



Strasbourg, 1 December 2008

Opinion no. 446 / 2007

CDL(2008)113add
Engl. only

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

ANNEXE

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE

EXCERPTS
FROM CONSTITUTIONS OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

(CODICES 2007/02)

ALBANIA**Chapter IV - The Legislative Process****Article 81**

1. Council of Ministers, every deputy and 20,000 electors each have the right to propose laws.
2. are approved by three-fifths of all members of the Assembly:
 - a. laws for the organization and operation of the institutions contemplated by the Constitution;
 - b. law on citizenship;
 - c. law on general and local elections;
 - d. law on referenda;
 - e. codes;
 - f. law on the state of emergency;
 - g. law on the status of public functionaries;
 - f. law on amnesty;
 - h. law on administrative divisions of the Republic.

Article 82

1. proposal of laws, when this is the case, must always be accompanied by a report that justifies the financial costs of its implementation.
2. non-governmental draft law that makes necessary an increase in the expenses of the state budget or diminishes income may be approved without hearing the opinion of the Council of Ministers, which must be given within 30 days from the date of receiving the draft law.
3. the Council of Ministers does not give an answer within the above time period, the draft law passes for review according to the normal procedure.

Article 83

1. draft law is voted on three times: in principle, article by article, and in its entirety.
2. Assembly may, at the request of the Council of Ministers or one-fifth of all the deputies, review and approve a draft law by an expedited procedure, but no sooner than one week from the beginning of the review procedure.
3. expedited procedure is not permitted for the review of the draft laws contemplated in Article 81, paragraph 2, with the exception of subparagraph dh.

Article 84

1. President of the Republic promulgates an approved law within 20 days from its submission.
2. law is deemed promulgated if the President of the Republic does not exercise the rights provided for in paragraph 1 of this article or in paragraph 1 of article 85.
3. law enters into force with the passage of not less than 15 days after its publication in the Official Journal.

4. In cases of extraordinary measures, as well as in cases of necessity and emergency, when the Assembly decides with a majority of all its members and the President of the Republic gives his consent, a law enters into force immediately, but only after it is made known publicly. The law shall be published in the first number of the Official Journal.

Article 85

1. President of the Republic has the right to return a law for re-consideration only once.
2. decree of the President for the re-consideration of a law loses its effect when a majority of all the members of the Assembly vote against it.

ANDORRA

Chapter II - Legislative procedure

Article 58

The legislative initiative corresponds to the Consell General and to the Govern.² Three Comuns jointly or a tenth part of the electoral roll may put forward Private Members' Bills to the Consell General.³ Govern Bills and Private Members' Bills shall be examined by the Plenum of the Chamber and by the committees in the form prescribed by the Rules of Procedure.

Article 59

The Consell General may delegate the exercise of the legislative function to the Govern, by means of a law. This function may not be sub-delegated. The law of delegation determines the matter delegated, the principles and directives under which the corresponding legislative decree of the Govern shall be issued, as well as the term of its exercise. The authorization will provide for the parliamentary forms of control of the delegated legislation.

Article 60

1. In cases of extreme urgency and need, the Govern may present the Consell General with an articulated text for approval as a law, in a vote on the whole text, within the period of forty-eight hours.
2. The matters reserved to a Llei Qualificada may not be subject to legislative delegation or to the procedure provided for in part 1 of this article.

Article 61 1.

The initiative of the Bill of the General Budget corresponds exclusively to the Govern, which has to submit it for parliamentary approval at least two months prior to the expiration of the previous budget.² The Bill of the General Budget shall be given priority over other matters and it will be carried out in accordance with a specific procedure, as prescribed in the Rules of Procedure.³ If the Bill of the General Budget has not yet been approved on the first day of the corresponding fiscal year, the Budget of the previous year shall automatically be extended until the new one may be approved.⁴ The Bill of the General Budget may not impose taxes.⁵ The Finance Committee of the Consell General shall make an annual revision of the execution of the Budget.

Article 62

1. The Consellers and the grups parlamentaris have the right to amend Govern and Private Members' Bills.

2. The Govern may request the Consell General not to debate those amendments implying an increase of expenditure or a decrease of revenue in relation to the amounts provided for in the Law of the General Budget. The Consell General, by an absolute majority vote of the Chamber, may challenge that request by means of a reasoned motion.

Article 63

Once a bill has been passed by the Consell General, the Síndic General will present it to the Coprínceps so that they may sanction it, enact it and order its publication in the Butlletí Oficial del Principat d'Andorra.

ARMENIA

Article 75

The right to legislative initiative in the National Assembly shall belong to the Deputies and the Government.

The Government may determine the sequence of the debate for its proposed draft legislation and may demand that they be voted only with amendments acceptable to it.

In conformity with the conclusion of the Government the National Assembly shall adopt the draft laws reducing the state budget revenues or increasing the state budget expenditures by the majority of the total number of votes of the Deputies.

The Government may put forward a motion on confidence in the Government in conjunction with the adoption of a draft law proposed by the Government. If within twenty four hours after the Government has raised the question of the vote of confidence a minimum of one third of the total number of Deputies does not put forward a draft resolution on expressing no confidence in the Government or if no resolution on expressing no confidence in the Government is adopted by the majority of the total number of Deputies during the period set forth in Article 84 Part 3 in case when such a draft is put forward, the draft law proposed by the Government shall be considered adopted.

The Government may not raise the issue of its confidence in conjunction with a draft law more than twice during any single session.

AUSTRIA

D. Federal Legislative Procedure

Article 41.

1. Legislative proposals are submitted to the National Council as motions by its members, by the Federal Council or by one third of the Federal Council's members, and as bills by the Federal Government.

2. Every motion by 100,000 voters or by one sixth each of the voters in three Laender (henceforth called "initiative") shall be submitted by the Federal electoral board to the National Council for action. The right to vote, as to initiatives, appertains to those who on the day appointed for election possess National Council suffrage and have their principal domicile in a municipality in Federal territory. The initiative must concern a matter to be settled by Federal law and can be put forward in the form of a draft law.

Article 42.

1. Every enactment of the National Council shall without delay be conveyed by the President to the Federal Council.
2. Save as otherwise provided by constitutional law, an enactment can be authenticated and published only if the Federal Council has not raised a reasoned objection to this enactment.
3. This objection must be conveyed to the National Council in writing by the Chairman of the Federal Council within eight weeks of the enactment's arrival; the Federal Chancellor shall be informed thereof.
4. If the National Council in the presence of at least half its members once more carries its original resolution, this shall be authenticated and published. If the Federal Council resolves not to raise any objection or if no reasoned objection is raised within the deadline laid down in para. 3 above, the enactment shall be authenticated and published.
5. The Federal Council has no claim to participation in so far as National Council resolutions concern the National Council's Standing Orders, the dissolution of the National Council, a Federal finance law, a temporary provision consonant with Art. 51 para. 5 or a disposal of Federal property, the assumption or conversion of a Federal liability, the contraction or the conversion of a Federal monetary debt, the sanction of a final Federal budget account.

Article 43.

If the National Council so resolves or if the majority of members of the National Council so demands, every enactment of the National Council shall be submitted to a referendum upon conclusion of the procedure pursuant to Art. 42 above but before its authentication by the Federal President.

Article 44.

1. Constitutional laws or constitutional provisions contained in simple laws can be passed by the National Council only in the presence of at least half the members and by a two thirds majority of the votes cast; they shall be explicitly specified as such ("constitutional law", "constitutional provision").
2. Constitutional laws or constitutional provisions contained in simple laws restricting the competence of the Laender in legislation or execution require furthermore the approval of the Federal Council which must be imparted in the presence of at least half the members and by a two thirds majority of the votes cast.
3. Any total revision of the Federal Constitution shall upon conclusion of the procedure pursuant to Art. 42 above but before its authentication by the Federal President be submitted to a referendum by the entire nation, whereas any partial revision requires this only if one third of the members of the National Council or the Federal Council so demands.

Article 45.

1. For a referendum the absolute majority of the validly cast votes is decisive.
2. The result of a referendum shall be officially announced.

Article 46.

1. The procedure for an initiative and a referendum will be prescribed by Federal law.
2. Any Federal citizen with National Council suffrage has the right to vote.

3. A referendum takes place at the order of the Federal President.

Article 47

1. The constitutional enactment of Federal laws is authenticated by the signature of the Federal President.

2. The submission for authentication is effected by the Federal Chancellor.

3. The authentication shall be countersigned by the Federal Chancellor.

Article 48

Federal laws and the treaties specified in Art. 50 will be published with reference to their adoption by the National Council, Federal laws based upon a referendum with reference to the result of that referendum.

Article 49

1. Federal laws and the treaties specified in Art. 50 shall be published by the Federal Chancellor in the Federal Law Gazette. Unless explicitly provided otherwise, their entry into force begins with expiry of the day on which the number of the Federal Law Gazette containing their publication is issued and distributed, and it extends, unless explicitly provided otherwise, to the entire Federal territory; this does not however hold good for treaties which are to be implemented by the issue of laws (Art.50 para. 2).

2. The National Council can on the occasion of giving its sanction to treaties pursuant to Art.50 resolve that a treaty or individual explicitly specified parts of it shall be published not in the Federal Law Gazette but in another appropriate manner. Such a resolution by the National Council has to state the manner of publication, which must guarantee the accessibility of the treaty for the duration of its validity, and shall be notified by the Federal Chancellor in the Federal Law Gazette. Unless explicitly provided otherwise, the entry into force of such treaties begins with expiry of the day on which the number of the Federal Law Gazette containing the notification of the resolution by the National Council is issued and distributed, and it extends, unless explicitly provided otherwise, to the entire Federal territory. . . .

3. A special Federal law on the Federal Law Gazette will be promulgated.

Article 49a.

1. The Federal Chancellor is empowered jointly with the competent Federal Ministers to restate with binding effect Federal laws, with the exception of this Law, and treaties published in the Federal Law Gazette in their valid version by publication in the Federal Law Gazette.

2. On the occasion of the republication

a) obsolete terminological expressions can be rectified and outdated spelling assimilated to the new manner of writing;

b) references to other regulations which no longer tally with current legislation as well as other inconsistencies can be rectified;

c. provisions which have been nullified by later regulations or otherwise rendered void can be declared no longer valid;

d) title abridgements and alphabetical abbreviations of titles can be laid down;

e) the designations of articles, sections, paragraphs, and the like can in case of elimination or insertion be correspondingly altered and in this connection references thereto within the text of the regulation be appropriately rectified;

f) interim provisions as well as earlier still applicable versions of the Federal law in question can by specification of their purview be recapitulated and simultaneously with the republication be separately issued.

3. From the day following issue of the republication all courts and administrative authorities are bound by the restated text in respect of facts materializing thereafter.

Article 49b.

1. A plebiscite on a matter of fundamental and overall national importance for whose settlement the legislature is competent must take place if the National Council votes it by reason of a motion from its members or from the Federal Government. Elections and matters subject to a decision by a court or an administrative authority cannot be the topic of a plebiscite.

2. A motion pursuant to para. 1 above must include a proposal for the formulation of the question to be basically put in the plebiscite. This must consist either of a question to be answered with "Yes" or "No" or of two alternative solution proposals.

3. Plebiscites shall be implemented in a manner analogous to Arts. 45 and 46. The right to vote, as to plebiscites, appertains to those who on the day appointed for election possess National Council suffrage and have their principal domicile in a municipality in Federal territory. The Federal electoral board must submit the result of a plebiscite to the National Council and the Federal Government.

AZERBAIJAN

Article 96 - Right of legislative initiative

1. Right of legislative initiative in Milli Majlis of the Azerbaijan Republic (right to submit for consideration by Milli Majlis of the Azerbaijan Republic drafts of laws and other questions) belongs to deputies of Milli Majlis of the Azerbaijan Republic, the President of the Azerbaijan Republic, Supreme Court of the Azerbaijan Republic, the Prosecutor's Office of Azerbaijan Republic and Ali Majlis of Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic.

2. Drafts of laws or decrees submitted for consideration by Milli Majlis of the Azerbaijan Republic by the President of the Azerbaijan Republic, Supreme Court of the Azerbaijan Republic, the Prosecutor's Office of Azerbaijan Republic or Ali Majlis of Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, as legislative initiative, are put to the vote as they are.

3. Amendments in such drafts of laws or decrees are introduced by consent of the body which used the right of legislative initiative.

4. Drafts of laws or decrees submitted for consideration by Milli Majlis of the Azerbaijan Republic by the President of the Azerbaijan Republic, Supreme Court of the Azerbaijan Republic, the Prosecutor's Office of Azerbaijan Republic or Ali Majlis of Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, as legislative initiative, are put to the vote in Milli Majlis of the Azerbaijan Republic within two months.

5. If draft of the law or decree has been declared by the President of the Azerbaijan Republic, Supreme Court of the Azerbaijan Republic, the Prosecutor's Office of Azerbaijan Republic or Ali Majlis of Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic urgent, then above specified term shall constitute 20 days.

Article 97 - Term for submitting laws for signing

1. Drafts of the laws are submitted to the President of the Azerbaijan Republic for signing within 14 days from the day of their acceptance.
2. Urgent draft of the law is submitted to the President of the Azerbaijan Republic for signing within 24 hours from the moment of its acceptance.

Article 98 - Validity of acts of Milli Majlis of the Azerbaijan Republic

If not specified otherwise in the law and decree of Milli Majlis of the Azerbaijan Republic themselves the law and decree become valid from the date of their publication.

BELARUS**Article 99.**

The right of legislative initiative shall belong to the President, members of the House of Representatives, Council of the Republic, Government, as well as to citizens who are eligible to vote, in a number of no less than 50,000, and is implemented in the House of Representatives. Draft laws the adoption of which may reduce state resources, or increase expenditures may be introduced in the House of Representatives only with the consent of the President or to his assignment by the Government.

The President or to his assignment the Government shall have the right to forward proposals in the House of Representatives and Council of the Republic on the urgency of consideration of a draft law. The House of Representatives and Council of the Republic shall consider in the instance the latter in the course of ten days since its submission.

To the request of the President or to his consent the Government, the House of Representatives and Council of the Republic shall take decisions at their sessions voting in general for the whole draft law or a part of it, which was forwarded by the President or Government preserving only those amendments which were forwarded or accepted by the President or Government.

Article 100

Any bill, unless otherwise specified by the Constitution, shall be initially considered in the House of Representatives and then in the Council of the Republic.

A bill, unless otherwise specified in the Constitution, shall become a law after its approval by a majority of votes of the full composition of the House of Representatives and the Council of the Republic.

Bills adopted by the House of Representatives shall be sent to the Council of the Republic for consideration within five days, where they shall be considered within no more than twenty days unless otherwise specified in the Constitution.

A bill shall be deemed to have been approved by the Council of the Republic provided that a majority of votes of the full composition of the Council of the Republic has been cast for it, or if within twenty days, and in instances of urgency within ten days since its submission, the Council of the Republic failed to consider it. If the bill is rejected by the Council of the Republic, both chambers may form a conciliation commission on a parity basis to overcome the existing differences. The text of the bill drafted by the conciliatory commission shall be submitted for approval to both chambers.

If the conciliatory commission fails to draft a compromise bill, the President or on his assignment the Government may request that the House of Representatives take a final decision. The bill shall be deemed to have been adopted by the House of Representatives if no less than two-thirds of its full composition has voted for it.

A bill adopted by the House of Representatives and approved by the Council of the Republic, or in the instance determined by the present article adopted by the House of Representatives shall be submitted to the President for signature within ten days. If the President is in agreement with the bill, he shall sign it. If the President does not return the bill within two weeks since its submission, it shall be deemed to have been signed by the President. The bill shall not be deemed to have been signed and shall be invalid if it failed to be returned to Parliament due to the end of the session.

If the President does not agree with the text of the bill, he shall return it together with his objections to the House of Representatives, which shall consider it with the President's objections within thirty days. If the bill has been adopted by the House of Representatives by no less than two-thirds of its full composition, it together with the President's objections and within five days shall be submitted to the Council of the Republic, which shall consider it for a second hearing within twenty days. The bill shall be deemed to have been approved if no less than two-thirds of the full composition of the Council of the Republic has voted for it. The bill, after the House of Representatives and the Council of the Republic have overrun the President's objections, shall be signed by the President within five days. The bill shall become a law even if it is not signed by the President within the assigned time.

The President's objections to the provisions of the bill, which are returned for a second hearing, shall be considered to the same order. In this instance, prior to the appropriate decision of the House of Representatives and the Council of the Republic the bill shall be signed by the President and become a law without the provisions which have been rejected by the President.

Article 101

To the proposal of the President, the House of Representatives and the Council of the Republic may adopt a law supported by a majority of the full composition of both chambers, delegating to him legislative powers to issue decrees which have the power of a law. The latter shall determine the subject of the issue and the term of the powers of the President to issue such decrees.

There shall be no delegation of powers to the President to issue decrees which provide alterations and addenda to the Constitution and its interpretation; alteration and addendum of policy laws; the approval of the national budget and an account of its implementation alterations with regard to the election of the President and Parliament, limitation of constitutional rights and liberties of the citizens. The law on delegating legislative powers to the President shall not permit him alteration of the said law, nor shall it permit to adopt regulations which are retroactive.

In instances of necessity the President may personally initiate or to the proposal of the Government may issue temporary decrees which have the power of law. If such decrees are issued on the initiative of the Government, they shall be signed by the Prime minister. Temporary decrees shall be submitted for further approval within three days of their adoption to the House of Representatives, and then to the Council of the Republic. These decrees shall be valid if they are not rejected by a majority of no fewer than two-thirds of votes of the full composition of both chambers. The chambers may regulate through legislation issues which have emerged due to decrees, which have been abolished.

Article 102

The deputies of the House of Representatives and members of the Council of the Republic shall enjoy immunity in the expression of their views and execution of their powers. This shall not refer to charges of slander and insult.

During the period they exercise their powers the deputies and the members of Council of the Republic may be arrested or deprived of personal liberty in other manner only with the prior consent of the appropriate chamber with the exception of instances of high treason, or some other grave crime, as well as detention at the site where the crime was committed.

A criminal case involving a deputy of the House of Representatives or a member of the Council of the Republic shall be tried by the Supreme Court.

Article 103

Sittings of the chambers shall be open. The chambers in the instance of state interests, may take the decision to hold a closed session by majority of the full composition of the corresponding chamber. The President, his representatives, the Prime minister and members of the Government shall address the sessions out of turn as many times as they deem it necessary.

One sitting monthly shall be reserved for question time to the Government for the deputies of the Houses of Representatives and members of the Council of the Republic.

A deputy of the House of Representatives, or member of the Council of the Republic shall have the right to make an inquiry to the Prime minister or members of the Government and the heads of state bodies which are formed or elected by Parliament. The inquiry shall be included in the agenda of the chamber. The answer to the inquiry shall be given within twenty days of the current session to the order determined by the chamber of the Parliament.

The sitting of the chamber shall be deemed qualified if no less than two-thirds of the number of elected deputies of the Houses of Representatives or members of the Council of the Republic are present.

Voting in the House of Representatives and Council of the Republic shall be open and exercised by the deputy of the House or member of the Council of the Republic in person by a 'yes' vote or a 'nay' vote. A secret vote shall be held only in the instance of addressing personnel issues.

Article 104.

Decisions of the House of Representatives shall be taken by laws or enactments. Enactments of the House of Representatives shall be taken with regard to issues of order and supervision. The decisions of the Council of the Republic shall be taken in the form of enactments.

The decisions of the chambers shall be deemed to have been adopted by a majority of the full composition of the chambers unless otherwise specified in the Constitution.

