker of the National Assembly may propose placing of the reply to the interpellation on the agenda of the ongoing sitting of the National Assembly, as the last item, on which the National Assembly shall vote without a debate.

The National Assembly may decide to discuss the reply to the interpellation at a special sitting of the National Assembly.

#### **Article 225**

The representative of the submitter of the interpellation shall be entitled to substantiate the interpellation at a sitting of the National Assembly.

The Prime Minister, or a Government member to whom the interpellation refers, may substantiate the reply to the interpellation at a sitting of the National Assembly.

The work of the sitting of the National Assembly at which a reply to an interpellation is discussed shall be the subject to the provisions of these Rules of Procedure relating to debates on Bills.

#### **Article 226**

If the National Assembly votes to accept the reply to the interpellation, it shall continue its work according to its original agenda.

If the National Assembly votes not to accept the reply to the interpellation, a vote of no confidence in the Government or a Government member shall be taken, unless the Prime Minister or a Government member resigned after the National Assembly voted not to accept the reply to the interpellation.

#### **Article 227**

Debates on the replies to interpellations must be concluded at the sitting at which they commenced.

Interpellations submitted may be withdrawn before the vote on the reply to the interpellation begins.

The issue which has been the subject of the interpellation may not be discussed again until the expiry of a period of 90 days from the date of the vote.

### **e) Government reporting to the National Assembly on its work**

#### **Article 228**

The Government shall submit a report to the National Assembly on its work, in particular on implementation of policies, execution of laws and other general acts, implementation of development and spatial plans and execution of the State Budget.

The Government shall submit reports to the National Assembly when so requested by the National Assembly or on its own initiative, at least once a year.

The National Assembly may, acting on a committee proposal, conclude without a debate request from the Government to supply a report on its work, or a report in which the Government reports to the National Assembly on issues relating to policies' implementation, execution of laws and other general acts, in a certain area of activity.

Immediately upon receiving it, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall communicate the Government report to MPs for their information.

The National Assembly may decide, acting on a proposal of a committee which considered the Government report, that the report also be considered at a sitting of the National Assembly.

#### **f) Ministries informing committees on their work**

##### **Article 229**

Every Minister shall inform the competent committee of the National Assembly on the work of his/her ministry four times a year.

At committee sittings, questions related to the information submitted by the Minister may be posed to the Minister by members of the competent committee and authorised representatives of parliamentary groups who do not have members in this committee.

Authorised representatives of the parliamentary groups referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article may pose questions to the Minister only after the competent committee has finished its own questioning.

The committee shall submit a report to the National Assembly on its conclusions relating to the information submitted.

#### *15. Procedure of control of the work of security services*

##### **Article 230**

The National Assembly shall control the work of security services directly and through the competent committee.

The National Assembly shall exercise the control referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article by discussing annual reports of the competent committee on the performed control of security services work .

##### **Article 231**

A report of the competent committee on the performed control of the security services work for the preceding year, together with conclusions and proposed measures, shall be submitted to the National Assembly by the end of March of the current year.

##### **Article 232**

Sittings of the competent committee may be closed to the public.

A decision on informing the public on the issues discussed at such sittings shall be taken by the committee.

##### **Article 233**



The sittings of the competent committee, closed for the public, may be attended by the committee members, or their MPs who have signed the confidentiality statement after being elected as committee members, or deputy committee members.

Sittings of the committee may be attended by the Secretary of the committee and employees of the National Assembly Service designated by the Secretary General of the National Assembly and who have signed the confidentiality statement.

The standard forms of the confidentiality statement shall be signed by the Secretary General of the National Assembly.

#### *16. Procedure for dismissal of the President of the Republic of Serbia*

### **Article 234**

A minimum of one-third of MPs may submit a proposal to the Speaker of the National Assembly to include a proposal to initiate a procedure for dismissal of the President of the Republic in the agenda of the sitting of the National Assembly, with substantiated reasons, in writing, explaining the way the President of the Republic has violated the Constitution.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall communicate the proposal to MPs and the President of the Republic.

The National Assembly shall decide on the proposal referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article at its sitting no earlier than 15 days and no later than 60 days after its submittal.

