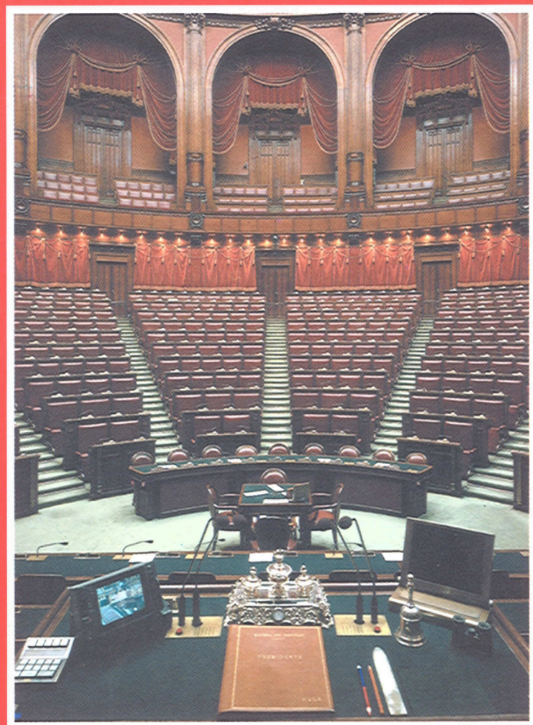


Republic of Italy

# RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES



*15 December 2001*



**CAMERA DEI DEPUTATI**

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 27 July 1999*



**SEGRETERIA GENERALE**  
15 December 2001

*Coordination and editing by the Interpreters-Translators Unit  
of the Chamber of Deputies*

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# RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES (\*)

## PART ONE ORGANISATION AND PROCEEDINGS 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 House shall be presided over by the most senior Vice-President, by election, of the preceding Parliament. When none of these is present, Vice-Presidents from previous Parliaments shall be considered. In their absence, the House 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 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 27 July 1999.

### 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 a provisional Elections Committee to carry out the necessary checks. The Committee shall be composed of those deputies present at the first sitting who were members of the Committee on Elections of the previous Parliament. If there are less than twelve such deputies, the President shall draw lots until the set number has been reached. The chairmanship of the provisional Committee shall be assigned according to the criteria set out in paragraph 1 of Rule 2; the youngest deputy of those sitting on the provisional Committee shall act as secretary.

## CHAPTER II THE PRESIDENT, THE BUREAU AND THE CONFERENCE OF GROUP CHAIRPERSONS

### RULE 4

1. Once the requirements of the preceding Rules have been met, the House shall elect its President.

2. The election of the President shall be by secret ballot and shall require a majority of two thirds of the members of the House. The second ballot shall require

two thirds of the votes, including blank 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 considered elected.

3. All Parliamentary Groups existing at the time of the election of the Bureau 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 in accordance with paragraph 2, a corresponding number of Secretaries shall be elected in a subsequent sitting, the date of which is set by the President of the Chamber.

5. Parliamentary Groups which are formed after the election of the Bureau, in accordance with paragraph 2, and which are not already represented in it and Groups which, owing to 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 under paragraphs 4 and 5.

Deputies may write one name only on their 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 is not permitted.

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

8. Should members of the Bureau, elected under paragraph 2, lose their 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 takes place separately for the substitution of Vice-Presidents, Quaestors and Secretaries, deputies may write one name only on their ballot paper if the members of the Bureau to be elected are no more than two. If more than two Bureau members are to be elected Rule 56, paragraph 1, is applied. Those who obtain the highest number of votes are elected.

9. Should members of the Bureau elected under paragraphs 4 and 5 lose their office, for any reason, the Groups which are no longer represented in the Bureau may request a new election 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. The President shall ensure that parliamentary business is properly conducted, by seeing that the Rules are observed, and that the internal administration is carried out efficiently. For this purpose he or she shall oversee the functions attributed to the Quaestors and the Secretaries.

2. Under the Rules, the President shall give the floor, direct and moderate debates, maintain order, propose questions, 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 by the President 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 efficient administration of the Chamber, and shall ensure that the relevant regulations and the directives issued by the President are complied with.

2. They shall supervise the expenditure of the Chamber and draw up the budget and the accounts.

They shall also supervise matters of House protocol and the upholding of order in the Chamber premises in accordance with the instructions laid down by the President.

#### RULE 11

1. The Secretaries shall supervise the drafting of the minutes of proceedings, which shall mention only the decisions 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 signed up 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 fashion; they shall record individual votes when required; they shall ensure that the verbatim reports are published within the time 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 budget and the accounts of the Chamber as drawn up by the Quaestors; it shall decide on appeals concerning the formation 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 premises;

*b)* the internal administration and accounting;

*c)* the organisation of the Chamber departments and the tasks assigned to them, that 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 persons who are not employees of 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 issues mentioned in letter *d)* above and appeals and any acts of impugment, including those presented by persons who are not employees of 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 decisions adopted by the Bureau pursuant to paragraphs 3 and 4 shall be made enforceable by decrees issued by the President of the Chamber.

6. The Bureau shall make the final decision on the appeals referred to in letter *f)* of paragraph 3.

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 House.

### 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 House and the Committees. The President shall always inform the Government of the day and time of the meeting so that it may send its representative.

2. The Vice-Presidents of the House and the Chairpersons of the Parliamentary Committees may be invited to the Conference. When so required by the exceptional importance of the matters to be examined, the President may also invite one representative of each of the political groupings – consisting at least of ten deputies – within the Mixed Group to take part, and one representative of the deputies belonging to the linguistic minorities, as set out in paragraph 5 of Rule 14. For deliberations concerning the organisation of business, as set out 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

1. A minimum 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 list of candidates, under the same emblem and in at least twenty constituencies, and has 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 required by 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. These deputies must 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 candidates in the single-member constituencies. Not less than three deputies belonging to linguistic minorities protected by the Constitution and identified by the law may also form a single political grouping within the Mixed Group. These deputies must have been elected in areas in which these minorities are protected, from – or in connection with – lists which reflect these minorities.

#### RULE 15

1. Within four days of the first sitting, the President of the Chamber shall convene, simultaneously but sep-

arately, the deputies belonging to each Parliamentary Group and those to be enlisted in the Mixed Group.

2. At its first meeting each Group shall appoint a Chairperson, one or more Vice-Chairpersons and an executive 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 the Chairperson by the Rules. The President of the Chamber shall be informed of the composition of these bodies, and of any subsequent changes to them.

3. The President of the Chamber shall ensure that premises and equipment are made available to enable the Parliamentary Groups to carry out their functions and shall allocate funds to them, charged to the Chamber budget, taking into account the basic requirements common to all Groups and the numerical size of the Groups themselves. As for the resources to be allocated to the Mixed Group, the number and size of the political groupings therein established shall be taken into account, so that they may be distributed among the groupings on the basis of their numerical size and the basic requirements common to all groupings.

#### RULE 15-*bis*

1. The steering bodies of the Mixed Group shall be formed on the basis of the terms and conditions set out in Rule 15. Their composition 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 shall make decisions taking into account, in proportional

terms, the numerical size of the political groupings therein established. If one of the political groupings in the Group considers that one of its fundamental political rights has been undermined by a decision taken in breach of the above criterion, it may appeal against this decision 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 question to the Bureau.

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 set up. 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. Proposals on the Rules, opinions on questions of interpretation of the Rules and the settlement of conflicts of jurisdiction between Committees, in the cases provided for in paragraph 4 of Rule 72 and paragraph 4 of Rule 93, shall be submitted for consideration to the Committee on the Rules.

3. The Committee shall lay before the House those amendments and additions to the Rules which experience shows to be necessary.



*3-bis.* The Committee's proposal shall be discussed according to the provisions in Chapter VIII. During the debate each deputy may submit a proposal containing principles and criteria for re-formulating the Committee's text. At the end of the debate the proposals may be defended for not more than ten minutes each and shall be put to the vote after explanations of vote by one deputy per Group speaking not more than five minutes each. The President shall give the floor to those deputies who intend to cast a vote different from that declared by their respective Groups, and shall lay down the conditions and time limits for doing so. Requests for split votes shall be admitted in relation to individual principles and criteria.

*3-ter.* Should all the proposals containing principles and criteria be rejected, a vote shall be taken on the Committee's proposal, after the explanations of vote have been made. Where one or more than one of these proposals have been approved, the Committee shall present a new text which incorporates the principles and criteria approved by the House. When a Group Chairperson or twenty deputies dissent over the way in which the decisions of the House have been incorporated, they may submit proposals to replace the Committee's text with a view to ensuring compliance with the principles and criteria approved. Rule 89 is applicable with respect to the admissibility of the proposals.

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 described in paragraph *3-ter*, beginning with the proposals that come closest to the Committee's text. One deputy per

Group shall be allowed to give an explanation of vote. Split voting 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 when the majority laid down in article 64 of the Constitution is required.

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

#### RULE 16-*bis*

1. The Committee on Legislation shall be composed of ten deputies, selected 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 its members in turn, with each turn lasting six months.

3. The Committee on Legislation shall express its opinion to the other Committees on the bills the latter are considering, in accordance with paragraph 4. The opinion must be expressed before the deadline in paragraph 2 of Rule 73, starting from the day the request was formulated by the appropriate 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 the bills to the Committee on Legislation so that it may express an opinion on the quality of the texts, with regard to their homogeneity, simplicity, clarity and correctness of wording, and to their effectiveness in simplifying and reorganis-

ing the legislation currently in force. 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 a time frame that is compatible with the programme and the order of business of both the Committee and the House with respect to the relevant bill, and should not in any case cause any changes to the order of business of the House or the Standing Committee. Once consideration has been completed, the Committee on Legislation shall express its opinion based on the criteria and technical requirements laid down in the Constitution, constitutional laws, the legislation in force and the Rules of Procedure.

5. The opinion delivered by the Committee on Legislation to the Committees acting in a reporting capacity shall be printed and annexed to the report for the House. If one or more members of the Committee on Legislation have expressed different 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 set out in their report for the House. 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 delegated legislation bills or bills that transfer matters previously governed by law to the regulatory power of the Government or of other subjects 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 pre-legislative

scrutiny and consultation laid down in Rule 79, paragraph 2. The Committee on Legislation shall give its opinion in accordance with paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 and with the effects set out in paragraph 6.

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

#### RULE 17

1. The Committee on Elections shall be composed of thirty deputies, appointed by the President of the Chamber once the Parliamentary Groups have been established. It shall report to the House, 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 envisaged by the law. It shall also 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 internal rules which, after being examined by the Committee on the Rules of Procedure, must be approved by the Chamber as laid down in paragraph 4 of Rule 16. In proceedings before the Committee on Elections the participation of the parties involved must be ensured at every stage and, when the decision on the challenged election is being made, the publicity of the proceedings must be guaranteed.

3. The deputies forming the Committee on Elections may not refuse the appointment or resign; if any resignations are handed in, the President of the Cham-

ber shall not convey them to the House. Those deputies who are called to be members of the Government or to chair a parliamentary body may, at their own request, be substituted.

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 take the appropriate measures 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 House shall not vote and the proposal shall be taken as approved, unless twenty deputies ask, before the debate is closed and tabling a reasoned order, for the Committee to carry out further checks. If the House rejects the motion, the Committee's proposal shall be taken as approved.

2. The President of the Chamber shall inform the House, 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 Waiver of Immunity, provided for in 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 House, within thirty days from the notice received from the President of the Chamber, on requests to waive parliamentary immunity and on measures restricting the deputies' personal liberty and freedom of domicile. For each case the Committee shall submit its proposal, accompanied by a report, to grant or deny the waiver. Before taking its decisions, the Committee shall invite the deputy concerned to provide any clarification he or she may consider appropriate.

2. When the deadline provided for in paragraph 1 has expired 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 first item in the agenda of the second sitting following the one in which the deadline expired.