Laws with regard to basic guidelines of domestic and foreign policy of the Republic of Belarus and military doctrine thereof shall be considered of policy character and shall be deemed to have been adopted provided that a two-thirds majority of elected deputies of both chambers has voted for them.

The laws shall be published immediately after their signature and shall become valid ten days after their publication unless the law determines another term. The decrees of the President shall come into force to the same order therein.

The law shall have no retrospective action unless it extenuates or revokes the responsibility of citizens.

Article 105

The procedure governing the activities of the House of Representatives, Council of the Republic, the bodies thereof and the deputies and members of the Council of the Republic shall be determined by the Rules of Procedure of the chambers, which shall be signed by the Chairpersons of the chambers.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Article IV - Parliamentary Assembly

The Parliamentary Assembly shall have two chambers: the House of Peoples and the House of Representatives.

1. House of Peoples.

The House of Peoples shall comprise 15 Delegates, two-thirds from the Federation (including five Croats and five Bosniacs) and one-third from the Republika Srpska (five Serbs).

a) The designated Croat and Bosniac Delegates from the Federation shall be selected, respectively, by the Croat and Bosniac Delegates to the House of Peoples of the Federation.

Delegates from the Republika Srpska shall be selected by the National Assembly of the Republika Srpska.

b) Nine members of the House of Peoples shall comprise a quorum, provided that at least three Bosniac, three Croat, and three Serb Delegates are present.

2. The House of Representatives shall comprise 42 Members, two-thirds elected from the territory of the Federation, one-third from the territory of the Republika Srpska.

a) Members of the House of Representatives shall be directly elected from their Entity in accordance with an election law to be adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly.

The first election, however, shall take place in accordance with Annex 3 to the General Framework Agreement.

b) A majority of all members elected to the House of Representatives shall comprise a quorum.

i Each chamber shall be convened in Sarajevo not more than 30 days after its selection or election.

ii Each chamber shall by majority vote adopt its internal rules and select from its members one Serb, one Bosniac, and one Croat to serve as its Chair and Deputy Chairs, with the position of Chair rotating among the three persons selected.

iii All legislation shall require the approval of both chambers.

iv. All decisions in both chambers shall be by majority of those present and voting.

The Delegates and Members shall make their best efforts to see that the majority includes at least one-third of the votes of Delegates or Members from the territory of each Entity. If a majority vote does not include one-third of the votes of Delegates or Members from the territory of each Entity, the Chair and Deputy Chairs shall meet as a commission and attempt to obtain approval within three days of the vote. If those efforts fail, decisions shall be taken by a majority of those present and voting, provided that the

dissenting votes do not include two-thirds or more of the Delegates or Members elected from either Entity.

v. A proposed decision of the Parliamentary Assembly may be declared to be destructive of a vital interest of the Bosniac, Croat, or Serb people by a majority of, as appropriate, the Bosniac, Croat, or Serb Delegates selected in accordance with paragraph I(a) above. Such a proposed decision shall require for approval in the House of Peoples a majority of the Bosniac, of the Croat, and of the Serb Delegates present and voting.

vi. When a majority of the Bosniac, of the Croat, or of the Serb Delegates objects to the invocation of paragraph (e), the Chair of the House of Peoples shall immediately convene a Joint Commission comprising three Delegates, one each selected by the Bosniac, by the Croat, and by the Serb Delegates, to resolve the issue.

If the Commission fails to do so within five days, the matter will be referred to the Constitutional Court, which shall in an expedited process review it for procedural regularity.

vii. The House of Peoples may be dissolved by the Presidency or by the House itself, provided that the House's decision to dissolve is approved by a majority that includes the majority of Delegates from at least two of the Bosniac, Croat, or Serb peoples. The House of Peoples elected in the first elections after the entry into force of this Constitution may not, however, be dissolved.

viii. Decisions of the Parliamentary Assembly shall not take effect before publication.

ix. Both chambers shall publish a complete record of their deliberations and shall, save in exceptional circumstances in accordance with their rules, deliberate publicly.

x. Delegates and Members shall not be held criminally or civilly liable for any acts carried out within the scope of their duties in the Parliamentary Assembly.

4 Powers.

The Parliamentary Assembly shall have responsibility for:

a) Enacting legislation as necessary to implement decisions of the Presidency or to carry out the responsibilities of the Assembly under this Constitution.

b) upon the sources and amounts of revenues for the operations of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and international obligations of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

c) Approving a budget for the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

d) Deciding whether to consent to the ratification of treaties.

e) Such other matters as are necessary to carry out its duties or as are assigned to it by mutual agreement of the Entities.

BULGARIA**Article 87**

1. Member of the National Assembly or the Council of Ministers shall have the right to introduce a bill.

2. State Budget Bill shall be drawn up and presented by the Council of Ministers.

Article 88

1. shall be read and voted upon twice, during different sessions. By way of exception, the National Assembly may resolve to hold both ballots during a single session.

2. other acts of the National Assembly shall require a single ballot.

3. passed act shall be promulgated in Durzhaven Vestnik (The State Gazette) within 15 days from its passage.

CROATIA**Article 82**

Unless otherwise specified by the Constitution, the Croatian Parliament shall make decisions by a majority vote, provided that a majority of representatives are present at the session. Representatives shall vote personally.

Article 83

Laws (organic laws) regulating the rights of national minorities shall be passed by the Croatian Parliament by a two-thirds majority vote of all representatives. Laws (organic laws) which elaborate the constitutionally defined human rights and fundamental freedoms, the electoral system, the organization, competence and mode of work of state bodies and the organization and competence of local and regional self-government shall be passed by the Croatian Parliament by a majority vote of all representatives. The Croatian Parliament shall pass the decision as per Article 7, Paragraph 2 and Article 8 of the Constitution by a two-thirds majority vote of all representatives.

Article 84

Sessions of the Croatian Parliament shall be public.

Article 85

All representatives, clubs of representatives and working bodies of the Croatian Parliament, as well as the Government of the Republic of Croatia shall have the right to propose laws.

CYPRUS**Article 80**

1. The right to introduce Bills belongs to the Representatives and to the Ministers.

2. No Bill relating to an increase in budgetary expenditure can be introduced by any Representative.

Article 81

1. The Budget is introduced to the House of Representatives at least three months before the day fixed by law for the commencement of the financial year and is voted by it not later than the day so fixed.
2. Within three months from the end of the financial year the final accounts shall be submitted to the House of Representatives for approval.

Article 82

A law or decision of the House of Representatives shall come into operation on its publication in the official Gazette of the Republic unless another date is provided by such law or decision.

Article 83

1. Representatives shall not be liable to civil or criminal proceedings in respect of any statement made or vote given by them in the House of Representatives.
2. A Representative cannot, without the leave of the High Court, be prosecuted, arrested or imprisoned so long as he continues to be a Representative. Such leave is not required in the case of an offence punishable with death or imprisonment for five years or more in case the offender is taken in the act. In such a case the High Court being notified forthwith by the competent authority decides whether it should grant or refuse leave for the continuation of the prosecution or detention so long as he continues to be a Representative.
3. If the High Court refuses to grant leave for the prosecution of a Representative, the period during which the Representative cannot thus be prosecuted shall not be reckoned for the purposes of any period of prescription for the offence in question.
4. If the High Court refuses to grant leave for the enforcement of a sentence of imprisonment imposed on a Representative by a competent court, the enforcement of such sentence shall be postponed until he ceases to be a Representative.

Article 84

1. Representatives receive from the Public Revenue remuneration defined by law.
2. Any increase of such remuneration shall not become operative during the term of office of the House of Representatives in which such increase has been made.

Article 85

Any question with regard to the qualifications of candidates for election and election petitions shall be finally adjudicated by the Supreme Constitutional Court.

CZECH REPUBLIC**Article 39**

1. One-third of the members of each chamber constitutes a quorum.
2. Unless this Constitution provides otherwise, the consent of a simple majority of the Deputies or Senators present is required for the adoption of a resolution in either chamber.
3. The concurrence of an absolute majority of all Deputies and an absolute majority of all Senators is required for the adoption of a resolution declaring a state of war or a resolution granting assent to sending the armed forces of the Czech Republic outside the territory of the

Czech Republic or the stationing of the armed forces of other states within the territory of the Czech Republic, as well as with the adoption of a resolution concerning the Czech Republic's participation in the defensive systems of an international organization of which the Czech Republic is a member.

4. The concurrence of three-fifths of all Deputies and three-fifths of all Senators present is required for the adoption of a constitutional act or for giving assent to the ratification of treaties referred to in Article 10a para. 1.

Article 40

In order to adopt an electoral law, a law concerning the principles of dealings and relations of both chambers, both between themselves and externally, or a law enacting the standing orders for the Senate, both the Assembly of Deputies and the Senate must approve it.

Article 41

1. Bills shall be introduced in the Assembly of Deputies.

2. Bills may be introduced by Deputies, groups of Deputies, the Senate, the government, or representative bodies of higher self-governing regions.

Article 42

1. Bills on the state budget and the final state accounting shall be introduced by the government.

2. These bills shall be debated at a public meeting, and only the Assembly of Deputies may adopt resolutions concerning them.

Article 43

1. Parliament decides on the declaration of a state of war, if the Czech Republic is attacked, or if such is necessary for the fulfilment of its international treaty obligations on collective self-defense against aggression.

2. The Parliament decides on the the Czech Republic's participation in defensive systems of an international organization of which the Czech Republic is a member.

3. The Parliament gives its consent to a) the sending the armed forces of the Czech Republic outside the territory of the Czech Republic; b) the stationing of the armed forces of other states within the territory of the Czech Republic, unless such decisions are reserved to the government.

4. The government may decide to send the armed forces of the Czech Republic outside the territory of the Czech Republic and to allow the stationing of the armed forces of other states within the territory of the Czech Republic for a period not exceeding 60 days, in matters concerning the:

- a) the fulfillment of obligations pursuant to treaties on collective self-defense against aggression,
- b) participation in peace-keeping operations pursuant to the decision of an international organization of which the Czech Republic is a member, if the receiving state consents;
- c) participation in rescue operations in cases of natural catastrophe, industrial or ecological accidents.

4. The government may also decide:

- a) on the transfer of the armed forces of other states across the territory of the Czech Republic and on their overflight over the territory of the Czech Republic.
- b) on the participation of the armed forces of the Czech Republic in military exercises outside the territory of the Czech Republic and on the participation of the armed forces of other states in military exercises within the territory of the Czech Republic.(6) Without delay the government shall inform both chambers of Parliament concerning any decisions it makes pursuant to paras.

4 and 5. The Parliament may annul the government's decisions; in order to annul such decisions of the government, the disapproving resolution of one of the chambers, adopted by an absolute majority of all its members, shall suffice.

Article 44

1. The government has the right to express its views on all bills.(2) If the government does not express its views on a bill within thirty days of the of the delivery thereof, it shall be presumed to have positive views.(3) The government is entitled to require that the Assembly of Deputies conclude debate on a government-sponsored bill within three months of its submission, provided that the government joins with it a request for a vote of confidence.

Article 45

The Assembly of Deputies shall submit bills which it has approved to the Senate without undue delay.

Article 46

1.The Senate shall debate bills and take action on them within thirty days of their submission.(2) The Senate shall either adopt bills, reject them, return them to the Assembly of Deputies with proposed amendments, or declare its intention not to deal with them.(3) If the Senate does not declare its intention within the time period permitted by paragraph 1, it shall be deemed to have adopted a bill.

Article 47

1. If the Senate rejects a bill, the Assembly of Deputies shall vote on it again. The bill is adopted if it is approved by an absolute majority of all Deputies.

2. If the Senate returns a bill to the Assembly of Deputies with proposed amendments, the Assembly of Deputies shall vote on the version of the bill approved by the Senate. The bill is adopted by its resolution.

3. If the Assembly of Deputies does not approve the version of the bill adopted by the Senate, it shall vote again on the version it submitted to the Senate. The bill is adopted if it is approved by an absolute majority of all Deputies.

4. The Assembly of Deputies may not propose amendments in the course of debate on a bill that has been rejected or returned to it.

Article 48

If the Senate declares its intent not to deal with a bill, it shall be adopted by that declaration.

Article 49

The assent of both chambers of Parliament is required for the ratification of treaties:

- a) affecting the rights or duties of persons;

- b) of alliance, peace, or other political nature;
- c) by which the Czech Republic becomes a member of an international organization;
- d) of a general economic nature;
- e) concerning additional matters, the regulation of which is reserved to statute.

Article 50

1. With the exception of constitutional acts, the President of the Republic has the right to return adopted acts, with a statement of her reasons, within fifteen days of the day they were submitted to her.
2. The Assembly of Deputies shall vote again on returned acts. Proposed amendments are not permitted. If the Assembly of Deputies reaffirms its approval of the act by an absolute majority of all Deputies, the act shall be promulgated. Otherwise the act shall be deemed not to have been adopted.

Article 51

Statutes that have been adopted shall be signed by the Chairperson of the Assembly of Deputies, the President of the Republic, and the Prime Minister.

<http://codices.coe.int/NXT/gateway.dll/CODICES/2005/a17285/b17286/c17287/D17298.htm/pop00008.htm>

Article 52

1. In order for a statute to be valid, it must be promulgated.
2. The manner in which statutes and treaties are to be promulgated shall be provided for by statute.

Article 53

1. Each Deputy has the right to interpellate the government or members of it concerning matters within their competence.
2. Interpellated members of the government shall respond to an interpellation within thirty days of its submission.

DENMARK

§41

1. Any member of the Folketing shall be entitled to introduce Bills and other measures.
2. No Bill shall be finally passed until it has been read three times in the Folketing.
3. Two-fifths of the members of the Folketing may request of the President that the third reading of a Bill shall not take place until twelve weekdays after it has passed the second reading. The request shall be made in writing and signed by the members making it. There shall be no such postponement in connection with Finance Bills, Supplementary Appropriation Bills, Provisional Appropriation Bills, Government Loan Bills, Naturalization Bills, Expropriation Bills, Indirect Taxation Bills, and, in emergencies, Bills the enactment of which cannot be postponed because of the intent of the Act.
4. In the case of a new election, and at the end of the sessional year, all Bills and other measures which have not been finally passed shall be void.

Referendum**§42**

1. Where a Bill has been passed by the Folketing, one-third of the members of the Folketing may, within three weekdays from the final passing of the Bill, request of the President that the Bill be submitted to a referendum. Such request shall be made in writing and signed by the members making the request.

2. Except in the instance mentioned in sub-section 7, no Bill which may be submitted to a referendum (see sub-section (6)), shall receive the Royal Assent before the expiration of the time limit stated in sub-section (1), or before a referendum requested as aforesaid has taken place.

3. Where a referendum on a Bill has been requested the Folketing may, within a period of five weekdays from the final passing of the Bill, resolve that the Bill shall be withdrawn

4. Where the Folketing has made no resolution in accordance with sub-section (3), notice that the Bill is to be submitted to a referendum shall be given without delay to the Prime Minister, who shall then cause the Bill to be published together with a statement that a referendum is to be held. The referendum shall be held, in accordance with the decision of the Prime Minister, not less than twelve and not more than eighteen weekdays after the publication of the Bill.

5. At the referendum votes shall be cast for or against the Bill. For the Bill to be rejected, a majority of the electors who vote and not less than thirty per cent of all persons who are entitled to vote, shall have voted against the Bill.

6. Finance Bills, Supplementary Appropriation Bills, Provisional Appropriation Bills, Government Loan Bills, Civil Servants (Amendment) Bills, Salaries and Pensions Bills, Naturalization Bills, Expropriation Bills, Taxation (Direct and Indirect) Bills, as well as Bills introduced for the purpose of discharging existing treaty obligations shall not be submitted to decision by referendum. This provision shall also apply to the Bills referred to in sections 9, 8, 10, and 11, and to such resolutions as are provided for in section 19, if existing in the form of a law, unless it has been prescribed by a special Act that such resolutions shall be submitted to referendum. Amendments to the Constitutional Act shall be governed by the rules laid down in section 88.

7. In an emergency a Bill which may be submitted to a referendum may receive the Royal Assent immediately after it has been passed, provided that the Bill contains a provision to this effect. Where, under the rules of sub-section (1), one-third of the members of the Folketing request a referendum on the Bill or on the Act to which the Royal Assent has been given, such referendum shall be held in accordance with the above rules. Where the Act is rejected by the referendum an announcement to that effect shall be made by the Prime Minister without undue delay, and not later than fourteen days after the referendum was held. From the date of such announcement the Act shall become ineffective.

8. Rules for referenda, including the extent to which referenda shall be held in the Faroe Islands and in Greenland, shall be laid down by statute.

ESTONIA**Article 103**

The right to initiate laws shall rest with:

1. members of the Riigikogu;

2. factions of the Riigikogu;
3. Riigikogu committees;
4. the Government of the Republic;
5. the President of the Republic for amendments to the Constitution.

The Riigikogu shall have the right, with a resolution adopted by a majority of its complement, to propose to the Government of the Republic that it initiate a draft desired by the Riigikogu.

Article 104. Procedures for the adoption of laws shall be determined by the Law On the Riigikogu By-Laws.

The following laws may be adopted or amended only by a majority of the membership of the Riigikogu:

1. Law On Citizenship;
2. Law On the Riigikogu Elections;
3. Law On Electing the President of the Republic;
4. Law On Local Government Elections;
5. Referendum Law;
6. Law On the Riigikogu By-Laws and Law On the Riigikogu Procedures;
7. Law On the Salaries of the President of the Republic and the Members of the Riigikogu;
8. Law On the Government of the Republic;
9. Law On Court Procedures Against the President of the Republic and the Members of the Government;
10. Law On Cultural Autonomy For Ethnic Minorities;
11. Law On the National Budget;
12. Law On the Bank of Estonia;
13. Law On the State Audit Office;
14. Law On the Organization of the Courts and On Court Procedures;
- 15) Laws pertaining to external and internal loans, and state asset obligations;
16. Law on a State of Emergency;
17. Law on Peacetime National Defence and Wartime National Defence.

Article 105. The Riigikogu shall have the right to put draft legislation or other national issues to a referendum.

The decision of the people shall be determined by the majority of those participating in the referendum.

A law which has been adopted by referendum shall be immediately proclaimed by the President of the Republic. The referendum decision shall be binding on all state bodies.

Should the draft law which has been put to referendum not receive a majority of yes-votes, the President of the Republic shall declare early elections for the Riigikogu.

Article 106.

Issues related to the budget, taxes, the financial obligations of the state, the ratification of foreign treaties, and the enactment and ending of a state of emergency may not be put to referendum.

Procedures for referenda shall be determined by the Referendum Law.

Article 107.

Laws shall be proclaimed by the President of the Republic.

The President of the Republic shall have the right not to proclaim a law adopted by the Riigikogu, and to return the law to the Riigikogu, within fourteen days of receiving it, together with the reasons for its rejection. If the Riigikogu adopts a law which has been returned by the President of the Republic, without amendments, the President of the Republic shall proclaim the law, or propose to the National Court that it declare the law to be in conflict with the Constitution. If the National Court declares the law to be in accordance with the Constitution, the President of the Republic shall proclaim the law.

Article 108.

A law shall come into force on the tenth day after its publication in the "Riigi Teataja", unless the law itself determines otherwise.

Article 109.

If the Riigikogu is prevented from convening, the President of the Republic shall have the right, in matters of national interest which cannot be postponed, to issue decrees which have the force of law, and which shall bear the countersignatures of the Speaker of the Riigikogu and the Prime Minister.

