



RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES



1 JANUARY 2025

Republic of Italy

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

*Text approved by the Chamber of Deputies
on 18 February 1971, as last amended
on 16 October 2024*



GENERAL SECRETARIAT
1 JANUARY 2025

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RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES (*)

PART ONE ORGANISATION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE CHAMBER

CHAPTER I PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

RULE 1

1. Deputies shall be fully empowered to exercise their functions by the act of proclamation.

RULE 2

1. At the opening of each Parliament the Plenary shall be presided over by the most senior, by election, among the Vice-Presidents of the previous Parliament. When none of them is present, Vice-Presidents from previous Parliaments shall be considered. In their absence, the Plenary shall be presided over by the oldest Deputy.

2. There shall be four provisional Secretaries, chosen from those of previous Parliaments according to the criterion provided for in paragraph 1. In their absence, the youngest Deputies shall be chosen.

(*) Text approved by the Chamber of Deputies on 18 February 1971, as last amended on 16 October 2024.

RULE 3

1. Once the provisional Bureau has been set up, the President shall proclaim elected as Deputies those candidates who take the place of candidates elected under the proportional part of the system and who have already been declared elected in single-member constituencies, or of Deputies opting among several districts, on condition that their election is confirmed in the single-member constituency or in the district for which they have opted.

2. For this purpose, the President shall suspend the sitting and immediately convene, for the necessary checks, a provisional Elections Committee composed of those Deputies present at the first sitting, who were members of the Committee on Elections of the previous Parliament. If the number of such Deputies is lower than twelve, the President shall draw lots until the aforementioned number is reached. The chairmanship of the provisional Elections Committee shall be assigned according to the criteria referred to in paragraph 1 of Rule 2; the youngest Deputy of those sitting on the provisional Elections Committee shall act as secretary.

CHAPTER II

THE PRESIDENT, THE BUREAU AND THE CONFERENCE OF GROUP CHAIRPERSONS

RULE 4

1. Once the requirements provided for in the preceding Rules have been met, the Chamber shall elect its President.

2. The election of the President shall take place by secret ballot and shall require a majority of two thirds of the members of the Chamber. From the second ballot a ma-

jority of two thirds of the votes shall be required, including blank ballots among the votes. After the third ballot, an absolute majority of the votes shall be sufficient.

RULE 5

1. Once the President has been elected, four Vice-Presidents, three Quaestors and eight Secretaries shall be elected for the purpose of establishing the Bureau.

2. For these elections each Deputy shall write on his or her ballot paper two names for the Vice-Presidents, two for the Quaestors, and four for the Secretaries. Those receiving the highest number of votes at the first ballot shall be elected.

3. All the Parliamentary Groups existing at the time of its election must be represented in the Bureau. For this purpose, before proceeding with the voting in accordance with paragraph 2, the President shall encourage appropriate agreements between the Groups.

4. Should one or more Groups not be represented in the Bureau following the voting referred to in paragraph 2, a corresponding number of Secretaries shall be elected in a subsequent sitting, the date of which shall be set by the President of the Chamber.

5. Parliamentary Groups which are established after the Bureau has been elected pursuant to paragraph 2, and which are not already represented in the Bureau itself and Groups which, owing to subsequent changes, are no longer represented in the Bureau, may request the election of other Secretaries.

6. The President of the Chamber shall encourage appropriate agreements among the Groups before proceeding with the elections pursuant to paragraphs 4 and 5. In the voting, each Deputy may write one name only

on his or her ballot paper. The members of the Groups that are not represented in the Bureau who obtain the highest number of votes shall be elected. The election of more than one Secretary for each of these Groups shall not be permitted.

7. The Secretaries elected under paragraphs 4, 5 and 9 shall forfeit their office if the Group they belonged to at the time of their election ceases to exist, or if they join another parliamentary Group already represented in the Bureau.

8. Should members of the Bureau, elected under paragraph 2, cease to hold office for any reason and need to be replaced, the President of the Chamber shall set the date of the election. In the voting, which is carried out separately for the substitution of Vice-Presidents, Quaestors or Secretaries, each Deputy may write one name only on his or her ballot paper if the members to be elected are no more than two. If more than two Bureau members are to be elected Rule 56, paragraph 1, shall be applied. Those who obtain the highest number of votes shall be elected.

9. Should members of the Bureau elected under paragraphs 4 and 5 cease to hold office for any reason, at a request of the Groups that as a result find themselves without a representative, a new election shall be held in accordance with paragraph 6.

RULE 6

1. Votes cast for the election of the President shall be counted by the provisional Bureau in a public sitting.

2. Votes cast for the other elections shall be counted by twelve Deputies chosen by lot. Seven Deputies must be present for vote counting to be valid.

RULE 7

1. The President of the Chamber shall inform the President of the Republic and the Senate of the establishment of the Bureau.

RULE 8

1. The President shall represent the Chamber. He or she shall ensure the smooth functioning of its business, by seeing that the Rules of Procedure are observed, and of the internal administration. For this purpose he or she shall oversee the functions attributed to the Quaestors and the Secretaries.

2. Under the provisions of the Rules of Procedure, the President shall give the floor, direct and moderate debates, maintain order, raise issues, establish the order of voting, clarify the meaning of votes and announce the results thereof.

RULE 9

1. The Vice-Presidents shall co-operate with the President; for this purpose, they may be summoned him or her whenever appropriate. They shall replace the President in cases where he or she is absent or unable to discharge his or her duties.

RULE 10

1. The Quaestors shall be collectively responsible for the smooth functioning of the administration of the Chamber, and shall ensure that the relevant rules and the directives issued by the President are applied.

2. They shall oversee the expenditure of the Chamber and draw up the draft budget and the final ac-

counts. They shall also oversee matters relating to protocol and the upholding of order in the Chamber's premises in accordance with the instructions of the President.

RULE 11

1. The Secretaries shall oversee the drafting of the minutes of proceedings, which shall mention only the deliberations and activities of the Chamber; they shall read them out; they shall draw up, following the order in which requests are submitted, the list of Deputies registered to speak; they shall read out proposals and documents; they shall keep a record of deliberations; they shall call the roll; they shall co-operate with the President to ensure that voting is carried out in the proper manner; they shall record individual votes when required; they shall ascertain that the verbatim reports are published within the time limit laid down by the President and that the speeches have not been altered; they shall contribute to the smooth running of the business of the Chamber in accordance with the instructions of the President.

RULE 12

1. The President of the Chamber shall convene the Bureau and establish its agenda.

2. The Bureau shall deliberate on the draft budget and final accounts of the Chamber as drawn up by the Quaestors; it shall decide on appeals concerning the establishment or the first meeting of the Groups, and on appeals by the Groups regarding the composition of Parliamentary Committees; it shall approve the regulations for the Library of the Chamber and, through a special committee, ensure that it functions efficiently.

3. The Bureau shall adopt the regulations and other rules regarding:

a) the conditions and arrangements for the admission of strangers to the Chamber's premises;

b) the internal administration and accounting;

c) the organisation of the Chamber's offices and the tasks assigned to them, which are relevant to the performance of the functions of Parliament;

d) the legal status, remuneration and pensions, and conditions of service of the employees of the Chamber, including any obligations relating to confidentiality;

e) the criteria for entrusting to entities other than the Chamber activities that are not directly relevant to the performance of the functions of Parliament, and the duties of confidentiality and any other obligations such individuals shall be held to observe, in relation also to bodies other than the Chamber;

f) appeals concerning the subject-matters mentioned in letter *d)* above and appeals and any impugnment, including when presented by entities other than the Chamber, against other administrative acts of the Chamber.

4. The Bureau shall appoint, at the President's proposal, the Secretary General of the Chamber.

5. The deliberations adopted by the Bureau pursuant to paragraphs 3 and 4 shall be made enforceable by decrees of the President of the Chamber.

6. A regulation to be adopted by the Bureau shall provide for the establishment of the internal first-degree and second-degree bodies, consisting of Deputies in office, which shall have exclusive responsibility to judge the appeals referred to in letter *f)* of paragraph 3. Members of the Bureau may not belong to the aforementioned bodies.

7. After summoning the Deputy concerned, the Bureau shall decide on sanctions proposed by the President in the cases provided for in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Rule 60.

8. When the Chamber is re-elected, the Bureau shall remain in power until the first meeting of the new Plenary.

RULE 13

1. The Conference of Group Chairpersons shall be convened by the President of the Chamber whenever he or she deems it appropriate, or at the request of the Government or of a Group Chairperson, to consider the business of the Plenary and the Committees. The Government shall always be informed by the President of the day and time of the meeting so that it may send its representative.

2. The Vice-Presidents of the Chamber and the Chairpersons of the Parliamentary Committees may be invited to the Conference. When so required by the exceptional importance of a matter to be examined, the President may also invite one representative for each of the political groupings of the Mixed Group consisting of at least ten Deputies, as well as one representative of the grouping consisting of the Deputies belonging to the linguistic minorities referred to in Rule 14, paragraph 5. For deliberations concerning the organisation of business, referred to in Rules 23 and 24, only the position expressed on behalf of the Mixed Group by its Chairperson shall be taken into consideration(*).

CHAPTER III PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS

RULE 14

01. Parliamentary Groups are associations of Deputies established according to the provisions set

(*) Starting from the 20th Parliament the word «ten» will be replaced by the word «seven».

forth in this Rule. Inasmuch as Parliamentary Groups are entities necessary for the functioning of the Chamber, as provided for in the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure, they shall receive funds from the budget of the Chamber to carry out their activities.

1. A minimum number of twenty Deputies shall be required to establish a Parliamentary Group(*).

2. The Bureau may authorise the establishment of a Group with less than twenty members provided that it represents a nationally organised party that has presented its own lists of candidates, under the same emblem and in at least twenty constituencies, which have obtained at least one quotient in one constituency and national electoral returns of at least three hundred thousand valid list votes(*).

3. Within two days of the first sitting, the Deputies must declare to the Secretary General of the Chamber the Group to which they belong.

4. Those Deputies who have not made the declaration provided for in paragraph 3, or who do not belong to any Group, shall form a Mixed Group.

5. Deputies belonging to the Mixed Group may ask the President of the Chamber to form political groupings within it, on condition that each consists of at least ten Deputies. Smaller groupings may also be formed, as long as they include not less than three Deputies, who shall represent a party or political movement the existence of which can be demonstrated, on the date of the elections to the Chamber of Deputies, by precise and unequivocal features, and which must, alone or jointly with others, have presented lists of candidates or individual candi-

(*) Starting from the 20th Parliament the word «twenty» will be replaced by the word «fourteen»; paragraph 2 shall be amended accordingly.

dates in the single-member constituencies. A single political grouping within the Mixed Group may also consist of not fewer than three Deputies belonging to linguistic minorities protected by the Constitution and recognised by law, who must have been elected from or in connection with lists that reflect the said minorities, in areas where the same are protected.(*).

RULE 15

1. Within four days of the first sitting, the President of the Chamber shall convene, simultaneously but separately, the Deputies belonging to each Parliamentary Group and those to be registered in the Mixed Group.

2. At its first meeting each Group shall appoint a Chairperson, one or more Vice-Chairpersons and a steering committee. From within these bodies the Group shall appoint the Deputy or Deputies, numbering three at most, to whom to entrust, in cases where the Chairperson is absent or unable to discharge his or her duties, the exercise of the powers attributed to him or her by the Rules of Procedure. The President of the Chamber shall be informed of the establishment of these bodies, and of any subsequent changes in their composition.

2-bis. Within thirty days of its establishment, each Group shall approve a statute, to be transmitted to the President of the Chamber within the following five days. The statute shall in any case vest the Group assembly with the power to approve, by means of a majority vote, the financial statement as referred to in Rule 15-ter and shall also designate a body that shall be responsible for the Group's administrative and accounting management.

2-ter. The statute shall prescribe the manner in which the body responsible for the administrative and account-

(*) Starting from the 20th Parliament the word «ten» will be replaced by the word «seven» and the word «three», in the last sentence, will be replaced by the word «two».

ing management of the Group allocates resources to achieve the aims referred to in paragraph 4. The statute shall be published on the website of the Chamber.

2-quater. The statute shall identify the manner of disclosure of documents relating to the internal organisation of the Group, including with reference to the remuneration of staff.

3. To enable Parliamentary Groups to fulfil their functions, premises and equipment shall be allocated to them in accordance with conditions determined by the Bureau that take account of the basic common requirements of all Groups and their numerical strength. Each Group shall also be guaranteed a single all-inclusive annual contribution from the budget of the Chamber, to cover all the costs referred to in paragraph 4, including staff costs, in accordance with conditions determined by the Bureau. The contribution shall be calculated with reference to the numerical strength of each Group. The facilities and contributions allocated to the Mixed Group shall reflect the number and size of the political groupings therein established, so that they may be apportioned among them with reference both to the basic common requirements and to the numerical strength of each grouping.

4. The contributions referred to in paragraph 3 shall be used by the Groups exclusively for institutional aims connected with parliamentary activities and associated research, publishing and communication functions, as well as costs pertaining to the functioning of the Groups' internal bodies and structures, including staff remuneration.

RULE 15-*bis*

1. The steering bodies of the Mixed Group shall be established within the time limits and under the condi-

tions referred to in Rule 15. Their establishment must reflect the various political groupings within the Group itself. The members of the political groupings thus elected shall represent their own grouping in relations with the other bodies of the Chamber.

2. The steering bodies of the Mixed Group adopt the deliberations within their competence taking into account, in proportional terms, the numerical strength of the political groupings therein established. If one of the political groupings established within the Group considers that one of its fundamental political rights has been undermined by a deliberation adopted in breach of the above criterion, it may appeal against the said deliberation to the President of the Chamber. The President shall decide, having heard, where he or she deems it appropriate, the Chairperson of the Mixed Group and the representatives of the other political groupings therein established, or shall submit the issue to the Bureau.

RULE 15-*ter*

1. Each Group shall approve an annual financial statement structured according to a common model approved by the Bureau. In any case the financial statement must expressly disclose, in separate accounting entries, the resources transferred to the Group by the Chamber, and specify the purpose of the transfer.

2. In order to ensure transparency and probity in their financial and accounting management, the Groups shall use an auditing company, chosen by the Bureau through a public selection process, which shall verify the soundness of the bookkeeping in the course of the fiscal year, verify the accurate financial reporting of operations, and give an assessment of the financial statement referred to in paragraph 1.

3. The financial statement shall be transmitted to the President of the Chamber and accompanied by a declaration from the Chairperson of the Group, certifying that it has been approved by the statutorily competent body, and by the report of the auditing company referred to in paragraph 2. The financial statements shall be published in an annex to the final accounts of the Chamber.

4. The College of Quaestors shall review the compliance of the financial statements submitted by each Group with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure, in accordance with procedures and conditions determined by the Bureau.

5. The disbursement of financial resources from the budget of the Chamber in favour of Groups shall be authorised by the College of Quaestors provided that the review referred to in paragraph 4 has produced a favourable result.

6. The College of Quaestors shall apprise the Bureau of the outcome of the activities carried out pursuant to paragraphs 4 and 5.

7. If a Group fails to transmit its financial statement within the time limit set out pursuant to paragraph 8, it shall forfeit for the current year its right to receive the resources referred to in paragraph 5. If the College of Quaestors finds that a financial statement or any accompanying documents do not comply with the provisions of this Rule, it shall invite the Chairperson of the Group, within ten days of receipt of the statement, to ensure the necessary rectification within a time limit that it shall set. If the Group fails to rectify its statement within the set time limit, it shall forfeit its right to receive the resources referred to in paragraph 5 for the current year. The forfeiture referred to in this paragraph shall be ascertained by deliberation of the Bureau upon a proposal of the College of Quaestors, and shall also entail the obligation

to return unreported amounts received from the budget of the Chamber, in accordance with conditions determined by the Bureau.

8. The Bureau shall stipulate the time limits and conditions for the enforcement of this Rule, including the provisions to be enforced in the event of the dissolution of a Group. Special rules shall apply for the Mixed Group.

CHAPTER IV COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT

RULE 16

1. The Committee on the Rules of Procedure shall consist of ten Deputies appointed by the President as soon as the Parliamentary Groups have been established. It shall be presided over by the President of the Chamber who, having heard the opinion of said Committee, may appoint additional members to make it more broadly representative, taking into account as far as possible the proportions between the various Groups.

2. The Committee shall receive for consideration proposals on the Rules of Procedure, opinions on questions of interpretation of the Rules themselves and the settlement of conflicts of responsibility between Committees, in the cases provided for in paragraph 4 of Rule 72 and paragraph 4 of Rule 93.

3. The Committee shall propose to the Plenary those amendments and additions to the Rules of Procedure which experience shows to be necessary.

3-bis. The Committee's proposal shall be debated according to the rules in Chapter VIII. During the debate

each Deputy may submit a proposal containing principles and guiding criteria for re-formulating the Committee's text. At the end of the debate the proposals may be explained for no longer than ten minutes each and shall be put to the vote after explanations of vote by one Deputy per Group, speaking no longer than five minutes each. The President shall give the floor to those Deputies who intend to express a vote different from the one declared by their Group, and shall lay down the conditions and time limits for their statements. Requests for split votes shall be admissible in relation to individual principles and guiding criteria.

3-ter. Should all the proposals containing principles and guiding criteria be rejected, a vote shall be taken on the Committee's proposal, after the explanations of vote have been given. Where one or more than one of these proposals have been approved, the Committee shall present a new text which incorporates the principles and guiding criteria approved by the Plenary. When a Group Chairperson or fourteen Deputies dissent over the way in which the deliberations of the Plenary have been incorporated, they may submit proposals to entirely replace the Committee's text with a view to ensuring compliance with the principles and guiding criteria approved. With respect to the admissibility of the proposals Rule 89 shall apply.

4. Approval of the Committee's text shall require an absolute majority of the members of the Chamber, in accordance with article 64 of the Constitution. If the text is not approved, a vote shall be taken under the same conditions on the alternative proposals referred to in paragraph *3-ter*, beginning with the proposal that comes closest to the Committee's text. One Deputy per Group shall be allowed to give an explanation of vote. Split votes shall not be permitted.

4-*bis*. Requests for roll-call vote or secret ballot shall be submitted, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Rule 51, before the debate begins. If qualified voting has not been requested, a roll-call vote shall be taken if the presence of the majority referred to in article 64 of the Constitution has to be established.

5. Amendments and additions to the Rules of Procedure shall be published in the Official Journal of the Republic.

RULE 16-*bis*

1. The Committee on Legislation shall be composed of ten Deputies, chosen by the President of the Chamber in such a way as to guarantee equal representation of the majority and the opposition.

2. The Committee shall be chaired by one of its members in turn, with each turn lasting ten months.

3. The Committee on Legislation shall express its opinion to the other Committees on the bills the latter are considering, as provided for in paragraph 4. The opinion shall be expressed within the time limits indicated in Rule 73, paragraph 2, starting from the day the request was formulated by the relevant Committee. The rapporteur and a representative of the Government shall take part in the consideration of the bill by the Committee on Legislation.