The President of the Republic shall be summoned to the sitting of the National Assembly at which the proposal referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article is discussed, and shall be entitled to take part in the debate.

The competent committee shall consider the reasons for initiating the procedure for dismissal of the President of the Republic, specified in the explanations of the proposal referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, and shall submit a report thereof to the National Assembly.

Following the debate, the National Assembly shall vote on the proposal referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article by a majority vote of the total number of MPs.

The decision of the National Assembly adopting the proposal referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, together with the proposal to initiate the procedure for dismissal of the President of the Republic, shall be communicated immediately by the Speaker of the National Assembly to the Constitutional Court.

### **Article 235**

Immediately upon the receipt of a decision of the Constitutional Court announcing that the President of the Republic has violated the Constitution, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall communicate it immediately to MPs and convene a sitting of the National Assembly for the purpose of voting on dismissal of the President of the Republic, no later than 15 days after the date of receipt of the decision.

Before the voting on the dismissal of the President of the Republic, the National Assembly shall decide whether to hold a secret ballot or a public ballot vote. If the National Assembly decides on an open vote, a roll-call vote shall be held.

The National Assembly votes on the dismissal of the President of the Republic without a debate.

The President of the Republic is deemed to have been dismissed if at least two-thirds of the total number of MPs has voted in favour of the dismissal.

#### **Article 236**

Immediately upon the receipt of a decision of the Constitutional Court announcing that the President of the Republic has not violated the Constitution, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall communicate the decision to MPs and the President of the Republic.

*17. Procedure for conducting oversight over the work of state institutions, organizations and bodies*

#### **Article 237**

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall communicate the reports submitted to the National Assembly by state institutions, organizations and bodies, to MPs and the competent committee, in accordance with the Law.

The competent committee shall consider the report from paragraph 1 of this Article within 30 days from the day of submittal of the report to the National Assembly.

The representative of the state institution, organization or body whose report is being considered shall be invited to the sitting of the competent committee.

Upon consideration of the report referred to in paragraph 1, the competent committee shall submit a report to the National Assembly together with its draft conclusion or recommendation.

In the draft conclusion or recommendation referred to in paragraph 4 of this Article, unless otherwise stipulated by the Law, the competent committee may recommend to the National Assembly the following:

- to accept the report of the state institution, organization or body, if the report is considered formally and essentially complete and if the state institution, organization or body has acted in accordance with the Law,
- to oblige the Government or other state institutions to undertake appropriate measures or activities within their competences,
- to request an amended to the report from the state institution, organization or body,
- to undertake appropriate measures in accordance with the Law,

### **Article 238**

A report submitted to the National Assembly, in accordance with the law, by an independent state body charged with protecting the rights of citizens and performing control of state authorities, legal protection of property rights and interests of the Republic of Serbia, as well as by other bodies and organisations, companies and institutions trusted with public authority; upholding the right to access to information of public importance and protection of personal data; protecting equality of citizens; auditing of public accounts, as well as national authority for the fight against corruption, shall be considered by a competent parliamentary committee.

Upon consideration of the report referred to in paragraph 1, the competent committee shall submit a report to the National Assembly together with the draft conclusion i.e. recommendation for improvement of the situation in the said field.

The representative of the independent state authority whose report is being considered shall be invited to the sitting of the competent committee.

The National Assembly shall consider the report of an independent state authority and the report of the competent committee, with the draft conclusion i.e. recommendation.

Upon conclusion of the debate at the sitting attended by the majority of MPs, the National Assembly shall adopt by a majority vote a conclusion or a recommendation on the measures for improvement of the situation in the said field.

### **Article 239**

The National Assembly shall consider the reports from Article 237, paragraphs 1 and 4 of these Rules of Procedures, the draft conclusion of the competent committee or its recommendations at the first upcoming sitting.

The representative of the state institution, organization or body whose report is being considered shall be invited to the sitting.

The National Assembly, upon concluding the discussion at the sitting attended by the majority of MPs, shall adopt a conclusion or a recommendation by a majority vote.