When the Riigikogu convenes, the President of the Republic shall present such decrees to the Riigikogu, which shall immediately adopt a law either confirming or repealing the decrees.

Article 110.

Neither the Constitution, the laws listed in Article 104 of the Constitution, nor laws determining state taxes or the national budget can be enacted, amended or repealed by decrees issued by the President of the Republic.

FINLAND

Chapter 6 – Legislation

Section 70 - Legislative initiative

The proposal for the enactment of an Act is initiated in the Parliament through a government proposal submitted by the Government or through a legislative motion submitted by a Representative. Legislative motions can be submitted when the Parliament is in session.

A government proposal may be supplemented through a new complementary proposal or it may be withdrawn. A complementary proposal cannot be submitted once the Committee preparing the matter has issued its report.

Section 72 - Consideration of a legislative proposal in the Parliament

Once the relevant report of the Committee preparing the matter has been issued, a legislative proposal is considered in two readings in a plenary session of the Parliament.

In the first reading of the legislative proposal, the report of the Committee is presented and debated, and a decision on the contents of the legislative proposal is made. In the second reading, which at the earliest takes place on the third day after the conclusion of the first reading, the Parliament decides whether the legislative proposal is accepted or rejected.

While the first reading is in progress, the legislative proposal may be referred to the Grand Committee for consideration.

More detailed provisions on the consideration of a legislative proposal are laid down in the Parliament's Rules of Procedure.

Section 73 - Procedure for constitutional enactment

A proposal on the enactment, amendment or repeal of the Constitution or on the enactment of a limited derogation of the Constitution shall in the second reading be left in abeyance, by a majority of the votes cast, until the first parliamentary session following parliamentary elections. The proposal shall then, once the Committee has issued its report, be adopted without material alterations in one reading in a plenary session by a decision supported by at least two thirds of the votes cast.

However, the proposal may be declared urgent by a decision that has been supported by at least five sixths of the votes cast. In this event, the proposal is not left in abeyance and it can be adopted by a decision supported by at least two thirds of the votes cast.

Section 74 - Supervision of constitutionality

The Constitutional Law Committee shall issue statements on the constitutionality of legislative proposals and other matters brought for its consideration, as well as on their relation to international human rights treaties.

Section 75 - Special legislation for the Åland Islands

The legislative procedure for the Act on the Autonomy of the Åland Islands and the Act on the Right to Acquire Real Estate in the Åland Islands is governed by the specific provisions in those Acts.

The right of the Legislative Assembly of the Åland Islands to submit proposals and the enactment of Acts passed by the Legislative Assembly of Åland are governed by the provisions in the Act on the Autonomy of the Åland Islands.

Section 76 - The Church Act

Provisions on the organisation and administration of the Evangelic Lutheran Church are laid down in the Church Act.

The legislative procedure for enactment of the Church Act and the right to submit legislative proposals relating to the Church Act are governed by the specific provisions in that Code.

Section 77 - Confirmation of Acts

An Act adopted by the Parliament shall be submitted to the President of the Republic for confirmation. The President shall decide on the confirmation within three months of the submission of the Act. The President may obtain a statement on the Act from the Supreme Court or the Supreme Administrative Court.

If the President does not confirm the Act, it is returned for the consideration of the Parliament. If the Parliament readopts the Act without material alterations, it enters into force without confirmation. If the Parliament does not readopt the Act, it shall be deemed to have lapsed.

Section 78 - Consideration of an unconfirmed Act

If the President of the Republic has not confirmed an Act within the time provided, it shall without delay be taken up for reconsideration in the Parliament. Once the pertinent report of the Committee has been issued, the Act shall be adopted without material alterations or rejected. The decision is made in plenary session in one reading with the majority of the votes cast.

Section 79 - Publication and entry into force of Acts

If an Act has been enacted in accordance with the procedure for constitutional enactment, this is indicated in the Act.

An Act which has been confirmed or which enters into force without confirmation shall be signed by the President of the Republic and countersigned by the appropriate Minister. The Government shall thereafter without delay publish the Act in the Statute Book of Finland.

The Act shall indicate the date when it enters into force. For a special reason, it may be stated in an Act that it is to enter into force by means of a Decree. If the Act has not been published by the date provided for its entry into force, it shall enter into force on the date of its publication.

Acts are enacted and published in Finnish and Swedish.

Section 80 - Issuance of Decrees and delegation of legislative powers

The President of the Republic, the Government and a Ministry may issue Decrees on the basis of authorisation given to them in this Constitution or in another Act. However, the principles governing the rights and obligations of private individuals and the other matters that under this Constitution are of a legislative nature shall be governed by Acts. If there is no specific provision on who shall issue a Decree, it is issued by the Government.

Moreover, other authorities may be authorised by an Act to lay down legal rules on given matters, if there is a special reason pertinent to the subject matter and if the material significance of the rules does not require that they be laid down by an Act or a Decree. The scope of such an authorisation shall be precisely circumscribed.

General provisions on the publication and entry into force of Decrees and other legal norms are laid down by an Act.

FRANCE

Article 39

The Prime Minister and Members of Parliament alike shall have the right to initiate statutes. Government bills shall be discussed in the Council of Ministers after consultation with the Conseil d'Etat and shall be introduced in one of the two assemblies. Finance bills and social security finance bills shall be presented first to the National Assembly. Without prejudice to the first paragraph of article 44, bills having the primary purpose of organising territorial units and bills relating to bodies representing French nationals settled outside France shall be presented first to the Senate.

Article 40

Bills and amendments introduced by Members of Parliament shall not be admissible where their adoption would have as a consequence either a diminution of public resources or the creation or increase of an item of public expenditure.

Article 41

Should it be found in the course of the legislative process that a Member's bill or amendment is not a matter for statute or is contrary to a delegation granted by virtue of article 38, the Government may object that it is inadmissible.

In the event of disagreement between the Government and the President of the assembly concerned, the Constitutional Council, at the request of one or the other, shall rule within eight days.

Article 42

The discussion of government bills shall pertain, in the assembly which first has the bill before it, to the text introduced by the Government.

An assembly which has before it a text passed by the other assembly shall deliberate upon that text.

Article 43

Government and Members' bills shall, at the request of the Government or of the assembly having the bill before it, be referred for consideration to committees specially set up for this purpose.

Government and Members' bills concerning which such a request has not been made shall be referred to one of the standing committees, the number of which shall be limited to six in each assembly.

Article 44

Members of Parliament and the Government shall have the right of amendment.

Once the debate has begun, the Government may object to the consideration of any amendment which has not previously been referred to committee.

If the Government so requests, the assembly having the bill before it shall decide by a single vote on all or part of the text under discussion, on the sole basis of the amendments proposed or accepted by the Government.

Article 45

Every government or Member's bill shall be considered successively in the two assemblies of Parliament with a view to the adoption of an identical text.

If, as a result of a disagreement between the two assemblies, it has proved impossible to adopt a government or Member's bill after two readings by each assembly or, if the Government has declared the matter urgent, after a single reading by each of them, the Prime Minister may convene a joint committee, composed of an equal number of members from each assembly, to propose a text on the provisions still under discussion.

The text drafted by the joint committee may be submitted by the Government to both assemblies for approval. No amendment shall be admissible without the consent of the Government.

If the joint committee does not succeed in adopting a common text, or if the text is not adopted as provided in the preceding paragraph, the Government may, after a further reading by the National Assembly and by the Senate, ask the National Assembly to make a final decision. In that event, the National Assembly may reconsider either the text drafted by the joint committee, or the last text passed by itself, as modified, if such is the case, by any amendment or amendments adopted by the Senate.

Article 46

Acts of Parliament that the Constitution characterizes as institutional shall be passed and amended as provided in this article.

A government or Member's bill shall not be debated and put to the vote in the assembly in which it was first introduced until fifteen days have elapsed since its introduction.

The procedure set out in article 45 shall apply. Nevertheless, in the absence of agreement between the two assemblies, the text may be adopted by the National Assembly on final reading only by an absolute majority of its members.

Institutional Acts relating to the Senate must be passed in identical terms by the two assemblies. Institutional Acts shall not be promulgated until the Constitutional Council has declared their conformity with the Constitution.

Article 47

Parliament shall pass finance bills in the manner provided by an institutional Act.

Should the National Assembly fail to reach a decision on first reading within forty days following the introduction of a bill, the Government shall refer the bill to the Senate, which must rule within fifteen days. The procedure set out in article 45 shall then apply.

Should Parliament fail to reach a decision within seventy days, the provisions of the bill may be brought into force by ordinance.

Should the finance bill establishing the resources and expenditures for a financial year not be introduced in time for promulgation before the beginning of that year, the Government shall as a matter of urgency ask Parliament for authorization to collect taxes and shall make available by decree the funds needed to meet the commitments already voted for.

The time limits set by this article shall be suspended when Parliament is not in session.

The Audit Court shall assist Parliament and the Government in monitoring the implementation of finance Acts.

Article 47-1

Parliament shall pass social security finance bills in the manner provided by an institutional Act.

Should the National Assembly fail to reach a decision on first reading within twenty days following the introduction of a bill, the Government shall refer the bill to the Senate, which must rule within fifteen days. The procedure set out in article 45 shall then apply.

Should Parliament fail to reach a decision within fifty days, the provisions of the bill may be implemented by ordinance.

The time limits set by this article shall be suspended when Parliament is not in session and, as regards each assembly, during the weeks when it has decided not to sit in accordance with the second paragraph of article 28.

The Audit Court shall assist Parliament and the Government in monitoring the implementation of social security finance Acts.

Article 48

Without prejudice to the application of the last three paragraphs of article 28, precedence shall be given on the agendas of the assemblies, and in the order determined by the Government, to the discussion of government bills and of Members' bills accepted by the Government.

At one sitting a week at least precedence shall be given to questions from Members of Parliament and to answers by the Government.

At one sitting a month precedence shall be given to the agenda determined by each assembly.

Article 49

The Prime Minister, after deliberation by the Council of Ministers, may make the Government's programme or possibly a statement of its general policy an issue of its responsibility before the National Assembly.

The National Assembly may raise an issue of the Government's responsibility by passing a motion of censure. Such a motion shall not be admissible unless it is signed by at least one tenth of the members of the National Assembly. Voting may not take place within forty-eight hours after the motion has been introduced. Only the votes in favour of the motion of censure shall be counted; the motion of censure shall not be adopted unless it is voted for by the majority of the members of the Assembly. Except as provided in the following paragraph, a deputy shall not sign more than three motions of censure during a single ordinary session and more than one during a single extraordinary session.

The Prime Minister may, after deliberation by the Council of Ministers, make the passing of a bill an issue of the Government's responsibility before the National Assembly. In that event, the bill shall be considered adopted unless a motion of censure, introduced within the subsequent twenty-four hours, is carried as provided in the preceding paragraph.

The Prime Minister may ask the Senate to approve a statement of general policy.

Article 50

Where the National Assembly carries a motion of censure, or where it fails to endorse the programme or a statement of general policy of the Government, the Prime Minister must tender the resignation of the Government to the President of the Republic.

Article 51

The closing of ordinary or extraordinary sessions shall be postponed by right in order to permit the application of article 49, if the case arises. Additional sittings shall be held by right for the same purpose.

GEORGIA

Article 66

1. A draft law or a draft resolution shall be deemed to be adopted if it is supported by the majority of the members of the Parliament present, but not be less than one third of the total number of the members of Parliament unless the Constitution determines another procedure for the adoption of the draft law or draft resolution.

1.1. A Constitutional Agreement shall be deemed approved if it is supported by not less than three-fifth of the total number of the members of the Parliament.

2. A draft Organic Law shall be deemed adopted if it is supported by more than half of the number of the members of the Parliament on the current nominal list.

3. The consent of the Parliament shall be adopted in the form of a resolution unless another procedure is defined by the Constitution.

4. The procedure for the adoption of other decisions shall be defined by the Regulations of the Parliament.

Article 67

1. The President of Georgia only in the exclusive cases, the Government, a member of the Parliament, a Parliamentary Faction, a Parliamentary Committee, the higher representative bodies of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, the Autonomous Republic of Ajara, not less than 30,000 electors shall have the right to legislative initiative.

2. At the request of the President of Georgia, the Parliament shall give the priority to the discussion of a draft law submitted by the former.

3. In case the Government does not submit the remarks with regard to a draft law considering in the Parliament within a term provided for by law, the draft law shall be deemed approved.

Article 68

1. A draft law adopted by the Parliament shall be submitted to the President of Georgia within a term of seven days.

2. The President shall sign and promulgate the law within a term of ten days or return it to the Parliament with reasoned remarks.

3. If the President returns the draft law to the Parliament, the latter shall put to the vote the remarks of the President. For the adoption of the remarks the same number of votes shall suffice as determined for this kind of draft law by Article 66 of the Constitution. If the remarks are adopted, the final redaction of the draft law shall be submitted to the President who shall sign and promulgate it within a term of seven days.

4. If the Parliament rejects the remarks of the President, the initial redaction of the draft law shall be put to the vote. A law or an Organic Law shall be deemed to be adopted if it is supported by not less than three fifths of the number of the members of the Parliament on the current nominal list. The constitutional amendment shall be deemed to be passed if it is supported by not less than two thirds of the total number of the members of the Parliament.

5. If the President fails to promulgate the draft law within the defined term, the President of the Parliament shall sign and promulgate it. 6. A law shall enter into force on the fifteenth day after its official promulgation unless another term is defined.

GERMANY**Article 76 - Bills**

1. Bills shall be presented in the Bundestag by the Federal Government, Members of the Bundestag or the Bundesrat.

2. Bills of the Federal Government shall first be submitted to the Bundesrat. The Bundesrat is entitled to comment upon them within six weeks. Where on important grounds, especially the size of the bill, it demands an extension the time-limit shall be increased to nine weeks. Should in exceptional cases the Federal Government, on presenting a bill to the Bundesrat, declare it to be particularly urgent it may refer it to the Bundestag three weeks or, if the Bundesrat has demanded an extension pursuant to the third sentence of this paragraph, six weeks after its submission to the Bundesrat even though it may not yet have received the latter's comments; upon receiving such comments it shall transmit them to the Bundestag without delay. In the case of bills amending this Basic Law and transferring sovereign powers pursuant to Article 23 or Article 24 the time- limit for comments shall be nine weeks; the fourth sentence of this paragraph shall not apply.

3. Bills of the Bundesrat shall be submitted to the Bundestag by the Federal Government within six weeks. The Federal Government shall state its opinion on them. Where on important grounds, especially the size of the bill, it demands an extension the time-limit shall be increased to nine weeks. Should in exceptional cases the Bundesrat declare a bill to be particularly urgent the time-limit shall be three weeks or, if the Federal Government has demanded an extension pursuant to the third sentence of this paragraph, six weeks. In the case of bills amending this Basic Law and transferring sovereign powers pursuant to Article 23 or Article 24 the time-limit shall be nine weeks; the fourth sentence of this paragraph shall not apply. The Bundestag shall debate and vote on bills within a reasonable period of time.

Article 77 - The legislative process

1. Bills shall be adopted by the Bundestag. After their adoption they shall be transmitted to the Bundesrat by the President of the Bundestag without delay.

2. The Bundesrat may within three weeks of receiving the adopted bill demand that it be referred to a committee composed of Members of the Bundestag and the Bundesrat. The composition and proceedings of this committee shall be governed by rules of procedure drawn up by the Bundestag and requiring the consent of the Bundesrat. The Members of the Bundesrat on this committee shall not be bound by instructions. Where the consent of the Bundesrat is required for a bill to become law the Bundestag and the Federal Government may likewise demand that it be referred to such a committee. Should the committee propose an amendment to the bill the Bundestag shall vote on it a second time.

In so far as its consent is required for a bill to become law the Bundesrat shall take a vote within a reasonable period of time if no demand for referral has been made pursuant to the first sentence of paragraph (2) of this Article or the mediation procedure has been completed without any amendment being proposed.

3. In so far as its consent is not required for a bill to become law the Bundesrat may, when the procedure described in paragraph (2) of this Article is completed, object within two weeks to a bill adopted by the Bundestag. The period for objection shall begin, in the case of the last sentence of paragraph (2) of this Article, on receipt of the bill as passed again by the Bundestag and in all other cases on receipt of a communication from the chairman of the committee provided for in paragraph (2) of this Article to the effect that the committee's proceedings have been concluded.

4. If the objection was adopted with a majority of the votes of the Bundesrat it may be rejected by a decision of the majority of the Members of the Bundestag. If the Bundesrat adopted the objection with a majority of at least two thirds of its votes its rejection by the Bundestag shall require a majority of two thirds of the votes or at least the majority of the Members of the Bundestag.

Article 78 - Passage of federal laws

A bill adopted by the Bundestag shall become law if the Bundesrat consents, does not request a referral as provided for in paragraph (2) of Article 77, does not enter an objection within the period stipulated in paragraph (3) of Article 77 or withdraws its objection, or if the objection is overridden by the Bundestag.

Article 79 - Amendments to the Basic Law

1. This Basic Law may be amended only by a law expressly modifying or supplementing its text. In respect of international treaties concerning a peace settlement, the preparation of a peace settlement, or the phasing out of an occupation regime, or serving the defence of the Federal Republic, it shall be sufficient, in order to make clear that the provisions of this Basic Law do not

preclude the conclusion and entry into force of such treaties, to supplement the text of this Basic Law and to confine the supplement to such clarification.

2. Such law must be carried by two thirds of the Members of the Bundestag and two thirds of the votes of the Bundesrat.

3. Amendments to this Basic Law affecting the division of the Federation into Länder, their participation in the legislative process, or the principles laid down in Articles 1 and 20 shall be prohibited.

Article 80 - Delegated legislation

1. The Federal Government, a Federal Minister or the Land governments may be empowered by law to issue statutory orders. The content, purpose and scope of that power shall be specified in the law. Statutory orders shall contain a reference to their legal basis. Where the law provides that the power to issue statutory orders may be further delegated another statutory order shall be required to that effect.

2. Unless otherwise provided for by federal legislation the consent of the Bundesrat shall be required for statutory orders issued by the Federal Government or a Federal Minister concerning rules and rates governing the use of postal services and telecommunications, rules governing rates for the use of federal railways or concerning the construction and operation of railways, as well as for statutory orders issued pursuant to federal legislation requiring the consent of the Bundesrat or implemented by the Länder as agents of the Federation or in their own right.

3. The Bundesrat may submit bills for the issue of statutory orders requiring its consent to the Federal Government.

4. In so far as Land governments are empowered by federal law or on the basis of existing federal legislation to issue statutory orders the Länder shall also be entitled to legislate on the matter.

Article 80a - Application of legal provisions where a state of tension exists

1. Where this Basic Law or a federal law on defence including protection of the civilian population stipulates that legal provisions may only be applied in accordance with this Article their application shall, except where the country is in a state of defence, be admissible only after the Bundestag has confirmed that a state of tension exists or where it has specifically approved such application. Confirmation of a state of tension and specific approval in the cases mentioned in the first sentence of paragraph (5) and the second sentence of paragraph (6) of Article 12a shall require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

2. Any measures taken by virtue of legal provisions pursuant to paragraph (1) of this Article shall be revoked should the Bundestag so require.

3. In derogation of paragraph (1) of this Article the application of such legal provisions shall also be admissible by virtue of and in accordance with a decision taken by an international organization within the framework of a treaty of alliance with the approval of the Federal Government. Any measures taken pursuant to this paragraph shall be revoked should the Bundestag with the majority of its Members so require.