4. If requested by at least one fifth of their members, the Committees shall refer bills to the Committee on Legislation so that it may express an opinion on the quality of the texts, with regard to the homogeneity, simplicity, clarity and correctness of their wording, and to their effectiveness in simplifying and reorganising the current legislation. The opinion should not be requested until the text adopted as the basis for further consideration

has been chosen. The request must be submitted within time limits that are compatible with the programme and the order of business of both the Committees and the Plenary with respect to the relevant bill, and should not in any case cause any changes to the order of business of the Plenary or the Committees. Once consideration has been completed, the Committee on Legislation shall express its opinion based on the criteria and technical requirements defined by constitutional and ordinary laws and the Rules of Procedure.

5. The opinion given by the Committee on Legislation to the Committees acting in a reporting capacity shall be printed and annexed to the report for the Plenary. If one or more members of the Committee on Legislation have expressed dissenting views, the opinion shall, at their request, take these into account, as well as the reasons put forward.

6. If the Committees acting in a reporting capacity do not intend to bring the text of the bill into line with the conditions contained in the opinion of the Committee on Legislation, the reasons for this shall be given in their report for the Plenary. Where the bill is considered in a legislative or drafting capacity, the provisions set out in Rules 93, paragraph 3, and 96, paragraph 4 respectively, shall apply.

6-bis. The Committees shall refer bills containing delegated legislation or containing provisions that transfer subject-matters previously governed by law to the regulatory power of the Government or of other entities to the Committee on Legislation, immediately after having chosen the text adopted as the basis for further consideration, or, failing this, after having conducted the preliminary consideration referred to in Rule 79, paragraph 2. The Committee on Legislation shall express its opinion in accordance with paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 and with the effects referred to in paragraph 6.

7. The President of the Chamber may, if he or she deems it necessary, convene the Committee on Legislation and the Committee on the Rules of Procedure jointly.

RULE 17

1. The Committee on Elections shall be composed of thirty Deputies, appointed by the President as soon as the Parliamentary Groups have been established. It shall report to the Plenary, not more than eighteen months after the elections, on the correctness of the electoral procedures, on the Deputies' qualifications for admission and on any causes of ineligibility, incompatibility, and forfeiture provided for by the law, and shall formulate the relevant proposals for ratification, annulment or forfeiture(*).

2. At its first meeting the Committee shall elect a Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons and three Secretaries. It shall exercise its powers on the basis of an internal regulation which, after being examined by the Committee on the Rules of Procedure, must be approved by the Chamber in accordance with the conditions provided for in paragraph 4 of Rule 16. In proceedings before the Committee on Elections the principle of fair hearing must be ensured at every stage including, when the decision on a challenged election is being made, the publicity of the proceedings.

3. The Deputies forming the Committee on Elections may not refuse their appointment or resign; if any resignations are handed in, the President of the Chamber shall not convey them to the Plenary. Those Deputies who are called to be members of the Government or to chair a parliamentary body may, at their own request, be substituted.

(*) Starting from the 20th Parliament the word «thirty» will be replaced by the word «twenty».

4. If the Committee has not responded, for one month, to repeated convocations by its Chairperson, or if it has not been possible during the same period of time to obtain a quorum, the President of the Chamber shall act to renew the Committee.

RULE 17-*bis*

1. If a proposal made by the Committee on Elections on the subject of the verification of credentials follows exclusively from numerical checks, the Plenary shall not vote and the proposal shall be taken as approved, unless fourteen Deputies ask, before the debate is closed and by tabling a reasoned order, for the Committee to carry out further checks. If the Plenary rejects the order, the Committee's proposal shall be taken as approved.

2. The President shall inform the Plenary, which shall take note without voting, if any Deputies resign their parliamentary mandate for reasons connected with a decision to take up a position or an office that is incompatible with it.

3. If a seat remains vacant for any cause, and the electoral law does not envisage that it be assigned by holding a by-election, the President of the Chamber shall proclaim as elected the candidate who came immediately after the last Deputy to be elected, in the order ascertained by the Committee on Elections.

4. For deliberations on proposals formulated by the Committee on Elections, the Chamber may be convened even after it has been dissolved.

RULE 18

1. The Committee on Procedure for Waiver of Immunity, requested pursuant to article 68 of the Constitution, shall

be composed of twenty-one Deputies appointed by the President of the Chamber as soon as the Parliamentary Groups have been established. It shall report to the Plenary, within the absolute time limit of thirty days from the notice received from the President of the Chamber, on requests to waive the immunity from prosecution and on measures restricting the personal liberty and freedom of domicile of Deputies. For each case the Committee shall formulate a proposal, accompanied by a report, to grant or deny the waiver request. Before making its deliberations, the Committee shall invite the Deputy concerned to provide any clarification he or she may consider appropriate^(*).

2. When the time limit provided for in paragraph 1 has elapsed and no report has been presented and the Committee has not requested an extension, the President of the Chamber shall appoint a rapporteur from among the members of the Committee, authorising him or her to report orally, and shall enter the request as the first item on the agenda of the second sitting following the one in which the time limit has expired.

2-bis. Repealed

3. The same procedure provided for in the preceding paragraphs shall apply when the request for waiver of immunity concerns cases of contempt of both Houses of Parliament. In this case the Committee may charge one or more of its members to carry out a preliminary consideration, together with designated members of the relevant Senate Committee.

4. At its first meeting the Committee shall elect a Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons and three Secretaries, and shall exercise its duties on the basis of an internal regulation which, after being examined by the

^(*) Starting from the 20th Parliament the number «twenty-one» will be replaced by the following: «fifteen».

Committee on the Rules of Procedure, must be approved by the Chamber in accordance with the conditions provided for in paragraph 4 of Rule 16.

RULE 18-*bis*

1. The President of the Chamber shall immediately send to the Committee referred to in Rule 18 any documents transmitted by the judicial authorities for the purpose of considering the requests for waiver of immunity as provided for by Constitutional Law No. 1 of 16 January 1989.

RULE 18-*ter*

1. The Committee referred to in Rule 18 shall submit a written report to the Plenary on requests to waive the immunity from prosecution for the offences referred to in article 96 of the Constitution within the absolute and non-renewable time limit of thirty days from the transmission of the relevant documents by the President of the Chamber. Before deliberating the Committee shall invite the party concerned to provide any clarifications he or she may consider appropriate or which the Committee itself deems to be useful, and shall allow him or her, if he or she so requests, to examine the documents relating to the case.

2. If the Committee considers that it is not up to the Chamber to deliberate on a request for waiver of immunity pursuant to article 5 of Constitutional Law No. 1 of 16 January 1989, it shall propose that the documents be returned to the judicial authorities.

3. For cases other than that provided for in paragraph 2, the Committee shall propose, with reference to each individual under investigation, that the waiver request be granted or denied.

4. The request for waiver shall be entered as a rule as the first item on the agenda of the second sitting following the date on which the Committee has presented its report, without prejudice to the provisions envisaged in paragraph 5 below. If the time limit provided for in paragraph 1 has elapsed and no report has been presented, the President of the Chamber shall appoint a rapporteur from among the members of the Committee, authorising him or her to report orally to the Plenary, and shall as a rule enter the request for waiver as the first item on the agenda of the second sitting following the date on which the time limit has expired, in any case in compliance with the provisions envisaged in paragraph 5 below.

5. When it is not possible, following the provisions of paragraph 4, to respect the time limit referred to in article 9, paragraph 3, of Constitutional Law No. 1 of 16 January 1989, the Chamber shall be specially convened within the above time limit to consider the request for waiver of immunity.

6. Up to the end of the debate in the Plenary, fourteen Deputies or one or more Chairpersons of Groups which, separately or together, have at least the same numerical strength, can formulate proposals differing from the conclusions of the Committee, by tabling specific reasoned orders.

7. The Plenary shall be called upon to vote first on the proposals referred to in paragraph 2. If the latter are rejected and no alternative proposals have been formulated, the sitting shall be adjourned to allow the Committee to present further conclusions. Proposals to deny the waiver request shall then be put to the vote; these shall be considered as rejected if they have not received a favourable vote from an absolute majority of the members of the Plenary. The rejection of these proposals shall be considered as a deliberation to grant the waiver.

8. If the Committee has proposed that the waiver be granted and no proposals to the contrary have been formulated, the Plenary shall not vote, and the conclusions of the Committee shall be considered as approved.

9. If a request for waiver of immunity has been formulated against more than one person as involved in the same offence, the Plenary shall decide on each single person separately.

RULE 18-*quater*

1. The Committee referred to in Rule 18 shall report to the Plenary on requests for waiver of immunity formulated pursuant to article 10, paragraph 1, of Constitutional Law No. 1 of 16 January 1989, within the absolute and non-renewable time limit of five days from the transmission of the relevant documents by the President of the Chamber. Before making its deliberations, the Committee shall invite the party concerned to provide any clarifications which he or she may consider appropriate or which the Committee itself deems to be useful.

2. If the Committee considers that it is not up to the Chamber to deliberate on a request for waiver pursuant to articles 10, paragraph 1, and 5 of Constitutional Law No. 1 of 16 January 1989, it shall propose that the documents be returned to the judicial authorities. In all other cases the Committee shall formulate a proposal, accompanied by a report, to grant or deny the waiver request.

3. To enter the request for waiver in the agenda of the Plenary the provisions of paragraph 4 of Rule 18-*ter* shall apply. If it is not possible in this way to ensure compliance with the time limit referred to in article 10, paragraph 3, of Constitutional Law No. 1 of 16 January 1989, the Chamber shall be specially convened within the above time limit to deliberate on the request for waiver.

4. The Plenary shall be called to vote on the conclusions formulated by the Committee. If the proposal to return the documents to the judicial authorities, referred to in paragraph 2 above, is rejected, the sitting shall be adjourned to allow the Committee to formulate further conclusions.

CHAPTER V STANDING COMMITTEES

RULE 19

1. Upon being established, each Parliamentary Group shall designate its members to the Standing Committees, assigning them in equal numbers to each Committee and immediately informing the Secretary General of the Chamber thereof.

2. On the basis of proposals put forward by the Groups, the President of the Chamber shall then distribute among the Committees those Deputies not assigned in accordance with the previous paragraph, as well as those belonging to Groups with fewer members than there are Committees, in such a way that the proportions of the Groups themselves are reflected within each Committee.

3. No Deputy may be appointed to more than one Committee. Every Group shall, however, substitute its own Deputies who are members of the Government in power with others, belonging to a different Committee. Furthermore, every Group may, for a specific bill, substitute a member with one from another Committee, provided the Chairperson of the Committee has been informed.

4. A Deputy who cannot attend a sitting of his or her Committee may be substituted, for the entire sitting, by

another member of his or her Group who belongs to another Committee or is a member of the Government in power. The Deputy concerned or, failing that, his or her Group shall give prior information of the substitution to the Chairperson of the Committee.

5. The Chairperson shall give notice to the Committee of substitutions made in accordance with the preceding paragraphs.

6. In the case of Committees acting in an advisory capacity, the possibility of substitution shall not under any circumstances be admitted for Deputies belonging to the Committee for which an opinion is intended.

7. Deputies belonging to the same Group may, not more than once each in any one year, ask the Chair of their Group for permission to substitute for each other in the Committees they belong to. If the Chair of the Group agrees, he or she shall notify the President of the Chamber, who shall inform the Chairpersons of the respective Committees of the changes made.

RULE 20

1. The President of the Chamber shall convene each Standing Committee for the purpose of its establishment, which takes place by electing a Bureau composed of a Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons and two Secretaries.

2. If no one receives an absolute majority of the votes in the election of the Chairperson, there shall be a second ballot between the two candidates who received the highest number of votes. In the case of a tie the senior Deputy or, where the Deputies have equal seniority, the oldest by age shall be declared elected or added to the ballot.

3. To appoint the two Vice-Chairpersons and the two Secretaries respectively, each member of the Committee

shall write one name only on his or her ballot paper. Those receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected; in the case of a tie the procedure shall be in accordance with paragraph 2.

4. The same provisions shall apply for by-elections.

5. Standing Committees shall be renewed every two years from the date of their establishment and their members may be confirmed.

RULE 21

1. The Chairperson of a Committee shall represent the Committee, convene its meetings and draw up the agenda; chair its sittings; convene the Bureau; and may convene, when appropriate or on request, the representatives designated by the Groups.

2. The Vice-Chairpersons shall substitute for the Chairperson in cases where he or she is absent or unable to discharge his or her duties. The Secretaries shall verify the results of votes and oversee the drafting of the minutes of proceedings.

RULE 22

1. The Committees shall have responsibility for the following subjects respectively:

I - Constitutional, Presidency of the Council of Ministers and Interior Affairs;

II - Justice;

III - Foreign and European Union Affairs;

IV - Defence;

V - Budget, Treasury and Planning;

VI - Finance;

- VII - Culture, Science and Education;
- VIII - Environment, Territory and Public Works;
- IX - Transport, Post and Telecommunications;
- X - Economic Activities, Trade and Tourism;
- XI - Public and Private Sector Employment;
- XII - Social Affairs;
- XIII - Agriculture;
- XIV - European Union Policies.

1-*bis*. The President of the Chamber shall further define the areas of responsibility of each of the Standing Committees.

2. The Chamber may at any time set up Special Committees, composed in such a way as to reflect the proportions of the Groups.

3. The Committees shall meet in a reporting capacity to consider those issues on which they must report to the Plenary; in an advisory capacity to express opinions; in a legislative capacity to consider and approve bills; and in a drafting capacity in accordance with Rule 96. They shall also meet to hear and debate communications from the Government, and to exercise their policy-setting, scrutiny and fact-finding functions according to the rules of Part III of these Rules of Procedure.

4. The Committees may establish permanent Sub-Committees to consider issues falling within their areas of responsibility. The reports of each Sub-Committee shall be distributed to all members of the Committee and mention shall be made of these in the agenda of the following sitting. Each member of a Committee may request, no later than the second sitting following distribution, that the reports be submitted to the full Committee for deliberation.

CHAPTER VI
THE ORGANISATION OF BUSINESS AND AGENDA
OF THE PLENARY AND COMMITTEES

RULE 23

1. The Chamber shall organise its business based on a programming method.

2. The programme of business of the Plenary shall be deliberated by the Conference of Group Chairpersons for a period of at least two, and in any case not more than three, months.

3. The President of the Chamber shall convene the Conference of Group Chairpersons after making the appropriate contacts with the President of the Senate and the Government, a representative of which shall take part in the meeting. Prior to this, the President of the Chamber may convene the Conference of the Chairpersons of the Standing Committees. The Government shall inform the President of the Chamber and the Chairpersons of the Groups of its indications, listed in order of priority, at least two days before the meeting of the Conference. Within the same time limit, each Group may convey its own proposals to the Government, the President of the Chamber and the other Groups.

4. The programme of business, drawn up on the basis of the indications of the Government and the proposals of the Groups, shall contain the list of the topics which the Chamber intends to consider, with an indication of the order of priority and the period in which they are expected to be entered in the agenda of the Plenary. This indication shall be formulated in such a way as to guarantee that sufficient time is allowed for each topic to be considered, in relation to the overall time available and the complexity of the topics themselves.

5. Bills shall be inserted in the programme of business in such a way as to ensure that the debate in the Plenary begins when the time limits provided for in Rule 81 for the presentation of the report to the Plenary have elapsed. These time limits may be waived only when the Committee has already completed its consideration, or by unanimous agreement of the Conference of Group Chairpersons, or for bills considered in accordance with Rules 70, paragraph 2, 71 and 99.

6. The programme of business shall be adopted with the consent of the Chairpersons of the Groups having a numerical strength which is equal to at least three-quarters of the members of the Chamber. The President shall in this case set aside a period of the time available for topics indicated by any dissenting Groups and allocate it in proportion to the size of the latter. If the required majority is not obtained in the Conference of Group Chairpersons, the programme of business shall be drawn up by the President of the Chamber according to the criteria referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5 and the proposals of the Parliamentary Groups shall be inserted in the programme of business, in compliance with the limits on time and topics referred to in Rule 24, paragraph 3, second sentence.

7. The programme of business drawn up pursuant to paragraph 6 shall become definitive after the Plenary has been notified. With respect to the notification, Deputies may take the floor for no longer than two minutes each, ten minutes overall for each Group, to make observations that may be taken into consideration when the next programme of business is drawn up.

8. The Government Finance and Budget bills, bills linked to the public finance measures to be considered during the budget session, the draft Community Law and any mandatory items other than bills confirming de-

cree-laws shall be inserted in the programme of business without regard to the criteria referred to in paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6.

9. The programme of business shall be up-dated at least once a month, following the procedure provided for in the preceding paragraphs, in such a way that the Committees' pre-legislative scrutiny may be carried out effectively, and the provision referred to in paragraph 7 of Rule 79, may be observed.

10. The programme of business of the Plenary shall determine the allocation of working time for the Plenary and the Committees for the period under consideration. During each month, with the exclusion of the period of time devoted to the budget session, pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 of Rule 119, a week shall be set aside during which the business of the Chamber shall be suspended and time devoted to the other activities related to the parliamentary mandate.

11. Should the programme of business fail to be drawn up pursuant to the preceding paragraphs, the procedure shall be in accordance with paragraph 1 of Rule 26.

RULE 24

1. Once the programme of business has been laid down, the President shall convene the Conference of Group Chairpersons to define the conditions and timing of its implementation through the adoption of a three-week order of business. The Government shall be informed of the meeting, take part in it with a representative, and inform the President of the Chamber and the Chairpersons of the Parliamentary Groups, with at least twenty-four hours' notice, of its own indications as to the dates on which the various topics should be entered in the agenda of the Plenary. Within the same time limit,

each Group may convey its own proposals to the Government, to the President of the Chamber and to the other Groups.

2. The order of business shall be drawn up on the basis of the indications of the Government and the proposals of the Groups. The order of business adopted with the consent of the Chairpersons of the Groups having a numeral strength which is equal to at least three-quarters of the members of the Chamber, shall be definitive and shall be notified to the Plenary. The President shall set aside a period of the available time for topics indicated by any dissenting Groups, allocating the time in proportion to the size of the latter. With respect to the notification, Deputies may take the floor for no longer than two minutes each, ten minutes overall for each Group, to make observations that may be taken into consideration when the next order of business is drawn up.

3. If the majority referred to in paragraph 2 is not obtained in the Conference of Group Chairpersons, the order of business shall be drawn up by the President. The President shall insert the proposals put forward by the opposition Groups in the order of business, in such a way that the latter are guaranteed a fifth of the topics to be addressed, or of the overall time available for the business of the Plenary in the period under consideration. Topics, other than bills, inserted in the order of business upon a proposal of opposition Groups, shall be entered as a rule as the first item on the agenda of the sittings devoted to them. Not more than half the overall time available shall be devoted to the consideration of government bills confirming decree-laws. The order of business thus drawn up shall become definitive after the Plenary has been notified. With respect to the notification, Deputies may take the floor for no longer than two minutes each, ten minutes overall for each Group, to

make observations which may be taken into consideration when the next order of business is drawn up.

4. The Government Finance and Budget bills, bills linked to the public finance measures to be considered during the budget session, the draft Community Law and any mandatory items other than bills confirming decree-laws shall be inserted in the order of business and entered in the agenda without regard to the criteria referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3. For the calculation of the quotas provided for in the above paragraphs, account shall not be taken of the consideration of the measures indicated in the previous sentence and of government bills authorising the ratification of international treaties, bills initiated by citizens, interpellations and parliamentary questions, and the consideration of the proposals formulated by the Committee on Elections in accordance with Rule 17 and of the deliberations adopted pursuant to articles 68 and 96 of the Constitution.