### **Article 240**

In case when a state institution, organization or body fails to submit the report to the National Assembly within the time limit prescribed by the Law, or upon a request of a the competent committee, the competent committee shall notify the National Assembly of this failure, for the purpose of undertaking the measures by the National Assembly within its competences, in order to determine accountability of the state official of the state institution, organization or body.

The competent committee may determine that the official of the state institution, organization or body elected by the National Assembly fails to perform his/her public office in accordance with the Law and shall notify the National Assembly thereof in order to undertake measures prescribed by the Law.

### **Article 241**

In order to perform tasks within its scope of work, the competent committee may request from the state institution, organization or body whose work the National Assembly controls, to provide information and data falling *within their competence*.

*18. Procedure for providing replies upon the Constitutional Court requests*

### **Article 242**

Proposals by authorised proposer and decisions to initiate a procedure for appraisal of the constitutionality of laws, or the constitutionality and legality of other general acts adopted by the National Assembly, shall be communicated by the Speaker of the National Assembly to the competent committee.

Proposals by authorised proposer and decisions to initiate a procedure for appraisal of the constitutionality of laws, or the constitutionality and legality of other general acts adopted by the National Assembly, may be communicated by the Speaker of the National Assembly to the Government for an opinion.

The competent committee shall consider the proposal of the authorised proposer and the decision to initiate a procedure for appraisal of the constitutionality of laws, or the constitutionality and legality of other general acts.

If the competent committee concludes that the proposal of the authorised proposer should not be accepted because, in the opinion of the committee, the act whose constitutionality, or legality, is being challenged complies with the Constitution, or law, it shall notify the Constitutional Court of its opinion and of reasons for the rejection of the proposal.

If the competent committee finds that there is a reason to reconsider the provisions of the law whose constitutionality is being challenged, it shall propose that the National

Assembly discuss a proposal to appraise the constitutionality of the law, together with a proposed conclusion that the Government or a competent Ministry prepares a proposal for the amendment to this law.

The National Assembly may ask the Constitutional Court to adjourn the proceedings, until a certain date, for the purpose of amending the law which has been challenged.

*19. Procedure for deciding on war and peace and declaring a state of war and a state of emergency*

#### **Article 243**

Provisions of these Rules of Procedure shall be applied to the work of the National Assembly in case of a state of war or a state of emergency, unless otherwise stipulated by these Rules of Procedure and other general acts of the National Assembly.

#### **Article 244**

In the case of a state of war or a state of emergency, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall:

- determine the time and location of sittings of the National Assembly,
- decide on the manner and time-limits for delivery of materials necessary for the sittings,
- may, if needed, decide on a particular manner of taking, issuing and keeping shorthand notes and minutes at sittings of the National Assembly and its committees,
- may decide that Bills and proposals of other general acts and other materials are not placed at the disposal of the public media, unless otherwise decided by the National Assembly,
- notify the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister that the National Assembly is not able to convene,
- decide on the mode of operation and execution of the tasks of the National Assembly Service.

#### **Article 245**

In case of a state of war or a state of emergency, MPs shall notify the Secretary General of the National Assembly of every change of their temporary or permanent residence.

### **X. ORIGINALS AND PUBLICATION OF ACTS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

#### **Article 246**

Texts of laws, or other general acts or authentic interpretations of laws adopted at a sitting of the National Assembly shall be deemed the originals of laws, or other general acts or authentic interpretations of laws.

The seal of the National Assembly shall be affixed on originals of the laws, or other general acts of the National Assembly and the originals of authentic interpretations of laws.

The originals of the laws or other general acts of the National Assembly and authentic interpretations of laws shall be kept in the National Assembly.

The Secretary General of the National Assembly shall ensure the printing of the originals, stamping of the seal, keeping the originals and keeping records of them, in accordance with the law.

#### **Article 247**

Laws and other acts of the National Assembly and unique methodological rules for drafting regulations of a competent committee of the National Assembly shall be published in the *Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*.

Decisions of the Committee on Administrative, Budgetary, Mandate and Immunity Issues shall be published in the *Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia* if the Committee so decides.

#### **Article 248**

The Secretary General of the National Assembly shall ensure the publication of laws and other acts of the National Assembly, and acts of working bodies of the National Assembly.