*2-bis.* Until the debate in the House is completed, twenty deputies may formulate reasoned proposals that differ from the conclusions of the Committee. If the Committee has proposed that waiver be granted and no proposals to the contrary have been formulated, the House shall not vote and shall take as approved the conclusions of the Committee. The House shall always be called to deliberate on requests for waiver relating to measures that restrict personal liberty or freedom of domicile in any way.

3. The same procedure outlined in the preceding paragraphs shall apply when the request for waiver of

immunity concerns cases of contempt of Parliament. In such cases the Committee may charge one or more of its members to make a preliminary consideration, together with designated members of the appropriate Senate Committee.

4. At its first meeting the Committee shall elect a Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons and three Secretaries. It shall exercise its duties on the basis of internal rules which, after being examined by the Committee on the Rules of Procedure, must be approved by the Chamber in accordance with the provisions of 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 laid down by Constitutional Law No. 1 of 16 January 1989.

#### RULE 18-*ter*

1. The Committee referred to in Rule 18 shall submit a report to the House on requests to proceed with criminal prosecution for the offences mentioned in article 96 of the Constitution within the set and unalterable period of thirty days from the transmission of the relevant documents by the President of the Chamber. Before deliberating the Committee shall invite the party involved to provide those clarifications he or she considers appropriate or which the Committee itself considers to be of use, and 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 consider the request for waiver of immunity in accordance with article 5 of Constitutional Law No. 1 of 16 January 1989, it shall propose that the documentation be returned to the judicial authorities.

3. For cases other than that envisaged in paragraph 2, the Committee shall propose, with reference to each individual under investigation, the granting or denial of waiver.

4. The request for waiver shall be entered as a rule as the first item in the agenda of the second sitting after the date on which the Committee's report has been presented, without prejudice to the provisions set out in paragraph 5 below. If the deadline laid down in paragraph 1 has expired and no report has been submitted, the President of the Chamber shall appoint a rapporteur from among the members of the Committee, authorising him/her to report orally to the House, and shall as a rule enter the request for waiver as the first item on the agenda of the second sitting following the above deadline, without prejudice to the provisions set out in paragraph 5 below.

5. When it is not possible, following the provisions of paragraph 4, to respect the deadline laid down in paragraph 3, article 9 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 close of the debate in the Chamber, twenty deputies or one or more Chairpersons of Groups which, separately or together, account for at least the same number, can submit proposals differing from the conclusions of the Committee, by means of reasoned orders.

7. The House shall be called upon to vote first on the proposals in paragraph 2. If these are rejected and alternative proposals have not been submitted, the sitting shall be adjourned to allow the Committee to submit further conclusions. Proposals to deny the waiver shall then be put to the vote; these shall be deemed to be rejected if they have not received a favourable vote from an absolute majority of the members of the House. The rejection of these proposals shall be taken as a decision to grant the waiver.

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

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

#### RULE 18-*quater*

1. The Committee referred to in Rule 18 shall report to the House on requests for waiver of immunity made in accordance with article 10, paragraph 1, of Constitutional Law No. 1 of 16 January 1989, within the set and unalterable period of five days from the transmission of the documentation by the President of the Chamber. Before deliberating, the Committee shall invite the party involved to provide any clarifications which he or she thinks appropriate or which the Committee itself deems to be useful.

2. If the Committee considers that it is not up to the Chamber to decide on a request for waiver in accordance with articles 5 and 10, paragraph 1, of Constitutional Law No. 1 of 16 January 1989, it shall propose

that the documentation be returned to the judicial authorities. In all other cases the Committee shall submit a report proposing to grant or deny the authorisation.

3. To enter the request for waiver in the agenda of the House the provisions of paragraph 4 of Rule 18-*ter* shall apply. If this means that it cannot be guaranteed that the time limit of article 10, paragraph 3, of Constitutional Law No. 1 of 16 January 1989 shall be observed, the Chamber shall be specially convened within the above time limit to consider the request for waiver.

4. The House shall be called to vote on the conclusions of the Committee. If the proposal to return the documentation to the judicial authorities, as laid down in paragraph 2 above, is rejected, the sitting shall be suspended to enable the Committee to put forward further conclusions.

## CHAPTER V STANDING COMMITTEES

### RULE 19

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

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 as described in the previous paragraph, as well as those belonging to Groups with fewer members than there are Committees. This shall be done in such

a way that the proportions of the Groups are reflected within the Committees.

3. No deputy may be appointed to more than one Committee. Each 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 notified.

4. A deputy who cannot attend a meeting of his or her Committee may be substituted, for the entire sitting, by another member of his Group who is a member of another Committee or of the Government in power. The deputy concerned or, failing that, his or her Group shall give prior notice of the substitution to the Chairperson of the Committee.

5. The Chairperson shall inform the Committee of substitutions made as set out in the preceding paragraphs.

6. In the case of Committees acting in an advisory capacity, substitution shall not under any circumstances be permitted for deputies belonging to the Committee for which the 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 their respective Committees. 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 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 for the Chairperson, a second ballot shall be held 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 added to the ballot or declared elected.

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 considered elected; in the case of a tie paragraph 2 shall be applied.

4. The same provisions shall apply for supplementary 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 the Committee shall represent the Committee; convene its meetings and draw up the agenda; chair its meetings; convene the Bureau; and may convene, when he or she deems it opportune or on request, the representatives appointed 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 Community 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 questions on which they must report to the House; in an advisory capacity to express opinions; in a legislating capacity to consider and approve bills; and in a drafting capacity in accordance with Rule 96. They shall also meet to hear and discuss communications from the Government, and to exercise

their policy-setting, scrutiny and fact-finding functions in accordance with the provisions of Part III of these Rules.

4. The Committees may establish permanent Sub-Committees to consider issues falling within their jurisdiction. 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 meeting. Each member of the Committee may request, no later than the second sitting following distribution, that the reports be submitted to the full Committee for discussion.

CHAPTER VI  
ORGANISATION OF BUSINESS AND AGENDA  
FOR THE HOUSE AND COMMITTEES

RULE 23

1. The Chamber shall programme the conduct of its business.

2. The programme of business of the House for a period of at least two, and not more than three, months shall be adopted by the Conference of Group Chairpersons.

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 own priori-



ties, at least two days before the meeting of the Conference. Within the same timescale, 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 suggestions made by the Government and the proposals put forward by the Groups, shall contain the list of the subjects which the Chamber intends to consider, with an indication of the order of priority and of the period in which they are expected to be entered in the agenda of the House. This outline shall be formulated in such a way as to guarantee that sufficient time is allowed for each issue to be considered, in relation to the overall time available and the complexity of the issues themselves.

5. Bills shall be inserted in the programme of business in such a way as to ensure that the debate in the House begins when the deadline specified in Rule 81 for the presentation of the report to the House has elapsed. This deadline 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 under Rules 70, paragraph 2, 71 and 99.

6. The programme of business shall be adopted if approved by the Chairpersons of the Groups representing an overall membership 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 subjects put forward by any dissenting Groups. This time shall be allocated in proportion to the size of these groups. 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

set out in paragraphs 4 and 5 and the proposals of the Parliamentary groups shall be inserted in the programme of business, according to the subject and time quotas set out in the second sentence of Rule 24, paragraph 3.

7. The programme of business drawn up according to the criteria set out in paragraph 6 shall become definitive after the House has been notified. At this stage, deputies may take the floor for not more 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 Finance and Budget bills, bills related to the package of budget adjustment measures, to be examined during the budget session, the Community bill and any mandatory items other than bills confirming decree-laws shall be inserted in the programme of business without regard to the criteria set out in paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6.

9. The programme of business shall be up-dated at least once a month, following the procedure set out in the preceding paragraphs, in such a way that the Committees' preliminary legislative proceedings may be carried out effectively, and the provisions set out in Rule 79, paragraph 7, may be observed.

10. The programme of business of the House shall determine the allocation of working time for the House and the Committees for the period under consideration. During each month, with the exclusion of the period of time devoted to the budget session, as set out in Rule 119, paragraphs 1 and 2, a week shall be set aside during which the business of the House 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 under the terms set out in the preceding paragraphs, the procedure shall be as laid down in Rule 26, paragraph 1.

#### RULE 24

1. Once the programme of business has been drawn up, the President of the Chamber 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. A representative of the Government, which has been informed of the meeting, shall take part in it. The Government shall convey to the President of the Chamber and the Chairpersons of the Parliamentary Groups, with at least twenty-four hours' notice, its own recommendations as to the dates on which the various subjects should be entered in the agenda of the House. 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 recommendations made by the Government and the proposals put forward by the Groups. The order of business adopted by the Chairpersons of the Groups representing an overall membership which is equal to at least three-quarters of the members of the Chamber, shall be definitive and shall be communicated to the House. The President shall set aside a part of the available time for subjects proposed by any dissenting Groups, allocating the time in proportion to the size of the Groups. At this stage, 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 as set out in paragraph 2 is not obtained in the Conference of Group Chairpersons, the order of business shall be drawn up by the President of the Chamber. The President of the Chamber shall insert the proposals put forward by the opposition Groups in the order of business, in such a way that they are guaranteed a fifth of the subjects to be covered, or of the overall time available for the business of the House in the period under consideration. Subjects other than bills, proposed by the opposition Groups for insertion in the order of business, 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 bills confirming decree-laws. The order of business thus established shall become definitive after the House has been notified. At this stage, deputies may take the floor for not more 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. Government Finance and Budget bills, bills related to the package of budget adjustment measures, that are to be considered during the budget session, the Community bill 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 set out in paragraphs 2 and 3. For the calculation of the subject and time quotas envisaged by the above paragraphs, account shall not be taken of the consideration of the measures described in the previous sentence and of 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 under Rule 17 and of the

deliberations pursuant to articles 68 and 96 of the Constitution.

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

6. For the consideration and adoption of any proposed amendments to the order of business, put forward by the Government or by a Group Chairperson, the same procedure shall be applied as is envisaged for its adoption. Where urgent situations arise, subjects 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. If necessary, additional sittings may be scheduled to this end.

7. The Conference of Group Chairpersons shall decide, with the majority provided for in paragraph 2, the overall period of time for debating the subjects entered in the order of business of the House, in relation to their complexity. Once the portion of time required for the interventions 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 consideration in all its stages. The time left shall be reserved for interventions that deputies ask to make on a personal basis, having given due 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 size. 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 under paragraph 7, each Group shall in any case be given, for the debate on the general outline of bills, an overall time allocation for interventions that shall not be less than that envisaged in Rule 39, paragraph 1. The provision set out in the previous sentence shall not apply to the consideration of bills authorising the ratification of international treaties.

9. If the majority envisaged in paragraph 2 is not obtained, the President of the Chamber shall decide the period of time for the debate and the ensuing allotment of time, in compliance with the criteria set out in paragraphs 7 and 8.

10. In allotting speaking times under paragraphs 7 and 9, the time periods 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 period of time 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 general debate on constitutional bills and on bills related primarily to one of the subjects envisaged in Rule 49, paragraph 1, the provisions set out in paragraph 7 shall be applicable only following a unanimous deliberation by the Con-

ference 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 set that the provisions set out in this paragraph are 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 enshrined in the Part I of the Constitution.

13. The sharing out of time and subjects shall aim at an overall balance and reflect the forecasts underlying the order of business.

#### RULE 25

1. The Chairperson of the Committee shall convene the Bureau, with the participation of the representatives of the Groups, to establish the programme and the order of business in compliance with the criteria and procedures laid down 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 subjects included in the programme and in the order of business of the House are considered as a priority, respecting the time limits therein envisaged and the criteria provided for 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 subjects referred to in this paragraph. Bills included in the programme of the House shall be entered as the first agenda item of the reporting Committee, in the first sitting scheduled in the Committee's own order of business, as drawn up after the House has been informed of the programme established in accordance with 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 established in such a way as to ensure prompt consideration of EU documents and legislative drafts, as envisaged in Rules 126-*bis* and 127.