5. The order of business adopted pursuant to the previous paragraphs identifies the topics and lays down the sittings in which they will be dealt with. Once the Plenary has been notified, the order of business shall be printed and distributed. It shall lay down the days devoted to debates and those in which the Plenary shall vote.

6. For the consideration and adoption of any proposed amendments to the order of business, indicated by the Government or by a Group Chairperson, the same procedure shall be applied as for its adoption. Where urgent situations arise, topics not included in the programme may also be inserted in the order of business, as long as they do not make it impossible to implement it, and additional sittings may be scheduled, where necessary, for their discussion.

7. The Conference of Group Chairpersons shall determine, with the majority provided for in paragraph 2,

the overall time available for debating the topics entered in the order of business of the Plenary, in relation to their complexity. Once the portion of time required for the statements of the rapporteurs, the Government and the Deputies of the Mixed Group, as well as for points of order and voting operations has been subtracted, the Conference shall then share out among the Groups, for one fraction in equal measure and for the other fraction in proportion to the size of the Groups themselves, four-fifths of the overall time available for the various stages of consideration. The time left shall be reserved for statements that Deputies ask to make on a personal basis, having given notice of this before the beginning of the debate. The time allocated to the Mixed Group shall be shared out among the political groupings therein established, taking into account their numerical strength. For the consideration of government bills, the Conference of Group Chairpersons shall allocate to the opposition Groups a larger share of the time available than that allotted to the majority Groups.

8. In the allotment of time enforced pursuant to paragraph 7, each Group shall in any case be given, for the debate on the general outline of bills, an overall time allocation that shall not be less than thirty minutes. The provision referred to in the previous sentence shall not apply to the consideration of governments bills authorising the ratification of international treaties.

9. If the majority provided for in paragraph 2 is not obtained, the President of the Chamber shall decide the time available for the debate and the ensuing allotment of time, in compliance with the criteria referred to in paragraphs 7 and 8.

10. In the allotment referred to in paragraphs 7 and 9, the time periods reserved for the statements of the rapporteurs shall be specified separately for the majority

rapporteur and for any minority rapporteurs. The time allocated to the latter shall be calculated in proportion to the size of the Groups they represent and, in any case, shall be not less than a third of that allocated to the majority rapporteur.

11. The time limits to be allocated to individual statements made by Deputies on a personal basis or for points of order shall be set by the President.

12. For the stages following the debate on the general outline of constitutional bills and on bills related primarily to one of the subject-matters indicated in Rule 49, paragraph 1, the provisions referred to in paragraph 7 shall be applicable only following a unanimous deliberation by the Conference of Group Chairpersons, or in cases where the debate is not completed and the bill is entered in a subsequent order of business. The President of the Chamber shall order that the provisions referred to in this paragraph be applied, if so requested by a Parliamentary Group, for the consideration of bills regarding issues of exceptional political, social or economic significance and relating to rights provided for in Part I of the Constitution.

13. The allotment of time and topics shall be calculated on a trend basis and with reference to the forecasts formulated when drawing up the order of business.

RULE 25

1. The Chairperson of a Committee shall convene the Bureau, with the participation of the representatives of the Groups, to draw up the programme and the order of business in accordance with the conditions and procedures provided for in Rules 23 and 24. The Government shall be informed of the meeting so that it may be represented.

2. The programme and the order of business of each Committee shall be established so as to ensure that the bills and other topics included in the programme and in the order of business of the Plenary are considered as a priority, respecting the time limits therein provided for and in compliance with the criteria indicated in Rules 23 and 24. Sufficient time shall be expressly allotted in the order of business of each Committee for the consideration of the bills and other topics referred to in this paragraph. Bills included in the programme of the Plenary shall be entered as the first item of the agenda of the Committee, acting in a reporting capacity, in the first sitting scheduled in the Committee's own order of business, as drawn up after the Plenary has been informed of the programme drawn up pursuant to Rule 23.

3. For the consideration of bills in a legislative and drafting capacity paragraphs 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 of Rule 24 shall apply.

4. The programme and the order of business of each Committee shall also be drawn up in such a way as to ensure prompt consideration of the Community regulatory and draft regulatory instruments referred to in Rules 126-*bis* and 127.

5. The procedure provided for in the preceding paragraphs shall also apply for the consideration and approval of any proposals to modify the programme or the order of business indicated by the Government or by a Group Chairperson.

6. The President of the Chamber may at any time ask the Committee Chairpersons to enter one or more topics in the agenda, in line with the criteria set out in the programme or order of business of the Plenary. The President of the Chamber may also, when he or she deems it necessary, convene one or more Committees, and set their agenda. He or she shall give notice to the Plenary thereof.

RULE 25-*bis*

Repealed

RULE 26

1. The President of the Chamber or the Chairperson of a Committee shall, before closing a sitting, announce the agenda and time schedule of the sittings for the two following working days, without prejudice to the time limit provided for in paragraph 2 of Rule 82. If this is opposed, the Plenary or the Committee shall decide by show of hands, having heard one speaker against and one in favour for no longer than ten minutes each.

2. If the business of the Plenary or a Committee has been organised, in accordance with the provisions of the preceding Rules, the President or Chairperson shall set the agenda on the basis of the programme and order of business approved. In such cases the second part of paragraph 1 shall not apply.

RULE 27

1. The Plenary or Committee may not debate or deliberate on subject-matters that are not included in the agenda.

2. In the Plenary, a deliberation by public ballot, carried out by means of an electronic voting procedure with recording of names and a majority of three quarters of the voters shall be required to debate or deliberate on subject-matters that are not included in the agenda. The proposal in question may be submitted by twenty Deputies or one or more Chairpersons of Groups which, separately or jointly, have at least the same numerical strength, only at the opening of a sitting or before moving to a different agenda item or when the debate has been suspended.

RULE 28

1. The time limits indicated in the Rules of Procedure shall be considered as calculated according to the common calendar.

CHAPTER VII

SITTINGS OF THE PLENARY, OF THE COMMITTEES AND OF PARLIAMENT IN JOINT SESSION

RULE 29

1. Extraordinary sittings of the Chamber may be convened on the initiative of its President or of the President of the Republic, or of one third of its members. It shall be convened by right in cases where extraordinary sittings of the Senate are convened.

2. In the case provided for in the third paragraph of article 94 of the Constitution, the President shall establish, in agreement with the President of the Senate, the date on which the Chamber shall be convened.

RULE 30

1. The Committees shall be convened via the Secretary General of the Chamber.

2. The relevant notices shall be sent out, as a rule, at least forty-eight hours prior to a meeting.

3. When the Chamber is adjourned, if one fifth of the members of one of the Standing Committees requests that it be convened to debate specific topics, the Chairperson of the Committee shall ensure that it meets no later than ten days from the date the request was filed, and shall inform each individual member of the agenda, in

such a way that at least five days intervene between the notice and the day of the meeting.

4. The Government may request that the Committees be convened if it wishes to be heard.

5. The Committees may not sit in the same hours as the Plenary, unless expressly authorised to do so by the President of the Chamber. In accordance with the requirements of the business of the Plenary, the President of the Chamber may at any time revoke Committee sittings.

RULE 31

1. In the Plenary Hall, seats shall be reserved for the representatives of the Government and the members of a relevant Committee.

2. When Parliament meets in joint session a seat shall be reserved for the President of the Senate.

RULE 32

1. The President of the Plenary or the Chairperson of a Committee shall open and close a sitting.

2. A sitting shall begin with the reading of the minutes of proceedings. If no objections are made to the minutes, they shall be taken as approved; if a vote is requested, it shall be carried out by show of hands.

3. No one shall speak on the minutes of proceedings unless it is to propose a correction, or to clarify what was said at the previous sitting, or for a personal reference.

RULE 33

1. The President or, on his or her authority, a Secretary shall convey messages and letters to the Plenary;

anonymous communications or those couched in unparliamentary language shall not be read out.

2. A Secretary shall read out a summary of the petitions tabled, and the latter shall then be transmitted to the relevant Committee, where each Deputy can take cognisance thereof.

RULE 34

1. Minutes of the sittings of the Plenary and of the Committees shall be drawn up respectively by an official in charge of drafting the minutes of proceedings and by the officials attached to individual Committees.

2. After being approved, the minutes of proceedings shall be signed by the President or the Chairperson and by one of the Secretaries, and shall be filed and kept in the archives of the Chamber.

3. The Plenary may decide that no minutes of proceedings of secret sittings be drawn up.

RULE 35

1. The President of the Chamber shall preside over Parliament in joint session.

2. When Parliament meets in joint session, the Rules of Procedure of the Chamber shall normally apply.

CHAPTER VIII DEBATES

RULE 36

1. Deputies who intend to speak in a debate shall register not later than the day when the said debate begins

and shall be given the floor in the order in which they have registered, alternating one against and one in favour. If the order of business has been approved in accordance with Rule 24, registrations to speak in the debate on the general outline of a topic included in the order of business itself shall be received not less than one hour before the beginning of the debate.

2. Deputies may switch turns. If a Deputy called by the President to speak is not present, it shall be understood that he or she has withdrawn.

3. No one may speak without the permission of the President.

4. Deputies shall speak from their own benches, standing and facing the President.

RULE 37

1. Representatives of the Government, even when not members of the Chamber, shall have the right and, if asked, the duty to attend sittings of the Plenary and the Committees. They shall have the right to speak every time they so request.

2. The sittings of Committees acting in a legislative capacity shall be attended by a representative of the Government.

RULE 38

1. Each Deputy may attend, without the right to vote, sittings of a Committee other than his or her own, provided the Chairperson of said Committee has been informed by the Group to which the Deputy belongs. However, the express authorisation of the Committee Chairperson shall be required if the Committee is meeting in secret sitting.

RULE 39

1. Unless shorter time limits are provided for in the Rules of Procedure, the time allowed for statements in a debate may not exceed ten minutes. In debates on the general outline of a bill where only one Deputy is registered to speak for a Group, the time limit for his or her statement shall be increased to twenty minutes.

2. When the time limit has elapsed, the President, having twice warned the speaker to conclude, shall withdraw his or her right to speak.

3. The President may, by his or her unchallengeable judgement, withdraw the right to speak of any speaker who, having twice been requested to stick to the issue under consideration, continues to depart from it.

4. No speech may be interrupted or postponed from one sitting to another.

5. The time limit provided for in paragraph 1 shall be increased to thirty minutes for debates on motions of confidence and no confidence and for debates on the general outline of constitutional bills and bills on electoral matters. In any case the President of the Chamber shall be entitled to extend the time limits allowed for statements, for one or more speakers from each Group, if the particular importance of the topics under debate so requires.

RULE 40

1. A preliminary issue, i.e. that a given topic may not be debated, a delaying issue, i.e. that the debate be postponed until a specified date and time, may be proposed by an individual Deputy before the debate has begun. When, however, the debate has already begun, the proposals must be signed by seven Deputies in the Plenary, and by three in Committees acting in a legislative capacity.

2. Preliminary and delaying issues shall be debated and put to the vote before the beginning of the debate on the general outline, if prior notice was given in the Conference of Group Chairpersons when the relevant order of business was drawn up; in other cases, they shall be debated and voted on at the end of the aforementioned debate.

3. Only one of the proposers shall be entitled to illustrate the issue, for no longer than ten minutes. One Deputy from each of the other Groups may also speak in the debate for no longer than five minutes.

4. When several preliminary issues are proposed at the same time, a single debate shall take place. In cases in which the President considers the instruments tabled by Deputies from the same Group to be different by reason of their content, one or more proposers from the same Group may speak in the debate. Once the debate has been closed, the Plenary or a Committee shall decide with a single vote on preliminary issues raised for reasons of constitutionality and then, with another single vote, on preliminary issues raised for reasons of substance.

5. When several delaying issues are tabled at the same time, irrespective of the reasons stated therein, a single debate shall take place and the Plenary or Committee shall decide with a single vote on the postponement and then, if approved, on the relevant date and time.

RULE 41

1. Points of order on the agenda or the order of business or the position of an issue or the order of priority of votes shall take precedence over the main debate. In such cases, only one speaker against and one in favour may speak after the proposer, for no longer than five minutes each. If the Plenary is called by the President to decide on the aforementioned points of order, voting shall be carried out by show of hands.

2. If an issue of procedure or interpretation of the Rules arises in the course of a sitting of a Committee acting in a legislative capacity, the Chairperson of the Committee shall inform the President of the Chamber, who shall have sole responsibility for taking the appropriate decisions.

RULE 42

1. It shall be considered a personal matter when an unworthy or unbecoming conduct or opinions that are contrary to those actually expressed are imputed to a Deputy. In this case, the Deputy requesting the floor must explain the merits of the personal matter; the President or Chairperson shall decide; if the Deputy persists, the Plenary or a Committee shall decide without debate by show of hands.

2. Whenever measures adopted by previous Governments are debated, those Deputies who were members of the Governments who adopted them shall have the right to be given the floor at the end of the debate.

RULE 43

1. Each Deputy may speak only once in any one debate except to give an explanation of vote, or on a personal matter, points of order, the agenda or the order of business, the position of an issue, the order of priority of votes, or except in cases when he or she has already spoken on preliminary or delaying issues proposed before the beginning of the debate.

RULE 44

1. The closure of a debate may be requested in the Plenary by twenty Deputies or by one or more Chairpersons of Groups which, separately or jointly, have at least the same numerical con strength, in a Committee by four Deputies or

by one or more representatives of Groups which, separately or jointly, have at least the same numerical strength in the same Committee, unless the debates are limited by express provisions of the Rules of Procedure. One speaker against and one in favour of the motion to close the debate may speak for no longer than five minutes each.

2. After the closure has been deliberated, one Deputy for each of the Groups that so request shall still be entitled to speak.

3. When the closure has been deliberated, Ministers shall become entitled to speak to make a statement on behalf of the Government and, if a vote is called in the Plenary or in a Committee, Deputies shall be entitled to speak to give their explanations of vote. In the latter case Rule 50 shall apply.

4. The closure of a debate may not be requested when the time available for said debate has been allotted by the Conference of Group Chairpersons or by the President of the Chamber in accordance with paragraphs 7, 9, and 12 of Rule 24.

RULE 45

1. In the case of a debate limited by express provisions of the Rules of Procedure the President shall be entitled, if the importance of the issue so requires, to give the floor to one speaker for each Group – in addition to the statements that the President may in exceptional circumstances allow – and extend the time limits allowed for statements.

CHAPTER IX QUORUM AND DELIBERATIONS

RULE 46

1. Deliberations of the Plenary and of Committees acting in a legislative capacity, in a drafting capacity, in

the debates on resolutions, during consideration of Government acts for the purpose of expressing a parliamentary opinion or in any other capacity whereby Committees express the final will of the Chamber, as well as during election votes falling within their responsibility, shall not be valid if the majority of their members is not present. For deliberations of Committees acting in other capacities the attendance of not less than a quarter of their members shall be sufficient.

2. Deputies who are engaged in an assignment received by the Chamber, outside its premises, or who are members of the Government, by reason of their office shall be counted as present for the purpose of determining a quorum.

3. In the case of votes whose validity requires the establishment of a quorum, those Deputies present who, prior to the beginning of the vote, have declared their intention to abstain, shall be counted for the purposes of the quorum.

4. The President or Chairperson shall not be obliged to check whether or not the Plenary or a Committee has the required quorum to deliberate, unless so requested by fourteen or three Deputies respectively, and the Plenary or Committee is about to vote by show of hands.

5. A quorum call may not be requested before the minutes of proceedings have been approved, or when express provisions of the Rules of Procedure require voting by show of hands.

6. Signatories to a request for a qualified vote, and Deputies requesting a quorum call, shall always be counted as present for the purposes of a quorum.

RULE 47

1. A quorum call in the Plenary shall be carried out by recording the attendances by means of an electronic pro-

cedure. In a Committee, the Chairperson shall order a roll-call for the purposes of a quorum.

2. If the Plenary or a Committee does not have the quorum, the President or Chairperson may adjourn the sitting for not less than twenty minutes or declare it closed. In the latter case the Plenary or Committee shall be considered as convened, with the same agenda, for the following working day at the same time as the sitting that was declared closed or for a holiday if the Plenary or Committee had already deliberated to hold a sitting on that date.

3. The absence of a quorum at a sitting shall not imply the presumption of the absence of a quorum for the following sitting or after the resumption of the sitting in accordance with paragraph 2.

RULE 48

1. The deliberations of the Plenary or Committees shall be adopted by a majority of those present, except in cases for which a special majority is required.

2. For the purposes of paragraph 1 those casting votes for or against shall be counted as present.

3. The Secretaries shall record those voting and those who have declared their intention to abstain, as provided for in paragraph 3 of Rule 46.

RULE 48-*bis*

1. It shall be the duty of Deputies to take part in the business of the Chamber.

2. The Bureau shall determine, by its own deliberation, the procedures and criteria to be followed to ascertain the attendance of Deputies at sittings of the Plenary, the Committees appointed by the President and the other Committees.

3. The Bureau shall, by the deliberation referred to in paragraph 2, determine the deductions to be taken from

the daily attendance allowance, paid out as a reimbursement of expenses incurred for staying in Rome, for absences from sittings of the Plenary, the Committees appointed by the President and the other Committees. The Bureau shall also determine permissible causes for absence for which no deduction shall be taken.

CHAPTER X VOTING

RULE 49

1. Voting shall be carried out by public ballot. Secret ballots shall be held in votes regarding persons, and, when so requested pursuant to Rule 51, in votes having a bearing on the principles, rights and liberties referred to in articles 6, 13 to 22 and 24 to 27 of the Constitution, on the rights of the family referred to in articles 29, 30 and 31, second paragraph, and on the rights of the person referred to in article 32, second paragraph, of the Constitution. Secret ballots shall also be held, if so requested, in votes on amendments to the Rules of Procedure, on establishing Parliamentary Committees of inquiry, on ordinary laws regarding State constitutional bodies (Parliament, President of the Republic, Government, Constitutional Court) and regional bodies, as well as on electoral laws.

1-bis. Secret ballots shall not be permitted in votes on the Finance Law or budgetary laws or related legislation, as provided for in Law No. 362 of 23 August 1988, or on any deliberations that have financial implications.

1-ter. In Committees, secret ballots shall be carried out only in votes regarding persons.

1-quater. Final votes on laws shall be carried out by public ballot, except in the cases provided for in para-

graph 1, by means of an electronic voting procedure with recording of names.

1-quinquies. A secret ballot may be requested only on issues strictly related to the cases provided for in paragraph 1. If the subject is of a composite nature, split voting may be requested for the part to be voted upon by secret ballot.

1-sexies. In cases of uncertainty about the subject of a deliberation for which the secret ballot has been requested, the President of the Chamber shall decide, having first consulted, if he or she considers it necessary, the Committee on the Rules of Procedure.

2. In public ballots, votes shall be cast by show of hands, by division in the Plenary Hall or by roll-call.

3. In secret ballots votes shall be cast by placing in the ballot boxes a small white ball or a small black ball or, in the case of elections, the appropriate ballot papers.