The Secretary General of the National Assembly, in co-operation with the proposer of laws and other acts, shall make corrections of obvious typing and grammatical errors, as well as errors in numberings and name spellings, before their publication.

On the basis of original texts of laws or other acts of the National Assembly, or acts of working bodies, the Secretary General of the National Assembly shall issue corrections of the errors in the published texts of the acts.

### **XI. EXTRAORDINARY SESSIONS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

#### **Article 249**

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall communicate requests for extraordinary sessions to MPs and the Government and shall determine a date for convening the National Assembly.

#### **Article 250**

At extraordinary sessions, the National Assembly shall work according to an agenda decided in advance and put forward by the submitter of the request for an extraordinary session.

The sequence of discussions on the items on the agenda may not be changed without the consent of a representative of the proposer upon whose request the extraordinary session is convened.

#### **Article 251**

Extraordinary sessions shall be subject to the application of provisions of these Rules of Procedure on regular sessions, unless otherwise specified by the provisions of this Chapter.

### **XII. IMMUNITY**

#### **Article 252**

In accordance with the Constitution and the law, MPs shall enjoy immunity from the date of verification of their mandates until the date of termination of their mandates.

Requests to approve detaining an MP in custody and requests to approve instituting of criminal proceedings or other proceedings, in which a prison sentence may be pronounced, shall be submitted by the competent authority to the Speaker of the National Assembly who communicates it to the Committee for Administrative, Budgetary, Mandate and Immunity Issues.

The Committee shall submit its report, with a proposed decision, to the National Assembly.

An MP shall be specially notified on the holding of a session of the Committee on Administrative, Budgetary, Mandate and Immunity Issues at which the issue of his/her immunity is being considered.

#### **Article 253**

Acting on a proposal of the competent committee, the National Assembly may establish the immunity of an MP who has not invoked his/her immunity, if it is required for the purpose of performance of MP's duties.

#### **Article 254**

If an MP has invoked his/her immunity, he may not be kept in custody, nor may criminal proceedings or other proceedings, in which a prison sentence may be pronounced, be conducted against him/her, without approval of the National Assembly.

Approval for detaining in custody, or the conduct of criminal or other proceedings which may carry a prison sentence, shall relate only to the criminal offence for which the request was submitted.

### **XIII. PUBLICITY OF WORK**

#### **Article 255**

Sittings of the National Assembly and its working bodies shall be public.

Sittings of the National Assembly may be closed to the public in cases specified by the law, if so proposed by the Government, a committee or at least 20 MPs. The proposal must be reasoned. The National Assembly shall decide on the proposal without a debate.

Sittings of working bodies may be closed to the public on the basis of a reasoned proposal of at least one-third of the total number of members of the working body. The working body shall decide on the proposal without a debate.

Until the adoption of a decision of the National Assembly, or working bodies, on excluding the public from sittings, the Speaker of the National Assembly, or the Chairman of a working body, shall act as if the proposal for closing the sitting to the public was adopted.

#### **Article 256**

The National Assembly, or a working body, shall decide on providing information relating to the sittings of the National Assembly or the working body which are closed to the public.

If the National Assembly, or a working body decides to provide information relating to the sitting closed to the public, the Speaker of the National Assembly, or the Chairperson of the working body, shall issue a public statement.

#### **Article 257**

Representatives of the mass media shall have free access to the sittings of the National Assembly and its working bodies, for the purpose of informing the public on their work, in accordance with regulations on internal order in the National Assembly.

All necessary conditions for following the work of sittings of the National Assembly and its committees shall be provided for representatives of the mass media, in accordance with an act of the competent committee.

#### **Article 258**

Accredited journalists who cover the work of the National Assembly may use the stenographic transcripts of the National Assembly, and when quoting them, they must specify whether the speeches have been authorised.



Bills, proposals of other general acts, as well as informative and documentary materials relating to the issues ensued from the National Assembly and its working bodies proceedings shall be placed at the disposal of accredited journalists who cover the work of the National Assembly.

Accreditation of the mass media representatives in the National Assembly shall be regulated by an act of the competent committee.