Article 81 - Legislative emergency

1. Should in the circumstances provided for in Article 68 the Bundestag not be dissolved the Federal President may at the request of the Federal Government and with the consent of the Bundesrat declare a state of legislative emergency with respect to a bill which is rejected by the

Bundestag although declared urgent by the Federal Government. The same shall apply where a bill has been rejected despite the Federal Chancellor having combined it with a motion under Article 68.

2. Where after a state of legislative emergency has been declared the Bundestag again rejects the bill or adopts a version unacceptable to the Federal Government it shall be deemed to have become law if it receives the consent of the Bundesrat. The same shall apply where the bill is not passed by the Bundestag within four weeks of its reintroduction.

3. During the term of office of a Federal Chancellor any other bill rejected by the Bundestag may become law in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article within a period of six months after the first declaration of a state of legislative emergency. After the expiration of this period no further declaration of a state of legislative emergency may be made during the term of office of the same Federal Chancellor.

4. The Basic Law may not be amended nor repealed nor suspended in whole or in part by a law pursuant to paragraph (2) of this Article.

Article 82 - Signing, promulgation and entry into force

1. Laws enacted in accordance with the provisions of this Basic Law shall, after countersignature, be signed by the Federal President and promulgated in the Federal Law Gazette. Statutory orders shall be signed by the authority which issues them and, unless otherwise provided by law, promulgated in the Federal Law Gazette.

2. Every law and statutory order should specify the day on which it enters into force. In the absence of such a provision it shall take effect on the fourteenth day after the day on which the Federal Law Gazette containing it was published.

GREECE

Chapter V - The legislative function of Parliament

Article 73

1. The right to introduce Bills belongs to the Parliament and the Government.

2. Bills pertaining in any way to the granting of a pension and the prerequisites thereof shall be introduced only by the Minister of Finance after an opinion of the Court of Auditors; in the case of pensions burdening on the budget of local government agencies or other public law legal persons, Bills shall be submitted by the competent Minister and the Minister of Finance. Pensions must be proposed by means of special Bills; the insertion of provisions pertaining to pensions, in Bills introduced in order to regulate other matters, is not permitted under penalty of nullity.

3. No Bill or amendment or addition which originated in Parliament shall be introduced for debate if it results in an expenditure or a reduction of revenues or assets for the State or local government agencies or other public law legal persons, for the purpose of paying a salary or pension or otherwise benefiting a person. However, an amendment or addition introduced by a party leader or a spokesman of a parliamentary group as specified in article 74 paragraph 3 shall be acceptable in the case of Bills concerning the organization of public services and agencies of public interest, the status of public servants in general, military and security corps officers, employees of local government agencies or other public law legal persons and public enterprises in general.. Bills introducing local or special taxes or charges of any nature on behalf

of agencies or public or private law legal persons must be countersigned by the Minister of Coordination and the Minister of Finance.

Article 74

1. Every Bill must be accompanied by an explanatory report; before it is introduced to the Plenum or to a Section of Parliament, it may be referred, for legislative elaboration, to the service defined in article 65 paragraph 5 as soon as this service is established, as specified by the Standing Orders.. Bills tabled in Parliament shall be referred to the appropriate Parliamentary Committee. When the report has been submitted or when the time-limit for its submittal has elapsed inactively, the Bill shall be introduced for debate to Parliament after three days, unless it has been designated as urgent by the competent Minister. The debate shall begin following an oral introduction by the competent Minister and the rapporteurs of the committee.

3. Amendments submitted by Members of Parliament, to Bills for which the Plenum or the Sections of Parliament are competent, shall not be introduced for debate if they have not been submitted up to and including the day prior to the commencement of the debate, unless the Government consents to such a debate.. A Bill for the amendment of a provision of a statute shall not be introduced for debate if the accompanying explanatory report does not contain the full text of the provision to be amended and if the text of the Bill does not contain the full text of the new provision as amended.* 5. The provisions of paragraph 1 also apply for Bills or law proposals introduced for debate and vote in the competent standing parliamentary committee, as specified by the Standing Orders of Parliament. Bill or law proposal containing provisions not related to its main subject matter shall not be introduced for debate. o addition or amendment shall be introduced for debate if it is not related to the main subject matter of the Bill or law proposal.

Additions or amendments by Ministers are debated only if they have been submitted at least three days prior to the commencement of the debate in the Plenum, to the Section pursuant to article 71 or to the competent standing parliamentary committee, as specified by the Standing Orders. The provisions of the two preceding sections shall also apply for additions or amendments by Members of Parliament. Parliament shall resolve in case of contestation. Members of Parliament not participating in the competent standing parliamentary committee or to the Section pursuant to article 71, are entitled to take the floor during the debate in principle in order to support law proposals and additions or amendments that they have submitted, as specified by the Standing Orders. Once every month, on a day designated by the Standing Orders, pending private Members' Bills shall be entered by priority in the order of the day and debated.

Article 75

Any Bill which results in burdening the Budget, if submitted by Ministers, shall not be introduced for debate unless it is accompanied by a report of the General Accounting Office specifying the amount of the expenditure involved; if submitted by Members of Parliament, prior to any debate thereon it shall be forwarded to the General Accounting Office which shall be bound to submit a report within fifteen days. Should this time-limit elapse without action, the private Member's Bill shall be introduced for debate without it.. The same shall apply for amendments, if so requested by the competent Ministers. In this case, the General Accounting Office shall be bound to submit its report to Parliament within three days; only if the report shall not be forthcoming within this time-limit may the amendment be debated without it. A Government's Bill resulting in an expenditure or a reduction of revenues shall not be introduced for debate unless it is accompanied by a special report specifying the manner in which they will be covered, signed by the competent Minister and the Minister of Finance.

Article 76

1. Every Bill and every law proposal shall be debated and voted on once in principle, by article and as a whole, with the exception of the cases provided under paragraph 4 of article 72.
2. Voted Bills or law proposals that are referred pursuant to article 42 shall be debated and voted on by the Plenum of Parliament twice and in two distinct sittings, at least two days apart, in principle and by article during the first debate, and by article and as a whole during the second.
3. If in the course of the debate, additions or amendments have been accepted, voting on the Bill as a whole shall be postponed for twenty-four hours from the time the amended Bill or law proposal was distributed, with the exception of the cases provided under paragraph 4 of article 72.
4. A Bill or law proposal designated by the Government as very urgent shall be introduced for voting after a limited debate in one sitting, by the Plenum or by the Section pursuant to article 71, as specified by the Standing Orders of Parliament.
5. The Government may request that a Bill or law proposal of an urgent nature be debated in a specific number of sittings, as specified by the Standing Orders of Parliament. . Judicial or administrative codes drafted by special committees established under special statutes may be voted through in the Plenum of the Parliament by a special statute ratifying the code as a whole. likewise, legislative provisions in force may be codified by simple classification, or repealed statutes may be re-enacted as a whole, with the exception of statutes concerning taxation.

Article 77

1. The authentic interpretation of the statutes shall rest with the legislative power.. A statute which is not truly interpretative shall enter into force only as of its publication.

HUNGARY**Article 25**

1. Legislation may be initiated by the President of the Republic, the Government, all Parliamentary Committees, and any Member of Parliament.
2. The authority to pass legislation is vested in the Parliament.
3. The Speaker of Parliament shall sign statutes passed by the Parliament and subsequently forward them to the President of the Republic.

Article 26.

1. The President of the Republic shall see to the promulgation of the statutes within a period of fifteen days following its receipt, or within a period of five days if the Speaker of Parliament requests that the issue be accorded urgency. The President of the Republic shall sign the statutes sent for promulgation. The statutes shall be promulgated in the *Hungarian Official Gazette*.
2. Should the President of the Republic disagree with a statute or with any provision thereof, prior to signing it, he may return such statute, along with his comments, to the Parliament for reconsideration within the period specified in para. (1).

3. The Parliament shall debate the statute again and hold another vote on its passage. Following this, the President of the Republic is required to sign the statute forwarded to him by the Speaker of Parliament, and to promulgate it within a period of five days.

4. Should the President of the Republic consider any provision of a statute to be unconstitutional, he may, prior to signing it, refer it to the Constitutional Court for appraisal within the period specified in para.. (1).

5. Should the Constitutional Court - in extraordinary proceedings - determine the statute to be unconstitutional, the President of the Republic shall return the statute to the Parliament; otherwise he is required to sign the statute and promulgate it within a period of five days.

6. The President of the Republic shall only sign a statute submitted to referendum if it was confirmed by the referendum.

Article 27

Members of Parliament may direct a question to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Civil Rights and the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Rights of National and Ethnic Minorities, to the President of the State Audit Office and the Chairman of the National Bank of Hungary, and an interpellation to the Government or any of the Members of the Government, as well as to the Chief Public Prosecutor on any matter which falls within their respective sphere of authority.

ICELAND

Article 25

The President of the Republic may have bills of law and draft resolutions submitted to the Althingi.

Article 26 I

Althingi has passed a bill, it shall be submitted to the President of the Republic for confirmation not later than two weeks after it has been passed as law, and such confirmation will give it the force of law. If the President declines confirmation of a bill, it shall nevertheless become valid as law but shall, as soon as circumstances permit, be submitted by referendum to a vote of all those having the right to vote, for approval or rejection by secret ballot. If approval is denied, the law shall become void, but otherwise retain its force.

Article 27

Laws shall be published. The form of publication and the implementation of laws shall be in accordance with law.

Article 28

In case of urgent need, the President may issue provisional laws when the Althingi is not in active session. Such laws must not, however, run counter to the Constitution. They shall always be submitted to the Althingi as soon as it has convened again.

If the Althingi does not approve a provisional law or does not complete its consideration thereof within six weeks after convening, the law shall become void.

A provisional budget may not be issued if the Althingi has passed the budget for the fiscal year.

Article 38

Members of the Althingi and Ministers have the right to introduce bills of law and draft resolutions.

Article 44

No bill may be passed as law until it has received three readings in the Althingi.

IRELAND**Article 13.**

1. The President shall, on the nomination of Dáil Éireann, appoint the Taoiseach, that is, the head of the Government or Prime Minister.

The President shall, on the nomination of the Taoiseach with the previous approval of Dáil Éireann, appoint the other members of the Government.

2. The President shall, on the advice of the Taoiseach, accept the resignation or terminate the appointment of any member of the Government.

3. Dáil Éireann shall be summoned and dissolved by the President on the advice of the Taoiseach.

The President may in his absolute discretion refuse to dissolve Dáil Éireann on the advice of a Taoiseach who has ceased to retain the support of a majority in Dáil Éireann. n R> .

The President may at any time, after consultation with the Council of State, convene a meeting of either or both of the 3.

4. Every Bill passed or deemed to have been passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas shall require the signature of the President for its enactment into law.

The President shall promulgate every law made by the Oireachtas.

The supreme command of the Defence Forces is hereby vested in the President.

5. The exercise of the supreme command of the Defence Forces shall be regulated by law.

All commissioned officers of the Defence Forces shall hold their commissions from the President.

6. The right of pardon and the power to commute or remit punishment imposed by any court exercising criminal jurisdiction are hereby vested in the President, but such power of commutation or remission may, except in capital cases, also be conferred by law on other authorities.

7. The President may, after consultation with the Council of State, communicate with the Houses of the Oireachtas by message or address on any matter of national or public importance.

The President may, after consultation with the Council of State, address a message to the Nation at any time on any such matter.

Every such message or address must, however, have received the approval of the Government.

8. The President shall not be answerable to either House of the Oireachtas or to any court for the exercise and performance of the powers and functions of his office or for any act done or purporting to be done by him in the exercise and performance of these powers and functions.

The behaviour of the President may, however, be brought under review in either of the Houses of the Oireachtas for the purposes of section 10 of Article 12 of this Constitution, or by any court, tribunal or body appointed or designated by either of the Houses of the Oireachtas for the investigation of a charge under section 10 of the said Article.

9. The powers and functions conferred on the President by this Constitution shall be exercisable and performable by him only on the advice of the Government, save where it is provided by this Constitution that he shall act in his absolute discretion or after consultation with or in relation to the Council of State, or on the advice or nomination of, or on receipt of any other communication from, any other person or body.

10. Subject to this Constitution, additional powers and functions may be conferred on the President by law.

11. No power or function conferred on the President by law shall be exercisable or performable by him save only on the advice of the Government.

Legislation

Article 20

1. Every Bill initiated in and passed by Dáil Éireann shall be sent to Seanad Éireann and may, unless it be a Money Bill, be amended in Seanad Éireann and Dáil Éireann shall consider any such amendment.

2. A Bill other than a Money Bill may be initiated in Seanad Éireann, and if passed by Seanad Éireann, shall be introduced in Dáil Éireann

A Bill initiated in Seanad Éireann if amended in Dáil Éireann shall be considered as a Bill initiated in Dáil Éireann.

3. A Bill passed by either House and accepted by the other House shall be deemed to have been passed by both Houses.

Money Bills.

Article 21.

1. Money Bills shall be initiated in Dáil Éireann only.

2. Every Money Bill passed by Dáil Éireann shall be sent to Seanad Éireann for its recommendations.

Every Money Bill sent to Seanad Éireann for its recommendations shall, at the expiration of a period not longer than twenty-one days after it shall have been sent to Seanad Éireann, be returned to Dáil Éireann, which may accept or reject all or any of the recommendations of Seanad Éireann.

If such Money Bill is not returned by Seanad Éireann to Dáil Éireann within such twenty-one days or is returned within such twenty-one days with recommendations which Dáil Éireann does not accept, it shall be deemed to have been passed by both Houses at the expiration of the said twenty-one days.

Article 22. 1

1. A Money Bill means a Bill which contains only provisions dealing with all or any of the following matters, namely, the imposition, repeal, remission, alteration or regulation of taxation; the imposition for the payment of debt or other financial purposes of charges on public moneys or the variation or repeal of any such charges; supply; the appropriation, receipt, custody, issue or audit of accounts of public money; the raising or guarantee of any loan or the repayment thereof; matters subordinate and incidental to these matters or any of them.

2. In this definition the expressions “taxation”, “public money” and “loan” respectively do not include any taxation, money or loan raised by local authorities or bodies for local purposes.

The Chairman of Dáil Éireann shall certify any Bill which, in his opinion, is a Money Bill to be a Money Bill, and his certificate shall, subject to the subsequent provisions of this section, be final and conclusive.

3. Seanad Éireann, by a resolution, passed at a sitting at which not less than thirty members are present, may request the President to refer the question whether the Bill is or is not a Money Bill to a Committee of Privileges. If the President after consultation with the Council of State decides to accede to the request he shall appoint a Committee of Privileges consisting of an equal number of members of Dáil Éireann and of Seanad Éireann and a Chairman who shall be a Judge of the Supreme Court: these appointments shall be made after consultation with the Council of State. In the case of an equality of votes but not otherwise the Chairman shall be entitled to vote.

4. The President shall refer the question to the Committee of Privileges so appointed and the Committee shall report its decision thereon to the President within twenty-one days after the day on which the Bill was sent to Seanad Éireann.

5. The decision of the Committee shall be final and conclusive.

6. If the President after consultation with the Council of State decides not to accede to the request of Seanad Éireann, or if the Committee of Privileges fails to report within the time hereinbefore specified the certificate of the Chairman of Dáil Éireann shall stand confirmed.

Time for consideration of Bills.**Article 23. 1.**

This Article applies to every Bill passed by Dáil Éireann and sent to Seanad Éireann other than a Money Bill or a Bill the time for the consideration of which by Seanad Éireann shall have been abridged under Article 24 of this Constitution.

1. Whenever a Bill to which this Article applies is within the stated period defined in the next following sub-section either rejected by Seanad Éireann or passed by Seanad Éireann with amendments to which Dáil Éireann does not agree or is neither passed (with or without amendment) nor rejected by Seanad Éireann within the stated period, the Bill shall, if Dáil Éireann so resolves within one hundred and eighty days after the expiration of the stated period be deemed to have been passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas on the day on which the resolution is passed. The stated period is the period of ninety days commencing on the day on which the Bill is first sent by Dáil Éireann to Seanad Éireann or any longer period agreed upon in respect of the Bill by both Houses of the Oireachtas.

2. The preceding section of this Article shall apply to a Bill which is initiated in and passed by Seanad Éireann, amended by Dáil Éireann, and accordingly deemed to have been initiated in Dáil Éireann

3. For the purpose of this application the stated period shall in relation to such a Bill commence on the day on which the Bill is first sent to Seanad Éireann after having been amended by Dáil Éireann.

Article 24.

1. If and whenever on the passage by Dáil Éireann of any Bill, other than a Bill expressed to be a Bill containing a proposal to amend the Constitution, the Taoiseach certifies by messages in writing addressed to the President and to the Chairman of each House of the Oireachtas that, in the opinion of the Government.

3. If the e Bill is urgent and immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace and security, or by reason of the existence of a public emergency, whether domestic or international, the time for the consideration of such Bill by Seanad Éireann shall, if Dáil Éireann so resolves and if the President, after consultation with the Council of State, concurs, be abridged to such period as shall be specified in the resolution.

4. Where a Bill, the time for the consideration of which by Seanad Éireann has been abridged under this Article,

a. is, in the case of a Bill which is not a Money Bill, rejected by Seanad Éireann or passed by Seanad Éireann with amendments to which Dáil Éireann does not agree or neither passed nor rejected by Seanad Éireann, or

b. is, in the case of a Money Bill, either returned by Seanad Éireann to Dáil Éireann with recommendations which Dáil Éireann does not accept or is not returned by Seanad Éireann to Dáil Éireann, within the period specified in the resolution, the Bill shall be deemed to have been passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas at the expiration of that period.

5. When a Bill the time for the consideration of which by Seanad Éireann has been abridged under this Article becomes law it shall remain in force for a period of ninety days from the date of its enactment and no longer unless, before the expiration of that period, both Houses shall have agreed that such law shall remain in force for a longer period and the longer period so agreed upon shall have been specified in resolutions passed by both Houses.

Signing and Promulgation of Laws

Article 25.

1. As soon as any Bill, other than a Bill expressed to be a Bill containing a proposal for the amendment of this Constitution, shall have been passed or deemed to have been passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas, the Taoiseach shall present it to the President for his signature and for promulgation by him as a law in accordance with the provisions of this Article.

2. Save as otherwise provided by this Constitution, every Bill so presented to the President for his signature and for promulgation by him as a law shall be signed by the President not earlier than the fifth and not later than the seventh day after the date on which the Bill shall have been presented to him.

At the request of the Government, with the prior concurrence of Seanad Éireann, the President may sign any Bill the subject of such request on a date which is earlier than the fifth day after such date as aforesaid.

3. Every Bill the time for the consideration of which by Seanad Éireann shall have been abridged under Article 24 of this Constitution shall be signed by the President on the day on which such Bill is presented to him for signature and promulgation as a law.

4. Every Bill shall become and be law as on and from the day on which it is signed by the President under this Constitution, and shall, unless the contrary intention appears, come into operation on that day.

5. Every Bill signed by the President under this Constitution shall be promulgated by him as a law by the publication by his direction of a notice in the Iris Oifigiúil stating that the Bill has become law.

6. Bill shall be signed by the President in the text in which it was passed or deemed to have been passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas, and if a Bill is so passed or deemed to have been passed in both the official languages, the President shall sign the text of the Bill in each of those languages.

7. Where the President signs the text of a Bill in one only of the official languages, an official translation shall be issued in the other official language.

8. As soon as may be after the signature and promulgation of a Bill as a law, the text of such law which was signed by the President or, where the President has signed the text of such law in each of the official languages, both the signed texts shall be enrolled for record in the office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court, and the text, or both the texts, so enrolled shall be conclusive evidence of the provisions of such law.