5. The procedure set out in the preceding paragraphs shall also apply for the consideration and approval of any proposals to modify the programme or the order of business put forward 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 subjects in the agenda, in keeping with the criteria set out in the programme or order of business of the House. 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 inform the House thereof.

RULE 25-*bis*

*Repealed*

RULE 26

1. Before closing the sitting, the President of the Chamber or the Chairperson of the Committee shall announce the agenda and time schedule of the sittings for the two following working days, without prejudice to the time limit provided for in Rule 82, paragraph 2. If this is opposed, the House or the Committee shall decide by show of hands, having heard one speaker against and one in favour for not more than ten minutes each.



2. If the business of the House or Committee has been organised according to the provisions set out in 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 House or the Committee may not debate or decide on items not included in the agenda.

2. In the House, a decision by public ballot, using the electronic system and with recording of names, shall be required to debate or decide on items not included in the agenda. A majority of three quarters of the voters must be obtained. The proposal in question may be submitted by thirty deputies or one or more Chairpersons of Groups which, separately or jointly, account for the same number of deputies. The proposal may be submitted only at the opening of the sitting or before moving to a different agenda item or when the debate has been suspended.

#### RULE 28

1. The time limits laid down in the Rules shall be calculated according to the calendar.

### CHAPTER VII SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE, OF THE COMMITTEES AND OF PARLIAMENT IN JOINT SESSION

#### RULE 29

1. Extraordinary sittings of the House may be convened on the initiative of its President or of the Presi-

dent 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 called.

2. In the case provided for in article 94, paragraph 3, of the Constitution, the President shall establish, in agreement with the President of the Senate, the date on which the House 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 the meeting.

3. When the Chamber is adjourned, if one fifth of the members of one of the Standing Committees request that it be convened to debate specific issues, the Chairperson shall ensure that the Committee meets no later than ten days from the date the request was filed, and shall notify each individual member of the agenda, in such a way that at least five days intervene between the notice and the day the meeting is actually held.

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 House, unless expressly authorised to do so by the President of the Chamber. In accordance with the requirements of the business of the House, the President of the Chamber may at any time revoke Committee sittings.

### RULE 31

1. In the Chamber, seats shall be reserved for the representatives of the Government and the members of the 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 House 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 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 House; anonymous communications or those couched in unparliamentary language shall not be read out.

2. A Secretary shall read out a summary of the petitions submitted. These shall then be transmitted to the Committee responsible, where each deputy can examine them.

### RULE 34

1. Minutes of the sittings of the House and of the Committees shall be drawn up respectively by the Editor of the Official Report or by the clerks attached to individual Committees.

2. After being approved, the minutes of proceedings shall be signed by the President and by one of the

Secretaries; they shall be filed and kept in the archives of the Chamber.

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

### RULE 35

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

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

## CHAPTER VIII DEBATES

### RULE 36

1. Deputies who intend to speak in a debate shall enter their names in the speakers' list not later than the day such debate begins and shall be given the floor in the order in which they have registered, alternating one against and one for the motion. If the order of business has been approved in accordance with Rule 24, deputies wishing to speak in the general debate on items included in the order of business itself shall register 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 House and Committees. They shall have the right to speak every time they so request.

2. A representative of the Government shall attend sittings of Committees acting in a legislating capacity.

#### RULE 38

1. Each deputy may attend, without the right to vote, meetings of Committees 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 envisaged in the Rules, the time allowed for speeches in a debate may not exceed thirty minutes.

2. When speaking time is up, 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 question under consideration, continues to depart from the subject.

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

5. The time limits laid down in paragraph 1 shall be doubled for debates on motions of confidence and no confidence and increased to forty-five minutes for general debates on constitutional bills, delegated legislation bills, bills on electoral matters and authorising the ratification of international treaties. It is in any case within the powers of the President of the Chamber to increase speaking times, for one or more speakers from each Group, if the particular importance of the item under discussion so requires.

#### RULE 40

1. A preliminary question, i.e., that a given subject not be debated, a delaying question, 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 shall be signed by ten deputies in the House, and by three in Committees acting in a legislating capacity.

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

3. Only one of the promoters has the right to speak to the question, for not more than ten minutes. One deputy from each of the other Groups may also take the floor, for not more than five minutes.

4. When several preliminary questions are tabled at the same time, a single debate shall take place. In cas-

es in which the President of the Chamber considers the motions tabled by deputies from the same Group to be different by reason of their content, more than one speaker from the same Group may take the floor. Once the debate has been closed, the House or the Committee shall decide with a single vote on preliminary questions raised for reasons of constitutionality and then, with another single vote, on preliminary questions raised for reasons of substance.

5. When several delaying questions are tabled, irrespective of the reasons stated therein, a single debate shall take place and the House or Committee shall decide with a single vote on the postponement and then, if approved, on the timing.

#### RULE 41

1. Points of order on issues concerning the Rules, the agenda or the conduct of proceedings or the proposing of questions or the order of priority of votes shall take precedence over the main debate. In such cases, only one speaker for and one against may speak after the promoter, for not more than five minutes each. If the House is called by the President to decide on the aforementioned points of order, voting shall be by show of hands.

2. If a question of procedure or interpretation of the Rules arises in the course of a sitting of a Committee acting in a legislating 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 reference when an unworthy or unbecoming conduct or opinions that

are contrary to those actually expressed are imputed to a deputy. In such cases, the deputy requesting the floor must explain the merits of the matter; the President shall make a decision. If the deputy persists, the House or the Committee shall decide without debate by show of hands.

2. Whenever provisions adopted by previous Governments are discussed, those deputies who were members of the Governments who adopted them shall have the right to take 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 reference, points of order, the agenda or conduct of proceedings, the proposing of questions, the order of priority of votes, or except in cases when he or she has already spoken on preliminary or delaying questions tabled before the beginning of the debate.

#### RULE 44

1. The closure of a debate may be requested in the House by twenty deputies or by one or more Chairpersons of Groups which, separately or jointly, account for at least the same number of deputies. In Committees, closure may be requested by four deputies or by one or more representatives of Groups which, separately or jointly, account for at least the same number of deputies in the Committee itself. Closure may only be requested for debates that are not limited by express provisions in the Rules. One speaker against and one in favour of the motion to close the debate may speak for not more than five minutes each.



2. After the closure has been decided one deputy for each Group that so requests shall still be entitled to speak.

3. When the closure has been decided Ministers shall be given the right to speak to make a statement on behalf of the Government. If a vote is called in the House or in the Committee, deputies may speak to give their explanations of vote. In the latter case Rule 50 shall apply.

4. The closure of a debate shall 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 pursuant to paragraphs 7, 9, and 12 of Rule 24.

#### RULE 45

1. In the case of debates limited by express provisions of the Rules the President may, if the importance of the question so requires, give the floor to one speaker for each Group – in addition to the statements the President may in exceptional circumstances allow – and extend speaking time.

### CHAPTER IX QUORUM AND DELIBERATIONS

#### RULE 46

1. Decisions of the House and of Committees acting in a legislating capacity shall not be valid if a majority of their members is not present. For decisions of Committees acting in a non-legislating capacity the presence of not less than a quarter of their members shall be required.

2. Deputies engaged in activities outside the Chamber premises, to which they have been appointed by the Chamber itself, or deputies who, being members of the Government, are absent by reason of their office, shall be counted as present for the purpose of establishing the presence of a quorum.

3. In votes for which a quorum is required, those deputies present who, prior to the beginning of the vote, have declared their intention to abstain, shall be counted for the purpose of establishing the presence of a quorum.

4. The President or Chairperson shall not be obliged to check whether or not the House or the Committee has the required quorum, unless so requested by twenty or four deputies respectively, and the House or Committee is about to vote by show of hands.

5. A quorum call may not be requested before the minutes of proceedings has been approved, or when express provisions in the Rules 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 purpose of establishing the presence of a quorum.

#### RULE 47

1. To ascertain the presence of a quorum in the House, the President shall call the roll.

2. If the House or a Committee does not have the necessary quorum, the President or Chairperson may adjourn the sitting for an hour or declare it closed. In the latter case the House 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 for a holiday if the House or Committee had already decided 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 as pursuant to paragraph 2.

#### RULE 48

1. Decisions of the House 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 declaring 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 decide the procedures and criteria to be followed to ascertain the presence of deputies at sittings of the House and Committees.

3. In its decision under paragraph 2, the Bureau shall set 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 House and Committees. The Bureau shall also lay down permissible causes for absence for which no deduction shall be taken.

CHAPTER X  
VOTING

## RULE 49

1. Voting shall be by public ballot. Secret ballots shall be held in votes regarding persons, and, when so requested in accordance with Rule 51, in votes having a bearing on the principles, rights and liberties enshrined in Articles 6, 13 to 22 and 24 to 27 of the Constitution, as well as the rights of the family under Articles 29, 30 and 31, paragraph 2, and the rights of the person under Article 32, paragraph 2, of the Constitution. Similarly, voting shall be by secret ballot, if so requested, in votes on amendments to the Rules, on establishing Parliamentary Committees of enquiry, 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 Budget or budgetary laws or on related legislation, as laid down in Law No. 362 of 23 August 1988, or in any deliberations that have financial implications.

*1-ter.* In Committee, secret ballots shall be used only in votes regarding persons.

*1-quater.* Final votes on laws shall be by public ballot, except in the cases set out in paragraph 1, by means of electronic votes with recording of names.

*1-quinquies.* A secret ballot may be requested only on questions strictly related to the cases provided for in paragraph 1. If the question 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 the decision for which the secret ballot has been re-

quested, the President of the Chamber shall decide the question, 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 of the House or by roll-call.

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

4. In both public and secret ballots voting operations may also be carried out by means of an electronic voting system.

5. When voting is to be carried out electronically, the President shall give advance notice thereof at least twenty 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 other votes are to be carried out electronically during the same sitting.

## RULE 50

1. When the House or Committee is about to vote, except in cases where the debate is expressly restricted by the Rules, deputies shall always have the right to speak to give a concise explanation of vote, for not more than ten minutes.

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

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

### RULE 51

1. Apart from votes regarding persons, which shall be by secret ballot, the House and Committees shall normally vote by show of hands, unless a roll-call vote, or, in those cases permitted by Rule 49 and only in the House, a secret ballot is requested.

2. Voting by roll-call may be requested in the House by twenty deputies or by one or more Chairpersons of Groups which, separately or jointly, account for at least the same number of deputies. In Committee, voting by roll-call may be requested by four deputies or by one or more representatives of Groups which, separately or jointly, account for at least the same number of deputies in the Committee itself. Voting by secret ballot may be requested in the House by thirty deputies or by one or more Chairpersons of Groups which, separately or jointly, account for at least the same number of deputies.

3. If different voting requests are made concurrently, the request for a secret ballot shall prevail.

### RULE 52

1. The request for voting by roll-call or by secret ballot shall be made 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 House or the Committee to vote by show of hands.

2. The request need not to be made in writing when the deputy submitting it asks the President or Chairperson to ascertain whether his or her request is seconded by the prescribed number of deputies.

3. If a deputy who has signed a request for a roll-call vote or secret ballot is not present when voting is

about to begin, his or her signature shall be considered withdrawn.

### RULE 53

1. Voting by show of hands in the House shall be verified electronically 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 of the House. In this case, the President shall indicate to which side of the Chamber those in favour and those against should go.

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

4. To facilitate the counting of votes in the House, the President may at any time determine that a vote that should be by show of hands be taken electronically, without recording of names.

### RULE 54

1. Roll-call voting may take place by actually calling the roll or electronically with recording of names.

2. In the House, votes of confidence or of no confidence shall always be by roll-call.

3. In cases of roll-call votes the President shall indicate the import of Aye or Nay. A roll-call vote in the House 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 cases envisaged in paragraph 2 voting by roll-call shall normally be carried out electronically. In case of failure of the electronic system, the vote shall be by calling the roll.

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

#### RULE 55

1. Voting by secret ballot shall normally be carried out electronically.

2. In case of failure of the electronic voting 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, deputies shall write on the appropriate ballot paper the names of two thirds of the members of the body in question, whenever they are called to elect more than two members.