#### **Article 259**

Observers from national and international associations and organizations, and interested citizens shall be provided with special seats in order to monitor sittings of the National Assembly and its bodies.

The publicity of work shall also be realised through group visits to the National Assembly.

Realisation of the publicity of work referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, shall be regulated by an act of the competent committee.

#### **Article 260**

The National Assembly shall publish the following on its Internet site:

- proposed agendas and adopted agendas of the sittings of the National Assembly and its working bodies,
- approved minutes of the sittings of the National Assembly and its working bodies;
- Bills and proposals of other acts submitted to the National Assembly,
- laws and other acts of the National Assembly,
- amendments to Bills and proposals of other acts,
- computer printouts of the vote taken in the National Assembly;
- time and the agenda of the Collegium meeting,
- information brochure on the work of the National Assembly,
- daily information on the work of the National Assembly and its working bodies,
- report on the work of committees,
- other information and documents created as a result of or in relation to the work of the National Assembly of significance for public information.

### **Article 261**

Official public statements shall be prepared by the competent staff of the National Assembly, and approved by the Speaker of the National Assembly or a person authorised by the Speaker.

Press conferences in the National Assembly may be held by MPs, and other persons only if so approved by the Speaker of the National Assembly.

## **XIV. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC**

### *1. Oath of Office of the President of the Republic*

### **Article 262**

The President of the Republic shall take the oath of office before the National Assembly by reading out loud the text of the oath specified by the Constitution. After taking the oath of office, the President of the Republic shall sign the text of the oath of office.

### *2. Nominating candidates for certain functions*

### **Article 263**

The President of the Republic shall nominate a candidate for the Prime Minister and submit the proposal to the Speaker of the National Assembly in writing, with a rationale. With the proposal shall also be supplied the written consent of the candidate for the Prime Minister to the nomination.

### **Article 264**

The lists of candidates for the election of judges of the Constitutional Court shall be submitted by the President of the Republic to the Speaker of the National Assembly in writing, with a rationale. Together with the list there shall be also supplied the written statements of the candidates for the Constitutional Court judges on the acceptance of the nominations.

At least two of the candidates nominated on the list referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, must be from the territories of the autonomous provinces.

### *3. Promulgation of laws and repeated votes on laws*

### **Article 265**

Immediately following the date of adoption of a law, or within two days at the latest, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall submit the law to the President of the Republic for the purpose of its promulgation.

If the President of the Republic returns the law, within a time-limit specified by the Constitution, to the National Assembly for a repeated vote, with a written rationale, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall communicate it immediately to MPs and a decision on this issue shall be taken at the first subsequent sitting of the National Assembly.

If the National Assembly decides to vote again on the law referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, the law shall be adopted by the votes of a majority of the total number of MPs.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall submit the law that has been adopted for the second time to the President of the Republic, for the purpose of promulgation.

#### **Article 266**

If the President of the Republic does not issue a decree on the promulgation of the law within a time-limit specified by the Constitution, nor requests from the National Assembly to take another vote on the law it has adopted, the law shall be promulgated by the Speaker of the National Assembly.

#### *4. Resignation of the President of the Republic*

#### **Article 267**

When the President of the Republic tenders his resignation and notifies the Speaker of the National Assembly thereof, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall immediately communicate this information to MPs and inform them that, in accordance with the Constitution, he/she will discharge the powers and duties of the President of the Republic until the election of a new President of the Republic. At the same time, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall call elections for the President of the Republic.

### **XV. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE GOVERNMENT**

#### *1. Election of the Government*

#### **Article 268**

The name of the candidate nominated for a Prime Minister shall be communicated immediately upon its reception by the Speaker of the National Assembly to MPs.

#### **Article 269**

When the candidate for a Prime Minister presents his/her programme and proposal of the Government composition at a sitting of the National Assembly, a debate on the candidate for a Prime Minister, the programme presented and the candidates for Government members shall be opened.

### **Article 270**

Immediately upon the conclusion of the debate, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall schedule a Voting Day on the programme of the Government and the election of a Prime Minister and Government members.