9. In case of conflict between the texts of a law enrolled under this section in both the official languages, the text in the national language shall prevail.

10. It shall be lawful for the Taoiseach, from time to time as occasion appears to him to require, to cause to be prepared under his supervision a text (in both the official languages) of this Constitution as then in force embodying all amendments theretofore made therein.

11. A copy of every text so prepared, when authenticated by the signatures of the Taoiseach and the Chief Justice, shall be signed by the President and shall be enrolled for record in the office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court.

12. The copy so signed and enrolled which is for the time being the latest text so prepared shall, upon such enrolment, be conclusive evidence of this Constitution as at the date of such enrolment and shall for that purpose supersede all texts of this Constitution of which copies were previously so enrolled.

13. In case of conflict between the texts of any copy of this Constitution enrolled under this section, the text in the national language shall prevail.

Reference of Bills to the Supreme Court.

Article 26

This Article applies to any Bill passed or deemed to have been passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas other than a Money Bill, or a Bill expressed to be a Bill containing a proposal to amend the Constitution, or a Bill the time for the consideration of which by Seanad Éireann shall have been abridged under Article 24 of this Constitution.

1. The President may, after consultation with the Council of State, refer any Bill to which this Article applies to the Supreme Court for a decision on the question as to whether such Bill or any specified provision or provisions of such Bill is or are repugnant to this Constitution or to any provision thereof.
2. Every such reference shall be made not later than the seventh day after the date on which such Bill shall have been presented by the Taoiseach to the President for his signature.
3. The President shall not sign any Bill the subject of a reference to the Supreme Court under this Article pending the pronouncement of the decision of the Court.

The Supreme Court consisting of not less than five judges shall consider every question referred to it by the President under this Article for a decision, and, having heard arguments by or on behalf of the Attorney General and by counsel assigned by the Court, shall pronounce its decision on such question in open court as soon as may be, and in any case not later than sixty days after the date of such reference.

4. The decision of the majority of the judges of the Supreme Court shall, for the purposes of this Article, be the decision of the Court and shall be pronounced by such one of those judges as the Court shall direct, and no other opinion, whether assenting or dissenting, shall be pronounced nor shall the existence of any such other opinion be disclosed.

In every case in which the Supreme Court decides that any provision of a Bill the subject of a reference to the Supreme Court under this Article is repugnant to this Constitution or to any provision thereof, the President shall decline to sign such Bill.

If, in the case of a Bill to which Article 27 of this Constitution applies, a petition has been addressed to the President under that Article, that Article shall be complied with.

5. In every other case the President shall sign the Bill as soon as may be after the date on which the decision of the Supreme Court shall have been pronounced.

Reference of Bills to the People.

Article 27

This Article applies to any Bill, other than a Bill expressed to be a Bill containing a proposal for the amendment of this Constitution, which shall have been deemed, by virtue of Article 23 hereof, to have been passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas.

1. A majority of the members of Seanad Éireann and not less than one-third of the members of Dáil Éireann may by a joint petition addressed to the President by them under this Article request the President to decline to sign and promulgate as a law any Bill to which this article applies on the ground that the Bill contains a proposal of such national importance that the will of the people thereon ought to be ascertained.
2. Every such petition shall be in writing and shall be signed by the petitioners whose signatures shall be verified in the manner prescribed by law.
3. Every such petition shall contain a statement of the particular ground or grounds on which the request is based, and shall be presented to the President not later than four days after the date on which the Bill shall have been deemed to have been passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas.

Upon receipt of a petition addressed to him under this Article, the President shall forthwith consider such petition and shall, after consultation with the Council of State, pronounce his decision thereon not later than ten days after the date on which the Bill to which such petition relates shall have been deemed to have been passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas.

If the Bill or any provision thereof is or has been referred to the Supreme Court under Article 26 of this Constitution, it shall not be obligatory on the President to consider the petition unless or until the Supreme court has pronounced a decision on such reference to the effect that the said Bill or the said provision thereof is not repugnant to this Constitution or to any provision thereof, and, if a decision to that effect is pronounced by the Supreme Court, it shall not be obligatory on the President to pronounce his decision on the petition before the expiration of six days after the day on which the decision of the Supreme Court to the effect aforesaid is pronounced.

4. In every case in which the President decides that a Bill the subject of a petition under this Article contains a proposal of such national importance that the will of the people thereon ought to be ascertained, he shall inform the Taoiseach and the Chairman of each House of the Oireachtas accordingly in writing under his hand and Seal and shall decline to sign and promulgate such Bill as a law unless and until the proposal shall have been approved either

- (i) by the people at a Referendum in accordance with the provisions of section 2 of Article 47 of this Constitution within a period of eighteen months from the date of the President's decision, or
- (ii) by a resolution of Dáil Éireann passed within the said period after a dissolution and re-assembly of Dáil Éireann.
- (iii) 2° Whenever a proposal contained in a Bill the subject of a petition under this Article shall have been approved either by the people or by a resolution of Dáil Éireann in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this section, such Bill shall as soon as may be after such approval be presented to the President for his signature and promulgation by him as a law and the President shall thereupon sign the Bill and duly promulgate it as a law.
- (iv) 6. In every case in which the President decides that a Bill the subject of a petition under this Article does not contain a proposal of such national importance that the will of the people thereon ought to be ascertained, he shall inform the Taoiseach and the Chairman of each House of the Oireachtas accordingly in writing under his hand and Seal, and such Bill shall be signed by the President not later than eleven days after the date on which the Bill shall have been deemed to have been passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas and shall be duly promulgated by him as a law.

Amendments to the Constitution

Article 46.

1. Any provision of this Constitution may be amended, whether by way of variation, addition, or repeal, in the manner provided by this Article.

2. Every proposal for an amendment of this Constitution shall be initiated in Dáil Éireann as a Bill, and shall upon having been passed or deemed to have been passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas, be submitted by Referendum to the decision of the people in accordance with the law for the time being in force relating to the Referendum.

3. Every such Bill shall be expressed to be "An Act to amend the Constitution".

4. A Bill containing a proposal or proposals for the amendment of this Constitution shall not contain any other proposal.

5. Bill containing a proposal for the amendment of this Constitution shall be signed by the President forthwith upon his being satisfied that the provisions of this Article have been complied with in respect thereof and that such proposal has been duly approved by the people in accordance with the provisions of section 1 of Article 47 of this Constitution and shall be duly promulgated by the President as a law.

ITALY

Section II - The Drafting of Laws

Article 70

The legislative function is exercised collectively by both Houses.

Article 71

Legislation is initiated by the government, by each member of the houses and by those organs and bodies so empowered by constitutional law.

The people may initiative legislation by way of a proposal, by at least fifty-thousand electors, of a draft of law drawn up in articles.

Article 72

Every draft of law submitted to one of the houses is, in accordance with its rules, examined by a committee and then by the house itself, which approves it article by article and with a final vote.

The rules establish shortened procedures for draft legislation that has been declared urgent.

They may also establish in what cases and in what manner the examination and approval of bills is deferred to committees, including standing committees, composed so as to reflect the proportion of the parliamentary groups. Even in such cases, until the moment of its final approval, the bill may be submitted to the house, if the government or one-tenth of the members of the house or one-fifth of the committee request that it be debated and voted on by the house itself or that it be submitted to the house for final approval by means of a call for votes only. The rules establish the ways in which the workings of committees are made public.

The regular procedure for examination and approval directly by the house is always followed for bills on constitutional and electoral matters and for those delegating legislature, the authorisation and ratification of international treaties, the approval of budgets and expenditure accounts.

Article 73

Laws are promulgated by the President of the Republic within one month of their approval.

If the houses, each by the absolute majority of its members, declare its urgency, a bill is in the time established by the bill itself.

Laws are published immediately after promulgation and come into force on the fifteenth day following publication, unless the laws themselves establish a different time.

Article 74

The President of the Republic, before promulgating a law, may request of the houses in a message outlining his motives a new debate.

If the houses once more pass the bill, it must be promulgated.

Article 75

A popular referendum shall be held to abrogate, totally or partially, a law or an act having the force of law, when requested by five hundred thousand electors or five regional councils.

A referendum is not permitted in the case of tax, budget, amnesty and pardon laws, in authorisation or ratification of international treaties.

All citizens eligible to vote for the Chamber of deputies have the right to participate in referendums.

The proposal subjected to referendum is approved if the majority of those with voting rights have voted and a majority of votes validly cast has been reached.

The law establishes the procedures for conducting a referendum.

Article 76

The exercise of the legislative function may not be delegated to the government if the principles and guiding criteria have not been established and then only for a limited time and for specified ends.

Article 77

The government may not, without delegation from the houses, issue decrees having the force of ordinary law.

When in extraordinary cases of necessity and urgency the government adopts provisional measures having the force of law it must on the same day present them for conversion into law to the houses which, even if dissolved, shall be especially summoned and shall assemble within five days.

The decrees lose effect from their inception if they are not converted into law within sixty days from their publication. The houses can however regulate through laws legal issues arising out of decrees not converted.

Article 78

The houses decide on states of war and confer the necessary powers on parliament.

Article 79

Amnesties and indults are granted by act of parliament requiring a two-thirds majority of the members of each House, voting on each single article and on the statute as a whole.

The Act granting the amnesty or the indult shall also indicate the deadlines for their application.

In every instance, amnesties and indults may never apply to any crimes committed after the date on which the Bill is tabled before the House.

Article 80

The houses authorise through laws the ratification of international treaties which are of a political nature, or which call for arbitration or legal settlements, or which entail changes to national territory or financial burdens or changes in the laws.

Article 81

The houses approve every year the budgets and expenditure accounts submitted by the government.

Provisional use of the budget cannot be conceded unless by law and for periods not exceeding a total four months.

With the law approving the budget it is not possible to introduce new taxes and new expenditures.

Any other law involving new or increased expenditures must specify the means for meeting them.

Article 82

Each house may set up inquiries on matters of public interest.

For such purposes it nominates from its members a committee so composed as to reflect the proportions of the various groups. The committee of inquiry conducts its investigations and examinations with the same powers and the same limitations as a judicial inquiry.

Article 87

The President of the Republic is the head of the State and represents national unity.

He may sent messages to the Houses.

He calls elections for the new houses and fixes their first meetings.

He authorises the presentation to the houses of draft laws initiated by the government.

He promulgates laws and issues decrees having the force of law and regulations.

He calls popular referendums in those cases provided for by the Constitution.

He nominates in those cases provided for by law the officers of the State.

He accredits and receives diplomatic representations, ratifies international treaties which have, where required, the authorisation of the houses.

He is the commander of the armed forces, presides over the Supreme Council of Defence established by law, makes declarations of war which have been decided by the Chambers.

He presides over the High Council of the Judiciary.

He may grant pardons and commute punishments.

He confers the honours of the Republic.

Article 121

The organs of the region shall be: the Regional Council, the Regional executive and its chairman.

The Regional Council shall exercise the legislative and statutory power attributed to the Region and the other functions conferred by the Constitution and the laws. It may submit bills to Parliament.

The Regional Executive shall be the executive body of the region.

The Chairman of the Executive shall represent the region, promulgate laws and regional statutes, direct the administrative functions delegated by the State to the region, in conformity with the instructions of the central government.

Transitory and final provisions

The Constituent Assembly shall be called by its President to decide, before 31 January 1948 on the law for the election of the Senate of the Republic, on the special regional statutes and on the law governing the press.

Until the day of the election of the new Houses, the Constituent Assembly may be called, when it is necessary to decide on matters attributed to its jurisdiction by Article 2, paragraphs one and two, and Article 3, paragraphs one and two, of legislative decree No. 98 of 16 March 1946.

At that time the permanent committees shall maintain their functions. Legislative committees shall send back to the Government those bills, sent to them, with their observations and proposals for amendments.

Deputies may present questions to the Government with request for written answers.

The Constituent Assembly, in accordance with the second paragraph of this Article, shall be called by its President at the documented request of the Government or at least two hundred deputies

LATVIA

Article 47

The President of State shall have the right of legislative initiative.

Article 61

The Cabinet shall discuss all draft laws drawn up by the Ministries and all issues concerning the activities of various ministries; likewise all issues of State policy put forward by individual members of the Cabinet.

Article 63

Ministers, even if they are not members of the Saeima, and responsible State Officials empowered by Ministers, shall have the right to be present at the sittings of the Saeima or its Committees, and to introduce amendments to draft laws.

Section Legislation

Article 63

The right of legislation shall belong to both the Saeima and to the people, within the limits laid down in this Constitution.

Article 65

Draft laws may be presented to the Saeima by the President of State, the Cabinet, the Committees of the Saeima, no less than five members of the Saeima or, in cases and in a manner provided for in this Constitution, by one-tenth of the electors.

Article 66

Before the commencement of each financial year, the Saeima shall approve the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget, the draft of which shall be submitted by the Cabinet.

If the Saeima passes a resolution involving expenditure not foreseen in the Budget, it shall specify in this resolution the sources of revenue with which to meet such expenditure.

After the end of the financial year, the Cabinet shall submit, for the confirmation of the Saeima, a statement showing the actual implementation of the Budget.

Article 67

The Saeima shall decide on the strength of the armed forces of the State in time of peace.

Article 68

International agreements, which settle matters that may be decided by the legislative process, shall require ratification by the Saeima.

Upon entering into international agreements, Latvia, with the purpose of strengthening democracy, may delegate a part of its State institution competencies to international institutions. International agreements in which a part of state institution competencies are delegated to international institutions may be ratified by the Saeima in sittings in which at least two-thirds of the members of the Saeima participate, and a two-thirds majority vote of the members present is necessary for ratification.

Membership of Latvia in the European Union shall be decided by a national referendum, which is proposed by the Saeima.

Substantial changes in the terms regarding the membership of Latvia in the European Union shall be decided by a national referendum if such referendum is requested by at least one-half of the members of the Saeima.

Article 69

The President of State shall promulgate laws passed by the Saeima not before the seventh and not later than the twenty-first day after their adoption. If no other term is fixed, the laws shall take effect fourteen days after their promulgation.

Article 70

The President of State shall promulgate laws according to the following formula: "The Saeima (i.e. the People) has adopted and the President of State promulgates the following law: (text of the law)".

Article 71.

Within seven days after the adoption of a law by the Saeima, the President of State shall be entitled to ask, by means of explanatory letter addressed to the Chairman of the Saeima, for the review of that law. If the Saeima does not amend the law, the President of State shall not have the right to raise any further objections.

Article 72

The President of State shall have the right to suspend the promulgation of a law for a period of two months. He/She shall suspend the promulgation at the request of not less than one-third of the members of the Saeima. This right shall be exercised by the President of State or by one-third of the members of the Saeima within seven days after the adoption of the law by the Saeima. The law thus suspended, shall be submitted to a referendum, if not less than one-tenth of the electors so request. Should such a request not be formulated within a period of two months as mentioned above, the law shall be promulgated upon the expiration of that period. The referendum shall not be taken, however, if the Saeima puts this law to a vote once more and if then not less than three-fourths of all the members are in favour of its adoption.

Article 73

The following matters shall not be submitted to a referendum: the budget, laws concerning loans, taxes, custom's duties, railway tariffs, military service, the declaration and commencement of war, the settlement of peace, the declaration of a state of emergency and its termination, mobilization, demobilization, foreign treaties.

Article 74

A law, adopted by the Saeima and suspended in the procedure set forth in Article 72, shall be annulled by a referendum, if the number of voters participating in the referendum is at least half of the number of the electors who participated in the previous Saeima elections and if the majority has voted for the annulment of the law.

Article 75

Should the Saeima determine the urgency of a law with a majority of not less than two-thirds, the President of State may not demand a second review of the law; it may not be submitted to a referendum and shall be promulgated within three days after the President has received the adopted law.

Article 76

The Saeima may amend the Constitution at sittings at which at least two-thirds of its members are present. The amendments shall be passed in the course of three readings, by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present.

Article 77

If the Saeima has amended the first, second, third, fourth, sixth or seventy-seventh Article of the Constitution, such amendments, in order to acquire the force of Law, shall be submitted to a referendum.

Article 78

Not less than one-tenth of the electors shall have the right to submit to the President of State a fully elaborated draft for the amendment of the draft law, which shall be submitted to the Saeima by the President. If the Saeima does not adopt this draft law without substantial amendments, it shall be submitted to a referendum.

Article 79

An amendment to the Constitution submitted for national referendum shall be deemed adopted if at least half of the electorate has voted in favour. A draft law, decision regarding membership of Latvia in the European Union or substantial changes in the terms regarding such membership submitted for national referendum shall be deemed adopted if the number of voters is at least half of the number of electors as participated in the previous Saeima election and if the majority has voted in favour of the draft law, membership of Latvia in the European Union or substantial changes in the terms regarding such membership.

Article 80

All Latvian citizens who have the right to vote in the elections of the Saeima are entitled to take part in the referendum.

Article 81

In cases of urgent necessity between sessions, the Cabinet shall have the right to issue regulations which shall have the force of Law. These regulations may not amend: the law on Saeima elections, laws concerning judicial constitution and procedure, the budget and budget rights, and laws passed by the Saeima then in power; they shall not apply to amnesty, the issue

of Treasury notes, State taxes, customs, railway tariffs, loans and they shall become null and void if not presented to the Saeima within three days of the opening of the following session.

LIECHTENSTEIN

Article 64

1. The right of initiative with regard to legislation, that is to say, the right of introducing bills, shall appertain to: a) the Prince Regnant, in the form of Government bills;

b) the Diet itself;

c) citizens with the right to vote, subject to the following provisions.

2. If not less than 1,000 citizens entitled to vote, whose signatures and qualification to vote are duly certified by the authorities of the commune in which they reside, submit a petition in writing or if at least three communes do so in the form of resolutions of the communal assembly in similar terms requesting the enactment, amendment or revocation of a law, such petition must be debated at the next session of the Diet.¹²

3. If a petition from one of the organs referred to under a) to c) above concerns the enactment of a law which has not already been provided for in the present Constitution and the adoption of which would involve public expenditure, whether in a single sum not provided for in the Finance Bill or in payments extending over a longer period, such petition shall only be discussed by the Diet if it is accompanied by proposals for providing the necessary funds.

4. A petition submitted under the right of initiative and concerning the Constitution may only be brought by not less than 1,500 citizens entitled to vote or by at least four communes.¹³

5. Further detailed regulations regarding this popular initiative shall be laid down in a law.

Article 65

1. Without the participation of the Diet, no law may be issued, amended, or declared to be in force. For a law to become valid, it must in every case receive the assent of the Diet and be sanctioned by the Prince Regnant, countersigned by the responsible Head of the Government or his deputy and promulgated in the National Legal Gazette (Landesgesetzblatt). If the Prince does not give his assent within six months, it shall be deemed to have been refused.

2. In addition, a popular vote (referendum) shall be held under the conditions set forth in the following article.

Article 66

1. Every law passed by the Diet which it does not declare to be urgent or any financial resolution which it does not declare urgent, if it involves a new non-recurrent expenditure of not less than 300,000 francs or a new annual expenditure of 150,000 francs, shall be submitted to a referendum if the Diet so decides or if not less than 1,000 citizens with the right to vote or not less than three communes submit a petition to that effect, according to the procedure prescribed in Art. 64, within 30 days of the official publication of the resolution of the Diet.¹⁴

2. If the issue affects the Constitution as a whole or in part, the demand for a referendum must be made by not less than 1,500 citizens with the right to vote or by not less than four communes.¹⁵

3. The Diet is authorized to call for a referendum on the adoption of any of the principles embodied in a proposed law.

4. The referendum shall be held by communes; the acceptance or rejection of the resolution on the enactment of the law shall be decided by an absolute majority of the valid votes recorded in the whole of the country.