2. Except when envisaged by special statutory provisions, those candidates are considered elected who obtain the highest number of votes at the first ballot. When several candidates receive the same number of votes, a run-off ballot shall be held.

3. For the appointment, by election, of Committees which, under the law or the Rules, must be composed in such a way as to reflect the proportions of the Parliamentary Groups, the President shall communicate to said Groups the number of seats allocated to each on the basis of this criterion, and shall ask for an equal



number of nominations. On the basis of these nominations the President shall draw up a list to submit to the House, which shall decide by secret ballot.

4. The House may leave to the President the appointment of a Committee or of individual Committee members.

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

#### RULE 57

1. When an irregularity occurs the President, having weighed up the circumstances, may annul the vote and have it repeated immediately.

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

### CHAPTER XI

#### ORDER 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 deadline to present its findings to the House, which shall take note of them without debate or voting.

#### RULE 59

1. If a deputy uses unparliamentary language or disturbs by his or her behaviour the free conduct of the

debate or the orderly conduct of the 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 without a previous call to order, the President may order a deputy to be excluded from the Chamber 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 Chamber, 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 censuring, 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, uses threatening language against or physically attacks 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 House and in no case shall they be open to discussion. If the deputy in question subsequently attempts to re-enter the Chamber before the end of the period of disqualification, the duration of the exclusion shall be doubled.

4. For acts of exceptional gravity that take place within the Parliamentary precincts but outside the

Chamber itself, 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 Chamber and the President's calls to order are not heeded, the President shall leave his or her chair and the debate shall be considered suspended. If the disturbance continues, the President shall suspend the sitting for a given period of time or close it, as appropriate. In the latter case the House 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 for a holiday if the House or Committee had already decided to hold a sitting on that date.

#### RULE 62

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

2. Law enforcement personnel, including the judicial police, may not enter the Chamber or Committee rooms unless by order of the President and only after the sitting has been suspended or closed. As for the meeting rooms of joint 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 precincts of the Chamber, or any premises in which bodies and offices of the Chamber 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 premises in which joint parliamentary bodies are located, unless by order of, or subject to, authorisation 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 of the Chamber or which concern these premises or 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 PUBLICITY OF PROCEEDINGS

### RULE 63

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

2. Verbatim and summary reports of the proceedings of the House shall be drawn up and published.

3. At the request of the Government or of a Group Chairperson or of ten deputies, the House may decide to meet behind closed doors.

### RULE 64

1. Strangers to the House may not, under any pretext, enter the Chamber where the members sit.

2. The public shall sit in 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 an usher shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with regulations as well as for carrying out or ensuring compliance with the President's instructions.

5. When so instructed by the President, the ushers shall oust immediately any person or persons who disturb the proceedings. If the person or persons who caused the disturbance cannot be identified, the President shall order the entire section of the gallery where the disturbance took place to 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 appropriate judicial authority.

## RULE 65

1. The proceedings of the Committees, including the Committee on Legislation envisaged in Rule 16-*bis*, shall be made public in the form of reports published in the Bulletin of Parliamentary Committees under the responsibility of the Secretary General of the Chamber.

2. The proceedings of Committees acting in legislative or drafting capacities shall be made public in the form of a verbatim report. Members of the press and the public may follow the sittings in separate premises by means of closed-circuit audio-visual systems.

3. The Committees shall decide when their proceedings should, in the interests of the State, remain secret.

CHAPTER XIII  
BUDGET OF THE CHAMBER

RULE 66

1. The draft budget and the accounts of the House, drawn up by the Quaestors and agreed upon by the Bureau, shall be debated and voted on in the House.

CHAPTER XIV  
THE DEPARTMENTS 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 House, bills introduced in the Chamber or transmitted from the Senate shall be printed and distributed in the shortest time possible. They shall be entered immediately in the general agenda.

2. When the Chamber is adjourned, bills shall be transmitted to the President who shall notify the Chamber 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 ten deputies may ask that the bill be declared urgent.

2. Urgency shall be declared by the Conference of Group Chairpersons with the majority set out in Rule 23, paragraph 6. If this majority is not obtained, the request shall be submitted to the House, for bills included in the programme of business. The House shall determine the request by public ballot, carried out electronically with recording of names.

3. Not more than five bills, in the case of three-monthly programmes, or three, in the case of two-monthly programmes, may be declared urgent for each programme of business. Urgency may not be declared for constitutional bills or for the bills envisaged in Rule 24, paragraph 12, last sentence.

#### RULE 70

1. After their final approval, bills passed by the House shall be sent to the Government; the others shall be transmitted directly to the Senate.

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

RULE 71

1. If the President of the Republic, in accordance with article 74 of the Constitution, asks the Parliament, in a reasoned message, to reconsider a bill already approved, the 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 appropriate Committee. The Committee shall report on the bill to the House, which may limit its debate to the sections addressed in the message. The bill shall be voted upon section by section and submitted 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 appropriate Committees according to subject matter the bills on which they shall report to the House, and shall inform the House thereof. If, in the two days following the announcement, a Group Chairperson or ten deputies propose that a bill be referred to a different Committee, the President shall enter this proposal in the agenda; the House, having listened to one speaker against and one in favour, shall decide by show of hands.

2. Bills which 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, two Committees may ask the President of the Chamber to allow joint consideration of a bill.

4. Any questions of jurisdiction arising between two or more Committees shall be submitted to the President of the Chamber. If he or she deems it necessary, the President may submit the question 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 referred to another Committee, before the bill is decided upon. The Committee responsible 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 measures that fall to a significant degree within the sphere of responsibility of another Committee, the President of the Chamber may decide that the opinion of the latter be printed and annexed to the report written for the House.

2. The Committee whose opinion has been sought shall as a rule deliver it no later than eight days after the distribution of the printed text of the bill. This time limit shall be reduced to three days for bills whose urgency has been declared and for bills confirming decree-laws. The main Committee may allow an extension equal to the normal 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 main 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 ex-

planation of the bill by the rapporteur appointed by the Chair. The rapporteur shall conclude by proposing that one of the following opinions be given: 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 the further consideration of the bill".

4. The Committee whose opinion has been sought may decide that the opinion be given orally before the Committee for which it is intended. It may also request, for opinions sent to another reporting Committee, that the opinion be printed and annexed to the report written for the House.

#### RULE 74

1. All bills involving revenue or expenditure shall be distributed simultaneously to the appropriate Committee according to subject matter, to which they have been referred for consideration, and to the Budget and Planning Committee for its opinion on their financial implications, also taking 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 appropriate Committee introduces provisions into a bill that involve new revenue or expenditure, it shall refer the bill to the Budget and Planning Committee. The time limit envisaged in Rule 73 shall take effect as from the day of referral.

3. The opinion given by the Budget and Planning Committee shall be printed and annexed to the report written for the House. If the reporting Committee has not adapted the text of the bill to the conditions set out in the opinion, it shall give the reasons for this in the report to the House.

### RULE 75

1. The Committee on Constitutional Affairs and the Employment Committee, when they are so requested in accordance with paragraph 1 of Rule 73, shall give their opinion, respectively, on the constitutional legitimacy of a bill and aspects relating to the civil service. The Committee on Constitutional Affairs may also be called upon to give its opinion on bills with respect to law-making competencies and to the overall legislation of the State.

2. Opinions given by the Constitutional Affairs and Employment Committees shall be printed and annexed to the report written for the House. If the reporting Committee has not adapted the text of the bill to the conditions set out in the opinions, it shall give the reasons for this in the report to the House.

### RULE 76

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

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 are introduced, with priority given to bills specified in paragraph 2 of Rule 81.

3. The consideration in Committee of bills endorsed by a Parliamentary Group through a formal declaration by the Group Chairperson when the bill is announced in the House, must begin 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 shall be examined jointly.

2. Joint consideration shall be possible at any time, until the end of the debate in the reporting Committee as set out in Rule 79.

3. After the preliminary consideration of the bills to be examined jointly, the Committee shall choose a basic 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, where possible, of reaching an agreement.

### RULE 79

1. The Committees acting in a reporting capacity shall organise their proceedings according to principles of economy of procedures. The Committee Bureau, with the participation of the representatives of the Groups, with the majority set out in paragraph 6 of Rule 23 or, failing this, the Chairperson of the Committee, shall determine how the relevant procedures should be organised, including the pre-legislative scrutiny and consultation and fact-finding stages. It shall also lay down, usually after the basic text has been chosen, the deadline for the introduction and criteria for the 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 laid down in the order of business for entering the bill in the agenda of the House.

2. The procedure for the consideration of bills at the reporting stage shall consist of a pre-legislative scrutiny and consultation, entailing the collection of any necessary information, the drafting of the bill's sections, and the conferral of the mandate to report to the House.

3. The debate is introduced at the reporting stage 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 specified in paragraphs 4 and 11.

4. During consideration of the bill at the reporting stage, the Committee shall send for any information needed to verify the quality and efficacy of the provisions contained in the text. For this purpose the pre-legislative scrutiny and consultation shall take the following aspects into consideration:

*a)* whether the legislation is necessary, or whether the same ends might be achieved through regulatory provisions other than an Act of Parliament;

*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 government;

*c)* the objectives of the new legislation and the suitability of the means identified to achieve them; whether the deadline envisaged for implementation is adequate; the costs to the public administration, citizens and business;

*d)* lack of ambiguity and clarity of meaning of definitions and provisions, as well as the appropriate arrangement of the subject in sections and paragraphs.

5. To obtain the information set out in paragraph 4, the Committee may ask the Government to provide data and information, and if necessary to draw up a technical report. The Committee may also avail itself of the procedures set out in Chapter XXXIII and Rules 146 and 148.

6. The procedures envisaged in paragraph 5 shall apply when at least four members of the Committee so request, unless the Committee Bureau, with the participation of the representatives of the Groups, with the majority laid down in Rule 23, paragraph 6, or, failing this, the Chairperson of the Committee, deems that the information requested is not essential for the pre-legislative scrutiny and consultation to be completed. After consulting the Government, the Bureau, with the participation of the representatives of the Groups, with the majority laid down in Rule 23, paragraph 6, or, failing this, the Chairperson of the Committee shall set the deadline within which the Government must provide the information and data requested in relation to the bills included in the programme of business of the House. 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, giving the reasons therefor.

7. If the Government does not provide the data and information requested by the Committee within the set deadline, and does not give the reasons therefor, the Conference of Group Chairpersons, with the majority laid down in Rule 23, paragraph 6, or, failing this, the President of the Chamber shall set a new deadline for the presentation of the report to the House, as laid down 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 measure at the reporting stage, preliminary or delaying objections, or objections aimed in any way at preventing the Committee from fulfilling its obligation to report to the House, may not be put to the vote. They shall, however, be mentioned in the Committee's report.

9. The Committee may appoint a sub-Committee, composed in such a way that the proportional participation of the minority Groups is guaranteed. This Sub-Committee shall be entrusted with continuing the pre-legislative scrutiny and consultation and formulating any proposals relating to the text of the sections.

10. To guarantee that the deadline envisaged by the third sentence of paragraph 1 is respected, the deliberations for drafting the sections may follow principles of economy of procedures. For each section, however, at least two amendments put forward by each Group shall as a rule be put to the vote. The amendments may substitute in its entirety the text proposed by the rapporteur.

11. The Committee shall introduce in the text clauses whereby the provisions it contains may be coordinated with the legislation already in force, ensuring that any provisions repealed as a consequence are expressly mentioned.

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 on the Floor of the House and for the functions set out in paragraph 3 of Rule 86. Any dissenting Groups may, jointly if they so wish, appoint minority rapporteurs.

Each minority report shall include its own text, even if it differs only partially from the Committee's text, set out in sections corresponding to the Committee's text.

13. The reports to the House shall give an account of the results of the Committee's pre-legislative scrutiny and consultation with regard to the aspects specified in paragraph 4.

