QUALIFIED LAW NO. 3 OF 3 AUGUST 2018

[CONSOLIDATED VERSION AS AMENDED BY QUALIFIED LAW NO.1 OF 2 MARCH 2021 AND QUALIFIED LAW NO.1 OF 7 OCTOBER 2026]

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE GREAT AND GENERAL COUNCIL

TITLE I
INSTALLATION OF THE GREAT AND GENERAL COUNCIL

Art. 1
(First sitting of the legislature)

1. The first sitting of the Great and General Council shall be held within fifteen days of the publication of the election results. It shall be convened by the Captains Regent by means of a notice to be sent to the elected members by registered letter at least five days before the sitting.
2. During the first sitting of the legislature, the Captains Regent shall:

a) Announce the election results;
b) Propose to the Great and General Council, for the necessary approval, the appointment of the members of the Permanent Election Board in accordance with the Electoral Law;
c) Convene, at the end of the sitting, the following session of the Great and General Council, which shall meet within fifteen days.

Art. 2
(Secretariat functions)

1. The functions of Secretariat of the Great and General Council during its first sitting shall be performed by the most senior member of the Council or, in the event of equal seniority, by the oldest one.

Art. 3
(Formalities for the installation of the Great and General Council)

1. During the sitting of the Great and General Council convened pursuant to Article 1, letter c), the following acts shall be performed:

a) The Captains Regent shall read out the report of the Permanent Election Board on the results of the elections and shall proclaim the newly elected members of the Council on the basis of the election results;
b) Candidates elected as members of the Council shall take the oath in the Hall according to the formulas set out in Decree of 27 June 1909 and Law no. 115 of 29 October 1993 and read by the Minister of Internal Affairs. The members of the Council who are absent during the sitting in which the oath is taken shall take their oath at the beginning of the first sitting in which they participate, and in any case within the deadlines established by the Electoral Law in force;
c) By means of a voting in which the interested persons shall not participate, the Great and General Council shall validate the election of the members of the Council for whom validation is requested by the Permanent Election Board in the cases permitted by law. The member of the Council whose election is validated shall take the oath immediately after validation. The

conclusions of the Permanent Election Board concerning objections raised or alleged irregularities in the voting operations may also be subject to voting;

d) The Great and General Council shall appoint the members of the Secretariat of the Great and General Council referred to in Article 8 below.

TITLE II
RESIGNATION, REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL

Art. 4
(Resignation of a member of the Council)

1. Each member of the Council shall be entitled to resign from office through a written and motivated notification to the Captains Regent.
2. The Captains Regent shall be required to put the resignation of the member of the Council on the agenda at the first useful sitting of the Great and General Council, and to convene the Permanent Election Board for the fulfilment of the requirements falling within its competence and concerning the identification of the member of the Council who, in accordance with the Electoral Law in force, shall replace the resigning one.
3. Acceptance of the resignation by a member of the Council shall be subject to the Great and General Council's voting by secret ballot. If the resignation is accepted, the Captains Regent shall be required to put a specific item on the agenda for the replacement of the resigning member of the Council in the immediately following council session.
4. In case of irrevocable resignation, the Great and General Council shall accept it by simple acknowledgement. The Great and General Council shall accept it by simple acknowledgement even if the resignation - already rejected - is re-submitted. At the same time as acknowledging the resignation, the Great and General Council shall also replace the resigning member of the Council.
5. Before the meeting of the Permanent Election Board under the second paragraph, the candidate who should be appointed as member of the Council in place of a resigned member may, by registered letter sent to the Captains Regent and to the Permanent Election Board for its information, declare that he/she does not accept the office of member of the Council. In this case, the Board shall identify the next candidate in accordance with the Electoral Law in force. The Great and General Council shall be informed of said registered letter.

Art. 5
(Removal of a member of the Council)

1. A member of the Council shall be removed from office:

a) If he/she ceases to meet the eligibility requirements or fulfils the conditions for removal under the Electoral Law;

b) If he/she, except in cases of force majeure, fails to participate in the Council's sittings for more than six consecutive months, without having previously requested and obtained the relevant exemption from the Great and General Council, by a roll-call vote by simple majority.