5. Resolutions on the enactment of laws subject to a referendum shall not be submitted to the Prince Regnant for sanction until the referendum has been held or until the statutory period of thirty days within which a petition for a referendum may be submitted has expired without any such action.¹⁶

6. If the Diet rejects a bill drawn up in due form and accompanied if necessary by proposals for providing the necessary funds and which has been submitted to it through the procedure of the popular initiative (Art. 64 Para. 1 lit. c), the said bill shall be submitted to a referendum. The acceptance of the bill by the citizens entitled to vote shall then have the same force as a resolution of the Diet otherwise necessary for the adoption of a law.

7. Further detailed regulations regarding the referendum shall be issued in the form of a law.

Article 66b ¹⁷

1. Any resolution of the Diet concerning assent to a treaty (Art. 8) must be submitted to a referendum if the Diet so decides or if not less than 1,500 citizens with the right to vote or not less than four communes submit a petition to that effect, according to the procedure prescribed in Art. 64, within 30 days of the official publication of the resolution of the Diet.

2. In the referendum, the acceptance or rejection of the resolution by the Diet shall be decided by an absolute majority of the valid votes recorded in the whole of the country.

3) Further detailed regulations regarding the referendum shall be issued in the form of a law.

Article 67

1. Unless it contains any other stipulation, a law shall come into force on the expiry of eight days after the date of its publication in the National Legal Gazette.

2. The manner and extent of the publication of laws, finance resolutions, treaties, regulations, resolutions of international organizations and of the law applicable by reason of international treaties shall be regulated by law. For the law applicable in Liechtenstein by reason of international treaties, a publication may be arranged in a simplified form, in particular as a reference publication to foreign codes.¹⁸

3. The legal regulations coming into force in future and applicable to Liechtenstein by reason of the Agreement of 2 May 1992 on the European Economic Area shall be published in an EEA compendium of laws. The manner and extent of the publication in the EEA compendium of laws shall be regulated by law.¹⁹

Article 93

The following matters in particular shall fall within the sphere of action of the Government:

a) surveillance over all authorities and officials placed under the Government, and the exercise of disciplinary powers in respect of officials;

b) the allotment of the staff required for the Government and the other authorities;

c) supervision of the prisons and of the treatment of persons detained in custody and of convicts;

- d) the administration of buildings belonging to the State;
- e) supervision of the despatch of business by the Princely Court to ensure that it is conducted lawfully and diligently and the notification to the High Court of Appeal of any irregularities observed;
- f) the preparation of the report on its official activities to be submitted annually to the Diet;
- g) the preparation of Government bills for submission to the Diet and the expression of its opinion on proposals submitted to it for that purpose by the Diet;
- h) the deciding of urgent expenditure not provided for in the estimates

LITHUANIA

Article 68

The right of legislative initiative in the Seimas shall belong to the members of the Seimas, the President of the Republic, and the Government.

Citizens of the Republic of Lithuania shall also have the right of legislative initiative. A draft law may be submitted to the Seimas by 50,000 citizens of the Republic of Lithuania who have the right to vote. The Seimas must consider this draft law.

Article 69

Laws shall be enacted in the Seimas in accordance with the procedure established by law. Laws shall be deemed adopted if the majority of the Seimas members participating in the sitting vote in favour thereof.

Constitutional laws of the Republic of Lithuania shall be deemed adopted if more than half of all the members of the Seimas vote in the affirmative. Constitutional laws shall be amended by at least a three-fifths majority vote of all the Seimas members. The Seimas shall establish a list of constitutional laws by a three-fifths majority vote of the Seimas members.

Provisions of the laws of the Republic of Lithuania may also be adopted by referendum.

Article 70

The laws enacted by the Seimas shall be enforced after the signing and official promulgation thereof by the President of the Republic, unless the laws themselves establish a later enforcement date.

Other acts adopted by the Seimas and the Statute of the Seimas shall be signed by the Chairperson of the Seimas. Said acts shall become effective the day following the promulgation thereof, unless the acts themselves provide for another procedure of enforcement.

Article 71

Within ten days of receiving a law passed by the Seimas, the President of the Republic shall either sign and officially promulgate said law, or shall refer it back to the Seimas together with relevant reasons for reconsideration.

In the event that the law enacted by the Seimas is not referred back or signed by the President of the Republic within the established period, the law shall become effective upon the signing and official promulgation thereof by the Chairperson of the Seimas.

The President of the Republic must, within five days, sign and officially promulgate laws and other acts adopted by referendum.

In the event that the President of the Republic does not sign and promulgate such laws within the established period, said laws shall become effective upon being signed and officially promulgated by the Chairperson of the Seimas.

Article 72

The Seimas may reconsider and enact laws which have been referred back by the President of the Republic.

After reconsideration by the Seimas, a law shall be deemed enacted if the amendments and supplements submitted by the President of the Republic were adopted, or if more than half of all the Seimas members vote in the affirmative, and if it is a constitutional law - if at least three-fifths of all the Seimas members vote in the affirmative.

The President of the Republic must, within three days, sign and forthwith officially promulgate laws reenacted by the Seimas.

Article 73

Seimas controllers shall examine complaints of citizens concerning the abuse of powers by, and bureaucracy of, State and local government officers (with the exception of judges).

Controllers shall have the right to submit proposals to the court to dismiss guilty officers from their posts.

The powers of the Seimas controllers shall be established by law. As necessary, the Seimas shall also establish other institutions of control. The system and powers of said institutions shall be established by law.

Article 74

For gross violation of the Constitution, breach of oath, or upon the disclosure of the commitment of felony, the Seimas may, by three-fifths majority vote of all the Seimas members, remove from office the President of the Republic, the Chairperson and judges of the Constitutional Court, the Chairperson and judges of the Supreme Court, the Chairperson and judges of the Court of Appeals, as well as Seimas members, or may revoke their mandate of Seimas member. Such actions shall be carried out in accordance with impeachment proceedings which shall be established by the Statute of the Seimas.

Article 75

Officers appointed or chosen by the Seimas (with the exception of persons specified in Article 74) shall be removed from office when the Seimas, by majority vote of all the members, expresses non-confidence in the officer in question.

Article 76

The structure and procedure of activities of the Seimas shall be determined by the Statute of the Seimas. The Statute of the Seimas shall have the power of law.

Article 148

The provision of Article 1 of the Constitution that the State of Lithuania is an independent democratic republic may only be amended by a referendum in which at least three- fourths of the electorate of Lithuania vote in favour thereof.

The provisions of Chapter 1 ("The State of Lithuania") and Chapter 14 ("Amending the Constitution") may be amended only by referendum.

Amendments of other chapters of the Constitution must be considered and voted upon in the Seimas twice. There must be a lapse of at least three months between each vote. Bills for constitutional amendments shall be deemed adopted by the Seimas if, in each of the votes, at least two-thirds of all the members of the Seimas vote in favour of the enactment.

An amendment to the Constitution which is rejected by the Seimas may not be submitted to the Seimas for reconsideration for the period of one year.

MALTA**Article 72**

1. The power of Parliament to make laws shall be exercised by bills passed by the House of Representatives and assented to by the President.

2. When a bill is presented to the President for assent, he shall without delay signify that he assents.

3. A bill shall not become law unless it has been duly passed and assented to in accordance with this constitution.

4. When a law has been assented to by the President it shall without delay be published in the Gazette and shall not come into operation until it has been so published, but Parliament may postpone the coming into operation of any such law and may make laws with retrospective effect.

Article 73

Except upon the recommendation of the President signified by a Minister, the House of Representatives shall not --

a) proceed upon any bill (including any amendment to a bill) that, in the opinion of the person presiding, makes provision for any of the following purposes, that is to say, for imposing or increasing any tax, for imposing or increasing any charge on the revenues or other funds of Malta or for altering any such charge otherwise than by reducing it, or for compounding or remitting any debt due to Malta;

b) proceed upon any motion (including any amendment to a motion) the effect of which, in the opinion of the person presiding, would be to make provision for any of the purposes aforesaid; or

c) receive any petition which, in the opinion of the person presiding, requests that provision be made for any of the purposes aforesaid.

Article 74

Save as otherwise provided by Parliament, every law shall be enacted in both the Maltese and English languages and, if there is any conflict between the Maltese and the English texts of any law, the Maltese text shall prevail.

Article 103

1. The Minister responsible for finance shall cause to be prepared and laid before the House of Representatives before, or not later than thirty days after, the commencement of each financial year estimates of the revenues and expenditure of Malta for that year.

2. The heads of expenditure contained in the estimates (other than the expenditure charged upon the Consolidated Fund by this Constitution or any other law for the time being in force in Malta) shall be included in a bill, to be known as an appropriation bill, providing for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet that expenditure and the appropriation of those sums for the purposes specified therein.

3. If in respect of any financial year it is found --

a) that the amount appropriated by the Appropriation Act for any purpose is insufficient, or that a need has arisen for expenditure for a purpose for which no amount has been appropriated by that Act; or

b) that any moneys have been expended for any purpose in excess of the amount (if any) appropriated for the purpose by that Act, a supplementary estimate showing the sums required or spent shall be laid before the House of Representatives and the heads of any such expenditure shall be included in a supplementary appropriation bill.

MOLDOVA**Article 73**

Legislative Initiative.

The right to legislative initiate shall belong to the members of Parliament, the President of the Republic of Moldova, the Government and the People's Assembly of the autonomous territorial-unit of Gagauzia.

Article 74

The Passing of Laws and Resolutions

1. Organic laws shall be passed by majority vote based on at least two ballots.

2. Ordinary laws and resolutions shall be passed by the majority of the votes cast by the members present in session.

3. The bills presented by the Government, as well as the legislative proposals presented by the members and accepted by the Government shall be examined by the Parliament in the manner and according to the priorities established by the Government, including the emergency procedures. Other legislative proposals shall be examined in the established manner.

Article 75**The Referendum**

Problems of utmost gravity or urgency confronting the Moldovan society or State shall be resolved by referendum. (2) The decisions passed in consequence of the results produced by the republican referendum have supreme judicial power.

Article 76**The Coming into Force of Laws**

Laws shall be published in the "Monitorol Oficial" of the Republic of Moldova and shall come into force either on its publication date or on the date mentioned in its original text. Unless published, the law is nonexistent.

Article 106/2**Legislative delegation**

1. In order to implement the program of the Government, the Parliament may adopt, following a proposal, a special law to enable the Government to issue orders in areas that are not covered by organic laws.
2. The enabling law shall compulsorily determine the area in question and the deadline by which the orders may be issued.
3. The orders shall come into force on the date they are published, without being promulgated.
4. If requested by the enabling law, the orders shall be submitted to the Parliament for approval. The bill on the approval of orders shall be presented within the timeframe stipulated by the enabling law. Non-observance of this timeframe shall terminate the order. If the Parliament does not reject the bill on the approval of the orders, these shall remain in force.
5. Following the expiry of the timeframe stipulated for the issue of orders, the orders may only be annulled, suspended or amended by law.

Article 131**National Public Budget**

1. The national public budget shall enshrine the state budget, the state social insurance budget, as well as the districts, towns and villages budgets.
2. The Government shall work out an annual draft of the state budget, and the state social insurance budget, which shall be separately tabled to the Parliament for approval. In the event of formation of the fund outside the budget, it shall be also submitted to the Parliament for approval.
3. If the state budget and the state social insurance budget have not been legally approved with at least 3 days before the expiration of the current budget exercise, there shall be further on applied the state and the state social insurance budgets of the previous year, until the adoption of the new budgets.
4. Any legislative initiative or amendment, which entails the increase or diminishing of the budgetary revenues or loans, as well as the increase or curtail of the budgetary expenditures shall be adopted following the Government approval.

5. The district, town and village budgets shall be drafted, approved and carried out in accordance with the law.6) No budget expenditure may be approved without prior specification of the funding source.

Title VI: Revising the Constitution

Article 141

Initiatives for Constitutional Revision

1. The revision of the Constitution may be initiated by:

a) at least 200,000 voting citizens of the Republic of Moldova. The citizens initiating the revision of the Constitution must come from at least half of the nation's level 2 administrative and territorial districts, and in each of these districts at least 20,000 signatures must have been registered in support of this initiative;

b) no less than a third of the members of Parliament;

c) the Government.

2. Constitutional law projects shall be submitted to Parliament on condition that the Constitutional Court issues the appropriate recommendation supported by at least 4 judges.

NETHERLANDS

Article 40

1. The King shall receive annual payments from the State according to rules to be laid down by Act of Parliament. The Act shall also specify which other members of the Royal House shall receive payments from the State and shall regulate the payments themselves.

2. The payments received by them from the State, together with such assets as are of assistance to them in the exercise of their duties, shall be exempt from personal taxation. In addition anything received by the King or his heir presumptive from a member of the Royal House by inheritance or as a gift shall be exempt from inheritance tax, transfer tax or gifts tax. Additional exemption from taxation may be granted by Act of Parliament.

3. Bills containing legislation as referred to in the previous paragraphs may be passed by the States General only if at least two-thirds of the votes cast are in favour.

Chapter 5 - Legislation and Administration

Article 81

Acts of Parliament shall be enacted jointly by the Government and the States General.

Article 82

Bills may be presented by or on behalf of the King or by the Lower House of the States General. Bills which require consideration by a joint session of the States General may be presented by or on behalf of the King or by a joint session of the States General insofar as this is consistent with the relevant articles of Chapter 2.

Bills to be presented by the Lower House or by a joint session of the States General shall be introduced in the House or the joint session as the case may be by one or more members.

Article 83

Bills presented by or on behalf of the King shall be sent to the Lower House or to the joint session if consideration by a joint session of the States General is required.

Article 84

A Bill presented by or on behalf of the King that has not yet been passed by the Lower House or by a joint session of the States General may be amended by the House or the joint session as the case may be on the proposal of one or more members or by the Government.

Any Bill being presented by the Lower House or a joint session of the States General that has not yet been passed may be amended by the House or joint session as the case may be on the proposal of one or more members or by the member or members introducing the Bill.

Article 85

As soon as the Lower House passes a Bill or resolves to present a Bill, it shall send it to the Upper House which shall consider the Bill as sent to it by the Lower House. The Lower House may instruct one or more of its members to defend a Bill presented by it in the Upper House.

Article 86

A Bill may be withdrawn by or on behalf of the proposer until such time as it is passed by the States General.

A Bill which is to be presented by the Lower House or by a joint session of the States General may be withdrawn by the member or members introducing it until such time as it is passed.

Article 87

A Bill shall become an Act of Parliament once it has been passed by the States General and ratified by the King.

The King and the States General shall inform each other of their decision on any Bill.

Article 88

The publication and entry into force of Acts of Parliament shall be regulated by Act of Parliament. They shall not enter into force before they have been published.

Article 89

Orders in council shall be established by Royal Decree.

Any regulations to which penalties are attached shall be embodied in such orders only in accordance with an Act of Parliament. The penalties to be imposed shall be determined by Act of Parliament.

Publication and entry into force of orders in council shall be regulated by Act of Parliament. They shall not enter into force before they have been published.

The second and third paragraphs shall apply mutatis mutandis to other generally binding regulations established by the State.

Article 90

The Government shall promote the development of the international rule of law.

Article 91

The Kingdom shall not be bound by treaties, nor shall such treaties be denounced without the prior approval of the States General. The cases in which approval is not required shall be specified by Act of Parliament.

The manner in which approval shall be granted shall be laid down by Act of Parliament, which may provide for the possibility of tacit approval.

Any provisions of a treaty that conflict with the Constitution or which lead to conflicts with it may be approved by the Houses of the States General only if at least two-thirds of the votes cast are in favour.

Article 92

Legislative, executive and judicial powers may be conferred on international institutions by or pursuant to a treaty, subject, where necessary, to the provisions of Article 91 paragraph 3.

Article 93

Provisions of treaties and of resolutions by international institutions which may be binding on all persons by virtue of their contents shall become binding after they have been published.

Article 94

Statutory regulations in force within the Kingdom shall not be applicable if such application is in conflict with provisions of treaties that are binding on all persons or of resolutions by international institutions.

Article 95

Rules regarding the publication of treaties and decisions by international institutions shall be laid down by Act of Parliament.

Article 96

A declaration that the Kingdom is in a state of war shall not be made without the prior approval of the States General.

Such approval shall not be required in cases where consultation with Parliament proves to be impossible as a consequence of the actual existence of a state of war.

The two Houses of the States General shall consider and decide upon the matter in joint session.

The provisions of the first and third paragraphs shall apply mutatis mutandis to a declaration that a state of war has ceased.

Article 97

All Dutch nationals who are capable of doing so shall have a duty to cooperate in maintaining the independence of the State and defending its territory.

This duty may also be imposed on residents of the Netherlands who are not Dutch nationals.

Article 98

To protect its interests, the State shall maintain armed forces, which shall consist of volunteers, and which may also include conscripts.

The Government shall have supreme authority over the armed forces.

Compulsory service in the armed forces and the power to defer the call-up to active service shall be regulated by Act of Parliament. The obligations which may be imposed on persons not belonging to the armed forces in relation to the defence of the country shall also be regulated by Act of Parliament.

Article 99

The conditions on which exemption is granted from military service because of serious conscientious objections shall be specified by Act of Parliament.

Article 100

Foreign troops shall not be employed other than pursuant to an Act of Parliament.

Article 101

(Lapsed in accordance with Kingdom Act of 10 July 1995, Bulletin of Acts and Decrees, 401)

Article 102

All expenses in connection with the armies of the State shall be met from central government funds.

No inhabitant or municipality may be required to assist with the billeting or maintenance of troops, or with transports or supplies of any description whatsoever requisitioned by the State for the armies or defences of the country, other than in accordance with general rules laid down by Act of Parliament and upon payment of compensation.

Exceptions to the general rules shall be laid down by Act of Parliament for application in time of war or threat of war or in other exceptional circumstances.

Article 103

The cases in which a state of emergency, as defined by Act of Parliament, may be declared by Royal Decree in order to maintain internal or external security shall be specified by Act of Parliament. The consequences of such a declaration shall be governed by Act of Parliament. Such a declaration may depart from the provisions of the Constitution relating to the powers of the executive bodies of the provinces, municipalities and water boards (waterschappen), the basic rights laid down in Article 6, insofar as the exercise of the right contained in this Article other than in buildings and enclosed places is concerned, Articles 7, 8, 9 and 12 paragraph 2,

Article 13 and Article 113 paragraphs 1 and 3

Immediately after the declaration of a state of emergency and whenever it considers it necessary, until such time as the state of emergency is terminated by Royal Decree, the States General shall decide the duration of the state of emergency. The two Houses of the States General shall consider and decide upon the matter in joint session.

Article 104

Taxes imposed by the State shall be levied pursuant to Act of Parliament. Other levies imposed by the State shall be regulated by Act of Parliament.

Article 105

The estimates of the State's revenues and expenditures shall be laid down by Act of Parliament. Bills containing general estimates shall be presented by or on behalf of the King every year on the date specified in Article 65.

A statement of the State's revenues and expenditures shall be presented to the States General in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Act of Parliament. The balance sheet approved by the Court of Audit shall be presented to the States General.

Rules relating to the management of the State's finances shall be prescribed by Act of Parliament.

Article 106

The monetary system shall be regulated by Act of Parliament.

Article 107

Civil law, criminal law and civil and criminal procedure shall be regulated by Act of Parliament in general legal codes without prejudice to the power to regulate certain matters in separate Acts of Parliament.