The National Assembly shall vote on the proposal referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article in its entirety, by secret ballot vote, unless it decides on an open ballot vote. If the National Assembly decides on an open ballot vote, a roll-call vote shall be taken.

The Government shall be deemed elected if it obtains the majority vote of the total number of MPs.

### **Article 271**

After the Government has been elected, the Prime Minister and Government members shall take the oath of office before the National Assembly by reading out loud the legally-prescribed text of the oath of office. After taking the oath of office, the Prime Minister and Government members shall sign the text of the oath and submit it to the Speaker of the National Assembly.

### *2. Representation of the Government in the National Assembly*

### **Article 272**

In the process of debating all issues from within the scope of work of the Government, the Prime Minister shall have a right and duty to represent the Government in the National Assembly.

The Government shall designate Government members who represent it in individual items on the agenda of the sittings of the National Assembly, or sittings of its committees.

Government representatives at sittings of the National Assembly and its committees may only be members of the Government and the Director of the State Secretariat for Legislation when a Bill prepared for the Government by the State Secretariat for Legislation is on the agenda of the sitting of the National Assembly.

Government representatives shall participate in the work of the National Assembly in accordance with their powers specified by the law.

### **Article 273**

For the purpose of providing expert and other explanations, the Government may designate its commissioners at sittings of committees of the National Assembly.

### **Article 274**

Together with Bills and proposals of other general acts, or with other materials it submits to the National Assembly, the Government shall notify the National Assembly of the names of its representatives and commissioners attending the sittings of the National Assembly and its committees.

#### **Article 275**

For the purpose of exercising the rights and duties of the Government in the National Assembly, the National Assembly and its committees shall notify the Government and competent Ministries of their sittings and the issues to be considered at these sittings.

#### *3. Confidence in the Government*

#### **Article 276**

The Government may require from the National Assembly, in writing, to vote on its confidence in the Government and shall be entitled to reason its request.

The request referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be submitted on behalf of the Government by the Prime Minister.

The procedure of deciding on a motion of no confidence in the Government initiated by the Government shall be subject to provisions of these Rules of Procedure relating to the procedure of deciding on the motion of no confidence in the Government or a Government member.

#### **Article 277**

If the National Assembly votes in favour of the motion of no confidence in the Government, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall immediately notify the President of the Republic thereof.

#### *4. Resignation of the Prime Minister, a Government Member and Dismissal of a Government Member*

#### **Article 278**

The Prime Ministers shall tender a resignation in writing to the Speaker of the National Assembly and shall be entitled to reason it.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall immediately notify the President of the Republic and MPs of the resignation of the Prime Minister.

At its first subsequent sitting, the National Assembly shall note without a debate that the Prime Minister has resigned, and no vote shall be taken on this matter.

On the date the National Assembly has noted that the Prime Minister has resigned, the mandate of the Government shall be terminated.

#### **Article 279**

A resignations tendered by a Government member shall be communicated to the Speaker of the National Assembly by the Prime Minister.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall notify MPs of the resignation of a Government member.

At its first subsequent sitting, the National Assembly shall note without a debate that a Government member has resigned and no vote shall be taken on the matter.

On the date the National Assembly has noted that a Government member has resigned, the mandate of this Government member shall be terminated.

#### **Article 280**

Proposals to dismiss a Government member shall be submitted by the Prime Minister to the Speaker of the National Assembly in writing, and the Prime Minister shall be entitled to reason the proposal.

The National Assembly shall debate and vote on the proposal to dismiss a Government member at its first subsequent session.

The mandate of the Government member shall be terminated on the date the decision on his/her dismissal is adopted.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall notify the Prime Minister of the decision referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article.

#### **Article 281**

A motion of no confidence in the Government and a proposal to dismiss a Government members may be withdrawn until the vote on the motion of no confidence in the Government and the proposal to dismiss a Government member.

Each of the MPs who signed the motion of no confidence in the Government or a Government member shall be entitled to withdraw his/her proposal until the vote on it. Where the number of MPs who proposed a vote of no confidence in the Government or a Government member decrease below 60, the proposal shall be deemed withdrawn.