4. In both public and secret ballots votes may also be cast by means of electronic voting procedures.

5. When voting is to be carried out by means of an electronic voting procedure, the President shall give advance notice thereof at least ten minutes before hand. In the cases provided for in paragraphs 1 and 4 of Rule 53 said advance notice shall be reduced to five minutes. The advance notice shall not be repeated when during the same sitting other votes are to be carried out by means of an electronic voting procedure.

RULE 50

1. Whenever the Plenary or a Committee is about to vote, except in cases where the debate is limited by express provisions of the Rules of Procedure, Deputies shall always be entitled to speak to give a concise explanation of their vote, for no longer than ten minutes.

2. If Ministers, after such explanations of vote, request to be heard in accordance with article 64 of the Constitution, the debate on the subject of the deliberation shall be considered as reopened.

3. Once voting has commenced, no further statements shall be allowed until the result of the vote is announced.

RULE 51

1. With the exception of votes regarding persons, which shall be by secret ballot, the Plenary and the Committees shall normally vote by show of hands, unless a roll-call vote is requested, for Committees only in the cases referred to in the first sentence of paragraph 1 of Rule 46, or, in those cases permitted by Rule 49 and only in the Plenary, a secret ballot is requested.

2. Voting by roll-call may be requested in the Plenary by fourteen Deputies or by one or more Chairpersons of Groups which, separately or jointly, have at least the same numerical strength; in Committee by three Deputies or by one or more representatives of Groups which, separately or jointly, have at least the same numerical strength in the same Committee. Voting by secret ballot may be requested in the Plenary by twenty Deputies or by one or more Chairpersons of Groups which, separately or jointly, have at least the same numerical strength.

3. If different voting requests are submitted at the same time, the request for voting by secret ballot shall prevail.

RULE 52

1. The request for voting by roll-call or for voting by secret ballot shall be formulated when, once the debate has been closed, the President or Chairperson announces that the vote is about to take place, but before

he or she has invited the Plenary or the Committee to vote by show of hands.

2. The request need not to be made in writing when the proposing Deputy requests that the President question the Plenary or the Committee to verify whether his or her request is supported by the prescribed number of Deputies.

3. If a Deputy who has signed a request for voting by roll-call or for voting by secret ballot is not present when voting is about to begin, his or her signature shall be considered as withdrawn.

RULE 53

1. Voting by show of hands in the Plenary shall be verified by means of an electronic voting procedure without recording of names, if so requested before the result is announced.

2. In case of failure of the electronic voting system, the vote shall be verified by division in the Plenary Hall. In this case, the President shall indicate to which side of the Hall those in favour and those against should go.

3. In Committee, the vote shall be verified by roll-call in accordance with paragraph 3 of Rule 54.

4. To facilitate the counting of votes in the Plenary, the President may at any time order that a vote that should take place by show of hands be carried out by means of an electronic voting procedure without recording of names.

RULE 54

1. Roll-call voting may take place by actually calling the roll or by means of an electronic voting procedure with recording of names.

2. Votes of confidence or of no confidence shall always take place by roll-call in the Plenary.

3. In cases of voting by roll-call the President shall indicate the meaning of yes votes or no votes. A roll-call vote in the Plenary shall begin with the name of a Deputy drawn by lot, proceed until the last name in alphabetical order and continue again from the first letter of the alphabet, until the name of the Deputy drawn by lot is reached. In Committee the alphabetical list of the members shall be followed.

4. Except for the provisions in paragraph 2, voting by roll-call shall normally take place by means of an electronic voting procedure. In case of failure of the electronic system, the vote shall take place by roll-call.

5. The list of those Deputies voting, together with the vote cast by each, shall be published in the report of the sitting.

RULE 55

1. Voting by secret ballot shall normally be carried out by means of an electronic voting procedure.

2. In case of failure of the electronic system, the President shall have two ballot boxes prepared. Each voter shall be given a small white ball and a small black ball, to be placed in the ballot boxes.

RULE 56

1. Whenever the Chamber has to elect members of collective bodies, each Deputy shall write on the appropriate ballot paper the names of two thirds of the members of the body in question, as many times as he or she is called upon to vote for more than two members.

2. Except when envisaged by special legal provisions, those candidates shall be considered as elected who ob-

tain the highest number of votes at the first ballot. When several candidates receive the same number of votes, there shall be a second ballot between them.

3. For the appointment, by election, of Committees which, under the law or the Rules of Procedure, must be composed in such a way as to reflect the proportions of the Parliamentary Groups, the President shall communicate to the Groups themselves the number of seats allocated to each on the basis of the aforementioned criterion, and shall ask for the designation of an equal number of names. On the basis of the said designations the President shall draw up a list to submit to the Plenary, which shall deliberate by secret ballot.

4. The Plenary may entrust the President with the appointment of a Committee or of individual Committee members.

5. The procedure followed when a collective body is first set up shall as far as possible be complied with in by-elections.

RULE 57

1. When an irregularity occurs the President, having evaluated the circumstances, may annul the vote and order that it be repeated immediately.

2. The result of voting at the Chamber shall be announced by the President using the following formula: "The Chamber approves" or "The Chamber rejects".

CHAPTER XI

THE ORDERLY CONDUCT OF SITTINGS AND SECURITY IN THE CHAMBER

RULE 58

1. When a Deputy is accused during a debate of conduct that may damage his or her honour, he or she may

ask the President of the Chamber to appoint a Committee to assess the truth of the accusation; the Committee may be given a time limit to present its findings to the Plenary, which shall take note of them without debate or voting.

RULE 59

1. If a Deputy uses unparliamentary language or disturbs with his or her behaviour the free flow of debate or the orderly conduct of a sitting, the President shall call the Deputy to order by naming him or her.

2. Any Deputy called to order, who intends to explain his or her actions or the language used, may, at the President's discretion, be given the floor either at the end of the sitting or immediately.

RULE 60

1. After two calls to order in the same day, or, in very serious cases, even irrespective of a previous call to order, the President may order a Deputy to be excluded from the Plenary Hall for the rest of the sitting, if the Deputy in question has insulted one or more colleagues or members of the Government.

2. If the Deputy refuses to comply with the President's direction to leave the Plenary Hall, the President shall suspend the sitting and give the necessary instructions to the Quaestors to see that his or her directions are carried out.

3. The President of the Chamber may also propose to the Bureau the censure, with disqualification from participation in parliamentary business for a period ranging from two to fifteen sitting days, of any Deputy who incites to violence, provokes disturbances, engages in threats or wrongful acts against a colleague or a member of the Government, or uses insulting language against the institutions or the Head of State. The decisions taken

by the Bureau shall be communicated to the Plenary and in no case may they be the subject of debate. If the Deputy in question subsequently attempts to re-enter the Plenary Hall before the time limit for disqualification has expired, the duration of the exclusion shall be doubled.

4. For acts of exceptional gravity that take place in the Chamber's premises but outside the Plenary Hall, the President of the Chamber may propose to the Bureau the sanctions provided for in paragraph 3.

RULE 61

1. When disturbances occur in the Plenary Hall and the President's calls to order are not heeded, the President shall leave his or her chair and any debate shall be considered as suspended. If the disturbances continue, the President shall suspend the sitting for a given period of time or close it, as appropriate. In the latter case, the Plenary or Committee shall be considered as convened, with the same agenda, for the following working day at the same time as the sitting that was closed, or even for a holiday if the Plenary or Committee had already deliberated to hold a sitting on that date.

RULE 62

1. The powers required to maintain order in the Chamber shall rest with the Chamber itself and shall be exercised in its name by the President, who shall give appropriate directions to the security officers.

2. Law enforcement personnel, including the judicial police, may not enter the Chamber's Plenary Hall or Committee rooms unless by order of the President of the Chamber and only after a sitting has been suspended or closed. As for the meeting rooms of bicameral parliamentary bodies, said order shall be issued by the President of the Chamber in agreement with the President of the Senate.

3. Law enforcement personnel, including the judicial police, may not enter the Chamber's premises, or any rooms in which bodies and offices of the Chamber itself are located or which are in any way at the Chamber's disposal, unless by order of or subject to authorisation by the President. They may not enter rooms in which bicameral parliamentary bodies are located, unless by order of or subject to authorisation issued by the President of the Chamber, in agreement with the President of the Senate.

4. Actions or decisions of entities and bodies other than the Chamber, which are to be carried out within the premises or rooms of the Chamber itself or which concern the said premises or rooms or else documents, property or activities of the Chamber, may not under any circumstances be carried out without prior authorisation by the President, who shall assess their impact on the Chamber's institutional activities.

CHAPTER XII THE PUBLICITY OF PROCEEDINGS

RULE 63

1. Sittings of the Plenary shall be public. The President of the Chamber shall order that proceedings be made public, in the form of live television broadcasts.

2. A summary report and a verbatim report of the proceedings of the Plenary shall be drawn up and published.

3. At the request of the Government or of a Group Chairperson or of seven Deputies, the Plenary may deliberate to meet behind closed doors.

RULE 64

1. No person unrelated to the activities of the Chamber may, under any pretext, enter the Plenary Hall where its members sit.

2. The public shall be admitted to the public galleries.
3. During a sitting, persons admitted to the public galleries of the Chamber must refrain from any sign of approval or disapproval.
4. In every gallery a parliamentary usher shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with regulations as well as for carrying out the President's directions or having them carried out.
5. When carrying out the President's directions, the parliamentary ushers shall oust immediately any person or persons who disturb the orderly conduct of proceedings. If the person or persons who caused the disturbance cannot be identified, the President shall order that the entire section of the gallery where the disturbance took place be cleared.
6. In case of insulting behaviour towards the Chamber or to any of its members, the person or persons responsible shall be arrested and arraigned before the relevant judicial authorities.

RULE 65

1. The proceedings of the Committees appointed by the President and the other Committees, including the Committee on Legislation referred to in Rule 16-*bis*, shall be made public in the form of reports published in the Bulletin of all Parliamentary Committees under the responsibility of the Secretary General of the Chamber.
2. The proceedings of the Committees acting in a legislative capacity or in a drafting capacity shall also be made public in the form of a verbatim report. Members of the press and the public shall follow the sittings in separate rooms by means of closed-circuit audio-visual systems.
3. The Committees shall decide when their proceedings should, in the interest of the State, remain secret.

CHAPTER XIII
THE BUDGET OF THE CHAMBER

RULE 66

1. The draft budget and the final accounts of the Chamber, drawn up by the Quaestors and deliberated by the Bureau, shall be debated and voted on in the Plenary.

CHAPTER XIV
THE OFFICES OF THE CHAMBER

RULE 67

1. The departments and offices of the Chamber shall be organised according to the regulations issued by the Bureau in accordance with Rule 12 and shall be directed by the Secretary General, who shall be answerable to the President.

PART TWO
LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE

CHAPTER XV
THE INTRODUCTION AND TRANSMISSION OF BILLS

RULE 68

1. After being announced in the Plenary, Government bills and other bills introduced in the Chamber or transmitted by the Senate shall be printed and distributed in the shortest time possible. Mention shall immediately be made of these in the general agenda.

2. When the Chamber is adjourned, the President of the Chamber shall receive bills and give notice to the Chamber thereof on the first sitting day.

RULE 69

1. Upon introduction of a bill, or also at a later stage, the Government, one Group Chairperson or seven Deputies may ask that the bill be declared urgent.

2. A declaration of urgency shall be adopted by the Conference of Group Chairpersons with the majority provided for in Rule 23, paragraph 6. If this majority is not obtained, the request shall be submitted to the Plenary, for bills inserted in the programme of business. The Plenary shall deliberate on the request by public ballot, carried out by means of an electronic voting procedure with recording of names.

3. For each programme of business, not more than five bills may be declared urgent, if the programme has been drawn up for three months, or not more than three if the programme has been drawn up for two months. Urgency may not be declared for constitutional bills or for the bills referred to in Rule 24, paragraph 12, last sentence.

RULE 70

1. Bills finally approved by the Chamber shall be sent to the Government; the others shall be transmitted directly to the Senate.

2. Bills already approved by the Chamber and sent back by the Senate shall be considered again by the Chamber which, before its final vote, shall deliberate only on any amendments made by the Senate and on any ensuing amendments proposed at the Chamber.

RULE 71

1. If the President of the Republic, in accordance with article 74 of the Constitution, asks both Houses of Parliament, in a reasoned message, to deliberate again on a bill

already approved, new consideration of said bill shall begin in the House of Parliament that had first approved it.

2. The message sent to the Chamber shall be transmitted to the relevant Committee. The latter shall report on the bill to the Plenary, which may limit its debate to the parts addressed in the message. The bill shall be subject to voting section by section and to a final vote.

CHAPTER XVI

CONSIDERATION BY COMMITTEES ACTING IN A REPORTING CAPACITY

RULE 72

1. The President of the Chamber shall refer to the Committees responsible for the subject-matter the bills on which they shall report to the Plenary, and shall give notice thereof on the Floor of the House.

2. Bills which substantially replicate the contents of bills previously rejected may not be referred to a Committee, unless six months have elapsed since the date of rejection.

3. After referral of a bill, two Committees may ask the President of the Chamber to allow joint deliberation thereon.

4. Any issues on areas of responsibility arising between two or more Committees shall be deferred to the President of the Chamber. If he or she deems it necessary, the President may submit the issue to the Committee on the Rules of Procedure.

RULE 73

1. If the President of the Chamber deems it useful, he or she may request a Committee's opinion on a bill re-

ferred to another Committee, before the bill is deliberated on. The relevant Committee may, subject to the consent of the President of the Chamber, seek the opinion of another Committee.

1-*bis*. If a bill referred to a Committee contains provisions that fall to a significant degree within the area of responsibility of another Committee, the President of the Chamber may decide that the opinion of the latter be printed and annexed to the written report for the Plenary.

2. The Committee whose opinion has been sought shall as a rule express it within the time limit of eight days from the distribution of the printed text of the bill. The time limit shall be of three days for bills whose urgency has been declared and for bills confirming decree-laws. The Committee responsible for the subject-matter may allow an extension equal to the ordinary time limit. Further or longer extensions shall not be allowed unless in exceptional cases and subject to express authorisation by the President of the Chamber. If the above time limits expire before the opinion has been delivered, the relevant Committee may proceed with its consideration of the bill.

3. When a bill is being considered for the purpose of giving an opinion, the debate shall begin with an illustration of the bill by the rapporteur designated by the Committee Chairperson. The rapporteur shall conclude by proposing that one of the following opinions be expressed: in favour, against, in favour with qualifications, or in favour subject to specific amendments. The opinion may also be expressed using the formula: "No objections to further consideration of the bill".

4. The Committee whose opinion has been sought may decide that the opinion be illustrated orally before

the Committee for which it is intended. It may also request, for opinions expressed to another Committee acting in a reporting capacity, that the opinion be printed and annexed to the written report for the Plenary.

RULE 74

1. All bills involving revenue or expenditure shall be distributed simultaneously to the relevant Committee, to which they have been referred for consideration, and to the Budget and Planning Committee for its opinion on their financial implications, taking also into account the constraints set out in the Economic and Financial Planning Document, as approved by parliamentary resolution, and the principles enshrined in the European Union treaties.

2. If the relevant Committee introduces provisions into a bill that involve new revenue or expenditure, it shall transmit the bill to the Budget and Planning Committee. The time limits provided for in Rule 73 shall start again from the day of referral.

3. The opinion expressed by the Budget and Planning Committee shall be printed and annexed to the written report for the Plenary. If the Committee acting in a reporting capacity has not adapted the text of the bill to the conditions formulated in the opinion itself, it shall indicate the reasons therefor in the report for the Plenary.

RULE 75

1. The Constitutional Affairs Committee and the Employment Committee, when they are so requested in accordance with paragraph 1 of Rule 73, shall express their opinion, respectively, on the constitutional legitimacy of

a bill and on aspects relating to the civil service. The Constitutional Affairs Committee may also be called upon to express its opinion on bills with respect to regulatory competencies and to the overall legislation of the State.

2. Opinions expressed by the Constitutional Affairs Committee and the Employment Committee shall be printed and annexed to the written report for the Plenary. If the Committee acting in a reporting capacity has not adapted the text of the bill to the conditions formulated in the opinions, it shall indicate the reasons therefor in the report for the Plenary.

RULE 76

1. The order in which bills are considered by Committees shall conform to the decisions taken under the rules of Chapter VI on the organisation of business.

2. Due account being taken of the principle laid down in paragraph 1 of this Rule, the order in which bills are considered shall follow the order in which they have been introduced, with priority given to bills indicated in paragraph 2 of Rule 81.

3. The consideration of bills endorsed by a Parliamentary Group through a formal declaration by the Group Chairperson, when the bill is announced on the Floor of the House, must be started by a Committee no later than one month from referral.

RULE 77

1. If the agenda of a Committee contains at the same time identical bills or bills with identical subject-matter, they must be considered jointly.

2. Joint consideration shall be possible at any time, until the end of the debate in a Committee acting in a reporting capacity in accordance with Rule 79.

3. After a preliminary consideration of the bills to be examined jointly, the Committee shall choose a base text or write a consolidated text.

RULE 78

1. When the subject of a bill entered in the agenda of a Committee is identical or closely linked to that of a bill already introduced in the Senate, the President of the Chamber shall inform the President of the Senate for the purpose of reaching a possible agreement.

RULE 79

1. Committees acting in a reporting capacity shall organise their proceedings according to principles of economy of procedures. A Committee Bureau, with the participation of the representatives of the Groups, with the majority provided for in Rule 23, paragraph 6 or, failing this, the Chairperson of the Committee, shall determine how each procedure should be organised, including fact-finding and pre-legislative activities, and shall also set out, usually after the base text has been chosen, the time limits for the submission and the criteria for consideration of amendments. The procedure shall be organised in such a way as to ensure that it is completed at least forty-eight hours before the date set out in the order of business for entering the bill in the agenda of the Plenary.

2. The procedure for consideration of bills in a reporting capacity shall consist of a preliminary consideration entailing the collection of any necessary informa-

tion, the drafting of the bill's sections, and a deliberation on the conferral of the mandate to report to the Plenary.

3. The debate is introduced in a reporting capacity by the Chairperson of the Committee or by a rapporteur appointed by him or her, who shall ask the Government for the data and the information required for the purposes indicated in paragraphs 4 and 11.

4. During consideration of the bill in a reporting capacity, the Committee shall act to collect any elements needed to verify the quality and efficacy of the provisions contained in the text. For this purpose the pre-legislative scrutiny shall take the following aspects into consideration:

a) whether new legislation is necessary, or whether the same ends might be achieved through sources other than legislation;

b) whether the proposed legislation conforms to the Constitution, whether it is compatible with European Union legislation and whether it respects the areas of competence of the regions and local authorities;

c) whether the objectives of the new legislation have been defined and the means identified to achieve them are appropriate, whether the time limits provided for to implement the proposed legislation are adequate, including the costs to the public administration, citizens and business;

d) whether the meaning of definitions and provisions is unambiguous and clear, and whether the subject-matter has been appropriately arranged in sections and paragraphs.

5. To collect the elements referred to in paragraph 4, the Committee may ask the Government to provide data and information, and if necessary to draw up specific technical reports. The Committee shall also avail itself of the procedures referred to in Chapter XXXIII and Rules 146 and 148.