14. The majority and 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 House sets a shorter deadline. If the House 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 its explanatory memorandum, the Committee itself may adopt the explanatory memorandum and submit the bill to the House for debate.

#### 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 informed that the Committee has been convened so that he or she may take part in its sittings, without, however, having the right to vote. The author may be charged with preparing the introductory report in the Committee and appointed as rapporteur for the debate in the House.

2. Each deputy may send to the Committees amendments to or additional sections of bills and ask or be asked to explain them before said Committees.



The Committees shall inform the House thereof in their reports.

#### RULE 81

1. The Committees' reports on bills included in the programme of the House shall be presented within two months of the date on which consideration of the bill at the reporting stage has begun.

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

#### CHAPTER XVII CONSIDERATION IN THE HOUSE

#### RULE 82

1. Consideration of bills in the House shall include a general debate and a debate on the sections of bills.

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

#### RULE 83

1. The general debate on bills shall consist of statements by rapporteurs for the majority and for the minority, lasting not more than twenty minutes each, by the Government and by one deputy for each Group.

The President of the Chamber shall give the floor to one deputy for each of the political groupings in the Mixed Group and to those deputies who intend to adopt positions that differ from those of their own Groups, and shall lay down the criteria and time limits for statements.

1-*bis*. In making their reports, the rapporteurs may ask the Government to reply questions 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 provisions contained in Government or parliamentary bills. The Government may respond immediately or ask to postpone its reply until the final statement; it may also ask for the sitting or the consideration of the bill to be suspended for not more than one hour, or declare that it cannot reply, giving the reasons therefor.

2. When specifically requested by twenty deputies or by one or more Chairpersons of Groups which, separately or jointly, account for at least the same number of deputies, further names may be added to the list of speakers, without prejudice to Rules 36, 44, and 50 are complied with. The request to extend the debate shall be agreed upon by the Conference of Group Chairpersons or submitted not less than twenty-four hours before the beginning of the debate in the House.

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

4. The order of business may envisage that the debate on a bill should proceed for each part or heading. Failing this the Government, a Group Chairperson or ten deputies, as well as each rapporteur or the proposing deputy, may request beforehand that the debate on the bill proceed for each part or heading. The Cham-

ber shall decide on the request by show of hands, having heard one speaker against and one in favour.

5. After the beginning of the debate, 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 establish the order of speeches and the number and the dates of the sittings required.

#### RULE 84

*Repealed*

#### RULE 85

1. After the general debate, the House shall proceed to the debate on the sections. This shall consist of the consideration of each section and of all the proposed amendments and additional sections.

1-*bis*. If the Budget Committee has given 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 of the Chamber shall inform the House of this before proceeding to the consideration of the corresponding section.

2. Each deputy may speak in the debate once only and for not more than twenty minutes, even if he or she is the author of several amendments, sub-amendments or additional sections, to defend them, and at the same time commenting on the amendments, sub-amendments and additional sections tabled by others. The period of twenty minutes shall be doubled for constitutional bills, delegated legislation bills, bills on electoral matters and authorising the ratification of in-

ternational treaties. For other bills the President of the Chamber may increase the twenty-minute time limit to a maximum of forty minutes, for one or more sections, if their importance so requires.

3. Each deputy may also speak for not more than five minutes, and not after the end of the debate pursuant to paragraph 2 of this Rule, on the sub-amendments to his or her own amendments that have been proposed during the sitting, in accordance with paragraphs 5 and 10 of Rule 86.

4. When the closure of the debate has been decided in accordance with Rule 44, the first signatories or other authors of as yet unaddressed amendments, who have not yet taken the floor, shall have the right to speak once only, for not more than ten minutes each.

5. If amendments, sub-amendments or additional sections as set out in paragraph 5 of Rule 86 are tabled, one deputy for each Group may speak on each of these for not more than ten minutes each. If so requested, the President of the Chamber may also give the floor to one deputy for each of the political groupings in the Mixed Group, having first laid down the criteria and time limits for statements.

6. The debate on a section of a bill confirming a decree-law shall address all the amendments, sub-amendments and additional sections referring to each of the sections of the decree-law. In this case the time limits laid down in the preceding paragraphs shall be respectively fifteen minutes for statements under paragraph 2 and five minutes for statements under paragraphs 3, 4 and 5, unless the President makes use of the powers envisaged in the last sentence of paragraph 2.

7. One deputy for each Group shall be allowed one explanation of vote, lasting not more than five minutes,

on each section, amendment, sub-amendment and additional section. An explanation of vote may not be given by the deputies proposing the amendment, sub-amendment or additional section who have already spoken in the debate on the section, unless the text has been amended by the preceding votes. The President of the Chamber shall give the floor to one deputy for each of the political groupings within the Mixed Group and to those deputies who intend to express a vote different to the one declared by their Group, establishing the criteria and time limits for statements.

8. Whenever several amendments, sub-amendments and additional sections differing from one another only with respect to increments in figures, data or other elements are tabled 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 contents of the amendments. If the President considers that the House should be consulted, the latter shall decide without debate by show of hands. The President may also change the order of voting when he or she deems this to be appropriate for reasons of efficiency or clarity of the votes themselves.

#### RULE 85-*bis*

1. The Groups may announce, before consideration of the sections begins, the amendments, additional sections and sub-amendments to be in any case put to the

vote if, pursuant to paragraph 8 of Rule 85, the order of voting is changed or voting is to be on selected amendments or by principles. In this case, with reference to the bill as a whole, the number of such amendments, sub-amendments and additional sections – tabled by deputies belonging to a Group that has made the above announcement – 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 of the Chamber may also put to the vote any amendments, additional sections and sub-amendments tabled by deputies declaring their dissent from their respective Groups, that he or she recognises as relevant.

4. The provisions set out in the last sentence of paragraph 8 of Rule 85 shall not apply in debates on constitutional bills and on bills mentioned in Rule 24, paragraph 12, last sentence.

#### RULE 86

1. Additional sections and amendments shall, as a rule, be tabled and discussed in Committees. New additional sections and amendments, and those rejected at the Committee stage, may however be tabled in the House, 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 subjects already considered in the text or in any amendments tabled and declared admissible at the Committee stage.

2. If the new additional sections or amendments involve higher spending or lower revenue, they shall be sent to the Budget Committee as soon as they are tabled 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 Commission shall give its opinion.

3. The Sub-Committee of Nine, as envisaged in Rule 79, shall meet before the debate to consider the new amendments and additional sections tabled directly in the House. The Chairperson of the Committee shall take part in the meeting. If he or she considers it necessary, the Chairperson may convene the full Committee for such consideration.

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

4-*bis*. Should the bill contain provisions on which the Budget Committee has given 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 are tabled as amendments exclusively by virtue of Article 81, paragraph 4, of the Constitution, and are put to the vote under section 87, paragraphs 2 and 3. Sub-amendments may not be tabled and the request for a split vote is not admitted.

5. The Committee and the Government may table 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 subjects already considered in the text or in any amendments tabled and declared admissible at the Committee stage. Thirty deputies or one or more Chairpersons of Groups that, separately or jointly, account for at least the same number, may table sub-amendments to each of these amendments and additional sections, including during the sitting, within the time limit laid down by the Chairperson. Each minority rapporteur may table, within the same time limit, only one sub-amendment relating to each amendment or additional section tabled by the Committee or by the Government as set out in this paragraph.

*5-bis.* The President of the Chamber may postpone for not more than three hours consideration of the amendments and additional sections, tabled in accordance with paragraph 5. If the amendments and additional sections involve higher spending or lower revenue, they may not be considered until the day after they were tabled. The President of the Chamber, having evaluated the circumstances, shall establish the time limit within which the Budget Commission shall give its opinion.

6. The rapporteurs and the Government shall express their opinion on the amendments before they are put to the vote. In so doing, the rapporteurs may ask the Government to reply to specific questions regarding the consequences, once applied, of the measures it has proposed, as contained in the section under consideration or in amendments tabled by the Government itself. The Government may respond immediately or ask to delay its response until consideration of the section has been completed and not later; it may also ask for the sitting or the consideration of the bill to be



suspended for no longer than one hour, or else declare it is unable to respond, indicating the reason.

7. The rapporteur shall present to the House any proposals, agreed upon by the Committee, to set aside for separate consideration parts of the bill, or to refer the bill back to the Committee itself. The rapporteur shall be consulted on any other proposals relating to the proceedings, that might influence the following stages of the consideration. The minority rapporteurs shall also be entitled to speak on the aforementioned proposals, for not more 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 the author may be taken up by at least twenty deputies or by a Group Chairperson.

9. The amendments tabled under paragraph 1 shall be distributed in printed form at least three hours before the sitting in which the sections they refer to are to be discussed.

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 may modify the time limits for the tabling and distribution of the amendments to the House.

#### RULE 87

1. The amendments proposed and an entire section shall be put to the vote.

1-*bis*. The alternative texts presented under 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.

2. When only one amendment is tabled, 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 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 of the Chamber shall remind the House of the opinions of the Committee, the Government and, when negative, of 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 subjects or can be divided into two or more parts, each of which has its own logical and legal meaning, 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 introduction of additional sections or for raising a question of confidence in accordance with paragraph 2 of Rule 116 has been presented.

#### RULE 88

1. During the debate on the sections each deputy may move not more than one order containing guidelines to the Government for the bill under discussion. Such orders may be spoken to for not more than

five minutes each, and shall be put to the vote after the last section has been approved, but before the final vote. Each deputy may explain his own vote on these orders in one single statement covering all of them and lasting not more than five minutes, or in two separate statements lasting not more than five minutes in all.

2. Orders reproducing amendments or additional sections that have been rejected may not be moved. In such cases the President, having read out the order and heard one of the authors, may declare it inadmissible. If the author insists and the President deems it appropriate to consult the House, the latter shall decide without debate by show of hands.

#### RULE 89

1. The President may declare unacceptable orders, amendments or additional sections which are totally irrelevant, couched in unparliamentary language, or which are precluded by previous decisions, and refuse to have them explained or put to the vote. If a deputy insists and the President deems it appropriate to consult the House, the latter shall decide without debate by show of hands.

#### RULE 90

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

2. The House 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 follow immediately after the debate and the vote on the sections in compliance 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 shall make this known to the Secretaries before the vote takes place.

## CHAPTER XVIII CONSIDERATION BY COMMITTEES ACTING IN A LEGISLATING CAPACITY

### RULE 92

1. When a bill deals with matters which are not of fundamental general interest, the President may propose to the House that the bill be referred to a Standing or Special Committee, acting in a legislating 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 House, voting shall not take place and the bill shall be committed to a reporting Committee. The same procedure may be followed for bills which are particularly urgent.

2. The normal procedure of consideration and direct approval by the House shall always be adopted for

bills concerning constitutional and electoral matters, delegated legislation bills, bills authorising the ratification of international treaties, and 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 legislating Committee, at least eight days prior to the date for which the Committee in question has been convened. If by that date the Government, a Group Chairperson or ten deputies oppose referral, the proposal to refer shall be entered in the agenda of the first sitting of the House, for the purposes laid down in paragraph 1.

4. A bill shall be referred back to the House 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, such request shall be submitted to the Chairperson of the Committee.

6. The President of the Chamber may propose to the House that a bill, already referred to a Committee acting in a reporting capacity, be considered by the same Committee acting in a legislating capacity. This proposal by the President shall 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 Government and by the opinions of the Constitutional Affairs, Budget and Employment Committees – which shall be consulted in accordance with paragraph 2 of Rule 93 – and of the Committees whose opinion has been requested in accordance with paragraph 1-*bis* of Rule 73.

### RULE 93

1. Committees acting in a legislating capacity may seek opinions from other Committees pursuant to the provisions of Rule 73.

2. Bills involving increased expenditure or lower revenue, and those requiring a review in terms of their constitutional legitimacy or having an impact on the civil service, shall be referred concurrently to the appropriate Committee by subject matter and, for their opinions, to the Budget, Constitutional Affairs and Employment Committees respectively.