### **XVI. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT**

#### **Article 282**

The National Assembly shall consider the information provided by the Constitutional Court on the situation and problems in the assessment of the constitutionality and legality, the opinions and indications of the Constitutional Court on the need to adopt and amend laws and to undertake other measures to protect constitutionality and legality. The National Assembly may conclude this consideration by moving to the agenda or by adopting an appropriate conclusion.

The National Assembly may notify the Constitutional Court on its conclusions related to the debate on the information, opinions and indications of the Constitutional Court.

## **XVII THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

### **Article 283**

MPs shall participate in the work of the National Assembly.

MPs may not be denied ingress and stay in the National Assembly building.

### **Article 284**

MPs shall notify the Speaker of the National Assembly of his/her absence from sittings, and the Speaker shall notify the National Assembly thereof.

### **Article 285**

MPs shall exercise the right to a salary, in accordance with the law, and compensation of expenses related to the performance of their office, in accordance with a decision of the competent committee.

MPs with disabilities shall exercise special rights, in accordance with the law and a decision of a competent committee.

### **Article 286**

MPs shall be entitled to be timely informed on all the issues necessary for the discharge of MPs' function, by regularly being sent official publications of the National Assembly and informative and documentary materials on the issues on the agenda of the a sitting of the National Assembly and on other issues within the competences of the National Assembly.

### **Article 287**

MPs shall be entitled to request notifications and explanations from the Speaker of the National Assembly, Chairpersons of committees of the National Assembly, Government Ministers and officials in other public authorities and organisations, related to issues within the framework of the rights and duties of those officials and within the competences of the authorities they head, which are required by the MP for the exercise of his/her MP function, except at sittings of the National Assembly.

Exceptionally, the head or authorised representatives of parliamentary groups may exercise the right referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article even at a sitting of the National Assembly, verbally in a single address lasting up to five minutes on Tuesdays and Thursdays, immediately after the opening of the sitting and determination of the number of MPs present at the sitting, and before starting the debate.

The Speaker of the National Assembly shall grant the floor to heads or authorised representatives of parliamentary groups who have duly applied to speak, starting from the representative of the smallest parliamentary group and up to that of the largest one in size according to number of its MPs.

The persons referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall communicate the requested notifications or explanations in writing to the MP within 15 days.

#### **Article 288**

For the purpose of working in the National Assembly, MPs shall be enabled to use a library and documentation.

MPs shall be entitled to use premises placed at their disposal for working and holding meetings with citizens, in accordance with the act on the internal order of the National Assembly.

### **XVIII DISSOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

#### **Article 289**

The National Assembly shall be dissolved by the President of the Republic, in cases specified in the Constitution, who shall notify the Speaker of the National Assembly thereof immediately.

The National Assembly may not be dissolved during a state of war or a state of emergency.

The National Assembly which has been dissolved shall perform only activities in progress and urgent activities, in accordance with the law. In the event of a declaration of a state of war or a state of emergency, the full competences of the National Assembly shall be restored and last until the termination of the state of war or state of emergency.

### **XIX. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

*1. Co-operation of the National Assembly with representative bodies and institutions of other states*

#### **Article 290**



The competent committee shall decide on initiatives for visits and determine the composition of delegations for holding talks with representatives of representative bodies and institutions of other states.

If the competent committee is not able to adopt decisions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, such decisions shall be issued by the Speaker of the National Assembly.

Within 15 days from the end of a visit, delegations shall submit reports on the visit to the competent committee.

The competent committee shall, at the end of every year, submit a report to the National Assembly on the co-operation realised in the preceding year.

*2. Participation of representatives of the National Assembly in the work of certain international organisations and missions*

**Article 291**

MPs may, in their capacity as members of delegations of the National Assembly, and in connection with certain foreign-policy missions of broader importance, take part in regular and special sessions of the United Nations and its specialised organisations, in international conferences and other sessions of international organisations and institutions.

The need for participation and the compositions of delegations shall be determined by the competent committee.

If the competent committee is not able to decide on the issues referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, the decision on those issues shall be made by the Speaker of the National Assembly.