6. The procedures provided for in paragraph 5 shall apply when at least three members of the Committee so request, unless the Committee Bureau, with the participation of the representatives of the Groups, with the majority provided for in Rule 23, paragraph 6, or, failing this, the Chairperson of the Committee, deems that the subject of the request is not essential for the pre-legislative scrutiny to be completed. After consulting the Government, the Bureau, with the participation of the representatives of the Groups, with the majority provided for in Rule 23, paragraph 6, or, failing this, the Chairperson of the Committee shall set the time limit within which the Government must provide the information and data requested in relation to the bills included in the programme of business of the Plenary. The Committee shall not make its final deliberations on each section of the text until the data and information requested from the Government have been provided, unless the Government declares that it is unable to do so, indicating the reason therefor.

7. If the Government does not provide the data and information requested by the Committee within the set timing, and does not indicate the reasons therefor, the Conference of Group Chairpersons, with the majority provided for in Rule 23, paragraph 6, or, failing this, the President of the Chamber shall set a new time limit for the presentation of the report to the Plenary referred to in Rule 81. The report shall mention the Government's delay in fulfilling its duty, or failure to do so.

8. During consideration of the bill in a reporting capacity, preliminary or delaying objections, or objections aimed in any way at preventing the Committee from fulfilling its obligation to report to the Plenary, may not be put to the vote; mention thereof, however, must be made in the report of the Committee.

9. The Committee may appoint a restricted Sub-Committee, composed in such a way that the proportional participation of the minority Groups is guaranteed, and tasked with continuing the pre-legislative activities and formulating any proposals relating to the text of the sections.

10. To guarantee that the time limit provided for in paragraph 1, third sentence, is respected, deliberations on the drafting of the text of the sections may be conducted according to principles of economy of procedures, ensuring that for each section, however, at least two amendments indicated by each Group shall as a rule be put to the vote, even if they entirely replace the text proposed by the rapporteur.

11. The Committee shall introduce in the text rules coordinating the provisions it contains with the legislation already in force, ensuring that any provisions consequently repealed are expressly indicated.

12. At the end of the debate the Committee shall appoint a rapporteur, to whom it shall confer the mandate to report on the text it has drawn up; it shall also appoint a Sub-Committee of nine members, composed in such a way as to guarantee the proportional participation of the minority Groups, for the debate before the Plenary and for the functions indicated in paragraph 3 of Rule 86. Any dissenting Groups may, jointly if they so wish, designate minority rapporteurs. Each minority report shall include its own text, even if it partially differs from the Committee's text, formulated in sections corresponding to the latter.

13. The reports for the Plenary shall give an account of the results of the Committee's pre-legislative scrutiny with regard to the aspects indicated in paragraph 4.

14. The majority report and the minority reports, if any, shall be printed and distributed at least twenty-four hours before the debate is opened, unless, for reasons of urgency, the Plenary deliberates a shorter time limit. If the Plenary authorises an oral report, the Committee's text and any alternative texts submitted by the minority rapporteurs shall be printed and distributed within the same time limit.

15. If a bill is approved in full and unanimously by a Standing Committee, with regard both to its provisions and to its explanatory memorandum, the Committee itself may propose to the Plenary to debate on the text of the proposer and to adopt his or her report.

RULE 80

1. If the author of a bill is not a member of the Committee charged with considering it, he or she shall be notified that the Committee has been convened so that he or she may take part in its sittings, without a deliberative vote. The author may be charged with preparing the introductory report in the Committee and appointed as rapporteur for the debate in the Plenary.

2. Each Deputy may transmit to the Committees amendments to or additional sections of bills and ask or be asked to explain them before the said Committees. The latter shall give notice to the Plenary thereof in their reports.

RULE 81

1. The Committees' reports on bills included in the programme of business of the Plenary shall be presented within the time limit of two months from the date on which consideration in a reporting capacity has begun.

2. The time limit referred to in paragraph 1 shall be reduced by a half for bills which have been declared urgent, and reduced to fifteen days for Government bills confirming decree-laws. The time limits provided for in Chapter XXVII shall remain unchanged.

CHAPTER XVII CONSIDERATION IN THE PLENARY

RULE 82

1. Consideration of bills in the Plenary shall include a debate on the general outline of a bill and a debate on its sections.

2. Unless otherwise agreed by all Groups, and unless the Chamber has, for reasons of urgency, otherwise deliberated in accordance with paragraph 14 of Rule 79, agendas that envisage the beginning of consideration of a bill must be announced at least twenty-four hours before the beginning of the debate on the general outline.

RULE 83

1. The debate on the general outline of a bill shall consist of statements by majority rapporteurs and minority rapporteurs, lasting no longer than ten minutes each, by the Government and by one Deputy for each Group. The President shall give the floor to one Deputy for each of the political groupings established within the Mixed Group and to those Deputies who intend to express positions that differ from those of their own Groups, and shall lay down the criteria and time limits for statements.

1-bis. In delivering their reports, the rapporteurs may ask the Government to reply on specific issues relating to the assumptions and objectives of bills introduced by the

Government itself, or to the financial and legislative consequences of the implementation of the rules contained in Government or parliamentary bills. The Government may respond immediately or ask to postpone its reply until its final statement; it may also ask for the sitting or consideration of the bill to be suspended for no longer than one hour, or declare that it cannot reply, indicating the reason therefor.

2. When specifically requested by fourteen Deputies or by one or more Chairpersons of Groups which, separately or jointly, have at least the same numerical strength, further registrations to speak shall be allowed, without prejudice to the provisions of Rules 36, 44, and 50. The request to extend the debate shall be formulated during the Conference of Group Chairpersons or submitted not less than twenty-four hours before the beginning of the debate in the Plenary.

3. The rapporteurs and the Government may reply at the end of the debate.

4. *Repealed*

5. After the beginning of the debate, as extended in accordance with paragraph 2, the Conference of Group Chairpersons may be convened, having heard also the members of the Mixed Group who have so requested, to set out the order of statements and the number and the dates of the sittings required.

RULE 84

Repealed

RULE 85

1. Once the debate on the general outline has been closed, the debate on the sections shall start. This shall

consist of a debate on the set of amendments and additional sections proposed for the sections of the bill.

2. If the Budget Committee has expressed a negative opinion against one or more provisions of the bill, or a favourable opinion subject to specific changes that the Committee considering the bill in a reporting capacity did not adopt, the President shall inform the Plenary thereof before proceeding to the debate referred to in paragraph 1.

3. One Deputy for each Group may speak in the debate on the sections for no longer than ten minutes. The President shall give the floor to one Deputy for each of the political groupings established within the Mixed Group, and shall lay down the criteria and time limits for statements. The time limit shall be of thirty minutes for constitutional bills and bills on electoral matters. For other bills the President of the Chamber shall be entitled to increase the time limit, if their particular importance so requires.

4. On each section, amendment, sub-amendments and additional section an explanation of vote shall be allowed to one Deputy for each Group for no longer than five minutes. The President shall give the floor to one Deputy for each of the political groupings established within the Mixed Group and to those Deputies who intend to express a vote different from the one declared by their Group, and shall lay down the conditions and time limits for statements.

5. Whenever several amendments, sub-amendments and additional sections differing from one another only with respect to increments in figures, data or other elements have been submitted with respect to the same text, the President shall put to the vote the one that departs furthest from the original text, together with a number of

intermediate amendments up to the amendment that is closest to the original text, and shall declare the others to be subsumed. In determining the amendments to be put to the vote, the President shall take into account the extent of the differences between the proposed amendments and the significance of the increments in relation to the subject-matter of the amendments. If the President considers that the Plenary should be consulted, the latter shall decide without debate by show of hands. The President shall also be entitled to change the order of voting when he or she deems this to be appropriate for reasons of efficiency or clarity of said voting.

RULE 85-*bis*

1. The Groups may notify, before consideration of the sections begins, of the amendments, additional sections or sub-amendments to be in any case put to the vote if, under paragraph 5 of Rule 85, voting is to be on grouped amendments or by principles. In this case, with reference to the bill as a whole, the number of such amendments, additional sections or sub-amendments, submitted by Deputies belonging to each of the Groups that have notified of them under the previous sentence, shall average, for each section, not less than one tenth of the members of the Group itself.

2. For Government bills confirming decree-laws, the ratio indicated in paragraph 1 shall be raised to one fifth of the number of members of the Group and calculated with reference both to the sections of the confirming bill and to the individual sections of the decree-law.

3. The President may also put to the vote any amendments, additional sections and subamendments submitted by Deputies declaring their dissent from their respective Groups, which he or she recognises as relevant.

4. The provisions referred to in the last sentence of paragraph 5 of Rule 85 shall not apply in debates on constitutional bills and on bills indicated in Rule 24, paragraph 12, last sentence.

RULE 86

1. Additional sections and amendments shall, as a rule, be submitted and debated in Committees. New additional sections and amendments, and those rejected at the Committee stage, may however be submitted in the Plenary, up to the day preceding the sitting in which the debate on the sections is to begin, as long as they fall within the context of the topics already considered in the text or in any amendments submitted and declared admissible at the Committee stage.

2. If the new additional sections or amendments involve higher spending or lower revenue, they shall be transmitted to the Budget and Planning Committee as soon as they are submitted so that their financial implications may be considered and evaluated. For this purpose, the President of the Chamber shall establish, where necessary, the time limit within which the Budget Committee shall express its opinion.

2-bis. The procedure referred to in paragraph 2 shall also apply to amendments to be assessed with reference to the distribution of legislative competences referred to in article 117 of the Constitution, which shall be transmitted to the Committee on Constitutional Affairs to this effect.

3. The Sub-Committee of Nine, as provided for in Rule 79, shall open its debate to consider the new amendments and additional sections submitted directly in the Plenary with a statement by the Chairperson of the Committee. If he or she considers it necessary, the Chairperson may convene the full Committee for such consideration.

4. Sub-amendments may be submitted up to one hour before the sitting in which the sections to which they pertain are to be discussed. They shall be considered, in accordance with paragraph 3, by the Sub-Committee of Nine or by the Committee, which may both ask for a brief postponement of the vote.

4-bis. Should a bill contain provisions on which the Budget Committee has expressed a negative opinion, or a favourable opinion subject to specific changes that were not adopted by the Committee that considered the bill in a reporting capacity, the corresponding proposals for deletion or modification of the text motivated with exclusive reference to compliance with article 81, fourth paragraph, of the Constitution, are considered as submitted and are put to the vote in accordance with Rule 87, paragraphs 2 and 3. Sub-amendments may not be submitted and requests for split votes shall not be admissible.

5. The Committee and the Government may submit amendments, sub-amendments and additional sections until voting on the section or amendment they refer to has begun, provided they fall within the context of the topics already addressed in the text or in any amendments submitted and declared admissible at the Committee stage. Twenty Deputies or one or more Chairpersons of Groups which, separately or jointly, have at least the same numerical strength, may table sub-amendments to each of these amendments and additional sections, including during the sitting, within the time limit laid down by the President. Each minority rapporteur may submit, within the same time limit, only one sub-amendment relating to each amendment or additional section submitted by the Committee or by the Government in accordance with this paragraph.

5-bis. The President of the Chamber may postpone for no longer than three hours consideration of the

amendments and additional sections submitted pursuant to paragraph 5. If the said amendments and additional sections involve new or increased expenditure or reduced revenue, they may not be considered until the day after they were submitted. The President, having evaluated the circumstances, shall lay down an appropriate time limit within which the Budget Committee shall express its opinion.

6. The rapporteurs and the Government shall express their opinions on the amendments before they are put to the vote. In so doing, the rapporteurs may ask the Government to reply to specific issues regarding the consequences, once applied, of the measures it has proposed, as contained in the section under consideration or in amendments submitted by the Government itself. The Government may reply immediately or ask to delay its reply until consideration of the section has been completed and not later; it may also ask for the sitting or consideration of the bill to be suspended for no longer than one hour, or else declare it is unable to reply, indicating the reason therefor.

7. The rapporteur shall explain before the Plenary any proposals, as deliberated by the Committee, to set aside for separate consideration parts of the bill, or to refer the bill back to the Committee itself; he or she shall be consulted on any other proposals relating to the order of business, which might influence the following stages of consideration. The minority rapporteurs shall also be entitled to speak on the proposals referred to in this paragraph, for no longer than five minutes each.

8. Anyone who withdraws an amendment has the right to explain the reason for doing so for not more than five minutes. An amendment withdrawn by its proposer may only be taken up by fourteen Deputies or by a Group Chairperson.

9. The amendments submitted pursuant to paragraph 1 shall be distributed in printed form at least three hours before the sitting in which the sections they pertain to are to be debated.

10. In special cases, and in relation to the time available for the Committee's conclusions to be made known, the President of the Chamber shall be entitled to modify the time limits for the submission and distribution of the amendments in the Plenary.

RULE 87

1. A vote shall be taken on the proposed amendments and on the entire section.

1-*bis*. The alternative texts submitted pursuant to Rule 79, paragraph 12, shall be put to the vote, at the request of the minority rapporteur, as amendments substituting each section in full, immediately after any amendments seeking to fully delete the section itself.

2. When only one amendment is submitted, seeking to delete the entire section, a vote shall be taken on whether the text should stand.

3. If more than one amendment is submitted on the same text, they shall be voted upon starting with those that depart furthest from the original text: first, amendments seeking to fully delete, then to partially delete, to substitute and, finally, to add or insert. Amendments to an amendment shall be voted upon before the main amendment.

3-*bis*. Before each amendment, sub-amendment and additional section is put to the vote, the President shall remind the Plenary of the relevant opinions of the Committee and the Government and, when negative, of the

opinion expressed by the Budget Committee, pursuant to Rule 86, paragraph 2.

4. When the text to be put to the vote contains two or more provisions or refers to two or more topics or can be divided into two or more parts, each of which has its own logical meaning and regulatory value, a split vote may be requested.

5. When a bill consists of a single section, this section shall not be voted upon after the vote on the amendments; instead, the final vote on the bill itself shall take place directly, unless a request for a split vote, for the submission of additional sections or for raising an issue of confidence in accordance with paragraph 2 of Rule 116 has been presented.

RULE 88

1. Within the time limit laid down by the President, having heard the Chairpersons of the Groups, each Deputy may move not more than one order, formulated according to principles of conciseness, essentiality and clarity, and containing directions or commitments for the Government in relation to specific provisions of the bill under consideration. The President may exceptionally allow the submission of an order beyond the time limit when it appears to be necessary during the debate on the sections and the order is signed by a Group Chairperson.

2. Once consideration of the sections has been completed, the Government shall express a favourable opinion on the orders moved, subject, where appropriate, to acceptance by the mover of a proposed re-formulation, a negative opinion or else it may adopt the order as a recommendation. Each Deputy may explain his or her own vote on the orders in one single statement covering all of them and lasting no longer than eight minutes, or in a

maximum of three separate statements lasting no longer than eight minutes in all. There shall be no vote on the orders on which the Government has expressed a favourable opinion, including when it is subject to a reformulation accepted by the mover, or on those adopted by the Government as a recommendation with the consent of the mover. Should the mover not accept the adoption of the order as a recommendation and request a vote on it, there shall be a vote subject to a new opinion by the Government, either favourable or negative. The Government shall in any case be entitled to refer the matter to the Plenary. Split voting shall in any case be excluded.

3. Orders which replicate the contents of amendments or additional sections previously rejected shall not be admissible.

RULE 89

1. The President shall be entitled to declare as unacceptable and undebatable orders, amendments or additional sections which are formulated in unparliamentary language or which are related to topics totally irrelevant to the subject of the debate, or which are precluded by previous deliberations, and refuse to have them explained or put to the vote. If a Deputy insists and the President deems it appropriate to consult the Plenary, the latter shall decide without debate by show of hands.

RULE 90

1. Before a bill is voted upon in its entirety, the Subcommittee of Nine or the Government may call the attention of the Plenary to any corrections of form it requires and propose any ensuing amendments, on which the Chamber shall deliberate.

2. The Plenary may, if need be, authorise the President to see to the formal consistency of the approved text.

RULE 91

1. The final vote on a bill shall take place immediately after the debate and the vote on the sections and shall be carried out in accordance with Rule 49.

2. The President may, however, postpone the final vote to a later sitting.

3. The President may decide that several bills be voted upon at the same time. In this case any Deputies wishing to abstain on any of the bills being voted upon must make this known to the Secretaries before the vote takes place.

CHAPTER XVIII

CONSIDERATION BY COMMITTEES ACTING IN A LEGISLATIVE CAPACITY

RULE 92

1. When a bill deals with issues which are not of special general relevance, the President may propose to the Chamber that the bill be referred to a Standing or Special Committee, acting in a legislative capacity, for consideration and approval. The proposal shall be entered in the agenda of the next sitting; if it is opposed, the Chamber, having heard one speaker against and one in favour, shall vote by show of hands. If the proposal is opposed by the Government or by one tenth of the members of the Chamber, voting shall not take place and the bill shall

be referred to a Committee acting in a reporting capacity. The same procedure may be adopted for bills which are particularly urgent.

2. The normal procedure for consideration and direct approval by the Plenary shall always be adopted for bills concerning constitutional and electoral matters, delegated legislation bills, bills authorising the ratification of international treaties, and bills on the approval of budgets and accounts.

3. When Parliament is adjourned the President of the Chamber shall communicate to each Deputy the proposal to refer measures to a Committee acting in a legislative capacity, at least eight days prior to the date for which the relevant Committee is convened. If by that date the Government, a Group Chairperson or seven Deputies oppose referral, the proposal to refer shall be entered in the agenda of the first sitting of the Plenary for the purposes of paragraph 1.

4. A bill shall be referred back to the Plenary if the Government or one tenth of the Deputies or a fifth of the members of the Committee so request.

5. The request provided for in paragraph 4 may be submitted to the President of the Chamber before the bill is entered in the agenda of the Committee. After this time limit, such request shall be submitted to the Chairperson of the Committee.

6. The President of the Chamber may propose to the Plenary that a bill, already referred to a Committee acting in a reporting capacity, be transferred to the same Committee acting in a legislative capacity. This proposal by the President must be preceded by a unanimous request from the representatives of the Groups within the Committee or from more than four-fifths of the members of the Committee itself, by the assent of the Gov-

ernment and by the actually expressed opinions of the Constitutional Affairs, Budget and Employment Committees, which must be consulted in accordance with paragraph 2 of Rule 93, and of the Committees whose opinion has been sought pursuant to paragraph 1-*bis* of Rule 73.

RULE 93

1. With respect to the collection of opinions in a legislative capacity the provisions of Rule 73 shall apply.

2. Bills involving increased expenditure or lower revenue, and those requiring a review in terms of their constitutional legitimacy or of aspects relating to the civil service, shall be sent concurrently to the relevant Committee and, for their opinions, to the Budget Committee, the Constitutional Affairs Committee and the Employment Committee respectively.

3. In cases where the Committee acting in a legislative capacity does not intend to uphold the opinion of the Budget Committee, the Constitutional Affairs Committee or the Employment Committee and these Committees insist on their positions, the bill shall be referred back to the Plenary.

