



Strasbourg, 9 September 2020

Opinion No. 992 / 2020

CDL-REF(2020)066

Engl. only

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**LAW OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AMENDING THE
CONSTITUTION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON IMPROVING
THE REGULATION OF CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE ORGANISATION
AND FUNCTIONING OF PUBLIC AUTHORITY**

RUSSIAN FEDERATION
LAW OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
ON IMPROVING THE REGULATION OF CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE ORGANISATION
AND FUNCTIONING OF PUBLIC AUTHORITY

Approved by the State Duma on 11 March 2020

Approved by the Federation Council on 11 March 2020

Article 1 shall enter into force, if the changes contained therein are approved by a nationwide vote, as from the day on which the results of the vote are officially published.

Article 1

The Constitution of the Russian Federation, as adopted by a nationwide vote on 12 December 1993 (Rossiyskaya Gazeta, 1993, 25 December), shall be amended as follows:

1) in Article 67:

a) paragraph 1 shall read as follows:

"1. The territory of the Russian Federation shall include the territories of its constituent entities, internal waters and territorial sea, and the airspace above them. Federal territories may be created within the territory of the Russian Federation in accordance with federal law. The organisation of public authority within federal territories shall be established by the said federal law.";

b) The following paragraph 2.1 shall be added:

"2.1. The Russian Federation shall ensure protection of its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Actions (except for delimitation, demarcation, re-demarcation of the state border of the Russian Federation with neighbouring states) aimed at alienating part of the territory of the Russian Federation and incitement to such actions shall not be permitted.";

2) The following Article 67.1 shall be added:

"Article 67.1

1. The Russian Federation shall be the successor of the USSR within its territory, and the successor (continuing legal personality) of the USSR in relation to membership of international organisations, their bodies, participation in international treaties, and also in relation to any obligations and assets of the USSR outside the territory of the Russian Federation which are provided for in international treaties.

2. The Russian Federation, united by a thousand-year history, preserving the memory of the ancestors who gave us ideals and faith in God, as well as continuity in the development of the Russian state, shall recognise the historical unity of the state.

3. The Russian Federation shall honour the memory of the defenders of the Motherland and shall defend historical truth. Belittling the significance of the heroic feat of the people in defending the Motherland shall not be permitted.

4. Children shall be the most important priority of the state policy of Russia. The state shall create conditions conducive to the comprehensive spiritual, moral, intellectual and physical development of children, and to instilling in them patriotism, civic-mindedness and respect for elders. The state, giving priority to family-based care, shall assume parental responsibilities in respect of children left without guardianship.";

3) Article 68 shall read as follows:

"Article 68

1. The state language of the Russian Federation throughout its territory shall be the Russian language as the language of the state-forming people who are part of the multi-ethnic union of equal peoples of the Russian Federation.
2. Republics may introduce their own state languages. In state authorities, local self-government bodies and state institutions of republics they shall be used alongside the state language of the Russian Federation.
3. The Russian Federation shall guarantee all its peoples the right to preserve their native language and to create conditions for its study and development.
4. The culture of the Russian Federation shall be the unique heritage of its multi-ethnic people. Culture shall be supported and protected by the state.";

4) Article 69 shall read as follows:

"Article 69

1. The Russian Federation shall guarantee the rights of indigenous small peoples in accordance with the universally recognised principles and norms of international law and the international treaties of the Russian Federation.
2. The state shall protect the cultural identity of all peoples and ethnic communities of the Russian Federation and shall ensure the preservation of ethnocultural and linguistic diversity.
3. The Russian Federation shall provide support to its compatriots living abroad in the exercise of their rights, the protection of their interests and the preservation of all-Russian cultural identity.";

5) Article 70 shall read as follows:

"Article 70

1. The state flag, emblem and anthem of the Russian Federation, their description and the procedure for their official use shall be established by federal constitutional law.
2. The capital of the Russian Federation shall be the city of Moscow. The status of the capital shall be established by federal law. The permanent seat of certain federal state authorities may be in another city, as determined by federal constitutional law.";

6) in Article 71:

a) point "d" shall read as follows:

"d) the organisation of public authority; the establishment of the system of federal legislative, executive and judicial authorities, and of the procedure governing their organisation and operation; the formation of federal state authorities;"

b) point "f" shall read as follows:

"f) the establishment of the basic principles of federal policy and federal programmes relating to the state, economic, ecological, scientific and technological, social, cultural and national development of the Russian Federation; the establishment of unified legal frameworks for the health care system and the system of upbringing and education, including continuous education;"

c) point "i" shall read as follows:

"i) federal energy systems, nuclear power, fissionable materials; federal transport, communications, information, information technology and telecommunications; space activities;"

d) point "l" shall read as follows:

"l) defence and security; defence production; determination of the procedure for the sale and purchase of armaments, ammunition, military equipment and other military property; production of toxic substances, narcotic drugs and the procedure for their use; ensuring the security of individuals, society and the state in the use of information technologies and the circulation of digital data;";

e) point "p" shall read as follows:

"p) metrological service, norms, standards, metric system and time measurement; geodesy and mapping; naming of geographical features; meteorological service; official statistics and accounting;";

f) point "r" shall read as follows:

"r) the federal state service; the introduction of restrictions for filling state and municipal posts, state and municipal service posts, including restrictions related to the possession of citizenship of a foreign state or of a residence permit or other document confirming the right of a citizen of the Russian Federation to permanent residence within the territory of a foreign state, and also restrictions related to the opening and holding of accounts (deposits) and the keeping of cash and valuables in foreign banks located outside the territory of the Russian Federation.";

7) in paragraph 1 of Article 72:

a) point "e" shall read as follows:

"e) use of natural resources; agriculture; protection of the environment and maintenance of ecological security; specially protected nature reserves; protection of historical and cultural monuments;";

b) point "f" shall read as follows:

"f) general matters relating to upbringing, education, science, cultural, physical education and sport, youth policy;";

c) point "g" shall read as follows:

"g) co-ordination of matters relating to health care, including the provision of accessible and quality medical care, the preservation and improvement of public health, the creation of conditions for a healthy lifestyle, the promotion of a responsible attitude among citizens towards their health; social protection, including social security;";

d) the following point "g.1" shall be added:

"g.1) protection of the family, maternity, paternity and childhood; protection of the institution of marriage as the union of a man and a woman; the creation of conditions enabling children to be raised in families with dignity, and enabling adult children to perform their duty to care for their parents;";

8) Article 75 shall read as follows:

"Article 75

1. The monetary unit in the Russian Federation shall be the rouble. Currency shall be issued exclusively by the Central Bank of the Russian Federation. The introduction and issuance of other currencies in the Russian Federation shall not be permitted.

2. The main function of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, which it shall exercise independently from other state authorities, shall be to defend and ensure the stability of the rouble.

3. The system of taxes payable into the federal budget and the general principles of taxation and levies in the Russian Federation shall be established by federal law.

4. State loans shall be issued in accordance with the procedure determined by federal law and shall be made available on a voluntary basis.

5. The Russian Federation shall respect the labour of citizens and shall ensure the protection of their rights. The state shall guarantee a minimum wage in an amount not less than the subsistence level for the working-age population as a whole across the Russian Federation.