The general rules of administrative law shall be laid down by Act of Parliament.

Article 108

The establishment, powers and procedures of any general independent bodies for investigating complaints relating to actions of the authorities shall be regulated by Act of Parliament.

Appointment to such bodies shall be made by the Lower House of the States General if their jurisdiction covers the actions of the central authorities. Members may be dismissed in cases prescribed by Act of Parliament.

Article 109

The legal status of public servants shall be regulated by Act of Parliament. Rules regarding employment protection and co-determination for public servants shall also be laid down by Act of Parliament.

Article 110

In the exercise of their duties government bodies shall observe the right of public access to information in accordance with rules to be prescribed by Act of Parliament.

Article 111

Honours shall be established by Act of Parliament.

NORWAY**Article 73**

The Storting nominates from among its members one fourth to constitute the Lagting, the remaining three fourths to constitute the Odelsting. This nomination shall take place at the first session of the Storting that assembles after a new General Election, whereafter the Lagting shall remain unchanged at all sessions of the Storting assembled after the same election, except insofar as any vacancy which may occur among its members has to be filled by special nomination.

Each Ting holds its meetings separately and nominates its own President and Secretary. Neither Ting may hold a meeting unless at least half of its Members are present. However, Bills concerning amendments to the Constitution may not be dealt with unless at least two thirds of the Members of the Storting are present.

Article 76

Every Bill shall first be proposed in the Odelsting, either by one of its own Members, or by the government through a Member of the Council of State. If the Bill is passed, it is sent to the Lagting, which either approves or rejects it, and in the latter case returns it with appended comments. These are taken into consideration by the Odelsting, which either shelves the bill or again sends it to the Lagting, with or without alteration.

When a Bill from the Odelsting has twice been presented to the Lagting and has been returned a second time as rejected, the Storting shall meet in plenary session, and the bill is then decided by a majority of two thirds of its votes. Between each such deliberation there shall be an interval of at least three days.

Article 77

When a Bill passed by the Odelsting has been approved by the Lagting or by the Storting in plenary session, it is sent to the King, with a request that it may receive the Royal Assent.

Article 78

If the King assents to the Bill, he appends his signature, whereby it becomes law. If he does not assent to it, he returns it to the Odelsting with a statement that he does not for the time being find it expedient to sanction it. In that case the Bill must not again be submitted to the King by the Storting then assembled.

Article 79

If a Bill has been passed unaltered by two sessions of the Storting, constituted after two separate successive elections and separated from each other by at least two intervening sessions of the Storting, without a divergent Bill having been passed by any Storting in the period between the first and last adoption, and it is then submitted to the King with a petition that His Majesty shall not refuse his assent to a Bill which, after the most mature deliberation, the Storting considers to be beneficial, it shall become law even if the Royal Assent is not accorded before the Storting goes into recess.

Article 80

The Storting shall remain in session as long as it deems it necessary and shall terminate its proceedings when it has concluded its business. In accordance with the rules of procedure adopted by the Storting, the proceedings may be resumed, but they shall terminate not later than the last Sunday in the month of September. Within this time the King shall communicate his decision with regard to the Bills that have not already been decided (cf. Articles 77 to 79), by either confirming or rejecting them. All those which he does not expressly accept are deemed to have been rejected by him.

Article 81

All Acts (with the exception of those mentioned in Article 79) are drawn up in the name of the King, under the seal of the Realm of Norway, and in the following terms; "We, X, make it publicly known: that the decision of the Storting of the date stated has been laid before Us: (here follows the decision). In consequence whereof We have assented to and confirmed, as We hereby do assent to and confirm the same as Law under Our Hand and the Seal of the Realm."

Article 82

(Repealed)

Article 83

The Storting may obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court on points of law.

Article 84

The Storting shall meet in open session, and its proceedings shall be published in print, except in those cases where a majority decides to the contrary.

Article 85

Any person who obeys an order, the purpose of which is to disturb the liberty and security of the Storting, is thereby guilty of treason against the Country.

POLAND**Article 118**

1. The right to introduce legislation shall belong to Deputies, to the Senate, to the President of the Republic and to the Council of Ministers.
2. The right to introduce legislation shall also belong to a group of at least 100,000 citizens having the right to vote in elections to the Sejm. The procedure in such matter shall be specified by statute.
3. Sponsors, when introducing a bill to the Sejm, shall indicate the financial consequences of its implementation.

Article 119

1. The Sejm shall consider bills in the course of three readings.
2. The right to introduce amendments to a bill in the course of its consideration by the Sejm shall belong to its sponsor, Deputies and the Council of Ministers.
3. The Marshal of the Sejm may refuse to put to a vote any amendment which has not previously been submitted to a committee.
4. The sponsor may withdraw a bill in the course of legislative proceedings in the Sejm until the conclusion of its second reading.

Article 120

The Sejm shall pass bills by a simple majority vote, in the presence of at least half of the statutory number of Deputies, unless the Constitution provides for another majority. The same procedure shall be applied by the Sejm in adoption of resolutions, unless a statute or a resolution of the Sejm provide otherwise.

Article 121

1. A bill passed by the Sejm shall be submitted to the Senate by the Marshal of the Sejm.
2. The Senate, within 30 days of submission of a bill , may adopt it without amendment, adopt amendments or resolve upon its complete rejection. If, within 30 days following the submission of the bill, the Senate fails to adopt an appropriate resolution, the bill shall be considered adopted according to the wording submitted by the Sejm.
3. A resolution of the Senate rejecting a bill, or an amendment proposed in the Senate's resolution, shall be considered accepted unless the Sejm rejects it by an absolute majority vote in the presence of at least half of the statutory number of Deputies.

Article 122

1. After the completion of the procedure specified in Article 121, the Marshal of the Sejm shall submit an adopted bill to the President of the Republic for signature.
2. The President of the Republic shall sign a bill within 21 days of its submission and shall order its promulgation in the Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland (Dziennik Ustaw).
3. The President of the Republic may, before signing a bill, refer it to the Constitutional Tribunal for an adjudication upon its conformity to the Constitution. The President of the Republic shall not refuse to sign a bill which has been judged by the Constitutional Tribunal as conforming to the Constitution.

4. The President of the Republic shall refuse to sign a bill which the Constitutional Tribunal has judged not to be in conformity to the Constitution. If, however, the nonconformity to the Constitution relates to particular provisions of the bill, and the Tribunal has not judged that they are inseparably connected with the whole bill, then, the President of the Republic, after seeking the opinion of the Marshal of the Sejm, shall sign the bill with the omission of those provisions considered as being in non-conformity to the Constitution or shall return the bill to the Sejm for the purpose of removing the non-conformity.

5. If the President of the Republic has not made reference to the Constitutional Tribunal in accordance with para. 3, he may refer the bill, with reasons given, to the Sejm for its reconsideration. If the said bill is repassed by the Sejm by a three-fifths majority vote in the presence of at least half of the statutory number of Deputies, then, the President of the Republic shall sign it within 7 days and shall order its promulgation in the Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland (Dziennik Ustaw). If the said bill has been repassed by the Sejm, the President of the Republic shall have no right to refer it to the Constitutional Tribunal in accordance with the procedure prescribed in para. 3.

6. Any such reference by the President of the Republic to the Constitutional Tribunal for an adjudication upon the conformity of a statute to the Constitution, or any application for reconsideration of a bill, shall suspend the period of time allowed for its signature, specified in para. 2, above.

Article 123

1. The Council of Ministers may classify a bill adopted by itself as urgent, with the exception of tax bills, bills governing elections to the Presidency of the Republic of Poland, to the Sejm, to the Senate and to organs of local self government, bills governing the structure and jurisdiction of public authorities, and also drafts of law codes.

2. The rules of procedure of the Sejm and the rules of procedure of the Senate shall define the modifications in the legislative procedure when a bill has been classified as urgent.

3. In the legislative procedure in relation to a bill classified as urgent, the time period for its consideration by the Senate shall be 14 days and the period for its signature by the President of the Republic shall be 7 days.

Article 124

The provisions of Article 110, Article 112, Article 113 and Article 120 shall apply, as appropriate, to the Senate.

PORTUGAL

Article 167 Legislative initiative and referendum

1. The power to initiate laws and to propose referenda lies with Deputies, parliamentary groups and the Government, and further, in accordance with the terms and conditions established by law, the groups of electing citizens; the power to initiate laws with respect to the autonomous regions lies with the appropriate regional legislative assembly.

2. Deputies, parliamentary groups, regional legislative assemblies and groups of electing citizens shall not table bills, draft legislation or amendments that involve, in the current year, any increase in State expenditure or any reduction in State revenue, as provided for in the Budget.

3. Deputies and parliamentary groups and groups of electing citizens shall not propose referenda that involve, in the current year, any increase in State expenditure or any reduction in State revenue, as provided for in the Budget.
4. Bills, draft legislation and proposals for referenda that have been finally rejected shall not be re-introduced in the same legislative session, unless a new Assembly of the Republic is elected.
5. Bills, draft Government legislation and proposals for referenda that are not voted upon in the legislative session in which they are tabled need not be re-introduced in the following legislative session, unless the legislative term of the Assembly has ended.
6. Draft legislation and proposals for referenda tabled by the Government lapse on the dismissal of the Government.
7. Legislative initiatives from regional legislative assemblies lapse at the end of their legislative term, unless approved on the first reading, in which case they lapse only when the legislative term of the Assembly ends.
8. Parliamentary committees are entitled to submit alternative texts; but these do not prejudice the bills, draft legislation or the proposals for a referendum to which they refer when those have not been withdrawn.

Article 168 Debates and voting

1. Debate of bills and draft legislation shall comprise a first reading general debate and a second reading debate on detail.
2. Voting comprises a vote on the first reading, a vote on the second reading and a final overall vote.
3. If the Assembly so decides, texts approved on the first reading shall be submitted to committees for their second reading, subject to the power of the Assembly to recall them and to a final overall vote by the Assembly.
4. The second reading of bills relating to matters specified in Articles 164(a) to (f), (h), (n) and (o) and 165(1)(q) must be voted on by the Assembly in plenary session.
5. Organic laws must be approved, in the overall final vote, by an absolute majority of the Deputies entitled to vote. The provisions relating to the territorial demarcation of the regions, set out in Article 255, must be approved in their second reading by the Assembly in plenary session by an identical majority.
6. The law that regulates the exercise of the right set out in Article 121(2) and the provisions of laws relating to matters specified in Articles 148 and 149, in 164(o), as well as those relating to the system and method of electing the organs referred to in Article 239(3), must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the Deputies present, provided that the majority exceeds an absolute majority of the Deputies entitled to vote.

Article 169 Parliamentary appraisal of legislative acts

1. Decree-laws, other than those approved under the exclusive legislative powers of the Government, shall be submitted, for the purposes of terminating their validity or amendment, on the petition of 10 Deputies, for consideration by the Assembly of the Republic, within thirty days following their publication, not counting periods when the operation of the Assembly of the Republic is suspended.

2. Where proposals are made for the amendment of a decree-law, made under delegated legislative powers, that has been submitted for consideration, the Assembly may suspend the operation of the decree, in whole or in part, until the law amending it is published or the proposals for amendment are rejected.

3. The suspension shall lapse immediately the Assembly has held 10 plenary meetings without taking a final decision.

4. Where termination of validity is approved, the instrument ceases to be in force from the date of the publication of the resolution in the *Diário da República*, and it may not be published again in the same legislative session.

5. The process shall lapse if, after a decree-law has been submitted for consideration, the Assembly takes no decision on it, or, having decided to make amendments, it does not approve a law to that effect before the end of the current legislative session, in which there have been 15 plenary meetings.

6. The processes of parliamentary consideration of decree-laws shall take priority, in accordance with the Standing Orders.

Article 170 Urgency procedure

1. At the request of a Deputy or parliamentary group or the Government, the Assembly of the Republic is entitled to adopt a urgency procedure for passing a bill, draft legislation or a motion for a resolution.

2. At the request of the Regional Legislative Assembly for the Azores or Madeira, the Assembly is also entitled to adopt an urgency procedure for passing a bill initiated by that regional legislative assembly.

ROMANIA

Section 3 - Law-making Procedure

Article 73 – Classes of Laws

1. Parliament passes constitutional, organic, and ordinary laws.

2. Constitutional laws shall be those for the revision of the Constitution.

3. Organic laws shall regulate:

- a) the electoral system; the organization and functioning of the Permanent Electoral Authority;
- b) the organization, functioning, and financing of political parties;
- c) the status of Deputies and Senators, the establishment of their emoluments and other rights;
- d) the organization and holding of referendum;
- e) the organization of the Government and of the Supreme Council of National Defence;
- f) the state of partial or total mobilization of the armed forces and of the state of war;
- g) the state of siege and emergency;
- h) criminal offences, penalties, and the execution thereof;
- i) the granting of amnesty or collective pardon;
- j) the status of public servants;
- k) the judicial review of administrative action;
- l) the organization and functioning of the Superior Council of Magistracy, the courts of law, the Public Ministry, and the Court of Accounts;

- m) the general legal status of property and inheritance;
- n) the general organization of education;
- o) the organization of local public administration, territory, as well as the general rules on local autonomy;
- p) the general rules covering labour relations, trade unions, employers associations, and social protection;
- r) the status of national minorities in Romania ;
- s) the general statutory rules of religious cults;
- t) the other fields for which the Constitution stipulates the enactment of organic laws.

Article 74 – Legislative Initiative

1. A legislative initiative shall lie, as the case may be, with the Government, Deputies, Senators, or a number of at least 100,000 citizens entitled to vote. The citizens who exercise their right to a legislative initiative must belong to at least one quarter of the country's counties, while, in each of those counties or in the Municipality of Bucharest, at least 5,000 signatures should be registered in support of such initiative.
2. A legislative initiative of the citizens may not touch on matters concerning taxation, international affairs, amnesty or pardon.
3. The Government shall exercise its legislative initiative by introducing bills to the Chamber having competence for its adoption, as a first notified Chamber.
4. Deputies, Senators and citizens exercising the right of legislative initiative may present proposals only in the form required for a bill.
5. Legislative proposals shall be first submitted to the Chamber having competence for its adoption, as a first notified Chamber.

Article 75 – Notification to the Chambers

- 1 The Chamber of Deputies, as a first notified Chamber, shall debate and adopt the bills and legislative proposals for the ratification of treaties or other international agreements and the legislative measures deriving from the implementation of such treaties and agreements, as well as bills of the organic laws stipulated under Article 31 paragraph (5), Article 40 paragraph (3), Article 55 paragraph (2), Article 58 paragraph (3), Article 73 paragraph (3) subparagraphs e), k), l), n), o), Article 79 paragraph (2), Article 102 paragraph (3), Article 105 paragraph (2), Article 117 paragraph (3), Article 118 paragraphs (2) and (3), Article 120 paragraph (2), Article 126 paragraphs (4) and (5), and Article 142 paragraph (5). The other bills or legislative proposals shall be submitted to the Senate, as a first notified Chamber, for debate and adoption.
2. The first notified Chamber shall pronounce within forty-five days. For codes and other particularly complex laws, the deadline will be sixty days. If such terms are exceeded, it shall be deemed that the bill or legislative proposal has been adopted.
3. After the first notified Chamber adopts or rejects it, the bill or legislative proposal shall be sent to the other Chamber, which will make a final decision.
4. In the event the first notified Chamber adopts a provision which, under paragraph (1), belongs to its decision-making competence, the provision is adopted as final if the other Chamber also accepts it. Otherwise, for the provision in question only, the bill shall be returned to the first notified Chamber, which will make a final decision in an urgency procedure.
5. The provisions of paragraph (4) concerning the bill being returned shall also apply accordingly if the decision-making Chamber should adopt a provision for which the decision-making competence belongs to the first Chamber.

Article 76 – Passing of Bills and Resolutions

1. Organic laws and resolutions concerning the Standing Orders of each Chamber shall be passed by the majority vote of its members.
2. Ordinary laws and resolutions shall be passed by the majority vote of the members present in each Chamber.
3. On request by the Government or on its own initiative, Parliament may pass bills or legislative proposals under an urgency procedure, established in accordance with the Standing Orders of each Chamber.

Article 77 – Promulgation of Laws

1. A law shall be submitted for promulgation to the President of Romania. Promulgation shall be given within twenty days after receipt of the law.
2. Before promulgation, the President of Romania may return the law to Parliament for reconsideration, and he may do so only once.
3. In case the President has requested that the law be reconsidered or a review has been asked for as to its conformity with the Constitution, promulgation shall be made within ten days from receiving the law passed after its reconsideration, or the decision of the Constitutional Court confirming its constitutionality.

Article 78 – Coming into Force of Laws

The law shall be published in the Official Gazette of Romania and come into force three days after its publication date, or on a subsequent date stipulated in its text.

Article 79 – Legislative Council

1. The Legislative Council shall be an advisory expert body of Parliament, that initials draft normative acts for purposes of a systematic unification and co-ordination of the whole body of laws. It shall keep the official record of the legislation of Romania.
2. The setting up, organization and functioning of the Legislative Council shall be regulated by an organic law.

RUSSIA**Article 104**

1. The right to initiate new legislation shall be vested in the President of the Russian Federation, the Council of the Federation, the deputies of the Council of the Federation, the deputies of the State Duma, the Government of the Russian Federation and legislative (representative) bodies of the subjects of the Russian Federation. The right to initiate legislation shall also be vested within their terms of reference in the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and the Higher Court of Arbitration of the Russian Federation.
2. Bills shall be submitted to the State Duma.
3. Bills which are intended to impose or revoke taxes, to provide exemption from their payment, to issue state loans, to change the financial obligations of the state, other bills envisaging expenses covered by the federal budget, may be introduced provided a relevant decision is taken by the Government of the Russian Federation.

Article 105

1. Federal laws shall be adopted by the State Duma.
2. Federal laws shall be adopted by a majority of votes of the total number of elected deputies of the State Duma unless otherwise provided for by the Constitution of the Russian Federation.
3. Federal laws adopted by the State Duma shall be submitted within five days for consideration by the Council of the Federation.
4. A federal law shall be deemed adopted by the Council of the Federation when passed by a majority of the total number of deputies or not examined by the Council of the Federation within 14 days. In case the Council of the Federation rejects a federal law, the two chambers may form a conciliation commission to overcome differences, after which the federal law is subject to repeat examination of the State Duma.
5. In the event of disagreement of the State Duma with the decision of the Council of the Federation, a federal law shall be deemed adopted if during a second vote it is passed by no less than two thirds of the total number of deputies of the State Duma.

Article 106

It shall be the duty of the Council of the Federation to consider the federal laws passed by the State Duma which deal with:

- a) federal budget;
- b) federal taxes and collections;
- c) regulation of finances, foreign currency, credits and customs as well as with monetary emission issues;
- d) ratification and denunciation of international treaties of the Russian Federation;
- e) status and defence of the state borders;
- f) war and peace.

Article 107

1. After its adoption, federal law shall be submitted within five days to the President of the Russian Federation for signature and promulgation.
2. The President of the Russian Federation shall sign and promulgate it within fourteen days.
3. If the President declines the federal law within fourteen days, beginning from the date of its submission, the State Duma and the Council of the Federation shall once again consider the given law in a manner envisaged by the Constitution of the Russian Federation. If on a second consideration a law is passed in a previous wording by a majority of no less than two thirds of the total number of deputies of each chamber, it shall be signed by the President of the Russian Federation within 7 days and promulgated.