3-*bis*. If a bill referred to a Committee acting in a legislative capacity contains provisions which overlap to a significant degree with the responsibilities of another Committee, the President of the Chamber may decide that the opinion of the latter shall have the effects provided for in paragraph 3 of this Rule and in paragraph 3 of Rule 94.

4. When a Committee acting in a legislative capacity does not intend to uphold the opinion of another Committee which also claims to have primary responsibility

for the entire bill or part of it, the procedure shall be in accordance with paragraph 4 of Rule 72.

RULE 94

1. A Committee acting in a legislative capacity, once the rapporteur appointed by its Chairperson has been heard, shall debate and approve bills under the rules of Chapter XVII on consideration in the Plenary. The pre-legislative scrutiny shall be carried out pursuant to Rule 79.

2. Amendments, sub-amendments and additional sections must be submitted, as a rule, before the beginning of the debate on the sections to which they pertain. The rapporteur and the Government may submit amendments, sub-amendments and additional sections until voting begins on the sections to which they pertain. Each Deputy may submit, within the time limit laid down by the Chairperson, sub-amendments to the amendments submitted during the debate.

3. Amendments involving increased expenditure or lower revenue, and those requiring a review in terms of their constitutional legitimacy or of aspects relating to the civil service may not be voted upon unless they have first been sent to the Budget Committee, the Constitutional Affairs Committee and the Employment Committee, respectively, for their opinions. In cases where the Committee does not intend to uphold one of the said opinions and the consulted Committee confirms its opinion, the entire bill shall be referred back to the Plenary.

RULE 95

1. The President of the Chamber shall give notice to the Plenary of bills approved by Committees acting in a legislative capacity.

CHAPTER XIX
CONSIDERATION BY COMMITTEES ACTING
IN A DRAFTING CAPACITY

RULE 96

1. The Plenary may decide, before consideration of the sections, to entrust the relevant Standing or Special Committee with the drafting of the sections of a bill, within a set time limit, reserving for itself the approval without explanations of vote, of the individual sections, as well as the final approval of the bill with explanations of vote.

2. The referral of the drafting of the bill may also be deliberated by the Plenary at the unanimous request of the representatives of the Groups within the Committee or of more than four-fifths of the members of the Committee itself, accompanied by the actually expressed opinions of the Constitutional Affairs, Budget and Employment Committees, which must be consulted in accordance with paragraph 2 of Rule 93.

3. Upon referral, the Plenary may set out, by means of a specific order of the Committee, the criteria and guiding principles for the drafting of the text of the sections. The Plenary shall decide by show of hands. One Deputy for each Group shall be allowed to give an explanation of vote lasting no longer than five minutes.

4. For debates in Committees acting in a drafting capacity, the provisions of Rule 94, paragraphs 1, 2, and 3, first sentence, shall apply. If a negative opinion has been expressed by the Constitutional Affairs Committee, the Budget Committee or the Employment Committee, including on individual parts or sections of the bill, and the main Committee has not upheld such opinion, the Chairperson of the Committee that has given the negative opinion shall illustrate it before the Plenary immediately

after the rapporteur on the bill, and table an order to this effect. After hearing one speaker in favour and one against, for no longer than five minutes each, the Plenary shall deliberate on this order by means of an electronic roll-call vote. If the Plenary approves, the main Committee shall re-consider the bill to bring it into line with the opinions of the Constitutional Affairs, Budget or Employment Committee and the procedure in the Plenary shall begin in the following sitting.

5. Each Deputy, even when not belonging to the Committee, has the right to submit amendments to the latter and take part in its debate.

6. The provisions of this Rule shall not apply to bills concerning constitutional or electoral matters, delegated legislation bills, bills authorising ratification of international treaties, or bills on the approval of budgets and accounts.

CHAPTER XIX-*bis*

GOVERNMENT BILLS CONFIRMING DECREE-LAWS

RULE 96-*bis*

1. The President of the Chamber shall refer Government bills confirming decree-laws to the relevant Committees, acting in a reporting capacity, on the same day as they are introduced or transmitted to the Chamber, and shall give notice to the Plenary thereof on the same day or during the first subsequent sitting, which may also be especially convened, within the time limit of five days from introduction of the bill, pursuant to the second paragraph of article 77 of the Constitution. The Government bills referred to in this Rule shall also be referred to

the Committee on Legislation referred to in Rule 16-*bis* that, within the time limit of five days, shall express its opinion to the relevant Committees, and may also propose the deletion of any provisions in the decree-law which are not in compliance with the rules on relevance and homogeneity and on the limitations to the content of decree-laws, as provided for by the legislation in force.

2. In the Government's report accompanying the confirming bill, the necessity and urgency with which the decree needs to be adopted shall be accounted for and the expected effects of its implementation, as well as the impact of its rules on existing legislation, shall be described. The Committee to which the confirming bill is referred pursuant to paragraph 1 may ask the Government to upgrade the information provided in the report, with reference also to individual provisions in the decree-law.

3. Within five days from the announcement to the Plenary of the introduction or transmission of the confirming bill to the Chamber, a Group Chairperson, or fourteen Deputies, may table a preliminary issue referring to the content of the bill or of the decree-law related thereto. The deliberation on the said preliminary issue shall be entered in the agenda within seven days from the aforementioned announcement to the Plenary. Preliminary issues shall be debated according to the provisions Rule 40, paragraphs 3 and 4. Once the debate has been closed, the Plenary shall take a single vote to decide on all the preliminary issues tabled. Preliminary or delaying issues may not be introduced during the following stages of the debate on the bills referred to in this chapter.

4. The confirming bill shall be entered as the first item on the agenda of the sittings of the Committee to which it has been referred. The Committee shall report to the Plenary within fifteen days, after which the bill shall be

entered in the agenda of the Plenary, taking into account the criteria referred to in paragraph 3 of Rule 24; before this time limit has expired, the bill may be taken into consideration for the planning of business only if the Committee has completed its consideration acting in a reporting capacity, or following a unanimous deliberation by the Conference of Group Chairpersons.

5. The President of the Chamber shall be entitled, in particular cases, to modify the time limits referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4, in relation also to the date of transmission of the confirming bill from the Senate.

6. For consideration of confirming bills already approved by the Chamber and amended by the Senate, the time limits for consideration in a reporting capacity referred to in paragraph 4, shall be laid down by the President; the provisions referred to in paragraph 3 shall not apply.

7. The President shall declare as inadmissible any amendments and additional sections that are not strictly relevant to the subject-matter of the decree-law. If he or she considers that the Plenary should be consulted, the latter shall decide without debate by show of hands.

CHAPTER XIX-*ter* CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT GOVERNMENT REGULATORY INSTRUMENTS

RULE 96-*ter*

1. Draft Government regulatory instruments transmitted to the Chamber for a parliamentary opinion, shall be referred to the Committee responsible for the subject-matter by the President according to the provisions of Rule 143, paragraph 4.

2. If the draft instruments referred to in paragraph 1 involve revenue or expenditure, they shall also be referred to the Budget Committee, which shall transmit its comments on the financial implications to the Committee responsible for the subject-matter within the time limit set out by the President.

3. With regard to consideration of the draft instruments referred to in paragraph 1 by the Committee to which they have been referred for its opinion, the provisions of Rule 79, paragraphs 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9 shall apply inasmuch as they are compatible. Upon request of at least one-fifth of its members, the Committee to which the said draft instruments have been referred for its opinion pursuant to paragraph 1, shall transmit those instruments to the Committee on Legislation for consideration. The provisions of Rule 16-*bis*, paragraphs 3, 4 and 5, second sentence, shall apply.

4. Should the draft instruments referred to in paragraph 1 be particularly relevant to the areas of responsibility of Committees other than that to which they have been referred, these Committees may ask the President of the Chamber to be authorised to transmit their comments to the Committee responsible for the subject-matter. The Committee to which the draft instruments have been referred in accordance with paragraph 1, may ask the President of the Chamber to invite other Committees to formulate comments on the aspects falling within their areas of responsibility. If the President of the Chamber accepts the requests made pursuant to this paragraph, the said comments may be expressed within the following eight days, or within a different time limit laid down by the President.

5. The Committee responsible for the subject-matter shall express its opinion within the time limit laid down by the law in accordance with which said opinion was re-

quested or, failing this, within the time limit set out pursuant to Rule 143, paragraph 4. The opinion expressed, along with the comments formulated by the Budget Committee in accordance with paragraph 2, shall be communicated to the President of the Chamber, who shall transmit it to the Government.

CHAPTER XX CONSTITUTIONAL BILLS

RULE 97

1. In the first deliberation, as provided for in article 138 of the Constitution for constitutional bills or bills to amend the Constitution, the procedures laid down for ordinary bills shall apply.

2. After the first deliberation the bill shall be transmitted to the Senate.

3. If the bill is amended by the Senate, the Chamber shall reconsider it in accordance with paragraph 2 of Rule 70.

RULE 98

1. When a constitutional bill is transmitted by the Senate in the same text as the one already adopted by the Chamber, the period of three months, including periods of adjournment, which has to elapse before proceeding to the second deliberation, shall start from the date of the first deliberation of the Chamber.

RULE 99

1. For the purpose of the second deliberation, the relevant Committee shall reconsider the bill in its entirety and report to the Plenary.

2. During the debate in the Plenary, no preliminary or delaying questions shall be admitted; a short postponement only may be requested, on which the President shall decide without appeal.

3. After the debate on the general outline, the final vote on the bill shall be taken without a debate on the sections. No amendments, orders, or requests to set aside for separate consideration one or more of the provisions shall be admitted.

4. Explanations of vote shall be admitted.

RULE 100

1. The bill shall be approved if in the second voting it obtains an absolute majority of the members of the Chamber.

2. If the bill is approved by a majority of two thirds of the members of the Chamber, the President shall make express mention thereof in his or her message, for the purposes of the third paragraph of article 138 of the Constitution.

3. If the bill is rejected, the provisions of paragraph 2 of Rule 72 shall apply.

CHAPTER XXI

STATE BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS

RULE 101

1. For the consideration and approval of Government bills concerning the draft budget and final accounts the rules of Chapter XVII shall apply in so far as they are compatible with the provisions contained in Chapter XXVII.

CHAPTER XXII

PROCEDURES RELATING TO REGIONAL AFFAIRS

RULE 102

1. At the beginning of each Parliament the President of the Chamber, in agreement with the President of the Senate, shall appoint, upon designation by the Groups and following criteria of proportionality, the Deputies making up the Parliamentary Committee on Regional Affairs, provided for in the fourth paragraph of article 126 of the Constitution.

2. In cases where the Government raises before the Houses a substantive issue on a regional law for reasons of conflict of interest, the President of the Chamber, in agreement with the President of the Senate, shall transmit the issue to the Committee on Regional Affairs, inviting it to express its opinion within a time limit set out in the request. The President of the Chamber shall then refer the issue to the relevant Standing Committee, on whose conclusions the Plenary shall deliberate.

3. Bills containing provisions on the subject-matters indicated in article 117 of the Constitution and on those provided for by the special Regional statutes adopted with constitutional laws, or concerning the legislative or administrative activities of the Regions, shall also be transmitted to the Parliamentary Committee on Regional Affairs, which shall express its opinion within the time limits referred to in Rule 73, paragraph 2. This opinion shall be attached to the report that the relevant Committee shall present to the Plenary.

RULE 103

1. Government bills for the approval of or containing amendments to the statutes of the Regions enjoying ordi-

nary autonomy, shall be referred to the Committee on Constitutional Affairs which shall consider them in a reporting capacity.

2. For consideration of bills of approval, the rules of Chapter XVI on consideration in a reporting capacity shall apply, in so far as they are compatible with the provisions of this chapter.

RULE 104

1. The Committee on Constitutional Affairs shall meet with the participation of a representative of the Government and may decide to hold a hearing of representatives of a Regional Council, in order to acquire elements useful for a bill's consideration.

2. The Committee shall in any case report to the Plenary with a written report within a maximum time limit of one month from the date of referral. Once the said time limit has expired, the President of the Chamber shall enter the bill in the agenda of the Plenary.

3. At the end of the debate on the draft statute or amendment thereof the Committee shall, in its report to the Plenary, formulate a proposal for approval or a proposal for rejection. Amendments aimed at modifying the statute provisions submitted for approval, or amendments or orders aimed at setting conditions or time limits for the said approval, shall not be admissible.

4. If the Committee proposes that the draft statute or amendment thereof be rejected, the report for the Plenary shall contain a draft order in which the reasons for non-approval are illustrated.

RULE 105

1. A single debate shall be held in the Plenary on the Government bill of approval, on related statute provisions and on any orders of rejection.

2. Amendments aimed at modifying statute provisions submitted for approval, or amendments or orders aimed at setting conditions or time limits for the said approval, shall not be admitted.

3. When a Region has proposed a number of separate amendments to its statute, the Chamber shall apply to each and one of them the procedure provided for in the rules of this chapter.

RULE 106

1. At the end of the debate, any orders of rejection shall be voted upon by the Plenary in such a way as to establish the presence of a quorum, after voting has taken place on any proposed amendments to them.

2. If the orders of rejection are not approved, the Plenary shall subsequently deliberate on the Government bill for the approval of the statute.

3. If the Government bill of approval is rejected the provision of paragraph 2 of Rule 72 shall not apply.

CHAPTER XXIII

BILLS ALREADY CONSIDERED BY THE PREVIOUS PARLIAMENT

RULE 107

1. If in the six months immediately following the beginning of a new Parliament a bill is introduced which reproduces in full the text of a bill approved by the Chamber in the previous Parliament, the Plenary may, if it declares such bill to be urgent and at the request of the Government or of a Group Chairperson, set a time limit of fifteen days for a Committee to report.

2. Once the above-mentioned time limit has expired, the President shall enter the bill in the agenda of the Plenary or of a Committee acting in a legislative capacity, in accordance with paragraph 6 of Rule 25.

3. In the same six-month time limit from the beginning of the new Parliament, each Committee may deliberate, subject to a brief preliminary consideration, to report to the Plenary on any bills approved by the Committee itself acting in a reporting capacity during the previous Parliament, and to adopt the report presented at that time.

4. For bills initiated by citizens, the introduction provided for in paragraph 1 shall not be necessary. When such bills have been approved by the Chamber in the previous Parliament or have been considered in full at the Committee stage, if the Government or a Group Chairperson so requests, the provisions provided for in the preceding paragraphs shall apply; otherwise the bills shall be referred again to the Committees responsible for the subject-matter, following the ordinary procedure.

CHAPTER XXIV

FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

RULE 108

1. Decisions of the Constitutional Court shall be printed, distributed and sent to the Committee responsible for the subject-matter and, at the same time, to the Committee on Constitutional Affairs.

2. Within the time limit of thirty days, the relevant Committee shall examine the issue with the participation

of a representative of the Government and of one or more rapporteurs designated by the Committee on Constitutional Affairs.

3. The Committee shall express in a final document its opinion on the need for legislative initiatives and indicate the guiding principles thereof.

4. The document shall be printed and distributed and then communicated by the President of the Chamber to the President of the Senate, the President of the Council of Ministers and the President of the Constitutional Court.

5. If the agenda of the Committee already includes a bill on the same topic, or if one has been introduced in the meantime, they must be considered jointly, in which case paragraphs 3 and 4 shall not apply.

CHAPTER XXV PETITIONS

RULE 109

1. Petitions received by the Chamber, including in electronic format in accordance with the conditions determined by the Committee on the Rules of Procedure, shall be considered by the relevant Committees.

2. Consideration in Committee may be concluded with a resolution aimed at drawing the Government's attention to the requirements illustrated in the petition or with a decision to link the petition to a bill already entered in the agenda.

3. When a motion on one or more petitions is tabled, the text of the petition shall be printed and distributed together with the text of the motion in question.

PART THREE
**POLICY-SETTING, SCRUTINY AND FACT-FINDING
PROCEDURES**

CHAPTER XXVI
MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

RULE 110

1. A Group Chairperson or seven Deputies may table a motion having homogeneous content and, in the reasoned part, formulated according to principles of conciseness, essentiality and clarity, for the purpose of urging the Plenary to deliberate on a specific topic.

RULE 111

1. When the proposer of a motion so requests, the Plenary, having heard the Government and one speaker in favour and one against, shall set the date for the debate.

2. *Repealed*

RULE 112

1. Two or more motions relating to identical or connected topics may be the subject of a single debate.

2. In this case, if one or more motions are withdrawn, one of their signatories shall be given the floor immediately after the proposer of the motion on which the debate has been opened.

RULE 113

1. Consideration of each motion shall include the debate on the general outline and the debate on amendments.

2. The debate on the general outline shall take place with registrations to speak in accordance with Rule 36. The proposer of a motion shall have the right to reply.

3. Amendments shall be debated and voted upon separately, following the order of the clauses to which they refer.

4. If an amendment seeks to add or insert words, it shall be put to the vote before the main motion; if it seeks to delete words, a vote shall be taken on whether the clause should stand. If it seeks to substitute words, the clause which the amendment seeks to substitute shall be put to the vote first; if the clause stands, the amendment shall fall; if it is deleted, the amendment shall be put to the vote.

RULE 114

1. Amendments, including amendments seeking to add or insert words, shall as a rule be submitted in writing at least twenty-four hours before the debate on the motion to which they pertain; if they are signed by fourteen Deputies or by one or more Chairpersons of Groups that, separately or jointly, have at least the same numerical strength, they may also be submitted on the same day as the debate, provided that they are submitted at least one hour before the sitting begins.

2. Amendments to amendments may be submitted during the same sitting on condition that they have been signed by fourteen Deputies or by one or more Chairpersons of Groups that, separately or jointly, have at least the same numerical strength.

3. The Government may table amendments or amendments to amendments until voting on the motion begins.

4. *Repealed.*

5. The vote on a motion may be split if the proposers, the Government or a Group Chairperson so request and in any case if the first signatory consents thereto.

RULE 115

1. Motions of confidence in the Government shall state the reasons therefor and be voted by roll-call. Motions of no confidence shall also state the reasons therefor and be signed by at least one tenth of the members of the Chamber; they may not be debated until three days have elapsed from their tabling, and shall be voted by roll-call.

2. Split voting or the moving of orders shall not be permitted.

3. The same provisions shall apply to motions requesting the resignation of a Minister.

4. The President of the Chamber shall assess, in accepting the motions, whether, on the basis of the content of the latter, the provisions of paragraph 3 are applicable.

RULE 116

1. If the Government raises an issue of confidence in relation to the approval or rejection of amendments to sections of bills, the order of the statements and votes laid down in the Rules of Procedure shall not be changed.

2. If the Government raises an issue of confidence in relation to the upholding of a section, the section shall be voted upon after all the amendments submitted have been illustrated. If the Chamber votes in favour, the section shall be approved and all the amendments shall be considered as rejected. The same procedure shall be followed if an issue of confidence is raised in relation to an order, a motion or a resolution. If the bill consists of a

single section, the Government may raise an issue of confidence in relation to the section itself, without prejudice to the final vote on the bill.

3. An issue of confidence shall be voted upon by roll-call no sooner than twenty-four hours, unless the Groups reach a different agreement. One Deputy for each Group shall be entitled to give an explanation of vote. The President shall also give the floor to one Deputy for each of the political groupings established within the Mixed Group and to those Deputies who intend to express a vote different from the one declared by their Group, and shall lay down the conditions and time limits for statements.