3. In cases where the legislating Committee does not intend to uphold the opinion of the Budget, Constitutional Affairs or Employment Committees and these Committees insist on their position, the bill shall be referred back to the House.

*3-bis.* If a bill referred to a legislating Committee contains provisions which overlap to a significant degree with the responsibilities of another Committee, the President of the Chamber may decide that paragraph 3 of this Rule and paragraph 3 of Rule 94 be applicable to the opinion of the latter Committee.

4. When a Committee acting in a legislating capacity does not intend to uphold the opinion of another Committee which also claims to have primary responsibility for the area covered by all or part of the bill, the provisions of paragraph 4 of Rule 72 shall apply.

### RULE 94

1. Once the rapporteur appointed by the Chairperson has been heard, the Committee, acting in a legislating capacity, shall debate and approve the bill pursuant to the rules of Chapter XVII on consideration by

the House. The pre-legislative scrutiny and consultation shall take place pursuant to Rule 79.

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

3. Amendments involving increased expenditure or lower revenue, and those requiring a review in terms of their constitutional legitimacy or having an impact on the civil service may not be voted upon unless prior opinions of the Budget, Constitutional Affairs or Employment Committees respectively. In cases where the Committee does not intend to uphold any of the opinions given and the Committee consulted confirms its opinion, the entire bill shall be referred back to the House.

#### RULE 95

1. The President of the Chamber shall notify the House of bills approved by Committees acting in a legislating capacity.

#### CHAPTER XIX CONSIDERATION BY COMMITTEES ACTING IN A DRAFTING CAPACITY

#### RULE 96

1. The House may decide, before consideration of the sections, to entrust the appropriate 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, and the final approval, with explanations of vote, of the bill itself.

2. The referral of the bill may also be decided by the House 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 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 House may establish, by means of an order addressed to the Committee, the criteria and guiding principles for the drafting of the text of the sections. The House shall decide by show of hands. One deputy for each Group shall be allowed to give an explanation of vote lasting not more than five minutes.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, and the first sentence of paragraph 3 of Rule 94, shall apply to debates in Committees acting in a drafting capacity. If a negative opinion has been expressed by the Constitutional Affairs, Budget or Employment Committees, 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 defend it before the House immediately after the rapporteur on the bill, and table an order to this effect. After hearing one speaker in favour and one against, for not more than five minutes each, the House shall decide on this order by means of an electronic roll-call vote. If the House approves, the main Committee shall re-consider the bill to bring it



into line with the opinion given by the Constitutional Affairs, Budget or Employment Committees and the procedure in the House shall begin in the following sitting.

5. Each deputy, even when not belonging to the Committee, has the right to table amendments and to speak to them before the Committee.

6. The provisions of this Rule shall not apply to bills concerning constitutional or electoral matters, or delegated legislation, the ratification of international treaties, or 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 appropriate Committees acting in a reporting capacity, on the same day as they are introduced or transmitted to the Chamber, and shall inform the House on the same day or during the first subsequent sitting. This may be especially convened, within five days from introduction of the bill, as laid down in article 77, paragraph 2, of the Constitution. Proposals to refer the bills to a different Committee, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Rule 72, shall be submitted at the same time as referral is announced and the House shall decide by show of hands, having listened to one speaker against and one for, for not more than five minutes each. The aforementioned bills shall also be referred to the Committee on Legislation envisaged in Rule 16-*bis*. Within five days this Committee shall give its opinion to the

appropriate Committees according to subject matter; it 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 laid down by the legislation in force.

2. In the Government's explanatory memorandum 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 provisions on existing legislation, shall be described. The Committee to which the confirming bill is referred, pursuant to paragraph 1 above, may ask the Government to upgrade the information provided in the explanatory memorandum, with reference also to individual provisions in the decree-law.

3. Within five days from the announcement to the House of the introduction or transmission of the confirming bill, a Group Chairperson, or twenty deputies, may table a preliminary question referring to the content of the bill or of the decree-law related thereto. Said preliminary question shall be entered in the agenda not more than seven days from the aforementioned announcement to the House. Preliminary questions shall be debated as laid down in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Rule 40. Once the debate has been closed, the House shall take a single vote to decide on the preliminary questions tabled. Preliminary or delaying questions 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 House within fifteen days, after which the bill

shall be entered in the agenda of the House, taking into account the criteria set out 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 reporting Committee has completed its consideration, or following a unanimous deliberation by the Conference of Group Chairpersons.

5. The President of the Chamber may, in special cases, modify the time limits set out in paragraphs 3 and 4, in relation also to the date of transmission of the confirming bill from the Senate.

6. The time limits for consideration in a reporting capacity, as set out in paragraph 4, of confirming bills already approved by the Chamber and amended by the Senate, as described in paragraph 4, shall be laid down by the President of the Chamber; the provisions set out in paragraph 3 shall not be applied.

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

CHAPTER XIX-ter  
CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT GOVERNMENT  
REGULATORY INSTRUMENTS

RULE 96-ter

1. Draft Government regulatory instruments submitted to the House for parliamentary opinion are referred to the appropriate Committee according to subject matter by the President of the House, in accordance with Rule 143, paragraph 4.

2. If the draft instruments, as set out in paragraph 1, involve revenue or expenditure, they are also referred to the Budget Committee, which shall submit its comments on the financial implications thereof to the appropriate Committee within the time limit established by the President of the House.

3. The provisions of Rule 79, paragraphs 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9, shall apply, as compatible, to the consideration of the draft instruments, set out in paragraph 1, by the appropriate Committee for its opinion. Upon request of one-fifth of its members, said Committee may refer the draft instruments to Committee on Legislation for its consideration. The provisions of Rule 16-*bis*, paragraphs 3, 4 and 5, second sentence, shall apply.

4. Should the draft instruments set out in paragraph 1 be relevant to the jurisdiction of Committees other than that to which they were referred, these Committees may ask the President of the House to be authorised to submit their comments to the appropriate Committee by subject matter. The Committee to which the draft instruments were referred under paragraph 1, may ask the President of the House to invite other Committees to submit comments on the aspects falling within their sphere of competence. If the President of the House accepts the requests made pursuant to this paragraph, said comments shall be submitted within the following eight days, or within a different time limit established by the President.

5. The appropriate Committee by subject matter shall give its opinion within the time limit established by the law for which said opinion was requested or, failing this, within the time limit laid down in Rule 143, paragraph 4. The opinion issued, along with the comments of the Budget Committee under paragraph 2, is

submitted to the President of the House who conveys it to the Government.

## CHAPTER XX CONSTITUTIONAL BILLS

### RULE 97

1. The procedures laid down for ordinary bills shall apply to the first parliamentary consideration, envisaged in article 138 of the Constitution, of constitutional bills or bills to amend the Constitution.

2. After such first stage 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 the constitutional bill has been transmitted from the Senate in the same text as adopted by the Chamber, the period of three months, including periods of adjournment, that has to elapse before proceeding to the second stage, shall start from the date of the first decision by the Chamber.

### RULE 99

1. For the purpose of the second stage of parliamentary consideration the appropriate Committee shall reconsider the bill in its entirety and report to the House.

2. During the debate in the House preliminary or delaying questions shall not be admitted; short postponements only may be requested, on which the President shall decide. No appeals may be made against this decision.

3. After the general debate, the final vote on the bill shall be taken without discussion of 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 considered as approved if in the second vote 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, in accordance with 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 budget and accounts the provisions 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 a new Parliament the President of the Chamber, in agreement with the President of the Senate, shall appoint, upon a proposal of the Groups and with criteria of proportionality, the deputies making up the Parliamentary Committee on Regional Affairs, provided for in article 126, paragraph 4, of the Constitution.

2. In cases where the Government submits to the Houses a substantive question on a regional law for reasons of conflict of interest, the President of the Chamber, in agreement with the President of the Senate, shall convey the question to the Committee on Regional Affairs, inviting it to give its opinion within a time limit set out in the request. The President of the Chamber shall then refer the question to the appropriate Standing Committee, on whose conclusions the House shall decide.

3. Bills containing provisions on the subjects set out in article 117 of the Constitution and on those envisaged by the special Regional statutes adopted by constitutional law, or concerning the legislative or administrative activities of the Regions, shall also be transmitted to the Parliamentary Committee on Regional Affairs, which shall give its opinion within the time limit set out in paragraph 2 of Rule 73. This opinion shall be attached to the report that the appropriate Committee submits to the House.

RULE 103

1. Bills for the approval of or containing amendments to the statutes of the regions enjoying ordinary

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

2. For the consideration of bills of approval, the provisions 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; to obtain information that might be useful to its deliberations, the Committee may decide a hearing of a delegation of the regional council.

2. The Committee shall submit a written report to the House within one month from the date of referral. Once this time is up, the President of the Chamber shall enter the bill in the agenda of the House.

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

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

#### RULE 105

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



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

3. When a region has proposed a number of separate amendments to the Statute, the Chamber shall apply to each of them the procedure provided for in this chapter.

#### RULE 106

1. At the end of the debate, any orders of rejection shall be voted upon by the House 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 House shall decide on the bill for the approval of the statute.

3. If the bill is rejected the provisions of paragraph 2 of Rule 72 shall not be applicable.

#### 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 House 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 the Committee to report.

2. Once this time is up, the President shall enter the bill in the agenda of the House or of the Committee acting in a legislating capacity, in accordance with paragraph 6 of Rule 25.

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

4. For bills initiated by citizens, the procedure envisaged in paragraph 1 for introduction 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 set out in the preceding paragraphs shall apply; otherwise the bill shall be referred again to the appropriate Committee according to subject matter, following ordinary procedures.

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 appropriate Committee according to subject matter and, at the same time, to the Committee on Constitutional Affairs.

2. Within thirty days, the appropriate Committee shall examine the matter with the participation of a

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

3. The Committee shall express in a final document its opinion on the need for new legislation and set out its guiding principles.

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

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

## CHAPTER XXV PETITIONS

### RULE 109

1. Petitions received by the Chamber shall be examined by the appropriate Committees.

2. Consideration in Committee may be concluded with a resolution aimed at drawing the Government's attention to the requirements set out 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 ten deputies may table a motion for the purpose of urging the House to address a specific subject.

RULE 111

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

2. When the author of a motion withdraws it, the motion shall in any case be debated and put to the vote, if so requested by a Group Chairperson or ten deputies.

RULE 112

1. Whenever the House so allows, several motions relating to identical or connected subjects 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 author of the motion to be debated first.

RULE 113

1. The consideration of each motion shall include the general debate and the debate on amendments.

2. Deputies wishing to speak in the general debate shall enter their names in the speakers' list in accordance with Rule 36. The author of a motion shall have the right to reply.

3. Amendments shall be discussed 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 principal 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 amendments 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 tabled in writing at least twenty-four hours before the debate on the motion to which they pertain; if they are signed by twenty deputies or by one or more Group Chairpersons which, separately or jointly, account for at least the same number, they may also be introduced on the same day as the debate, provided that they are introduced at least one hour before the sitting begins.

2. Amendments to amendments may be tabled during the sitting itself on condition that they have been signed by twenty deputies or by one or more Group Chairpersons which, separately or jointly, account for at least the same number.

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

4. Orders pertaining to the subject of a motion may be put to the vote, without debate, only after the motion has been voted upon.

5. The vote on the motion may be split.

#### RULE 115

1. Motions of confidence in the Government shall state the reasons therefor and shall 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 introduction, and shall be voted by roll-call.

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

3. The same rules 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 their content, the provisions of paragraph 3 are applicable.

#### RULE 116

1. If the Government proposes the question 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 proposes the question of confidence in relation to the upholding of a section, the section shall be voted upon after all the amendments have been presented. If the House votes in favour, the section shall be approved and all the amendments shall be considered as rejected. The same procedure shall be

followed if the question of confidence is proposed in relation to an order, motion or resolution. If the bill consists of only one section, the Government may propose the question of confidence in relation to the section itself, without prejudice to the final vote on the bill.