Article 108

1. Federal constitutional laws shall be adopted on matters stipulated by the Constitution of the Russian Federation.
2. A federal constitutional law shall be deemed adopted when passed by a majority of no less than three quarters of the total number of deputies of the Council of the Federation and no less than two thirds of the total number of deputies of the State Duma. After its adoption, the federal constitutional law shall be signed by the President of the Russian Federation and promulgated within fourteen days.

Article 109

1. The State Duma may be dissolved by the President of the Russian Federation in instances stipulated in Article 111 and Article 117 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

2. In the event of the dissolution of the State Duma, the President of the Russian Federation shall set the date for election so that the newly elected State Duma convenes no later than 4 months as of the moment of dissolution of the former.

3. The State Duma may not be dissolved on the grounds envisaged by Article 117 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation within a year after its election.

4. The State Duma may not be dissolved from the date of bringing accusation against the President of the Russian Federation until the Council of the Federation takes appropriate decision.

5. The State Duma may not be dissolved during a state of emergency and martial law enforced throughout the Russian Federation as well as within six months before the expiration of the terms of office of the President.

SAN MARINO

To be completed.

SLOVAKIA**Article 87**

1. Draft laws may be introduced by the Committees of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, Members of Parliament and the Government of the Slovak Republic.

2. If the President of the Slovak Republic returns an act with comments, the National Council of the Slovak Republic shall discuss this act repeatedly and in case it is adopted, the act must be promulgated.

3. Acts shall be signed by the President of the Slovak Republic, the President of the National Council of the Slovak Republic and the Prime Minister of the Government of the Slovak Republic. If the National Council of the Slovak Republic, after repeated discussion, adopts an act even despite the comments of the President of the Slovak Republic, and the President of the Slovak Republic does not sign this act, it shall be promulgated even without the signature of the President of the Slovak Republic.

4. Acts shall enter into effect on their promulgation. Details on the promulgation of acts, of international treaties and legally binding acts of an international organization pursuant to Art. 7, para. 2 shall be laid down by law.

SLOVENIAArticle 87

The Power of the National Assembly to Enact Legislation

The rights and obligations of citizens and of other persons may be delineated by the National Assembly solely by statute.

Article 88

Initiatives to Enact Statutes

The enactment of statutes by the National Assembly may be initiated by the Government, by individual Deputies of the National Assembly or by no less than five thousand voters.

Article 89

Legislative Procedure

The National Assembly shall enact statutes after considering the same in stages or otherwise consistently with its Standing Orders.

[Article 90](#)

Referenda Relating to Statues

The National Assembly may call a referendum on any issue which is the subject of regulation by statute. The National Assembly shall be bound by the results of such a referendum.

The National Assembly may call such referendum on its own initiative, but it must call such a referendum if the same is demanded by no less than one third of all elected Deputies of National Assembly, by the National Council or by no less than forty thousand voters.

All citizens, who are eligible to vote generally, shall have the right to vote in a referendum.

Any proposal put to a referendum shall be deemed to have been accepted if a simple majority of the voters voting at the referendum vote in favour of the same.

The procedure for holding referenda shall be regulated by statute passed by a two-thirds majority of those Deputies present and voting.

Article 91

The Proclamation of Statues

A statute shall be proclaimed by the President of the Republic no later than 8 days after its enactment.

The National Council may require the National Assembly to reconsider any statute within 7 days of the same being enacted and prior to its proclamation. On the reconsideration of any statute, the same shall be deemed to be enacted if a majority of all elected Deputies of the National Assembly votes in favour of it, save where this Constitution requires a greater number of votes for enactment. Any such reconsideration of a statute by the National Assembly shall be final.

The National Assembly may call such referendum on its own initiative, but it must call such a referendum if the same is demanded by no less than one third of all elected Deputies of National Assembly, by the National Council or by no less than forty thousand voters.

All citizens, who are eligible to vote generally, shall have the right to vote in a referendum.

Any proposal put to a referendum shall be deemed to have been accepted if a simple majority of the voters voting at the referendum vote in favour of the same.

The procedure for holding referenda shall be regulated by statute passed by a two-thirds majority of those Deputies present and voting.

PART 9. Procedure for amending this constitution

Article 168

Proposal for the Initiation of Amendment

A proposal to amend this Constitution may be initiated by no less than twenty Deputies of the National Assembly, by the Government or by no less than thirty thousand voters.

Any such proposal shall only proceed for determination in the National Assembly upon the vote of a two-thirds majority of those Deputies of the National Assembly present and voting.

Article 169

Amendment of This Constitution

The National Assembly may only enact legislation to amend this Constitution upon the vote of a two-thirds majority of all elected Deputies.

Article 170

Ratification of Constitutional Amendment by Referendum

Any proposal for the amendment of this Constitution before the National Assembly must be presented to the electorate at a referendum if the same is demanded by no less than thirty of its Deputies.

An amendment shall be deemed to have been carried at such a referendum if a majority of all voters eligible to vote, voted at the referendum and a majority of those voters who were voting voted in favour of same.

Article 171

Proclamation of Amendments to this Constitution

An amendment to this Constitution shall take effect upon its proclamation in the National Assembly.

SPAIN

Chapter II

Concerning the Drafting of Bills

Article 81

1. Organic laws are those relating to the development of fundamental rights and public liberties, those which establish Statutes of Autonomy and the general electoral system, and other laws provided for in the Constitution.

2. The passing, amendment or repeat of the organic laws shall require an absolute majority of the members of Congress in a final vote on the bill as a whole.

Article 82

1. The Cortes Generales may delegate to the Government the power to issue rules with the force of law on specific matters not included in the foregoing article.

2. Legislative delegation must be granted by means of a basic law when its purpose is that of drawing up texts comprising various articles, or by an ordinary law when it is a matter of consolidating several legal texts into one.

3. Legislative delegation must be expressly granted to the Government for specific purposes and with a fixed time limit for its exercise. The delegation shall expire when the Government, having availed itself thereof, has published the appropriate regulations. It may not be construed as having been granted implicitly or for an indeterminate period. Nor shall sub-delegation to authorities other than the Government itself be authorized.

4. Enabling laws shall precisely define the purpose and scope of legislative delegation, as well as the principles and criteria to be followed in exercising it.

5. Authorization for consolidating legal texts shall determine the legislative scope implicit in the delegation, specifying if it is restricted to the mere formulation of a single text or whether it covers regulating, clarifying and harmonizing the legal texts that are to be consolidated.

6. The delegation laws may establish additional control formulas in each case, without prejudice to the jurisdiction of the Courts.

Article 83

The basic laws may in no case:

- a) authorize the modification of the basic law itself;
- b) grant power to enact retroactive regulations.

Article 84

In the event that a non-governmental bill or amendment is contrary to currently valid legislative delegation, the Government may oppose its passage. In this case, a non-governmental bill may be submitted for the total or partial repeal of the delegation law.

Article 85

Government provisions containing delegated legislation shall be entitled "Legislative Decrees".

Article 86

1. In cases of extraordinary and urgent need, the Government may issue temporary legislative provisions which shall take the form of Decree-Laws and I which may not affect the regulation of the basic State institutions, the rights, duties and liberties contained in Title I, the system of the Autonomous Communities, or the General Electoral Law.

2. The Decree-Laws must be submitted forthwith to the Congress of Deputies, which must be summoned for this purpose if not already in session. They must be debated and voted upon in their entirety within thirty days after their promulgation. Congress must expressly declare itself in favour of ratification or repeal within said period of time, for which purpose the Standing Orders shall establish a special summary procedure.

3. During the period established in the foregoing clause, their passage through the Cortes may be the same as for Government bills, by means of the emergency procedure.

Article 87

1. The Government, the Congress and the Senate are competent to propose legislation, in accordance with the Constitution and the Standing Orders of the Houses.

2. The Assemblies of the Autonomous Communities may request the Government to pass a bill or refer a non-governmental bill to the Congressional Steering Committee and to delegate a maximum of three Assembly members to defend it.

3. An organic law shall establish the manner in which popular initiative in connection with the submitting of non-governmental bills shall be regulated, as well as the requirements therefor. In any case, no fewer than 500,000 authenticated signatures shall be required. This initiative may not touch on matters concerning organic laws, taxation, international affairs or the prerogative of granting pardons.

Article 88

Government bills shall be passed by the Council of Ministers, which shall refer them to Congress, accompanied by a statement setting forth the necessary grounds and facts in order for them to reach a decision thereon.

Article 89

1. The passage of non-governmental bills shall be regulated by the Standing Orders of the Houses in such a way that the priority attaching to Government bills shall not prevent the exercise of the right to propose legislation under the terms laid down in Article 87.

2. Non-governmental bills which, in accordance with Article 87 are considered by the Senate, shall be referred to Congress for enactment.

Article 90

1. Once an ordinary or organic bill has been passed by the Congress of Deputies, the President Of Congress shall immediately report on it to the President of the Senate, who shall submit it to the latter for its consideration.

2. Within two months of receiving the text, the Senate may, by means of a considered opinion, veto it or introduce amendments into it. The veto must be passed by an absolute majority. The bill may not be submitted to the King for his assent unless, in the event of veto, Congress has ratified the initial text by an absolute majority (or by simple majority if two months have elapsed since its introduction), or has reached a decision relative to the amendments, accepting them or not by simple majority.

3. The period of two months allowed the Senate for vetoing or amending a bill shall be reduced to twenty calendar days for bills declared by the Government of the Congress of Deputies to be urgent.

Article 91

The King shall, within a period of fifteen days, give his assent to the laws passed by the Cortes Generales, and shall promulgate them and order their immediate publication.

Article 92

1. Political decisions of special importance may be submitted to all citizens in a consultative referendum.

2. The referendum shall be called by the King on the proposal of the President of the Government, following authorization by the Congress of Deputies.

3. An organic law shall regulate the terms and procedures for the different kinds of referendum provided for in this Constitution.

SWEDEN

To be completed

The Instrument of Government**Article 7**

Statutes, proposals for submission to the Riksdag, and other de-spateshes of Government decisions must be signed by the Prime Minister or another minister on behalf of the Government in order to be valid. The Government may, however, prescribe in a statutory instrument that an official may sign a despatch of a Government decision in a particular case.

SWITZERLAND**Chapter 2 - Initiative and Referendum****Article 8 Popular Initiative for Total Revision of the Federal Constitution**

1 100 000 citizens entitled to vote may propose a total revision of the Federal Constitution.

2 This proposal shall be submitted to the vote of the People for its approval.

Article 139

1. Popular Initiative for Partial Revision of the Federal Constitution 1 100 000 citizens entitled to vote may propose a partial revision of the Federal Constitution.

2 The popular initiative for a partial revision of the Federal Constitution may be in the form of a general suggestion or a formulated draft.

3 If an initiative does not respect the principle of unity of form, the principle of unity of subject matter, or mandatory rules of international law, the Federal Parliament shall declare the initiative invalid, in whole or in part.

4 If the Federal Parliament approves an initiative in the form of a general suggestion, it shall prepare a partial revision in the sense of the initiative, and submit it to the vote of the people and the Cantons. If it rejects the initiative, it shall submit it to the vote of the People; the People shall decide whether the initiative should be followed. If the People approves the initiative, the Federal Parliament shall formulate a corresponding draft.

5 An initiative in the form of a formulated draft shall be submitted to the vote of the People and the Cantons. The Federal Parliament shall recommend its approval or its rejection. If it recommends its rejection, it may submit its own counter-draft.

6 The People and the Cantons shall vote simultaneously on the initiative and the counter-draft. The voters may approve both drafts. They may indicate which draft they prefer, should both be approved; should one of the drafts obtain the majority of the People's votes and the other the majority of the votes of the Cantons, neither of them shall come into force.

Article 140 - Mandatory Referendum

1 The following shall be submitted to the vote of the People and the Cantons:

a. Revisions of the Federal Constitution;

b. The entry into organizations for collective security or into supranational communities;

c. Federal Statutes declared urgent which have no constitutional basis and whose validity exceeds one year; such Federal Statutes must be submitted to the vote within one year after their adoption by the Federal Parliament.

2 The following shall be submitted to the vote of the People:

- a. Popular initiatives for total revision of the Federal Constitution;
- b. Popular initiatives for partial revision of the Federal Constitution in the form of a general suggestion which were rejected by the Federal Parliament;
- c. The question whether a total revision of the Constitution should be carried out if both Chambers disagree.

Article 141- Optional Referendum

1 The following are submitted to the vote of the People at the request of 50'000 citizens entitled to vote, or of eight Cantons:

- a. Federal Statutes;
- b. Federal Statutes declared urgent with a validity exceeding one year;
- c. Federal decrees to the extent the Constitution or the statute foresee this;
- d. International treaties which:
 - i. are of unlimited duration and may not be terminated;
 - ii. provide for the entry into an international organization;
 - iii. involve a multilateral unification of law.

2 The Federal Parliament may submit further international treaties to optional referendum.

Art. 142 - Required Majorities

1 Proposals submitted to the vote of the People shall be accepted if the majority of those voting approves them.

2 Proposals submitted to the vote of the People and the Cantons shall be accepted if the majority of those voting and the majority of the Cantons approve them.

3 The result of a popular vote in a Canton determines the vote of that Canton.

4 The Cantons of Obwald, Nidwald, Basle-City, Basle-Land, Appenzell Outer Rhodes and Appenzell Inner Rhodes have each one half of a cantonal vote.

Article 160 - Right to Initiatives and Motions

1 Every member of the Federal Parliament, every parliamentary group, every parliamentary commission, and every Canton, have the right to submit initiatives to the Federal Parliament.

2 The members of the Federal Parliament and of the Federal Government may present motions concerning a proposal under deliberation.

Section 3: Powers

Article 163 - Form of Laws and Decrees by the Federal Parliament

1 The Federal Parliament shall enact rules of law in the form of a Federal Statute or ordinance.

2 The other acts shall use the form of a federal decree. A federal decree not subjected to referendum shall be called a simple federal decree.

Article 164 - Legislation

1 All important provisions establishing rules of law must be enacted in the form of Federal Statutes. These include the fundamental provisions on

- a. the exercise of political rights;
- b. the restrictions of constitutional rights;
- c. the rights and obligations of persons;
- d. the circle of tax payers, and the object and the calculation of taxes;
- e. the tasks and services of the Confederation;
- f. the obligations of the Cantons when implementing and executing federal law;
- g. the organization and the procedure of federal authorities.

A Federal Statute may delegate the power to legislate unless this is excluded by the Federal Constitution.

Art. 165 Urgent Legislation 1 A Federal Statute whose coming into force tolerates no delay, may be declared urgent by the majority of each Chamber and put into force immediately. It must be limited in time.

2 If a referendum is demanded against an urgent Federal Statute, it shall lapse one year after its adoption by the Federal Parliament, unless it is approved by the People within that period.

3 An urgent Federal Statute that has no constitutional basis shall lapse one year after its adoption by the Federal Parliament, unless it was adopted within that period by the People and the Cantons. It must be limited in time.

4 An urgent Federal Statute that was not adopted in a votation may not be renewed.

Article 173 - Further Tasks and Powers

1 The Federal Parliament shall further have the following tasks and powers:

- a) It shall take measures to safeguard the external security, the independence, and the neutrality of Switzerland;
- b) It shall take measures to secure the inner security;
- c) If extraordinary circumstances so require, it may issue ordinances or simple federal decrees to fulfill the tasks according to letters a and b;
- d) It shall order active military service, and to this end, shall mobilize all or part of the army.
- e) It shall take measures to enforce federal law;
- f) It shall decide on the validity of popular initiatives that meet the formal requirements;
- g) It shall cooperate in important planning of state activities;
- h) It shall decide on individual acts, if a Federal Statute so provides expressly;
- i) It shall decide conflicts or jurisdiction between the highest federal authorities;
- k) It shall decide on petitions for pardon and declare amnesties.

2 The Federal Parliament shall moreover deal with all subjects that are within the powers of the Confederation, and are not attributed to another federal authority.

3 The Statute may assign other tasks and powers to the Federal Parliame

FYROM

Article 71

The right to propose adoption of a law is given to every Representative of the Assembly, to the Government of the Republic and to a group of at least 10 000 voters. The initiative for adopting a law may be given to the authorised instances by any citizen, group of citizens, institutions or associations.

Article 73

The Assembly decides on issuing notice of a referendum concerning specific matters within its sphere of competence by a majority vote of the total number of Representatives. The decision of the majority of voters in a referendum is adopted on condition that more than half of the total number of voters voted. The Assembly is obliged to issue notice of a referendum if one is proposed by at least 150 000 voters. The decision made in a referendum is binding.

Article 74

The Assembly makes decisions on any change in the borders of the Republic by a two-thirds majority vote of the total number of Representatives. The decision on any change in the borders of the Republic is adopted by referendum, in so far as it is accepted by the majority of the total number of voters.

Article 75

Laws are declared by promulgation. The promulgation declaring a law is signed by the President of the Republic and the President of the Assembly. The President of the Republic may decide not to sign the promulgation declaring a law. The Assembly reconsiders the law and the President of the Republic is then obliged to sign the promulgation in so far as it is adopted by a majority vote of the total number of Representatives. The President is obliged to sign a promulgation if the law has been adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the total number of Representatives in accordance with the Constitution.

TURKEY

A. General Provisions

Article 87.

The functions and powers of the Turkish Grand National Assembly comprise the enactment, amendment, and repeal of laws; the supervision of the Council of Ministers and the Ministers; authorisation of the Council of Ministers to issue governmental decrees having the force of law on certain matters; debating and approval of the budget draft and the draft law of the final accounts, making decisions regarding the printing of currency and declaration of war; ratifying international agreements, deciding with the three fifths of the Turkish Grand National Assembly on the proclamation of amnesties and pardons of the Constitution; and exercising the powers and executing the functions envisaged in the other articles of the Constitution.

B. Introduction and Debate of the Laws

Article 88.

The Council of Ministers and deputies are empowered to introduce laws.

The procedure and principles relating to the debating of draft bills and proposals of law in the Turkish Grand National Assembly shall be regulated by the Rules of Procedure.

C. Promulgation of Laws by the President of the Republic

Article 89.

The President of the Republic shall promulgate the laws adopted by the Turkish Grand National Assembly within fifteen days. He shall, within the same period, refer to the Turkish Grand National Assembly for further consideration, laws which he deems wholly or in part or unsuitable for promulgation, together with a statement of his reasons. In the event of being deemed unsuitable by the President, the Turkish Grand National Assembly may only discuss those articles deemed to be unsuitable. Budget laws shall not be subjected to this provision. Provisions relating to Constitutional amendments are reserved.

UKRAINEArticle 93

The right of legislative initiative in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine belongs to the President of Ukraine, National Deputies of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, and the National Bank of Ukraine. The draft laws defined by the President of Ukraine as urgent shall be considered out of turn by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine;

Article 94

The Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine signs a law and forwards it without delay to the President of Ukraine.

Within fifteen days of the receipt of a law, the President of Ukraine signs it, accepting it for execution, and officially promulgates it, or returns it to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine with substantiated and formulated proposals for repeat consideration.

In the event that the President of Ukraine has not returned a law for repeat consideration within the established term, the law is deemed to be approved by the President of Ukraine and shall be signed and officially promulgated.

Where a law, during its repeat consideration, again receives votes of no less than two-thirds of the constitutional membership of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the President of Ukraine shall be obliged to sign and to officially promulgate it within ten days. In the event that the President of Ukraine does not sign such a law, it shall be without delay promulgated officially by the Chairperson of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and published under his or her signature;

A law enters into force in ten days from the day of its official promulgation, unless otherwise envisaged by the law itself, but not prior to the day of its publication.