4. An issue of confidence may not be raised in relation to proposals for parliamentary inquiries, amendments to the Rules and related points of interpretation or of order, requests for waiver of immunity and verification of credentials, appointments, personal references, disciplinary measures, and, in general, on any matters relating to the internal functioning of the Chamber or on any of those topics for which the Rules of Procedure prescribe voting by show of hands or by secret ballot.

RULE 117

1. Each Committee may vote, upon a proposal by one of its members, when dealing with affairs falling within its area of responsibility, for which it is not required to report to the Plenary, resolutions aimed at expressing orientations or defining guidelines on specific topics. A representative of the Government must be invited when the above subject-matters are debated.

2. In so far as they are applicable, the provisions on the moving of, debate on and voting of motions, as well as, for any preliminary fact-finding activities, the provisions of Rule 143, shall obtain.

3. At the end of the debate, the Government may request that a draft resolution not be put to the vote and that it be referred to the Plenary.

RULE 118

1. During debates in the Plenary on communications from the Government or on motions, each Deputy may table, within the time limit laid down by the President, having heard the Chairpersons of the Groups, a draft resolution, to be formulated in compliance with the criteria referred to in paragraph 1 of Rule 110, which shall be voted upon at the end of the debate. Rule 114, paragraph 5, shall apply.

CHAPTER XXVII

CONSIDERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT FINANCE BILL, THE BUDGET, THE ACCOUNTS, ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POLICY DOCUMENTS AND GOVERNMENT REPORTS

RULE 118-*bis*

1. The Economic and Financial Planning Document presented by the Government shall be considered by the Budget Committee, having heard the opinion of the other Standing Committees and the Parliamentary Committee on Regional Affairs, within the time limits set out by the President of the Chamber. The Budget Committee shall present a report to the Plenary. Minority reports may be presented.

2. The Chamber's deliberation on the planning document shall be based on a resolution, tabled during the debate, which may contain additions and amendments to the document itself. Approval of one resolution shall preclude the others. The resolution accepted by the

Government shall be voted upon first. The document must be entered in the agenda of the Plenary not more than thirty days from referral to the Committees and consideration of it must be completed within the maximum time limit of three days.

3. Before or during consideration of the Economic and Financial Planning Document the Budget Committee, jointly, as appropriate, with the corresponding Standing Committee of the Senate, shall take steps to acquire the necessary information. For this purpose the Committee shall deliberate, in agreement with the President of the Chamber, on a programme of hearings.

4. If so required by unforeseen events, the Government shall present to the Chamber, prior to the approval of the Government Finance bill and the Budget, a document containing a proposal to revise and update the objectives and rules contained in the document already approved. Consideration shall take place according to the provisions of paragraph 2, but must be concluded in any case within a maximum time limit of five days from presentation of the document, which can be extended, if the President of the Chamber deems it appropriate, for not more than five days. The debate in the Plenary shall be organised in such a way that one Deputy may speak for each Group. Time shall also be set aside for statements by one Deputy for each of the groupings, established within the Mixed Group, that have so requested, and by those Deputies who intend to express different positions from their respective Groups. If the Plenary has already begun to debate the Government Budget Bill and the Government Finance Bill, discussion shall be suspended and the document presented by the Government and the report by the Budget Committee shall be considered.

RULE 119

1. Consideration of the Government Finance bill and the Government bill to approve the State annual and multi-annual draft budget and any documents relating to the national economic policy and the management of public money, which are linked to the introduction of the above Government bills, shall take place during a special parliamentary budget session.

2. The session referred to in paragraph 1 shall last forty-five days from the date of actual distribution of the texts of the Government bills, the annexed schedules relating to the estimates for individual ministries and the report on forecasts and planning, when said bills are introduced by the Government in the Chamber. When they are introduced in the Senate, the budget session shall, without prejudice to paragraph 5 of Rule 120, last thirty-five days, starting from the date of actual distribution of the texts of any amendments made by the Senate.

3. Before the budget session begins, the Parliamentary Committees shall begin consideration of those individual estimates within the Government Budget bill for which they are each responsible, without voting, and shall act to obtain the necessary information. For this purpose, each Committee shall deliberate, in agreement with the President of the Chamber, on a programme of hearings. Following the same procedures, the Budget Committee shall also begin its general consideration of the Government Budget bill based on the current legislation.

4. During the budget session, all deliberations by the Plenary and the Committees acting in a legislative capacity, on bills involving new or increased expenditure or reduced revenue shall be suspended. Deliberations relating to the confirmation of decree-laws, to bills linked to the

measures contained in the Economic and Financial Planning Document approved by Parliament, as well as to bills authorising the ratification of international treaties and the transposition and implementation of regulatory instruments of the European Communities, where failure to do so promptly might result in non-compliance by the Italian State with international or Community obligations, may however be adopted. In such cases additional sittings may be envisaged for debate in the Plenary.

5. During the budget session, the Budget and Planning Committee shall consider, in order to express the opinions referred to in Rules 73, 74, 93 and 94, only those bills which may be approved pursuant to paragraph 4.

6. The business of the Plenary and the Committees during the budget session shall be planned in such a way as to allow consideration of the bills referred to in paragraph 1 to be completed within the set time limits avoiding, as a rule, simultaneous sittings of the Committees and the Plenary. During consideration by Committees of those parts of the Government Finance bill and individual estimates for which they are each responsible, all other legislative activities in the Committees shall be suspended. The Committees shall, however, be allowed to consider other bills when they have carried out in full the task assigned to them by paragraph 3 of Rule 120.

7. The debate in the Plenary must be completed during the budget session with the final votes on the Government Finance bill and on the Government bill for approval of the draft State budgets, including any adjustments resulting from the provisions contained in the Government Finance bill.

8. The Government bill for approval of the State general financial statement shall be considered, togeth-

er with the Government bill approving the review of the budget appropriations for the current year and with the documents referred to in Rule 149, not later than one month from the introduction of the said bills. Rules 120, paragraphs 1, 3 and 6, and Rules 121 and 123, paragraph 1, shall apply, without prejudice to the time limits for the expression of opinions and for the completion of consideration in a reporting capacity. The aforementioned time limits shall be laid down by the President of the Chamber in such a way as to enable the two Government bills to be finally approved in the set time limit.

RULE 120

1. The Government Finance bill and the Government bill on the draft State budgets shall be referred for general consideration to the Budget and Planning Committee, and to the Committees responsible for the subject-matter for consideration of the parts for which they are each responsible and of the individual estimates.

2. When the Government Finance bill is introduced in the Chamber, the President of the Chamber shall ascertain, before referral and for the purpose of applying the provisions of this chapter, that the Government bill does not contain provisions unrelated to its subject as defined by the current legislation on the State budget and accounting. In this case, the President of the Chamber shall inform the Plenary of the setting aside of the unrelated provisions for separate consideration, having heard the opinion of the Budget Committee.

3. Within the ten days following referral, each Committee shall consider jointly those parts of the Government Finance bill and Budget bill for which it is respon-

sible and shall approve a report and appoint a rapporteur who may take part in the sittings of the Budget and Planning Committee to be heard. Within the same time limit the minority reports presented at the Committee stage shall be transmitted. One proposer for each minority report may take part in the sittings of the Budget and Planning Committee to be heard.

4. Within the period referred to in paragraph 3, the Budget and Planning Committee shall act to commence consideration of the Government Finance and Budget bills, with the introductory presentations by the rapporteurs and the statements by the financial Ministers.

5. When the Government introduces the Finance bill and the budget in the Senate, the Committees responsible for the subject-matter shall begin consideration of the parts for which they are each responsible and of the individual estimates, without voting, before approval by the Senate.

6. When the time limit provided for in paragraph 3 has expired, the Budget and Planning Committee shall consider jointly, within the following fourteen days, the Government bills and related documents and shall approve the general report on the Government Finance bill and the budget. Minority reports may be presented within the same time limit. The reports by the other Committees responsible for the subject-matter shall be annexed to the general report.

7. Before the final voting on the Government Budget bill, the Budget Committee shall consider the draft Budget variation note presented by the Government, on an accruals and cash basis, following approval of the Government Finance bill. The variation note shall then be voted upon by the Plenary and any sections of the Gov-

ernment Budget bill and annexed schedules voted upon previously shall be considered as accordingly amended.

8. The Ministers responsible for the subject-matter shall take part in the sittings of the Committees devoted to consideration of the Government Finance and Budget bills. A verbatim report of these sittings shall be drawn up and published.

9. When the Government bills referred to in paragraph 1 have been approved by the Senate and transmitted to the Chamber, the time limit provided for in paragraph 3 shall be reduced to seven days.

RULE 121

1. Any amendments pertaining solely to individual parts of the Government Finance bill that fall within the area of responsibility of each Committee and involving relevant offsetting adjustments, and any amendments to the Government Budget bill that propose offsetting adjustments within individual estimates, shall be submitted in the Committee responsible for the subject-matter. Amendments involving non-offsetting adjustments may also be submitted and voted upon in the same Committee. The amendments approved shall be included in the report to be transmitted to the Budget Committee.

2. Amendments seeking to change the limit on net borrowing, the total amount of debt repayments and the limit on fund-raising on the financial markets, as laid down in the Government Finance bill, or the breakdown of expenditure among individual estimates, or the grand total of revenue and expenditure or the general summary, as well as all other amendments not envisaged in paragraph 1, shall be submitted to the Budget Committee which shall consider them, together with the amendments provided for in the preceding paragraphs, so as to

prepare its conclusions for the Plenary. If the Budget Committee does not accept the proposals of the Committees referred to in paragraph 1, it shall explain the reasons therefor in the report provided for in paragraph 6 of Rule 120.

3. Amendments submitted directly in the Budget Committee that modify the appropriations referred to each part of the special funds distribution tables shall be sent for an opinion to the relevant Committee, which shall deliver it within the following day or within a different time limit laid down by the President of the Chamber.

4. Amendments rejected at the Committee stage can be re-submitted in the Plenary, subject to the provisions of paragraph 5 of Rule 86.

5. Without prejudice to the provisions of Rule 89, the Chairpersons of the Committees responsible for the subject-matter and the Chairperson of the Budget Committee shall declare inadmissible any amendments and additional sections dealing with subject-matters that are unrelated to the subject of Finance and Budget laws, or do not comply with the criteria for the introduction of new or increased expenditure or lower revenue, as defined by the current legislation on the State budget and accounting and by the deliberations adopted pursuant to paragraph 2 of Rule 120. If any issues arise, the decision shall rest with the President of the Chamber pursuant to paragraph 2 of Rule 41. Amendments declared inadmissible at the Committee stage may not be re-submitted in the Plenary.

RULE 122

1. Orders shall be moved and debated before the Committees responsible for the subject-matter to which

they pertain. Those not accepted by the Government, or rejected at the Committee stage, may be re-submitted in the Plenary; they shall be put to the vote in the Plenary after the approval of the last section of the individual estimate to which they pertain.

2. Orders accepted by the Government or approved by the Committee responsible for the subject-matter shall be annexed to the report to be transmitted to the Budget and Planning Committee and then to the report presented by the latter to the Plenary.

3. No other orders may be moved in the Plenary, with the exception of those pertaining to the overall direction of the economic and financial policy, which shall be put to the vote after the general summary has been approved.

RULE 123

1. If the general report on the Government Finance bill and the budget is not presented by the Budget and Planning Committee within the prescribed time limit, the debate in the Plenary shall take place on the bills introduced by the Government, accompanied by the reports of the Committees responsible for the subject-matter.

2. The debate in the Plenary on the general outline of the Government Finance bill and the budget shall take place jointly and address the overall approach of the economic and financial policy and the state of implementation and further development of the national economic programme.

3. The Plenary shall proceed to consider, in this order, the sections of the Government Budget bill, beginning with the section approving the revenue estimate, then the sections of the Government Finance bill and then the final vote on the latter. Adjustments to the Government

Budget bill resulting from the provisions approved in the Government Finance bill shall then be considered, as envisaged by Rule 120, paragraph 7, and voted upon. The final vote on the Government Budget bill, as amended, will then be carried out. When the Government Finance and Budget bills have already been approved by the Senate, voting on the sections of the Government Budget bill shall not preclude voting on the Government Finance bill.

RULE 123-*bis*

1. Bills linked to the public finance measures, indicated in the Economic and Financial Planning Document, as approved by the resolution referred to in Rule 118-*bis*, paragraph 2, and which are introduced in Parliament within the time limit laid down by the law, shall be referred to the Committees acting in a legislative or in a reporting capacity. When one of the bills referred to in this Rule is introduced in the Chamber, the President shall ascertain, before referral, that the bill does not contain provisions unrelated to its subject, as defined by the current legislation on the State budget and accounting, as well as by the aforementioned resolution. The President, having heard the opinion of the Budget Committee, shall give notice to the Plenary of the setting aside of the unrelated provisions for separate consideration.

2. The Government may request that the Chamber deliberate on said bill within a set time limit, related to the deadlines pertaining to the package of financial measures as a whole.

3. The Conference of Group Chairpersons shall deliberate unanimously on the request formulated pursuant to paragraph 2. If unanimous agreement is not

reached, the Plenary shall decide on the proposals that the President of the Chamber, having taken due account of the prevailing orientations, is entitled to submit to it, setting aside, as a rule, three days for consideration of each bill in the Plenary.

3-bis. Without prejudice to the provisions of Rule 89, the Chairpersons of the Committees to which the bills related to the public finance measures are referred shall declare inadmissible amendments and additional sections that are unrelated to their subject, as defined in accordance with paragraph 1, or that are in conflict with the criteria for the introduction of new or increased expenditure or lower revenue, as defined by the current legislation on the State budget and accounting. If any issues arise, the decision shall rest with the President of the Chamber. Amendments and additional sections that have been declared inadmissible at the Committee stage may not be re-submitted in the Plenary.

4. Unless the Conference of Group Chairpersons adopts unanimously a different decision, consideration and voting of the bills referred to in paragraph 1 may not take place on the same days that the Government Finance and Budget bills are debated pursuant to paragraphs 7 and 8 of Rule 119.

RULE 124

1. Reports presented by the Government or by other public bodies and all other documents containing estimates and accounts shall be referred for consideration to the Committee responsible for the subject-matter.

2. The Committee shall appoint a rapporteur for each document and consider it in the period provided for in Rule 119 in the case of planning documents or documents

related to consideration of the budget and accounts, or, in all other cases, within the time limit of one month.

3. When consideration of the planning documents or documents related to consideration of the budget or accounts has been completed, the Committee shall present presented a report on each document, to be annexed to the report on the expenditure estimate or the final accounts. In all other cases the Committee shall vote a resolution in accordance with Rule 117.

CHAPTER XXVIII

PROCEDURES FOR LINKAGE WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF COMMUNITY AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES

RULE 125

1. Whenever the texts of resolutions of the European Parliament, or resolutions or recommendations approved by international assemblies in which delegations from the Chamber participate, are formally transmitted to the Chamber, the President shall, after arranging for them to be announced or read out to the Plenary, order that they be printed and referred to the Committees responsible for the subject-matter, and to the European Union Policies Committee and the Foreign and Community Affairs Committee for their opinions.

2. At the request of the Government, a Group representative or a member of the Chamber delegation, the relevant Committee shall open a debate on the document, restricted to one speaker per Group. If requested, the Chairperson shall also give the floor to one Deputy for each of the political groupings established within the Mixed Group, and shall lay down the conditions and time limits for statements. The debate may be concluded with the voting of a resolution in accordance with Rule 117.

RULE 126

1. The European Union Policies Committee shall have overall responsibility for the legal aspects of the activities and measures of the European Communities and the implementation of Community agreements.

2. The Committee shall express its opinion on bills and on draft Government regulatory instruments concerning the application of the treaties establishing the European Communities and subsequent amendments and additions; on bills and draft Government regulatory instruments relating to the implementation of Community rules and, in general, on all bills with respect to compatibility with Community legislation.

RULE 126-*bis*

1. The European Union Policies Committee and the Standing Committees may order that a debate be held, with the participation of the relevant Minister, in relation to proposals by the Commission of the European Communities, where the said proposals or specific subject-matters are to be included in the agenda of the Council of the European Communities, or on affairs relating to agreements on the Communities or activities of the latter or their bodies.

RULE 126-*ter*

1. The draft Community Law introduced by the Government and the annual report on the participation of Italy in the European Union legislative process shall be referred to the European Union Policies Committee for general consideration in a reporting capacity, and to the Committees responsible for the subject-matter for consideration of those parts for which they are each responsible.

2. Within the fifteen days following referral, each Committee shall consider those parts of the said draft Law for which it is responsible and shall conclude by adopting a report and appointing a rapporteur, who may take part in the sittings of the European Union Policies Committee to be heard. Any minority reports presented in the Committees shall be transmitted within the same time limit. One proposer for each minority report may take part in the sittings of the European Union Policies Committee to be heard. Within the same time limit of fifteen days, each Committee shall consider the parts of the annual report on the participation of Italy in the European Union legislative process that are related to its area of responsibility and conclude with the approval of an opinion. When the said time limit has elapsed, the European Union Policies Committee may proceed with its consideration of the draft Law and of the report.

3. After the time limit indicated in paragraph 2 has expired, the European Union Policies Committee shall conclude consideration of the draft Community Law within the following thirty days, and draw up a general report for the Plenary, with the annexed reports approved by the Committees referred to in paragraph 2. Within the same time limit, the Committee shall complete its consideration of the annual report on the participation of Italy in the European Union legislative process and draw up a general report for the Plenary, with the annexed reports approved by the Committees referred to in paragraph 2.

4. Without prejudice to the provisions of Rule 89, the Chairpersons of the Committees responsible for the subject-matter and the Chairperson of the European Union Policies Committee shall declare amendments and additional sections that are unrelated to the subject of the draft Community Law, as defined by the current legislation, to be inadmissible. If any issues arise, the decision

shall rest with the President of the Chamber. Amendments that have been declared inadmissible at the Committee stage may not be re-submitted in the Plenary.

5. Any amendments approved by individual Committees shall be included in the report referred to in paragraph 2, and shall be considered as accepted by the European Union Policies Committee unless it rejects them for reasons of incompatibility with Community legislation or for general co-ordination requirements.

6. The debate on the general outline of the draft Community Law shall take place in the Plenary in conjunction with the debate on the annual report on the participation of Italy in the European Union legislative process. Resolutions on the annual report may be tabled before the end of this debate, pursuant to Rule 118.

7. After the final vote on the draft Community Law, the Plenary shall deliberate on the resolutions that may have been tabled in accordance with paragraph 6. The resolution accepted by the Government shall be put to the vote first.

RULE 127

1. As soon as they have been published in the Official Journal of the European Communities, any regulatory instruments issued by the Council of Ministers or the Commission of the European Communities, or the drafts of such instruments, shall be referred for consideration to the Committee responsible for the subject-matter, with the opinion of the European Union Policies Committee.

2. Within the time limit of thirty days, the relevant Committees shall consider the regulatory instruments in question and may express in a final document their own opinion on the appropriateness of any possible initiatives. The document shall be printed and distributed and

shall be transmitted by the President of the Chamber to the President of the Senate and the President of the Council of Ministers.