3. Voting on the question of confidence shall be by roll-call after not less than twenty-four hours have elapsed, unless the Groups reach a different agreement. One deputy for each Group shall be entitled to give an explanation of vote. The President of the Chamber shall also give the floor to one deputy for each of the political groupings within the Mixed Group and to those deputies who intend to cast a different vote to the one declared by their own Group, and shall set the conditions and time limits for statements.

4. The question of confidence may not be proposed in relation to proposals for parliamentary enquiries, amendments to the Rules and related points of interpretation or procedure, waiver of immunity, 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 subjects for which the Rules prescribe voting by show of hands or secret ballot.

#### RULE 117

1. Each Committee may vote, if proposed by one of its members and on matters within its own area of responsibility, for which it is not required to report to the House, resolutions aimed at setting out guidelines on specific subjects. A representative of the Government shall be invited when the above matters are debated.

2. In so far as they are applicable, the provisions for the introduction, debate on and voting of motions, and, for any preliminary fact-finding and consultation procedures, 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 House.

### RULE 118

1. During debates in the House on communications from the Government or on motions, each deputy may submit a draft resolution which shall be voted upon at the end of the debate.

### 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 Government's Economic and Financial Planning Document 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 by the President of the Chamber. The Budget Committee shall submit a report to the House. 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 on first. The document must be entered in the agenda of the House not more than thirty days from referral to the Committees and consideration of it must be completed in not more than three days.

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

4. If so required by unforeseen events, the Government shall lay before 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 provisions contained in the document already approved. This shall be considered in accordance with paragraph 2, within five days, at most, from the laying of the document. This time limit may be extended, if the President of the Chamber deems it appropriate, by another five days at most. The debate in the House 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 grouping within the Mixed Group, if requested, and by those deputies who intend to express different positions from their respective Groups. If the House has already begun to debate the Finance and Budget bills, discussion shall be suspended and the document laid by the Government and the report by the Budget Committee shall be considered.

#### RULE 119

1. Consideration of the Government Finance bill and the bill to approve the State annual and multi-an-

nual budget and any documents relating to national economic policy and the management of public monies, that are linked to the introduction of the above 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 distribution of the texts of the 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 the provisions of paragraph 5 of Rule 120, last thirty-five days, starting from the date of 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 Budget bill for which they are responsible, without voting. They shall take steps to obtain the necessary information, for which purpose each Committee shall establish, in agreement with the President of the Chamber, a programme of hearings. Following the same procedures, the Budget Committee shall also begin its general consideration of the Budget bill based on current legislation.

4. During the budget session, all deliberations by the House and the legislating Committees on bills involving new or increased expenditure or reduced revenue shall be suspended. Decisions relating to the confirmation of decree-laws, to bills linked to the budgetary 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 implementa-

tion of European Union legislation, where failure to do so promptly might result in non-observance by the Italian State of international or Community commitments, may however be adopted. In these cases additional sittings may be scheduled for debate in the House.

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

6. The business of the House 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 limit, avoiding, as a rule, simultaneous sittings of the Committees and the House. During consideration in Committee of those parts of the Finance bill and individual estimates for which they have responsibility, all other legislative work 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 House must be completed during the budget session with the final votes on the Finance bill and on the State budget bill, including any adjustments resulting from the measures contained in the Finance bill.

8. The Government bill to approve the general accounts of the State shall be considered, together with the bill approving the review of the budget appropriations for the current year and the documents referred to in Rule 149, not later than one month from the introduction of the bills. Rules 120, paragraphs 1, 3 and 6, and Rules 121 and 123, paragraph 1, shall apply,

except for the time limits for opinions and for the completion of consideration at the reporting stage. The aforementioned time limits shall be laid down by the President of the Chamber in such a way as to enable the two bills to be finally approved in the set time frame.

### RULE 120

1. The Government Finance bill and the State Budget bill shall be referred for general consideration to the Budget and Planning Committee, and to the appropriate Committees according to subject matter for consideration of the parts for which they are respectively 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 contained in this chapter, that the bill does not contain measures unrelated to its subject as defined by the current legislation on the State budget and accounts. In such cases, the President of the Chamber shall inform the House of the setting aside of the unrelated measures, after hearing the opinion of the Budget Committee.

3. Not more than ten days after referral, each Committee shall consider jointly those parts of the Government Finance bill and Budget bill for which it is responsible 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 submitted at the Committee stage shall be transmitted. One proposer for each minority report may be heard by the Budget and Planning Committee.

4. Within the time limit set out in paragraph 3, the Budget and Planning Committee shall commence consideration of the Finance bill and the Budget bill, with the presentations by the rapporteurs and the statements by the financial Ministers.

5. When the Government has introduced the Finance bill and the Budget bill in the Senate, the appropriate Chamber Committees shall begin consideration of the parts for which they have competence and of the individual estimates, without voting and before approval by the Senate.

6. When the time limit set out in paragraph 3 has elapsed, the Budget and Planning Committee shall consider jointly, within the following fourteen days, the bills and related documents and shall approve the general report on the Finance and Budget bills. Minority reports may be submitted within the same time limit. The reports by the other appropriate Committees shall be annexed to the general report.

7. Before the final report on the Budget bill, the Committee on the Budget shall consider the Budget variation note submitted by the Government, on an accruals and cash basis, following approval of the Finance bill. The variation note shall then be voted by the House and any sections of the Budget bill and annexed schedules voted on previously shall be considered amended accordingly.

8. The competent Ministers shall take part in the sittings of the Committees devoted to consideration of the Finance and Budget bills. A verbatim report of these sittings shall be drawn up and published.

9. When the bills referred to in paragraph 1 have been approved by the Senate and conveyed to the Chamber, the time limit envisaged 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 competence of each Committee and involving offsetting adjustments, and any amendments to the Budget bill that propose offsetting adjustments within estimates, shall be tabled in the appropriate Committee according to subject matter. Amendments involving non-offsetting adjustments may also be tabled and voted in the same Committee. The amendments approved shall be included in the report to be transmitted to the Committee on the Budget.

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 set out in the 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 tabled in the Budget Committee which shall consider them, together with the amendments provided for in the preceding paragraphs, so as to prepare its conclusions to be laid before the House. If the Budget Committee does not accept the proposals of the Committees as set out in paragraph 1, it shall explain the reasons for this in the report referred to in paragraph 6 of Rule 120.

3. Amendments tabled directly in the Budget Committee which alter the individual appropriations within the special funds' distribution schedules shall be sent to the appropriate Committee for its opinion. This shall be given within the following day or within a different time limit set by the President of the Chamber.

4. Amendments rejected by the Committee can be re-tabled in the House, subject to the provisions of paragraph 5 of Rule 86.

5. Subject to the provisions of Rule 89, the Chairpersons of the appropriate Committees according to subject matter and the Chairperson of the Budget Committee shall declare inadmissible any amendments and additional sections dealing with subjects that are unrelated to the Finance and Budget bills, 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 decisions adopted pursuant to paragraph 2 of Rule 120. If any questions arise, the President of the Chamber shall decide pursuant to paragraph 2 of Rule 41. Amendments declared inadmissible at the Committee stage may not be re-tabled in the House.

#### RULE 122

1. Orders shall be tabled and moved before the appropriate Committees according to subject matter. Those not accepted by the Government, or rejected at the Committee stage, may be re-tabled on the Floor of the House; they shall be put to the vote in the House after the approval of the last section of the individual estimates to which they pertain.

2. Orders accepted by the Government or approved by the appropriate Committee according to subject matter shall be annexed to the report to be transmitted to the Budget and Planning Committee and then to the report this Committee shall submit to the House.

3. No other orders may be tabled in the House, with the exception of those pertaining to the overall 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 Finance and Budget bills has not been submitted by the Budget and Planning Committee within the prescribed time limit, the debate in the House shall take place on the bills introduced by the Government, accompanied by reports by the appropriate Committees according to subject matter.

2. The general debate in the House on the Finance and Budget bills shall take place jointly and address the overall economic and financial policy and the state of implementation and further development of national economic planning.

3. The House shall proceed to consider, in this order, the sections of the Budget bill, beginning with the section approving the revenue side of the budget, then the sections of the Finance bill and then the final vote on the latter. Adjustments to the Budget bill resulting from the provisions approved in the Finance bill shall then be considered, as envisaged by paragraph 7 of Rule 120, and voted upon. The House shall then proceed to the final vote on the Budget bill, as amended. When the Finance and Budget bills have already been approved by the Senate, voting on the sections of the Budget bill shall not preclude voting on the Finance bill.

### RULE 123-*bis*

1. Bills related to the package of budget adjustment measures, as mentioned in the Economic and Financial Planning Document approved by parliamentary resolution under Rule 118-*bis*, paragraph 2, and that are introduced within the time limit prescribed by law, shall be referred to the Committees acting in a legislating or



reporting capacity. When a bill as set out in this section is introduced in the House, the President shall ascertain, before referral, that the bill does not contain measures unrelated to its subject as defined by current legislation on the State budget and accounting, as well as by the aforementioned resolution. The President, having heard the Budget Committee, shall inform the House of the setting aside of the unrelated measures.

2. The Government may ask the House to decide on said bill within a set time limit, related to the deadlines for the package of budget adjustment measures as a whole.

3. The Conference of Group Chairpersons shall decide unanimously on requests made in accordance with paragraph 2. If unanimous agreement is not reached, the House shall decide on the proposals which the President of the Chamber, having taken due account of the prevailing positions, may submit to it. Three days shall, as a rule, be set aside for consideration of each bill by the House.

*3-bis.* Without prejudice to section 89, the Chairpersons of the Committees to which the bills related to the package of budget adjustment measures are referred shall declare inadmissible amendments and additional sections that are unrelated to the subject of the bill, as defined by paragraph 1, or that are in conflict with the criteria for the introduction of new or larger expenditure or lower revenue, as defined by the current legislation on the State budget and accounting. If any questions arise, the decision shall rest with the President of the House. Amendments and additional sections that have been declared inadmissible by the Committee may not be re-tabled in the House.

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 Finance and Budget bills are debated, pursuant to paragraphs 7 and 8 of Rule 119.

#### RULE 124

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

2. The Committee shall appoint a rapporteur for each document and consider it within the time limit envisaged in Rule 119, in the case of planning documents or documents related to consideration of the budget and accounts, or, in all other cases, in not more than one month.

3. When consideration of the planning document or documents related to the budget or accounts has been completed, the Committee shall submit a report on each document, to be annexed to the report on the revenue side of the budget or the general 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 EUROPEAN UNION 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 arrange for them to be announced or read out on the Floor of the House and then printed and referred to the appropriate Committees according to subject matter. They shall also be referred to the European Union Policy Committee and 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 appropriate 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 within the Mixed Group, having first set out the conditions and time limits for the statements. The debate may be concluded with the adoption of a resolution in accordance with Rule 117.

## RULE 126

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

2. The Committee shall give 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 regulatory instruments relating to the implementation of European Union legislation and, in general, on all bills with respect to compatibility with European Union legislation.

RULE 126-*bis*

1. The European Union Policy Committee and the Standing Committees may arrange for a debate to be held, with the participation of the Minister responsible, on proposals by the European Commission, where such proposals or specific subjects are to be included in the agenda of the Council of the European Union, or on matters concerning agreements pertaining to the Communities or their activities or those of their bodies.

RULE 126-*ter*

1. The Community bill introduced by Government and the annual report on the participation of Italy in the European Union legislative process shall be referred to the European Union Policy Committee in a reporting capacity and, for the consideration of those parts for which they have competence, to the appropriate Committees according to subject matter.

2. Within fifteen days following referral, each Committee shall consider those parts of the bill 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 Policy Committee to be heard. Any minority reports tabled in the Committees shall be delivered within the same time limit. A rapporteur for each minority report may take part in the sittings of the European Union Policy Committee to be heard. Within the same fifteen-day time limit, 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 sphere of competence and give its opinion. At the end of this period, the European Union Policy Committee may proceed with its consideration of the bill and of the report.