6. In the Russian Federation a system of pension provision for citizens based on the principles of universality, justice and inter-generational solidarity shall be developed and its effective functioning supported, and pensions shall be indexed at least once a year in accordance with the procedure prescribed by federal law.

7. In the Russian Federation, compulsory social insurance, targeted social support for citizens and the indexation of social benefits and other social payments shall be guaranteed in accordance with federal law.”;

9. The following Article 75.1 shall be added:

“Article 75.1

Conditions shall be created in the Russian Federation for the sustainable economic growth of the country and improving the welfare of citizens, and for mutual trust between the state and society, protection of the dignity of citizens and respect for working persons shall be guaranteed, civil rights and duties shall be balanced and social partnership, economic, political and social solidarity shall be ensured.”;

10) In Article 77, the following paragraph 3 shall be added:

"3. A citizen of the Russian Federation who has reached the age of 30, is permanently resident in the Russian Federation and does not hold the citizenship of a foreign state or a residence permit or other document confirming the right of the holder to permanent residence within the territory of a foreign state shall be eligible for the office of highest official of a constituent entity of the Russian Federation (head of the supreme executive state authority of a constituent entity of the Russian Federation). The highest officials of constituent entities of the Russian Federation (heads of the supreme executive state authorities of constituent entities of the Russian Federation) shall be prohibited, in accordance with the procedure prescribed by federal law, from opening and holding accounts (deposits) and from keeping cash and valuables in foreign banks located outside the territory of the Russian Federation. Additional requirements to be met by the highest officials of constituent entities of the Russian Federation (heads of the supreme executive state authorities of constituent entities of the Russian Federation) may be prescribed by federal law.”;

11) In Article 78, the following paragraph 5 shall be added:

"5. A citizen of the Russian Federation who has reached the age of 30 and does not hold the citizenship of a foreign state or a residence permit or other document confirming the right of the holder to permanent residence within the territory of a foreign state shall be eligible for the office of head of a federal state body. Heads of federal state bodies shall be prohibited, in accordance with the procedure prescribed by federal law, from opening and holding accounts (deposits) and from keeping cash and valuables in foreign banks located outside the territory of the Russian Federation.”;

12) Article 79 shall read as follows:

"Article 79

The Russian Federation may participate in inter-state associations and assign to them some of its powers in accordance with international treaties of the Russian Federation provided that this does not entail restrictions on human and civil rights and freedoms and does not conflict with the basic principles of the constitutional order of the Russian Federation. Decisions of inter-state bodies adopted on the basis of the provisions of international treaties of the Russian Federation, where construed in a manner contrary to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, shall not be subject to enforcement in the Russian Federation.”;

13) In Chapter 3, the following Article 79.1 shall be added:

"Article 79.1

The Russian Federation shall take measures to support and strengthen international peace and security, to ensure peaceful co-existence of states and peoples and to prevent interference in the internal affairs of the state.”;

14) paragraph 2 of Article 80 shall read as follows:

"2. The President of the Russian Federation shall be the guarantor of the Constitution of the Russian Federation and of human and civil rights and freedoms. In accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, he/she shall take measures to protect the sovereignty of the Russian Federation, its independence and state integrity, shall maintain civil peace and harmony in the country, and shall ensure the co-ordinated functioning and interaction of the bodies forming part of the single system of public authority.”;

15) Article 81 shall read as follows:

"Article 81

1. The President of the Russian Federation shall be elected for a term of six years by the citizens of the Russian Federation on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

2. A citizen of the Russian Federation who has reached the age of 35, has permanently resided in the Russian Federation for not less than 25 years and who does not and has not previously held the citizenship of a foreign state or a residence permit or other document confirming the right of the holder to permanent residence within the territory of a foreign state may be elected President of the Russian Federation. The requirement that candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation must not have held the citizenship of a foreign state shall not apply to citizens of the Russian Federation who previously held the citizenship of a state which was annexed or part of which was annexed by the Russian Federation in accordance with federal constitutional law, and who permanently resided within the territory of the state annexed, or within the territory of the part of the state annexed, by the Russian Federation. The President of the Russian Federation shall be prohibited, in accordance with the procedure prescribed by federal law, from opening and holding accounts (deposits) and from keeping cash and valuables in foreign banks located outside the territory of the Russian Federation.

3. The same person may not hold the office of President of the Russian Federation for more than two terms.

3.1. The provision of paragraph 3 of Article 81 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, which limits the number of terms a person may serve in the office of President of the Russian Federation, shall apply to former and current holders of the office of President of the Russian Federation, without taking into account the number of terms the person has served in that office at the time of the entry into force of the amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation introducing the relevant limitation, and shall not preclude him/her from serving in the office of President of the Russian Federation the number of terms permitted under the said provision.

4. The procedure for elections to the office of President of the Russian Federation shall be determined by federal law.”;

16) paragraph 2 of Article 82 shall read as follows:

"2) The oath of office shall be solemnly sworn in the presence of senators of the Russian Federation, members of the State Duma and judges of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation.”;

17) in Article 83:

a) point “a” shall read as follows:

"a) shall appoint the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, whose candidature has been approved by the State Duma on the recommendation of the President of the Russian Federation, and shall release the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation from office;";

b) point "b" shall read as follows:

"b) shall perform general leadership of the Government of the Russian Federation; may chair meetings of the Government of the Russian Federation;";

c) the following point "b.1" shall be added:

"b. 1) shall approve, on a proposal from the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, the structure of federal executive authorities, shall make changes thereto; within the system of federal executive authorities, shall determine those bodies whose activities are to be directed by the President of the Russian Federation and those bodies whose activities are to be directed by the Government of the Russian Federation. In the event that the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation is released from office by the President of the Russian Federation, the newly appointed Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation shall not make proposals to the President of the Russian Federation concerning the structure of federal executive authorities;";

d) the following point "c. 1" shall be added:

"c. 1) shall accept the resignation of the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, deputy Chairmen of the Government of the Russian Federation, federal ministers and also heads of federal executive authorities whose activities are directed by the President of the Russian Federation;";

e) point "e" shall read as follows:

"e) shall appoint and release from office deputy Chairmen of the Government of the Russian Federation and federal ministers whose candidatures have been approved by the State Duma (except for the federal ministers specified in point "e.1" of the present Article);";

f) the following point "e.1" shall be added:

"e.1) shall appoint following consultations with the Federation Council and shall release from office heads of federal executive authorities (including federal ministers) responsible for matters relating to defence, state security, internal affairs, justice, foreign affairs, prevention of emergency situations and natural disaster relief and public security;";

g) point "f" shall read as follows:

"f) shall submit to the Federation Council candidatures for the offices of Chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, deputy Chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation and judge of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, deputy Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and judge of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation; shall appoint chairmen, deputy chairmen and judges of other federal courts;";

h) point "f.1" shall read as follows:

f.1) shall appoint following consultations with the Federation Council and shall release from office the Procurator General of the Russian Federation, deputy Procurators General of the Russian Federation, procurators of constituent entities of the Russian Federation, procurators of military and other specialised procurator's offices equivalent to procurators of constituent entities of the Russian Federation; shall appoint and release from office other procurators for whom such procedure for appointment and release from office has been prescribed by federal law;";

i) the following point "f.3" shall be added:

"f.3) shall submit to the Federation Council a proposal to terminate, in accordance with federal constitutional law, the powers of the Chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Russian

Federation, the deputy Chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation and judges of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, deputy Chairmen of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and judges of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, chairmen, deputy chairmen and judges of cassation and appeal courts if they commit an act incompatible with the honour and dignity of a judge, and in any other cases provided for by federal constitutional law which indicate that a judge is unable to exercise his/her powers;";

j) the following point "f.4" shall be added:

"f.4) shall submit to the Federation Council candidatures for the office of Chairman of the Accounts Chamber and half of the total number of auditors of the Accounts Chamber; shall submit to the State Duma candidatures for the office of deputy Chairman of the Accounts Chamber and half of the total number of auditors of the Accounts Chamber;";

k) the following point "f.5" shall be added:

"f.5) shall form the State Council of the Russian Federation for the purpose of ensuring the coordinated functioning and interaction of public authorities, determining the general direction of the domestic and foreign policy of the Russian Federation and the priority areas of the socio-economic development of the state; the status of the State Council of the Russian Federation shall be determined by federal law;";

l) point "g" shall read as follows:

"g) shall form the Security Council of the Russian Federation with a view to assisting the head of state in the exercise of his/her powers in matters relating to the protection of the national interests and the security of individuals, society and the state, and the maintenance of civil peace and harmony in the country, protection of the sovereignty of the Russian Federation, its independence and state integrity, and the prevention of internal and external threats; shall head the Security Council of the Russian Federation. The status of the Security Council of the Russian Federation shall be determined by federal law;";

m) point "i" shall read as follows:

"i) shall form the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation for the purpose of ensuring the exercise of his/her powers;";

18) the following Article 92.1 shall be added:

"Article 92.1

1. A President of the Russian Federation who has ceased to exercise his/her powers in connection with the expiration of his/her term of office or earlier in the event of his/her resignation or persistent inability to exercise his/her powers for health reasons shall enjoy immunity.

2. Other guarantees shall be established by federal law for a President of the Russian Federation who has ceased to exercise his/her powers in connection with the expiration of his/her term of office or earlier in the event of his/her resignation or persistent inability to exercise his/her powers for health reasons.

3. A President of the Russian Federation who has ceased to exercise his/her powers may be deprived of immunity in accordance with the procedure provided for in Article 93 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation.";

19) Article 93 shall read as follows:

"Article 93

1. The President of the Russian Federation may be removed from office and a President of the Russian Federation who has ceased to exercise his/her powers may be deprived of immunity by the Federation Council only on the basis of charges brought by the State Duma for treason or another serious crime, as confirmed by a finding of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation that there are indications of a crime in the actions of the President of the

Russian Federation, whether serving or having ceased to exercise his/her powers, and by a finding of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation that the prescribed procedure for bringing charges has been observed.

2. A decision of the State Duma to bring charges and a decision of the Federation Council to remove the President of the Russian Federation from office, or to deprive of immunity a President of the Russian Federation who has ceased to exercise his/her powers, shall be adopted by two thirds of the votes of the total number of senators of the Russian Federation and of members of the State Duma respectively on the initiative of not less than one third of the members of the State Duma and provided that a finding is issued by a special commission established by the State Duma.

3. A decision of the Federation Council to remove the President of the Russian Federation from office or to deprive of immunity a President of the Russian Federation who has ceased to exercise his/her powers shall be adopted within three months after the State Duma brings charges against the President of the Russian Federation at the latest. If within this period no decision is adopted by the Federation Council, the charges against the President of the Russian Federation, or a President of the Russian Federation who has ceased to exercise his/her powers, shall lapse.”;

20) Article 95 shall read as follows:

"Article 95

1. The Federal Assembly shall consist of two chambers - the Federation Council and the State Duma.

2. The Federation Council shall consist of senators of the Russian Federation.

The Federation Council shall comprise:

a) two representatives from each constituent entity of the Russian Federation: one from the legislative (representative) and one from the executive state authorities - for the term of office of the relevant body;

b) a President of the Russian Federation who has ceased to exercise his/her powers in connection with the expiration of his/her term of office or earlier in the event of his/her resignation - for life. A President of the Russian Federation who has ceased to exercise his/her powers in connection with the expiration of his/her term of office or earlier in the event of his/her resignation may refuse to serve as a senator of the Russian Federation;

c) not more than 30 representatives of the Russian Federation to be appointed by the President of the Russian Federation, of whom not more than seven may be appointed for life.

3. The total number of senators of the Russian Federation shall be determined on the basis of the number of representatives from the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, as listed in Article 65 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, and the number of persons serving as senators of the Russian Federation, as indicated in points “b” and “c” of paragraph 2 of the present article.

4. A citizen of the Russian Federation who has reached the age of 30, is permanently resident in the Russian Federation and does not hold the citizenship of a foreign state or a residence permit or other document confirming the right of the holder to permanent residence within the territory of a foreign state shall be eligible for the office of senator of the Russian Federation. Senators of the Russian Federation shall be prohibited, in accordance with the procedure prescribed by federal law, from opening and holding accounts (deposits) and from keeping cash and valuables in foreign banks located outside the territory of the Russian Federation.

5. Citizens who have performed outstanding acts of service to the country in the sphere of state and public activities may be appointed as representatives of the Russian Federation in the Federation Council, serving as senators of the Russian Federation for life.

6. Representatives of the Russian Federation in the Federation Council, except for representatives of the Russian Federation serving as senators of the Russian Federation for life, shall be appointed for a term of six years.

7. The State Duma shall consist of 450 members.”;

21) in Article 97:

a) paragraph 1 shall read as follows:

“1. A citizen of the Russian Federation who has reached the age of 21 and is eligible to participate in elections, is permanently resident in the Russian Federation and does not hold the citizenship of a foreign state or a residence permit or other document confirming the right of the holder to permanent residence within the territory of a foreign state may be elected as a member of the State Duma. Members of the State Duma shall be prohibited, in accordance with the procedure prescribed by federal law, from opening and holding accounts (deposits) and from keeping cash and valuables in foreign banks located outside the territory of the Russian Federation.”;

b) paragraph 2 shall read as follows:

“2) The same person may not simultaneously be a senator of the Russian Federation and a member of the State Duma. A member of the State Duma may not be a member of other representative state authorities or local self-government bodies.”;

22) paragraph 1 of Article 98 shall read as follows:

“1. Senators of the Russian Federation and members of the State Duma shall enjoy immunity throughout their term of office. They may not be detained, arrested or searched, except in cases of detention at the scene of a crime, or subjected to a body search, save as otherwise provided by federal law for the purpose of ensuring the safety of others.”;

23) paragraph 3 of Article 100 shall read as follows:

“3. The chambers may hold joint meetings for the purpose of hearing messages from the President of the Russian Federation.”;

24) in Article 102:

a) in paragraph 1:

point “f” shall read as follows:

“f) removal of the President of the Russian Federation from office; deprivation of immunity of a President of the Russian Federation who has ceased to exercise his/her powers;”;

point “g” shall read as follows:

“g) appointment on the recommendation of the President of the Russian Federation of the Chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, the deputy Chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation and judges of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, deputy Chairmen of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and judges of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation;”;

point “h” shall read as follows:

“h) consultations on candidatures proposed by the President of the Russian Federation for the offices of Procurator General of the Russian Federation, deputy Procurator General of the Russian Federation, procurator of a constituent entity of the Russian Federation, procurator of a military or other specialised procurator’s office equivalent to procurators of constituent entities of the Russian Federation;”;

point “i” shall read as follows:

"i) appointment and release from office of the Chairman of the Accounts Chamber and half of the total number of auditors of the Accounts Chamber on the recommendation of the President of the Russian Federation;"

the following "point "j" shall be added:

"j) consultations on candidatures proposed by the President of the Russian Federation for the office of head of a federal executive authority (including federal ministers) responsible for matters relating to defence, state security, internal affairs, justice, foreign affairs, prevention of emergency situations and natural disaster relief or public security;"

the following point "k" shall be added:

"k) termination, on the recommendation of the President of the Russian Federation and in accordance with federal constitutional law, of the powers of the Chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, deputy Chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation and judges of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, deputy Chairmen of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and judges of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, chairmen, deputy chairmen and judges of cassation and appeal courts in the event that they commit an act incompatible with the honour and dignity of a judge, and in any other cases provided for by federal constitutional law which indicate that a judge is unable to exercise his/her powers;"

the following point "l" shall be added:

"l) hearing annual reports by the Procurator General of the Russian Federation on the state of law and order in the Russian Federation.";

b) paragraph 3 shall read as follows:

"3. Resolutions of the Federation Council shall be adopted by a majority of votes of the total number of senators of the Russian Federation, unless otherwise provided for by the Constitution of the Russian Federation.";

25) in paragraph 1 of Article 103:

a) point "a" shall read as follows:

"a) approval, on the recommendation of the President of the Russian Federation, of the candidature for the office of Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation;"

b) the following point "a.1" shall be added:

"a. 1) approval, on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, of candidatures for the offices of deputy chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation and federal minister, except for the federal ministers specified in point "e.1" of Article 83 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation;"

c) the following point "d.1" shall be added:

"d.1) hearing annual reports of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation;"

d) point "e" shall read as follows:

"e) appointment and release from office of the deputy Chairman of the Accounts Chamber and half of the total number of auditors of the Accounts Chamber on the recommendation of the President of the Russian Federation;"

e) point "f" shall read as follows:

"f) appointment and release from office of the Human Rights Commissioner acting in accordance with federal constitutional law. A citizen of the Russian Federation who is permanently resident in the Russian Federation, who does not hold the citizenship of a foreign state or a residence permit or other document confirming the right of the holder to permanent residence within the territory of a foreign state shall be eligible for the office of Human Rights Commissioner. The Human Rights Commissioner shall be prohibited, in accordance with the procedure prescribed by federal law, from opening and holding accounts (deposits) and from

keeping cash and valuables in foreign banks located outside the territory of the Russian Federation;”;

f) point "h" shall read as follows:

"h) bringing charges against the President of the Russian Federation with a view to removing him/her from office or against a President of the Russian Federation who has ceased to exercise his/her powers with a view to depriving him/her of immunity.”;

26) The following Article 103.1 shall be added:

"Article 103.1

The Federation Council and the State Duma shall have the right to exercise parliamentary oversight, including the right to submit parliamentary inquiries to the heads of state bodies and local self-government bodies on matters within the competence of those bodies and officials. The procedure for exercising parliamentary oversight shall be determined by federal laws and the rules of procedure of the chambers of the Federal Assembly.”;

27) paragraph 1 of Article 104 shall read as follows:

"1. The right of legislative initiative shall be vested in the President of the Russian Federation, the Federation Council, senators of the Russian Federation, members of the State Duma, the Government of the Russian Federation and legislative (representative) bodies of constituent entities of the Russian Federation. The right of legislative initiative shall likewise be vested in the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation and the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation in matters within their jurisdiction.”;

28) paragraph 3 of Article 107 shall read as follows:

"3. If the President of the Russian Federation rejects a federal law within fourteen days as from the time of its receipt, the State Duma and the Federation Council shall re-examine that law in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Constitution of the Russian Federation. If, upon re-examination, the federal law is approved in a previously adopted wording by a majority of not less than two thirds of the votes of the total number of senators of the Russian Federation and of members of the State Duma, it shall be signed by the President of the Russian Federation within seven days and promulgated. If the President of the Russian Federation applies to the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation within the said time-limit with a request to review the constitutionality of the federal law, the time-limit for signing such law shall be suspended while the request is being examined by the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation. If the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation confirms the constitutionality of the federal law, the President of the Russian Federation shall sign it within three days as from the time when the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation issues the relevant decision. If the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation does not confirm the constitutionality of the federal law, the President of the Russian Federation shall return it to the State Duma without signing it.”;

29) paragraph 2 of Article 108 shall read as follows:

"2. A federal constitutional law shall be deemed to have been adopted if it has been approved by a majority of not less than three quarters of the votes of the total number of senators of the Russian Federation and not less than two thirds of the votes of the total number of members of the State Duma. An adopted federal constitutional law shall, within fourteen days, be signed by the President of the Russian Federation and promulgated. If the President of the Russian Federation applies to the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation within the said time-limit with a request to review the constitutionality of a federal constitutional law, the time-limit for signing such law shall be suspended while the request is being examined by the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation. If the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation confirms the constitutionality of the federal constitutional law, the President of the Russian Federation shall sign it within three days as from the time when the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation issues the relevant decision. If the Constitutional Court of the

Russian Federation does not confirm the constitutionality of the federal law, the President of the Russian Federation shall return it to the State Duma without signing it.”;

30) paragraph 1 of Article 109 shall read as follows:

“1. The State Duma may be dissolved by the President of the Russian Federation in the cases provided for in Articles 111, 112 and 117 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation.”;

31) in Article 110:

a) paragraph 1 shall read as follows:

“1. Executive authority in the Russian Federation shall be exercised by the Government of the Russian Federation under the general direction of the President of the Russian Federation.”;

b) the following paragraph 3 shall be added:

“3. The Government of the Russian Federation shall direct the activities of federal executive authorities, except for federal executive authorities whose activities are directed by the President of the Russian Federation.”;

c) the following paragraph 4 shall be added:

“4. A citizen of the Russian Federation who has reached the age of 30 and does not hold the citizenship of a foreign state or a residence permit or other document confirming the right of the holder to permanent residence within the territory of a foreign state shall be eligible for the office of Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, deputy Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, federal minister or other head of a federal executive authority. The Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, deputy Chairmen of the Government of the Russian Federation, federal ministers and other heads of federal executive authorities shall be prohibited, in accordance with the procedure prescribed by federal law, from opening and holding accounts (deposits) and from keeping cash and valuables in foreign banks located outside the territory of the Russian Federation.”;

32) in Article 111:

a) paragraph 1 shall read as follows:

“1. The Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation shall be appointed by the President of the Russian Federation following approval of his/her candidature by the State Duma.”;

b) paragraph 2 shall read as follows:

“2. A candidature for the office of Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation shall be submitted to the State Duma by the President of the Russian Federation not later than two weeks after a newly-elected President of the Russian Federation assumes office or after the Government of the Russian Federation is dismissed or within one week as from the day on which the State Duma rejects a candidate for the office of Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation or on which the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation is released from office by the President of the Russian Federation or resigns.”;

c) paragraph 3 shall read as follows:

“3. The State Duma shall examine a candidature for the office of Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation submitted by the President of the Russian Federation within one week as from the day on which the submission is made.”;

d) paragraph 4 shall read as follows:

“4. If the State Duma rejects three candidatures for the office of Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, the President of the Russian Federation shall appoint the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation. In that case the President of the Russian Federation may dissolve the State Duma and call new elections.”;

33) Article 112 shall read as follows:

“Article 112

1. The Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation shall, not later than one week after being appointed, submit proposals to the President of the Russian Federation concerning the structure of federal executive authorities, save where the previous Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation was released from office by the President of the Russian Federation.