RULE 127-*bis*

1. Rulings by the Court of Justice of the European Communities shall be printed, distributed and sent to the Committee responsible for the subject-matter and to the European Union Policies Committee.

2. Within the time limit of thirty days, the relevant Committee shall consider the issue with the participation of a representative of the Government and of a rapporteur designated by the European Union Policies Committee.

3. The Committee shall express in a final document its opinion on the need for legislative initiatives or steps to be undertaken by the national authorities, and shall indicate the guiding principles thereof.

4. The document shall be printed and distributed and shall be communicated by the President of the Chamber to the President of the Senate and the President of the Council of Ministers.

5. If a bill on the same topic is already on the Committee's agenda, or if one has been introduced in the meantime, they shall be considered jointly and in this case paragraphs 3 and 4 shall not apply.

RULE 127-*ter*

1. On issues for which they have responsibility, and subject to agreement with the President of the Chamber, the Committees may invite members of the European Parliament to provide information on aspects concerning the powers and activities of the institutions of the European Union.

2. Subject to agreement with the President of the Chamber, the Committees may invite members of the European Commission to provide information on the European Union's policies on those subject-matters for which they have responsibility.

CHAPTER XXIX PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

RULE 128

1. Deputies shall move parliamentary questions to the President of the Chamber.

2. A parliamentary question shall consist of a simple question, in writing, as to whether a fact is true or not, whether the Government has received information on a fact and whether such information is accurate, whether the Government intends to communicate documents or statements to the Chamber, or whether it has adopted, or is about to do so, measures on a given subject.

RULE 129

1. Questions shall be published in the official report of the sitting in which they are announced.

2. Two weeks after they have been moved, questions shall be entered as the first agenda item of the first sitting in which time has been allotted to questions.

3. Not more than two questions moved by the same Deputy may be included in the agenda of any one sitting.

RULE 130

1. At least the first forty minutes of each sitting shall be allotted to questions, unless the agenda is entirely reserved for other topics.

2. Once the time limit indicated in paragraph 1 has elapsed, the President shall defer until the following sitting any questions that have not been debated.

RULE 131

1. The Government may declare that it cannot reply to a question, indicating the reason therefor. If it declares that it has to defer the answer, it shall specify a day, within the time limit of one month, on which it is prepared to reply.

2. If the mover of the question is not present when the Government is about to reply, the question shall be considered as withdrawn.

RULE 132

1. After the Government has answered each question the mover thereof may reply to declare if he or she is satisfied or not.

2. Time allowed to the mover of a question for reply may not exceed five minutes.

RULE 133

1. When moving a question, a Deputy may declare that he or she wishes that the question be answered in Committee.

2. In this case the President of the Chamber shall transmit the question to the Chairperson of the Committee responsible for the subject-matter and shall give notice to the Government thereof.

3. The question shall be entered in the agenda of the first sitting of the Committee, once the time limit of fifteen days has elapsed from the date of submission. The provisions of Rules 131 and 132 shall apply.

4. Notice shall be given in the Bulletin of all Parliamentary Committees of any debated questions.

RULE 134

1. When moving a question, or subsequent to this, a Deputy may declare that he or she wishes to receive a written answer. In this case the Government shall give its answer within twenty days and communicate it to the President of the Chamber. Said answer shall be included in the verbatim report of the sitting in which it is announced to the Chamber.

2. If the Government does not convey its answer within the time limit provided for in paragraph 1, the President of the Chamber, at the request of the mover of the question, shall enter the question itself in the agenda of the next sitting of the relevant Committee.

RULE 135

1. When the Government recognises that a question is urgent, it may reply immediately or at the beginning of the next sitting.

2. The mover of the question shall always have the right of reply in accordance with Rule 132.

RULE 135-*bis*

1. Questions moved for immediate answer shall be debated once a week, usually on Wednesdays. At sittings devoted to debate on questions moved for immediate answer, within the framework of each order of business, the President or the Vice-President of the Council of Ministers shall speak twice and the Minister or Ministers responsible for the subject-matters covered by the questions moved shall speak once.

2. No later than 12 o'clock of the day preceding the one in which the questions referred to in paragraph 1 are to be debated, one Deputy for each Group may move a

question through the Chairperson of the Group to which he or she belongs.

3. The parliamentary questions referred to in paragraph 1 shall consist of one single question, formulated in a clear and concise manner on a topic of general importance, characterised by urgency or particular political relevance. When questions are to be answered by the President or Vice-President of the Council of Ministers, the topics of the questions submitted shall fall within the area of responsibility of the President of the Council of Ministers as defined by article 95, first paragraph, of the Constitution. In other cases, the President of the Chamber shall invite the Minister or Ministers responsible for the subject-matters on which the highest number of questions have been submitted: groups that have submitted questions on different subject-matters may submit others, addressed to the Ministers invited to reply, within an appropriate time limit as laid down by the President of the Chamber.

4. The mover of each question shall be entitled to illustrate it for no longer than one minute. A representative of the Government shall reply to each of the questions submitted, for no longer than three minutes. After this, the mover of a question or another Deputy from the same Group shall have the right to reply, for no longer than two minutes.

5. The President of the Chamber shall order the televised broadcasting of the debate on the questions referred to in this Rule.

6. The powers attributed to the President by Rules 139 and 139-*bis* shall remain unchanged.

7. Questions debated following the procedure referred to in this Rule may not be moved again as ordinary questions.

RULE 135-*ter*

1. Questions moved for immediate answer in a Committee shall be debated twice a month, usually on Thursdays.

2. No later than 12 o'clock of the day preceding the one in which the questions referred to in paragraph 1 are to be debated, one Committee member for each Group may move a question through the representative of the Group to which he or she belongs. The Chairperson of the Committee shall then invite the relevant Minister or Under-Secretary of State to reply.

3. The parliamentary questions referred to in paragraph 1 shall consist of one single question, formulated in a clear and concise manner, on a topic falling within the Committee's area of responsibility, characterised by urgency or particular political relevance.

4. The mover of each question shall be entitled to illustrate it for no longer than one minute. The Minister shall reply to each of the questions moved, for no longer than three minutes. After this the mover of a question or another Deputy from the same Group shall have the right to reply, for no longer than two minutes.

5. The debate on the questions referred to in this Rule shall be broadcast by a closed circuit audio-visual system.

6. Questions debated following the procedure referred to in this Rule may not be moved again as ordinary questions.

CHAPTER XXX
INTERPELLATIONS

RULE 136

1. Deputies shall submit interpellations to the President of the Chamber.

2. An interpellation shall consist of a question, in writing, concerning the reasons and intentions behind the Government's conduct on issues regarding some aspects of its policy.

RULE 137

1. Interpellations shall be published in the report of the sitting in which they are announced.

2. Two weeks after they have been submitted, interpellations shall be entered in the agenda of the sitting scheduled to take place on the first Monday to follow.

3. Not more than two interpellations submitted by the same Deputy may be entered in the agenda of any one sitting.

4. Before the time limit provided for in paragraph 2 has expired, or on the day set for the interpellation, the Government may declare that it cannot reply, indicating the reason therefor, or that it wishes to defer the reply to another date within the following two weeks, unless the author of the interpellation allows a longer postponement. In the case of a request for postponement or in cases of urgency, the author may ask the Plenary to schedule the interpellation for a day which he or she proposes.

RULE 138

1. Anyone who has submitted an interpellation shall have the right to speak to it for no longer than fifteen minutes and, after the statements of the Government, to explain for no longer than ten minutes the reasons for which he or she is, or is not, satisfied. The President may allow the questioners more time if the issue is of outstanding political importance.

2. If the author of an interpellation is not satisfied or intends to promote a debate on the explanations given by the Government, he or she may table a motion to this effect.

RULE 138-*bis*

1. The Chairpersons of the Parliamentary Groups, on behalf of their respective Groups, or not less than twenty Deputies may submit urgent interpellations. Each Group Chairperson may sign not more than two urgent interpellations for each month of parliamentary business; each Deputy may sign not more than one for the same period.

2. Urgent interpellations, submitted pursuant to this Rule no later than the previous Tuesday's sitting, shall normally be debated each week, during the Thursday morning sitting.

3. The urgent interpellations referred to in this Rule shall be debated in accordance with Rule 138.

CHAPTER XXXI

PROVISIONS COMMON TO MOTIONS,
INTERPELLATIONS AND QUESTIONS

RULE 139

1. For the submission of motions, interpellations and questions, the provisions of Rule 89 shall obtain, in so far as they are applicable.

2. Questions, interpellations and motions shall be debated separately from all other discussions, with the exception of debates relating to planning, the budget and parliamentary inquiries.

3. The President may order, according to his or her indisputable judgement, that questions and interpellations regarding identical or closely connected topics be grouped together and debated at the same time.

4. Whenever a single debate is held on one or more interpellations and motions, the motions shall take precedence over the interpellations. Questioners shall be registered to speak immediately after the proposers of motions.

RULE 139-*bis*

1. For the purpose of publication of motions, interpellations and questions, the President shall verify that the content thereof is consistent with the type of instrument tabled as provided for in Rules 110, 128 and 136; where necessary, he or she shall arrange for the instrument to be titled correctly and shall inform its mover. The President shall also evaluate the admissibility of these instruments with regard to consistency among their different parts, to the competence and related responsibility of the Government to Parliament, as well as to the protection of the privacy and the honour of individuals and the prestige of the institutions. Instruments containing unparliamentary language shall not under any circumstances be published.

2. The provisions referred to in paragraph 1 shall also apply, in so far as they are compatible, to other instruments initiated in Parliament.

CHAPTER XXXII PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

RULE 140

1. Proposals for parliamentary inquiries shall follow the procedures provided for bills.

RULE 141

1. When the Chamber decides to carry out an inquiry, a relevant Committee shall be established in such a way

that its composition shall reflect the proportions of the Parliamentary Groups. The Chamber may delegate the establishment of the Committee to the President.

2. A Committee of inquiry shall carry out its investigations and examinations with the same powers and limitations as the judicial authorities.

3. If the Senate also deliberates to carry out an inquiry into the same subject-matter, the Committees of the two Houses may decide to proceed jointly.

RULE 142

1. When a Committee of inquiry deems it appropriate to travel or send one or more of its members outside the parliamentary premises, it shall inform the President of the Chamber thereof before deliberating on the matter.

CHAPTER XXXIII

PROCEDURES FOR INVESTIGATION, FACT-FINDING AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES IN COMMITTEE

RULE 143

1. The Committees shall present to the Plenary reports and proposals on subject-matters within their areas of responsibility that they consider to be appropriate or that have been requested by the Chamber and shall, to this effect, at the request also of a representative of a Group, seek information, statements and documents directly from the relevant Ministers.

2. They shall also be entitled to request the participation of Ministers to seek clarifications on administrative and political issues relating to the subject-matter for which they are individually responsible and, subject to agreement with the President of the Chamber, shall also be entitled to re-

quest that the relevant Ministers arrange for the participation of officials from the public administration and public entities, including those with autonomous organisation.

3. They may also ask representatives of the Government to report, including in writing, on the implementation of laws and the follow-up on motions, resolutions and orders approved by the Chamber or accepted by the Government.

4. In cases where the Government is required by law to seek a parliamentary opinion in relation to instruments that lie within its area of responsibility, the President of the Chamber shall refer the request to the Committee responsible for the subject-matter, and give notice to the Plenary thereof at the first sitting after it has been submitted. During periods of adjournment of the Chamber, the President of the Chamber may postpone the referral of the request for an opinion, having taken into account the time limit provided for by law for the adoption of the instrument by the Government. If the relevant Committee is a bicameral Committee, the President of the Chamber shall proceed in agreement with the President of the Senate. In relation to acts of appointment, proposal or designation, the Committee shall deliberate its opinion within the time limit of twenty days of referral, which may be extended once only, for no longer than ten days, by the President of the Chamber. Should the request concern acts of a different nature, the President of the Chamber may, having evaluated their complexity and the circumstances and in agreement with the President of the Senate, set a longer time limit. The opinion shall be communicated to the President of the Chamber, who shall then transmit it to the Government.

RULE 144

1. Subject to agreement with the President of the Chamber, the Committees may decide to carry out, for

subject-matters within their areas of responsibility, fact-finding investigations aimed at acquiring statements, information and documents that are deemed useful for the activities of the Chamber.

2. At sittings devoted to the said investigations, the Committees may invite any person in a position to provide useful information for the purposes of the investigation.

3. An investigation shall be concluded with the adoption of a document stating its findings.

4. In addition to the minutes of proceedings of the sittings of Committees, a verbatim report shall also be drawn up, unless a Committee decides otherwise.

5. If the Senate of the Republic has also ordered an investigation into the same subject-matter, the President of the Chamber may seek an agreement with the President of the Senate so that the Committees of the two Houses of Parliament may proceed jointly.

RULE 145

1. The Plenary and the Committees may request that the President of the Chamber, through the Government, invite the National Institute of Statistics to carry out surveys, analyses and statistical studies, having first defined the nature and purpose thereof.

2. The results of these surveys, analyses and studies shall be printed as soon as they have been transmitted by the National Institute of Statistics.

CHAPTER XXXIV

RELATIONS WITH THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE ECONOMY AND LABOUR

RULE 146

1. The Plenary and the Committees acting in a legislative capacity, before the debate on the general outline has

been concluded, and the Committees acting in a reporting capacity, before a mandate for the preparation of the report for the Plenary is conferred, may request that the President of the Chamber invite the National Council for the Economy and Labour to express its opinion on the subject of the debate.

2. The President of the Chamber shall set the time limit within which the opinion must be given and shall be entitled to grant an extension.

3. The opinion of the National Council for the Economy and Labour shall be published in the verbatim report, if it is be entitled for the Plenary or a Committee acting in a legislative capacity, and shall be annexed to the report for the Plenary, if it is expressed for a Committee in a reporting capacity.

RULE 147

1. *Repealed.*

2. The Plenary and the Committees may request that the President of the Chamber invite the National Council for the Economy and Labour to carry out studies and surveys, having first defined the nature and purpose thereof. The results of these studies and surveys shall be printed and distributed as soon as they have been transmitted by the National Council for the Economy and Labour.

CHAPTER XXXV

RELATIONS WITH THE COURT OF AUDITORS

RULE 148

1. The Chairperson of a Committee, in relation to the subject-matter for which the latter is responsible, or a

Group Chairperson may, through the President of the Chamber, send a request to the Court of Auditors for information, clarifications and documents, within the limits of the powers attributed to it by the current legislation.

RULE 149

1. The reports sent to Parliament by the Court of Auditors on the management of those entities to which the State provides ordinary funding, shall be sent for consideration to the Committee responsible for the subject-matter.

2. At the request of one fifth of its members or one of its Sub-Committees, the Committee may, through the President of the Chamber, invite the Court of Auditors to provide further information and opinions.

3. For each of the aforementioned entities, the Committee shall present a document which it shall attach to its opinion on the final accounts, and may also vote a resolution in accordance with Rule 117.

RULE 150

1. Decrees registered with reservations, which are transmitted to Parliament by the Court of Auditors, shall be referred immediately to the Committee responsible for the subject-matter, which shall act to consider them within one month of referral and shall also hear the Minister who has requested that they be registered with reservations.

2. The Committee may also ask the Court of Auditors, through the President of the Chamber, for further information and opinions.

3. The Committee may conclude its consideration by voting on a resolution in accordance with Rule 117.

PART FOUR
FINAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER XXXVI
COMING INTO FORCE

RULE 151

1. These Rules of Procedure shall come into force sixty days after publication in the Official Journal of the Republic.

RULE 152

1. The amendments to Rules 36, 39, 40, 41, 44, 45, 73, 83, 85, 86, 88, 94, and 115 of these Rules of Procedure, approved by the Chamber in the sittings of 7 May and 26 June 1986, shall come into force thirty days after their publication in the Official Journal of the Republic.

RULE 153

1. The amendments to Rules 5, 19, 22, 73, 75, 92, 93, 94 and 96 of these Rules of Procedure shall come into force from the day of their publication in the Official Journal of the Republic.

RULE 153-*bis*

1. The amendments to Rules 23, 24, 25, 40, 44, 65, 69, 79, 81, 82, 83, 85, 86, 87, 94, 96-*bis*, 107 and 154, the repeal of Rules 25-*bis* and 84 and the provisions of Rules 16-*bis* and 85-*bis*, approved by the Chamber in the sitting of 24 September 1997, shall come into force on 1 January 1998.

RULE 153-*ter*

1. The amendments approved by the Chamber on 7 July 2009 shall come into force on the day following their publication in the Official Journal of the Republic.

RULE 153-*quater*

1. The amendments to Rule 15 and the provisions of Rule 15-*ter* shall come into force as soon as the Bureau that is in office at the date of their approval adopts the deliberations necessary to ensure their application, and in any case no later than the beginning of the 17th Parliament.

RULE 153-*quinquies*

1. The amendments to the Rules of Procedure approved by the Chamber on 30 November 2022 shall come into force on 1 January 2023, except for the amendments to Rules 13, paragraph 2, 14, paragraphs 1, 2 and 5, 17, paragraph 1, and 18, paragraph 1, which shall come into force as of the 20th Parliament.

RULE 153-*sexies*

1. The amendments to the Rules of Procedure approved by the Chamber on 16 October 2024 shall come into force on 1 January 2025.

TRANSITIONAL PROVISION

RULE 154

1. On a transitional basis the provisions referred to in paragraphs 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 of Rule 24 shall not apply to the procedure for the confirmation of decree-laws; Government bills confirming decree-laws shall be entered in the programme and in the order of business, taking into account the criteria referred to in paragraph 3 of Rule 24, and shall be considered as provided for in Rules 81, 85, 85-*bis* and 96-*bis* in particular.

2. On a transitional basis, and until new provisions regulating issues of confidence are approved, if an issue of confidence is raised by the Government while a bill is

being considered, the timescale provided for by the current order of business shall be suspended, unless the Groups agree otherwise, and shall be reinstated after the vote on the issue itself has been carried out.

3. The provisions of Rule 24 in the text in force on 31 December 1997 shall apply to debates on constitutional bills provided for by Constitutional Law No. 1 of 24 January 1997.

4. The Committee on the Rules of Procedure shall present to the Plenary, no later than 31 January 1999, a report on the implementation of the reform of the legislative procedure.

4-*bis*. The Committee on the Rules of Procedure and the Committee on Legislation shall present jointly, no later than 31 December 2000, a report on the implementation of Rules 16-*bis*, paragraph 6-*bis*, and 96-*ter*.

5. The Special Committee for Community Policies set up in the 13th Parliament shall be named European Union Policies Committee. Until the Committees are first re-newed pursuant to Rule 20, paragraph 5, the prohibition referred to in the first sentence of paragraph 3 of Rule 19 shall not apply.

6. The provisions of Rule 102, paragraph 3, shall apply to bills after referral as of the date on which the said provisions come into force.

7. The provision referred to in Rule 5, paragraph 7, shall not apply to Secretaries elected prior to the date on which the said provision comes into force.

8. On a transitional basis, until the regulation referred to in Rule 12, paragraph 6, comes into force, the appeals mentioned in Rule 12, paragraph 3, letter *f*) shall be defined on the basis of the provisions of the regulations on judicial protection in force on the date of entry into force of the amendment to paragraph 6 of Rule 12.

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