3. After the time limit set out in paragraph 2, the European Union Policy Committee shall complete the consideration of the Community bill within the following thirty days, and submit a general report to the House, with the annexed reports approved by the Committees under 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 submit a general report to the House, with the annexed reports approved by the Committees under paragraph 2.

4. Without prejudice to Rule 89, the Chairpersons of the Committees that are competent by subject matter and the Chairperson of the European Union Policy Committee shall declare amendments and additional sections that are unrelated to the subject of the Community bill, as defined by legislation in force, to be inadmissible. If any questions arise, the decision shall rest with the President of the House. Amendments that have been declared inadmissible by the Committee may not be re-tabled in the House.

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

6. The general debate on the Community bill shall take place in the House 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 Community bill, the House deliberates on the resolutions that may have

been tabled under 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 legislative acts issued by the Council of the European Union or the European Commission, or the drafts of such acts, shall be referred for consideration to the appropriate Committees according to subject matter, with the opinion of the European Union Policy Committee.

2. In not more than thirty days, the appropriate Committees shall consider the legislative text 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 European Court of Justice shall be printed, distributed and sent to the appropriate Committee according to subject matter and to the European Union Policy Committee.

2. Within thirty days, the appropriate Committee shall examine the matter with the participation of a representative of the Government and of a rapporteur appointed by the European Union Policy Committee.

3. The Committee shall express in a final document its opinion on the need for initiatives or steps to be undertaken by the national authorities, and shall set out the relevant criteria.

4. The document shall be printed and distributed and shall be transmitted by the President of the Cham-

ber to the President of the Senate and the President of the Council of Ministers.

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

#### RULE 127-*ter*

1. On questions 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 subjects for which they have responsibility.

### CHAPTER XXIX PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

#### RULE 128

1. Deputies shall submit 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 information on a fact and whether or not a piece of information is accurate, whether the Government intends to transmit documents or information 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 submitted, questions shall be entered as the first agenda item of the first sitting for which a question time is scheduled.

3. Not more than two questions submitted 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 subjects.

2. After the period of time indicated in paragraph 1, the President shall defer until the following sitting any questions that have not been dealt with.

#### RULE 131

1. The Government may declare that it cannot reply to a question, giving the reasons therefor. If it declares that it has to defer the answer, it shall name a day, within the space of one month, on which it is prepared to reply.

2. If the questioner 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 questioner may take the floor to declare if he or she is satisfied or not.



2. The time allowed for the questioner's response shall not exceed five minutes.

### RULE 133

1. When submitting a question the 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 appropriate Committee according to subject matter and shall notify the Government thereof.

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

4. The questions and the answers thereto shall be published in the Bulletin of Parliamentary Committees.

### RULE 134

1. When submitting 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 convey 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 give its answer within the time limit envisaged in paragraph 1, the President of the Chamber, at the request of the questioner, shall include the question in the agenda of the next sitting of the appropriate 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 questioner shall always have the right of response in accordance with Rule 132.

RULE 135-*bis*

1. Questions tabled for immediate answer shall be dealt with once a week, usually on Wednesdays. Within the framework of each order of business the President or Deputy President of the Council of Ministers shall participate twice in sittings devoted to questions tabled for immediate answer, while the Minister or Ministers with responsibility for the subjects covered by the questions submitted shall participate once.

2. No later than 12 o'clock on the day preceding the one in which the questions referred to in paragraph 1 are to be dealt with, one deputy for each Group may submit 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 subject of general import, characterised by urgency or particular political topicality. When questions are to be answered by the President or Deputy President of the Council of Ministers, such questions shall be related to matters within the sphere of responsibility of the President of the Council of Ministers as defined by article 95, paragraph 1, of the Constitution. In other cases, the President of the Chamber shall invite the Minister or Ministers responsible for the subjects on which the highest number of questions have been tabled. Groups

that have tabled questions on different subjects 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. Each deputy tabling a question may speak to it for no longer than one minute. A member of the Government shall reply to each of the questions tabled, for no longer than three minutes. After this, the questioner or another deputy from the same Group shall have the right to respond, for no longer than two minutes.

5. The President of the Chamber may arrange for the televised broadcasting of the questions described in this Rule.

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

7. Questions tabled following the procedure set out in this Rule may not be tabled again as ordinary questions.

#### RULE 135-*ter*

1. Questions tabled for immediate answer in Committee shall be dealt with twice a month, usually on Thursdays.

2. No later than twelve o'clock of the day preceding the one in which the question is to be dealt with, as set out in paragraph 1, one Committee member for each Group may submit a question through the representative of the Group to which he or she belongs. The Chairperson of the Committee shall then invite the Minister or Under-Secretary of State responsible for the subject.

3. The parliamentary questions referred to in paragraph 1 shall consist of one single question, formulat-

ed in a clear and concise manner, on a subject falling within the Committee's area of responsibility, characterised by urgency or particular political topicality.

4. Each deputy tabling a question may speak to it for not more than one minute. The Minister shall reply to each of the questions tabled, for no longer than three minutes. After this the questioner or another deputy from the same Group shall have the right to respond, for not more than two minutes.

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

6. Questions tabled following the procedure set out in this Rule may not be tabled again as ordinary questions.

## CHAPTER XXX INTERPELLATIONS

### RULE 136

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

2. Interpellations are questions, in writing, concerning the reasons and intentions behind the Government's conduct on issues regarding aspects of its policy.

### RULE 137

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

2. Two weeks after they have been submitted, interpellations shall be included 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 included in the agenda of any one sitting.

4. Before the deadline envisaged in paragraph 2 has elapsed, or on the day set for the interpellation, the Government may declare that it cannot reply, indicating the reason for this, or that it wishes to defer the reply to another date during the following two weeks, unless the questioner allows a longer postponement. In the case of a request for postponement or in cases of urgency, the questioner may ask the House to schedule the interpellation for a day which he or she proposes.

#### RULE 138

1. Anyone submitting an interpellation has the right to speak to it for not more than fifteen minutes and, after the statement of the Government, to explain for not more 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 question is of outstanding political importance.

2. If a questioner 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. Urgent interpellations may be tabled by the Chairpersons of the Parliamentary Groups, on behalf of their respective Groups, or by not less than thirty deputies. 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 in accordance with this Rule no later than the previous Tuesday's sitting, shall normally be dealt with each week, during the Thursday morning sitting.

3. The urgent interpellations referred to in this Rule shall be dealt with 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, in so far as they are relevant, apply.

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

3. The President may decide, according to his or her indisputable judgement, for questions and interpellations regarding identical or closely connected subjects to be grouped together and dealt with 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 given the floor immediately after the promoters of motions.

RULE 139-*bis*

1. For the publication of motions, interpellations and questions, the President of the Chamber shall ver-

ify that the content thereof is consistent with the type of instrument, in accordance with Rules 110, 128 and 136; where necessary, he or she shall arrange for the instrument to be titled correctly and shall inform the author. The President of the Chamber shall also evaluate the admissibility of these instruments with regard to consistency among their different parts, to areas of competence and the Government's responsibility to Parliament, and to the protection of privacy, of the honour of individuals and the prestige of the institutions. Instruments containing unparliamentary language shall not under any circumstances be published.

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

#### CHAPTER XXXII PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES

##### RULE 140

1. Proposals for parliamentary enquiries shall follow the procedures laid down for bills.

##### RULE 141

1. When the Chamber decides to carry out an enquiry, the relevant Committee shall be composed in such a way as to reflect the proportions of the Parliamentary Groups. The House may delegate the appointment of the Committee members to the President.

2. The Committee of Enquiry shall carry out its enquiry with the same powers and limits as the judicial authorities.

3. If the Senate also decides to carry out an enquiry into the same subject, the Committees of the two Chambers may decide to proceed jointly.

#### RULE 142

1. When a Committee of Enquiry 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 before deciding on the matter.

#### CHAPTER XXXIII

#### PROCEDURES FOR INVESTIGATION, FACT-FINDING AND SCRUTINY IN COMMITTEE

#### RULE 143

1. The Committees shall submit to the House reports and proposals on matters within their sphere of competence that they consider to be appropriate or that have been requested by the House. To this end, at the request also of a representative of a Group, they shall seek the necessary information and documents directly from the appropriate Ministers.

2. They may also request the participation of Ministers to clarify questions of administration and policy relating to the area for which they are individually responsible. Subject to agreement with the President of the Chamber, they may also ask the Ministers in question to send officials from the public administration and public bodies, including those with autonomous status.

3. They may also ask representatives of the Government to report, including in writing, on the imple-



mentation 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 sphere of competence, the President of the Chamber shall refer the request to the appropriate Committee according to subject matter, and inform the House thereof at the first sitting of the House 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 established by law for the adoption of the instrument by the Government. If the appropriate Committee is a joint Committee, the President of the Chamber shall proceed in agreement with the President of the Senate. For instruments regarding appointments or nominations, the Committee shall adopt its opinion within twenty days of referral. This period may be extended once only, for not more than ten days, by the President of the Chamber. Should the request concern instruments of a different nature, the President of the Chamber may, having evaluated their complexity and circumstances and in agreement with the President of the Senate, set a longer time limit. The opinion shall be conveyed 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 area of responsibility, fact-finding investigations aimed at acquiring information and documents that are deemed useful for parliamentary business.

2. The Committees may invite any person in a position to provide useful information to sittings devoted to the above investigations.

3. The 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 the Committee, a verbatim report shall also be drawn up, unless the Committee decides otherwise.

5. If the Senate of the Republic has also set up an investigation into the same 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 House and the Committees may ask the President of the Chamber, through the Government, to 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 statistical studies shall be printed as soon as they have been delivered by the National Institute of Statistics.

#### CHAPTER XXXIV RELATIONS WITH THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE ECONOMY AND LABOUR

#### RULE 146

1. The House and the Committees, acting in a legislating capacity, before the general debate has been concluded, and Committees acting in a reporting capacity before appointing a rapporteur, may ask the

President of the Chamber to invite the National Council for the Economy and Labour to give an 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 have the power 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 intended for the House or a Committee acting in a legislating capacity. If on the other hand it is intended for a reporting Committee, it shall be annexed to the report for the House.

#### RULE 147

1. The President of the Chamber shall inform the Parliamentary Committees of the agenda of the Assembly and Committees of the National Council for the Economy and Labour.

2. The House and the Committees may ask the President of the Chamber to 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 delivered by the National Council for the Economy and Labour.

### CHAPTER XXXV RELATIONS WITH THE COURT OF AUDITORS

#### RULE 148

1. A Chairperson of a Committee, for subject matters within its area of responsibility, or a Group Presi-

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

#### RULE 149

1. The report sent to Parliament by the Court of Auditors on the administration of those bodies to which the State provides ordinary funding shall be sent for consideration to the Committee responsible for the subject in question.

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, ask the Court of Auditors to provide further information.

3. For each of the aforementioned bodies, the Committee shall submit a document which it shall attach to its opinion on the 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 appropriate Committee according to subject matter, which shall consider them within one month of referral. The Committee shall also consult 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.

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 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, 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 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.

TRANSITIONAL MEASURES

RULE 154

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

2. On a transitional basis, and until new regulations governing questions of confidence are adopted, if questions of confidence are raised by the Government while a bill is being considered, the timescale envisaged by the current order of business shall be suspended, unless the Groups agree otherwise. Such timescale shall be reinstated after the vote on the question of confidence has been taken.

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

4. The Committee on the Rules of Procedure shall submit to the House, 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 submit 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 XIII Parliament shall be named European

Union Policy Committee. Until the Committees are re-appointed in accordance with paragraph 5 of Rule 20, the prohibition referred to in the first sentence of paragraph 3 of Rule 19 shall not apply.

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

7. The provisions under Rule 5, paragraph 7, shall not apply to Secretaries elected prior to the date on which these provisions enter into force.