2. The Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation shall submit to the State Duma for approval candidatures for the offices of deputy Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation and federal minister (except for the federal ministers specified in point "e.1" of Article 83 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation). The State Duma shall adopt a decision on the candidatures submitted within one week at the latest.

3. Deputy Chairmen of the Government of the Russian Federation and federal ministers whose candidatures have been approved by the State Duma shall be appointed by the President of the Russian Federation. The President of the Russian Federation shall not have the right to refuse to appoint deputy Chairmen of the Government of the Russian Federation and federal ministers whose candidatures have been approved by the State Duma.

4. If the State Duma rejects three candidatures for the office of deputy Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation or federal minister submitted in accordance with paragraph 2 of the present article, the President of the Russian Federation may appoint deputy Chairmen of the Government of the Russian Federation and federal ministers from amongst the candidatures submitted by the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation. If, after the State Duma rejects three candidatures submitted in accordance with paragraph 2 of the present article, more than one third of the offices of members of the Government of the Russian Federation (except for the offices of the federal ministers specified in point "e.1" of Article 83 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation) remain vacant, the President of the Russian Federation may dissolve the State Duma and call new elections.

5. In the case provided for in paragraph 4 of Article 111 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, and likewise in the event of the dissolution of the State Duma in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the President of the Russian Federation shall appoint deputy Chairmen of the Government of the Russian Federation and federal ministers (except for the federal ministers specified in point "e.1" of Article 83 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation) on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation.”;

34) Article 113 shall read as follows:

“Article 113

The Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal laws, decrees, orders and instructions of the President of the Russian Federation, shall organise the work of the Government of the Russian Federation. The Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation shall be personally accountable to the President of the Russian Federation for the exercise of the powers vested in the Government of the Russian Federation.”;

35) in paragraph 1 of Article 114:

a) point "c" shall read as follows:

"c) shall ensure the implementation in the Russian Federation of a unified socially oriented state policy in the fields of culture, science, education, health care, social security, support, strengthening and protection of the family, preservation of traditional family values, and also in the field of environmental protection;”;

b) the following point "c.1" shall be added:

"c.1) shall ensure state support for the scientific and technological development of the Russian Federation, the preservation and development of its scientific potential;”;

c) the following point "c.2" shall be added:

"c.2) shall ensure the functioning of the system of social protection of persons with disabilities, based on the full and equal exercise by them of their human and civil rights and freedoms, their social integration without any discrimination, the creation of an accessible environment for persons with disabilities and the improvement of their quality of life;"

d) the following "f.1" shall be added:

"f.1) shall implement measures to support civil society institutions, including non-profit organisations, and ensure their participation in the development and implementation of state policy;"

e) the following point "f.2" shall be added:

"f.2) shall implement measures to support voluntary (volunteer) activities;"

f) the following point "f.3" shall be added:

"f. 3) shall promote entrepreneurship and private initiative;"

g) the following point "f.4" shall be added:

"f.4) shall ensure the implementation of social partnership principles in the regulation of labour and other relations directly related thereto;"

h) the following point "f.5" shall be added:

"f.5) shall implement measures directed at creating favourable living conditions for the population, reducing the negative impact of economic and other activities on the environment, preserving the unique natural and biological diversity of the country and developing within society a responsible attitude towards animals;"

i) the following point "f.6" shall be added:

"f.6) shall create conditions for developing the system of environmental education of citizens and fostering a culture of care for the environment;"

36) in Article 115:

a) paragraph 1 shall read as follows:

"1. On the basis of and pursuant to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal laws, decrees, orders and instructions of the President of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Russian Federation shall issue decisions and orders and ensure their execution.";

b) paragraph 3 shall read as follows:

"3. Decisions and orders of the Government of the Russian Federation, in the event that they conflict with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal laws, decrees or orders of the President of the Russian Federation, may be revoked by the President of the Russian Federation.";

37) in Article 117:

a) paragraph 3 shall read as follows:

"3) The State Duma may express no confidence in the Government of the Russian Federation. A resolution of no confidence in the Government of the Russian Federation shall be adopted by a majority of the votes of the total number of members of the State Duma. After the State Duma has expressed no confidence in the Government of the Russian Federation, the President of the Russian Federation may either announce the dismissal of the Government of the Russian Federation or not accept the decision of the State Duma. If the State Duma expresses no confidence in the Government of the Russian Federation again within three months, the President of the Russian Federation shall announce the dismissal of the Government of the Russian Federation or dissolve the State Duma and call new elections.";

b) paragraph 4 shall read as follows:

"4. The Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation may raise the issue of confidence in the Government of the Russian Federation before the State Duma, which shall examine it within seven days. If the State Duma expresses no confidence in the Government of the Russian Federation, the President of the Russian Federation may, within seven days, adopt a decision to dismiss the Government of the Russian Federation or to dissolve the State Duma and call new elections. If within three months the Government of the Russian Federation again raises, before the State Duma, the issue of confidence, and the State Duma expresses no confidence, in the Government of the Russian Federation, the President of the Russian Federation shall adopt a decision to dismiss the Government of the Russian Federation or to dissolve the State Duma and call new elections.";

c) the following paragraph 4.1 shall be added:

"4.1. The Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, deputy Chairmen of the Government of the Russian Federation and federal ministers shall have the right to tender their resignation, which shall be accepted or rejected by the President of the Russian Federation.";

d) paragraph 5 shall read as follows:

"5. In the event that it is dismissed or surrenders its powers, the Government of the Russian Federation shall continue to act on the instructions of the President of the Russian Federation until a new Government of the Russian Federation is formed. In the event that the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, a deputy Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation or a federal minister is released from office by the President of the Russian Federation or resigns, the President of the Russian Federation may instruct that person to continue performing their official duties or to entrust the performance thereof to another person pending the relevant appointment.";

e) the following paragraph 6 shall be added:

"6. The State Duma may not express no confidence in the Government of the Russian Federation, and the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation may not raise before the State Duma the issue of confidence in the Government of the Russian Federation in the cases provided for in paragraphs 3-5 of Article 109 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, or within one year following the appointment of the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 111 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation.";

38) in Article 118:

a) paragraph 2 shall read as follows:

"2. Judicial power shall be exercised through constitutional, civil, arbitration, administrative and criminal proceedings.";

b) paragraph 3 shall read as follows:

"3. The judicial system of the Russian Federation shall be established by the Constitution of the Russian Federation and by federal constitutional law. The judicial system of the Russian Federation shall be composed of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, federal courts of general jurisdiction, arbitration courts and magistrates' courts of constituent entities of the Russian Federation. It shall not be permitted to create emergency courts.";

39) Article 119 shall read as follows:

"Article 119

Citizens of the Russian Federation who have reached the age of 25, have a higher legal education and at least five years of work experience in the legal profession, are permanently resident in the Russian Federation and do not hold the citizenship of a foreign state or a residence permit or other document confirming the right of the holder to permanent residence within the territory of a foreign state shall be eligible for the office of judge. Judges of courts of

the Russian Federation shall be prohibited, in accordance with the procedure prescribed by federal law, from opening and holding accounts (deposits) and from keeping cash and valuables in foreign banks located outside the territory of the Russian Federation. Additional requirements to be met by judges of courts of the Russian Federation may be prescribed by federal law.”;

40) In Article 125:

a) paragraph 1 shall read as follows:

"1. The Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation shall be the highest judicial body of constitutional review in the Russian Federation, exercising judicial power by means of constitutional legal proceedings in order to protect the basic principles of the constitutional order and fundamental human and civil rights and freedoms and to ensure the supremacy and direct operation of the Constitution of the Russian Federation throughout the territory of the Russian Federation. The Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation shall consist of 11 judges, including the Chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation and his/her deputy.”;

b) paragraph 2 shall read as follows:

"2. The Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, at the request of the President of the Russian Federation, the Federation Council, the State Duma, one fifth of senators of the Russian Federation or members of the State Duma, the Government of the Russian Federation, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and legislative and executive authorities of constituent entities of the Russian Federation shall adjudicate in cases concerning compatibility with the Constitution of the Russian Federation:

a) federal constitutional laws, federal laws and regulatory acts of the President of the Russian Federation, of the Federation Council, of the State Duma and of the Government of the Russian Federation;

b) constitutions of republics, charters, and also laws and other regulatory acts of constituent entities of the Russian Federation, issued on matters which fall within the jurisdiction of state authorities of the Russian Federation or within the joint jurisdiction of state authorities of the Russian Federation and state authorities of constituent entities of the Russian Federation;

c) treaties between state authorities of the Russian Federation and state authorities of constituent entities of the Russian Federation, and treaties between state authorities of constituent entities of the Russian Federation;

d) international treaties of the Russian Federation which have not yet entered into force.”;

c) paragraph 4 shall read as follows:

"4. The Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation shall, in accordance with the procedure prescribed by federal constitutional law, verify:

a) in response to complaints concerning violations of the constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens - the constitutionality of laws and other regulatory acts specified in points "a" and "b" of paragraph 2 of the present article, as applied in a specific case, if all other domestic judicial remedies have been exhausted;

b) at the request of the courts - the constitutionality of laws and other regulatory acts specified in points "a" and "b" of paragraph 2 of the present article, which are to be applied in a specific case.”;

d) the following paragraph 5.1 shall be added:

"5.1. The Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation:

a) at the request of the President of the Russian Federation, shall verify the constitutionality of draft laws of the Russian Federation amending the Constitution of the Russian Federation, draft federal constitutional laws and federal laws, and also laws adopted in accordance with the procedure provided for in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 107 and paragraph 2 of Article 108

of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, before they are signed by the President of the Russian Federation;

b) in accordance with the procedure prescribed by federal constitutional law, shall resolve the issue of enforceability of decisions of interstate bodies adopted on the basis of provisions of international treaties of the Russian Federation, where they are construed in a manner contrary to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, and also the issue of enforceability of any decision of a foreign or international (interstate) court, foreign or international court of mediation (arbitration) which places obligations on the Russian Federation, in the event that this decision conflicts with the basic principles of public order of the Russian Federation;

c) at the request of the President of the Russian Federation, in accordance with the procedure prescribed by federal constitutional law, shall verify the constitutionality of laws of constituent entities of the Russian Federation prior to their publication by the highest official of the relevant constituent entity of the Russian Federation (head of the supreme executive state authority of the relevant constituent entity of the Russian Federation).”;

e) paragraph 6 shall read as follows:

"6. Acts or individual provisions thereof deemed to be unconstitutional shall be null and void; international treaties of the Russian Federation which are not compatible with the Constitution of the Russian Federation shall not enter into force and shall not be applied. Acts or individual provisions thereof deemed to be constitutional in the construction placed upon them by the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation shall not be applied in any other construction.”;

f) paragraph 7 shall read as follows:

"7. The Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, at the request of the Federation Council, shall issue a finding as to whether the prescribed procedure for bringing charges of treason or another serious crime against the President of the Russian Federation or a President of the Russian Federation who has ceased to exercise his/her powers has been observed.”;

g) The following paragraph 8 shall be added:

"8. The Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation shall exercise other powers prescribed by federal constitutional law.”;

41) Article 126 shall read as follows:

"Article 126

The Supreme Court of the Russian Federation shall be the highest judicial body for civil cases and the settlement of economic disputes, criminal, administrative and other cases which fall within the jurisdiction of courts of general jurisdiction and arbitration courts formed in accordance with federal constitutional law and exercising judicial power through civil, arbitration, administrative and criminal proceedings. The Supreme Court of the Russian Federation shall exercise judicial supervision over the activities of courts of general jurisdiction and arbitration courts in the procedural forms prescribed by federal law and shall explain matters of judicial practice.”;

42) Article 128 shall read as follows:

"Article 128

1. The Chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, the deputy Chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation and judges of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, the deputy Chairmen of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and judges of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation shall be appointed by the Federation Council on the recommendation of the President of the Russian Federation.

2. Chairmen, deputy chairmen and judges of other federal courts shall be appointed by the President of the Russian Federation in accordance with the procedure prescribed by federal constitutional law.

3. The powers and the procedure for the formation and operation of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and other federal courts shall be established by the Constitution of the Russian Federation and federal constitutional law. The procedure for civil, arbitration, administrative and criminal proceedings shall likewise be governed by the relevant procedural legislation.”;

43) Article 129 shall read as follows:

"Article 129

1. The Procurator’s Office of the Russian Federation shall be a single federal centralised system of bodies exercising supervision over compliance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, over the implementation of laws and over the observance of human and civil rights and freedoms and carrying out criminal prosecution in accordance with its powers, as well as performing other functions. The powers and functions of the Procurator’s Office of the Russian Federation, its organisation and the procedure governing its operation shall be determined by federal law.

2. Citizens of the Russian Federation who do not hold the citizenship of a foreign state or a residence permit or other document confirming the right of the holder to permanent residence within the territory of a foreign state shall be eligible for the office of procurator. Procurators shall be prohibited, In accordance with the procedure prescribed by federal law, from opening or holding accounts (deposits) and from keeping cash or valuables in foreign banks located outside the territory of the Russian Federation.

3. The Procurator General of the Russian Federation and deputy Procurators General of the Russian Federation shall be appointed following consultations with the Federation Council and shall be released from office by the President of the Russian Federation.