*3. Parliamentary Groups of Friendship*

**Article 292**

Parliamentary groups of friendship may be formed in the National Assembly with the purpose of improving relations and the co-operation of our country with other states on voluntary basis.

The formation of parliamentary groups of friendship shall be based on mutually expressed interests for the realisation and development of the inter-parliamentary co-operation.

Applications to participate in parliamentary groups of friendship shall be submitted by MPs to the Speaker of the National Assembly.

Records of membership in the parliamentary groups of friendship shall be kept by the competent committee.

## **XX. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SERVICE**

### **Article 293**

The National Assembly Service shall be managed by the Secretary General of the National Assembly, who is held accountable for its work.

The National Assembly Service shall provide technical and other support for the needs of the National Assembly, working bodies of the National Assembly, MPs, the Speaker and Deputy Speakers of the National Assembly and parliamentary groups in the National Assembly, and it shall:

- take part in preparation and organisation of sittings of the National Assembly and its working bodies, and draft reports, minutes and shorthand notes from those sittings;
- process the texts of adopted laws and other general acts for the purpose of their publication;
- prepare and keep the originals of laws and other general acts adopted by the National Assembly;
- for the needs of competent working bodies, prepare a projection of the funds required for the operation of the National Assembly;
- provide technical and other support related to the realisation of the international parliamentary co-operation;
- prepare proposals of acts and other materials, upon requests of MPs and working bodies of the National Assembly;
- issue verbal and written professional opinions within the competences of the National Assembly, upon requests of MPs, working bodies of the National Assembly and parliamentary groups in the National Assembly,
- upon requests of relevant committees, forward petitions and proposals to the competent authority, informing their submitters thereof;
- collect, process, keep and issue for the use and exchange, informative and documentary materials required for the work of MPs, working bodies of the National Assembly and parliamentary groups in the National Assembly;
- organise co-operation with representatives of the public information media and provide the necessary conditions for their work;
- perform activities related to the exercise of the status and material rights of MPs;
- edit and issue appropriate publications of an informative character;

- perform back-office and accountancy activities, material, financial, administrative and technical tasks;
- perform other activities, in accordance with the law, these Rules of Procedure and other acts of the National Assembly and its working bodies.

#### **Article 294**

The order in the National Assembly building and other premises in which the National Assembly operates shall be kept by Security Service of the Ministry of the Interior, in accordance with the law and the Decision on Internal Order.

The Speaker of the National Assembly and the Secretary General of the National Assembly shall ensure the implementation of the Decision referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

Authorised public officials of state authorities may not have access to the premises referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, nor undertake any other actions, without the consent of the Speaker of the National Assembly.

Carrying weapons in the building of the National Assembly shall be allowed only to persons authorised to keep order in the building of the National Assembly, in accordance with the Decision on Internal Order.

### **XXI. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

#### **Article 295**

Provisions of Articles 141 and 161 of these Rules of Procedure, which refer to submittal of Bills and proposals of other acts of the National Assembly and amendments in electronic form, shall be applied when the necessary technical requirements are created, which shall be announced by the competent committee.

The competent committee shall adopt an act regulating the procedure for submitting acts from paragraph 1 of this Article in electronic form.

#### **Article 296**

Until the constitution of the new legislature, the existing committees shall continue operating in accordance with their present scopes of work.

Tasks of the Committee on Administrative, Budgetary, Mandate and Immunity Issues shall be performed by the Administrative Committee, until the constitution of the new legislature.

Standing parliamentary delegations shall continue their work in international institutions, until the election of new ones.

### **Article 297**

On the date when these Rules of Procedure come into effect, the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia (*Official Gazette of RS*, No. 14/09 – consolidated version), with exception of provisions in Articles 43 to 73 which shall be applied until the constitution of the new legislature, shall no longer be in effect .

Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, the committees with less than 17 members shall be completed by the election of new committee members, until the total number of committee members amounts to 17.

### **Article 298**

These Rules of Procedure shall come into force on the eighth day after the date of its publication in the *Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, and the provisions of Articles 46 to 67 of these Rules of Procedure, stipulating the number and scope of work of committees, shall be applied as of the constitution of the new legislature.