4. Procurators of constituent entities of the Russian Federation and procurators of military and other specialised procurator’s offices equivalent to procurators of constituent entities of the Russian Federation shall be appointed following consultations with the Federation Council and shall be released from office by the President of the Russian Federation.

5. Other procurators may be appointed and released from office by the President of the Russian Federation if such procedure for appointment and release from office has been prescribed by federal law.

6. Unless otherwise provided by federal law, procurators of cities and districts and procurators of equivalent status shall be appointed and released from office by the Procurator General of the Russian Federation.”;

44) in Article 131:

a) paragraph 1 shall read as follows:

"1. Local self-government shall be exercised in municipal entities, the types of which shall be prescribed by federal law. The territories of municipal entities shall be determined taking into account historical and other local traditions. The structure of local self-government bodies shall be determined by the population independently, in accordance with the general principles governing the organisation of local self-government in the Russian Federation, as prescribed by federal law.”;

b) the following paragraph 1.1 shall be added:

“1.1. State authorities may participate in the formation of local self-government bodies and in the appointment and release from office of local self-government officials in accordance with the procedure and in the cases prescribed by federal law.”;

c) paragraph 2 shall read as follows:

"2. Alteration of the boundaries of territories within which local self-government is exercised shall be permitted with due consideration for the opinion of the population of the relevant territories in accordance with the procedure prescribed by federal law.";

d) the following paragraph 3 shall be added:

"3. Specific arrangements for the exercise of public authority within the territories of cities of federal significance, administrative centres (capitals) of constituent entities of the Russian Federation and within other territories may be prescribed by federal law.";

45) in Article 132:

a) paragraph 1 shall read as follows:

"1. Local self-government bodies shall independently manage municipal property, form, approve and execute the local budget, introduce local taxes and levies, decide other matters of local importance, and shall also, in accordance with federal law and within the limits of their competence, provide access to medical care.";

b) paragraph 2 shall read as follows:

"2. Local self-government bodies may be granted separate state powers by federal law or by the law of the relevant constituent entity of the Russian Federation provided that they are assigned the material and financial means necessary for the exercise of such powers. The exercise of delegated powers shall be controlled by the state.";

c) the following paragraph 3 shall be added:

"3. Local self-government bodies and state authorities shall form part of the single system of public authority in the Russian Federation and shall interact in order to address tasks as effectively as possible in the interests of the population living within the relevant territory.";

46) Article 133 shall read as follows:

"Article 133

Local self-government in the Russian Federation shall be guaranteed by the right to judicial protection, and to compensation for additional costs incurred as a result of the performance of public functions by local self-government bodies in interaction with state authorities, and also by the prohibition on restricting the rights of local self-government, as prescribed by the Constitution of the Russian Federation and federal laws."

Article 2

1. The nationwide vote on the issue of whether to approve the amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, as provided for in Article 1 of the present Law of the Russian Federation amending the Constitution of the Russian Federation (hereafter referred to as the nationwide vote and the present Law respectively), shall be held after the present Law enters into force and if the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation issues, in accordance with Article 3 of the present Law, a finding to the effect that the provisions of the present Law which have not yet entered into force are compatible with Chapters 1, 2 and 9 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation and that the procedure governing the entry into force of Article 1 of the present Law is compatible with the Constitution.

2. The right to initiate a nationwide vote shall be vested in the President of the Russian Federation. The President of the Russian Federation shall call a nationwide vote by decree.

3. The decree of the President of the Russian Federation calling a nationwide vote shall contain the question which is to be put to a nationwide vote and shall determine the date of the nationwide vote in accordance with paragraph 5 of the present article.

4. The decree of the President of the Russian Federation calling the nationwide vote shall be officially published not later than the day following the day on which it is signed.

5. In order to ensure the most favourable conditions for citizens to participate in the nationwide vote, the nationwide vote may not take place earlier than 30 days as from the day on which the decree of the President of the Russian Federation calling the nationwide vote is officially published.

If the date of the nationwide vote falls on a working day, that day shall, by virtue of the present Law, be a non-working day. Employees shall be paid for that day in accordance with the provisions prescribed by the Labour Code of the Russian Federation in respect of payment for non-working days (public holidays).

6. Citizens of the Russian Federation who have reached the age of 18 on the day of the nationwide vote, except for citizens who have been declared legally incapable by a court or who are being held in a place of deprivation of liberty on the basis of a court sentence, may participate in the nationwide vote.

7. Citizens of the Russian Federation shall participate in the nationwide vote on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

8. Citizens of the Russian Federation shall participate in the nationwide vote freely and of their own volition.

No one may influence a citizen of the Russian Federation for the purpose of compelling him/her to participate or to refrain from participating in the nationwide vote, or of preventing him/her from freely expressing his/her will.

9. The preparation and conduct of the nationwide vote shall be carried out in an open and transparent manner.

10. The preparation and conduct of the nationwide vote shall be carried out by:

1) the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation (the electoral commission organising and ensuring the preparation and conduct of the nationwide vote);

2) electoral commissions of constituent entities of the Russian Federation;

3) territorial electoral commissions;

4) district electoral commissions.

11. The activities of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation and of other electoral commissions in connection with the preparation and conduct of the nationwide vote shall be based on the need to create maximum convenience for participants in the nationwide vote.

12. Decisions of higher electoral commissions on matters relating to the preparation and conduct of the nationwide vote, adopted within the scope of their competence, shall be binding on lower electoral commissions.

13. Decisions of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation and decisions of other electoral commissions on matters relating to the preparation and conduct of the nationwide vote, adopted within the scope of their competence, shall be binding on federal executive authorities, executive authorities of constituent entities of the Russian Federation, other state bodies, local self-government bodies, organisations, officials and citizens of the Russian Federation.

14. The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation shall ensure openness and transparency in the preparation and conduct of the nationwide vote, including in accordance with paragraph 16 of the present article, and shall create conditions for monitoring the preparation and conduct of the nationwide vote, the establishment of the outcome and the determination of the results of the vote.

15. The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation:

- 1) shall approve the procedure for the nationwide vote within three days as from the day on which the decree of the President of the Russian Federation calling the nationwide vote is officially published;
- 2) shall ensure that citizens of the Russian Federation are provided with information about the preparation and conduct of the nationwide vote, including the opportunity for them to become acquainted with the text of the present Law, and shall likewise establish the procedure for the accreditation of representatives of the media in order that they may participate in the news coverage of the nationwide vote;
- 3) shall approve the form and text of the ballot paper for the nationwide vote, the procedure for the production and delivery of ballot papers, and also the procedure for monitoring their production and delivery;
- 4) shall establish the outcome of the nationwide vote and shall determine the results thereof;
- 5) shall determine the procedure for funding the preparation and conduct of the nationwide vote, stipulating how funds allocated for the preparation and conduct of the nationwide vote are to be expended, the procedure for their distribution, the accounting procedure and also the procedure by which electoral commissions are to procure goods, work and services related to the preparation and conduct of the nationwide vote;
- 6) shall exercise other powers relating to the organisation of the preparation and conduct of the nationwide vote.

16. The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and the civic chambers of constituent entities of the Russian Federation shall appoint observers to monitor the conduct of the vote and the counting of votes cast by participants in the vote, and the establishment of the outcome of the vote.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation may, as from the day on which the decree of the President of the Russian Federation calling the nationwide vote is officially published, appoint an observer to the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation for the purpose of observing, inter alia, the preparation and conduct of the nationwide vote. The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation may likewise appoint observers to all lower electoral commissions.

The civic chambers of constituent entities of the Russian Federation shall appoint observers to electoral commissions located within the territory of the relevant constituent entity of the Russian Federation.

The procedure for receiving nominations for the purpose of appointing observers shall be established by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.

17. Federal executive authorities, executive authorities of constituent entities of the Russian Federation, other state bodies, local self-government bodies, organisations and officials shall be bound to assist electoral commissions in the exercise of their powers in matters relating to the preparation and conduct of the nationwide vote, and in the matter of logistical support for the preparation and conduct of the nationwide vote (including provision of the necessary premises, transport facilities, means of communication and technical equipment to electoral commissions free of charge).

18. State authorities of constituent entities of the Russian Federation and local self-government bodies may allocate funds from the budget of a constituent entity of the Russian Federation and local budget respectively for the purpose of providing assistance in the preparation and conduct of the nationwide vote (including payments to members of electoral commissions), and in the provision of information to citizens of the Russian Federation concerning the conduct of the vote.

19. The federal state information system "Unified Portal of State and Municipal Services (Functions)", other state information systems, multifunctional centres for the provision of state and municipal services, as well as remote electronic voting (where conditions for conducting such voting exist) may be used for the preparation and conduct of the nationwide vote.

20. During the period from the day on which the decree of the President of the Russian Federation calling the nationwide vote is officially published until the day on which the results of the nationwide vote are officially published by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation, the national and regional state broadcasting organisations, editorial offices of national and regional state periodicals published at least once a week, as determined by the legislation on elections, shall, for the purpose of informing citizens of the Russian Federation about the preparation and conduct of the nationwide vote and explaining the procedure for participation therein, provide the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation and the electoral commissions of constituent entities of the Russian Federation with airtime and print space to the following extent:

1) national state broadcasting organisations – at least 15 minutes of airtime per week on each of their channels;

2) regional state broadcasting organisations – at least 10 minutes of airtime per week on each of their channels;

3) editorial offices of national state periodicals and regional state periodicals – at least one hundredth of the weekly print space.

21. Expenditure associated with the conduct of the nationwide vote shall be incurred by electoral commissions using funds allocated from the federal budget for the preparation and conduct of the nationwide vote. The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation shall be the chief administrator of these funds.

22. Members of electoral commissions with a casting vote, the staff of electoral commissions' offices and the staff of the Federal Centre for Information Technology of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation shall receive additional pay (remuneration) for their work in preparing and conducting the nationwide vote in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation.

23. Amounts paid to members of electoral commissions with a casting vote, who work in commissions other than on a permanent (regular) basis, employees of the Federal Centre of Information Technology of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation, and also citizens working under civil-law contracts, for work performed by them and services rendered which are directly related to the preparation and conduct of the nationwide vote shall not be subject to personal income tax and insurance contributions.

24. Federal Law N 44-FZ of 5 April 2013 "On the contractual system in the procurement of goods, work and services to support the state and municipal needs" shall apply to relations concerning the procurement of goods, work and services related to the nationwide vote in accordance with the procedure prescribed for the procurement of goods, work and services related to the preparation and conduct of the nationwide vote.

25. The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation shall determine the results of the nationwide vote not later than five days after the day on which it is conducted.

The number of citizens who took part in the nationwide vote shall be determined by the number of ballot papers in the ballot boxes.

26. The results of the nationwide vote shall be officially published by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation within three days as from the day on which the decision on the results of the nationwide vote is adopted.

Article 3

1. The present Law shall enter into force as from the day of its official publication following approval by the legislative authorities of at least two thirds of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, except for Articles 1 and 2 of the present Law, which shall enter into force under a special procedure.

2. Following the entry into force of the present Law, the President of the Russian Federation shall submit a query to the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation as to whether the

provisions of the present Law which have not yet entered into force are compatible with the provisions of Chapters 1, 2 and 9 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation and as to whether the procedure for the entry into force of Article 1 of the present Law is compatible with the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

3. The Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, not later than seven days as from the day on which the query referred to in paragraph 2 of the present article is submitted by the President of the Russian Federation, shall be bound to issue a finding as to whether or not the provisions of the present Law which have not yet entered into force are compatible with the provisions of Chapters 1, 2 and 9 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation and as to whether or not the procedure for the entry into force of Article 1 of the present Law is compatible with the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

If it is discovered that the provisions of the present Law which have not yet entered into force are incompatible with the provisions of Chapters 1, 2 and 9 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation or that the procedure for the entry into force of Article 1 of the present Law is incompatible with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the nationwide vote shall not take place.

In the event that the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation issues a finding to the effect that the provisions of the present Law which have not yet entered into force are compatible with the provisions of Chapters 1, 2 and 9 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation and that the procedure for the entry into force of Article 1 of the present Law is compatible with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, Article 2 of the present Law shall enter into force and the nationwide vote shall take place.

4. Article 1 of the present Law shall enter into force as from the day on which the results of the nationwide vote are officially published (with due regard to the specific arrangements referred to in paragraph 7 of the present article) if the amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation provided for therein are approved in the nationwide vote.

5. The amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation provided for in Article 1 of the present Law shall be deemed to have been approved if more than half of the citizens of the Russian Federation who took part in the nationwide vote voted for them.

If fewer than half of the citizens of the Russian Federation who took part in the nationwide vote vote for the amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, as provided for in Article 1 of the present Law, such amendments shall not be deemed to have been approved and Article 1 of the present Law shall not enter into force.

6. The rules concerning the number of terms a person may serve in the office of President of the Russian Federation, as established in paragraphs 3 and 3.1 of Article 81 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, in the wording of the present Law amending the Constitution of the Russian Federation, shall not prevent a person who has previously held and/or currently holds the office of President of the Russian Federation at the time when the said amendments enter into force from standing, following the inclusion of the said wording in the text of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, for election to the office of President of the Russian Federation for the permitted number of terms, as prescribed by the amendments, irrespective of the number of terms the person has served in that office at the time when the amendments enter into force.

7. Judges of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation who are in office on the day on which Article 1 of the present Law enters into force shall continue to exercise their powers as judges of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation until such time as those powers cease on the grounds prescribed by Federal Constitutional Law N 1-FKZ of 21 July 1994 "On the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation". If following the entry into force of Article 1 of the present Law the number of judges of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation serving as judges of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation on the day on which Article 1 of the present Law enters into force corresponds to or exceeds the number of judges provided for in Article 1 of the present Law, no new judges of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation shall be appointed.

8. Following approval in the nationwide vote of the amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, as provided for in Article 1 of the present Law, the President of the Russian Federation shall issue a decree ordering the official publication of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, as amended, and indicating the date on which the relevant amendments are to enter into force. The Constitution of the Russian Federation, as amended, shall be officially published immediately after the official publication of the results of the nationwide vote.

President

of the Russian Federation

V. PUTIN

Moscow, Kremlin

14 March 2020