2. After verifying that the legal requirements are met for the adoption of the measure issued by the Secretariat of the Great and General Council, the Great and General Council shall declare the removal of the member of the Council and, at the same time, shall replace him/her. To this end, the Captains Regent, after including the relevant item on the agenda of the Great and General Council, shall convene the Permanent Election Board for the fulfilment of the tasks set out in paragraph 2 of Article 4.

Art. 6

(Replacement of a member of the Council appointed as Minister)

1. In accordance with Article 7 of Constitutional Law no. 183/2005, a member of the Council elected as Minister shall be replaced within the Great and General Council by the first of the non-elected persons in the list to which he/she belongs.
2. Upon convening of the Great and General Council to discuss and approve the Government programme and to appoint the members of the Congress of State, the Captains Regent shall also convene, even in the following hours, the Permanent Election Board. During this meeting, the Board shall perform its duties pertaining to the identification of the candidates who - on the basis of what has been officially communicated to the Captains Regent, in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5 of Article 14 of Qualified Law no. 186/2005, upon submission of the Government programme - should replace the members of the Council who are appointed as Ministers. The Board shall be required to submit its report to the Captains Regent no later than the day before the beginning of the session of the Great and General Council.
3. After the appointment of the members of the Congress of State, the Great and General Council, during the same sitting, shall take note of the report of the Permanent Election Board referred to in the preceding paragraph and shall proclaim the members of the Council replacing those appointed as Ministers.
4. Immediately afterwards, the Ministers and then the substitute members of the Council, summoned by the Captains Regent immediately after the deposit of the report of the Permanent Election Board referred to in paragraph 2 above, shall take the oath before the Captains Regent, according to the traditional formulas laid down in the Decree of 27 June 1909 and in Law no. 115 of 29 October 1993.
5. Once the oath has been taken, the members of the Council replacing those appointed as Ministers shall take part in the following works of the Great and General Council.
6. Following acknowledgement of the resignation of the Congress of State, the suspension referred to in Article 7 of Constitutional Law no. 183/2005 shall cease to apply. When the Congress of State can only deal with ordinary matters due to the above resignation, the Ministers shall become again full members of the Great and General Council, while the substitute members of the Council shall cease to hold office.
7 An individual Minister who has resigned or has been removed from office shall also become again full member of the Council following the acknowledgement by the Great and General Council of his/her resignation or removal from office. In this case, if the Minister appointed to replace the Minister who has resigned or has been removed from office belongs to the same list of the latter, the Captains Regent - without convening the Permanent Election Board - shall directly submit the election of the member of the Council replacing the previous Minister to the Great and General Council for its acknowledgement and shall consider the oath taken by the former Minister at the time of his/her previous election to be valid.
8. In the event of early dissolution of the Great and General Council as a result of the resignation of at least thirty of its members, and in the absence of resignation of the Congress of State, the latter and the Ministers composing it - even if they can only deal with ordinary matters in accordance with Article 21, paragraph 1 of Constitutional Law no. 184/2005 - shall remain in office until the convening of the first sitting of the Great and General Council of the new legislature, when they shall resign, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 3 of Constitutional Law no. 183/2005. Until then, they shall continue to be subject to the suspension referred to in Article 7 of Constitutional Law no. 183/2005 and consequently the members of the Council replacing them shall continue to be full members of the Great and General Council until the new Great and General Council takes office.
9. The provision of the preceding paragraph shall also apply in case of dissolution of the Great and General Council for its five-year renewal.

TITLE III
BODIES OF THE GREAT AND GENERAL COUNCIL

Art. 7
(Presidency)

1. As provided for in the second paragraph of Article 3 of Constitutional Law no. 185/2005, the Great and General Council shall be presided over by the Captains Regent, who may also fulfil this task individually in case of impediment of the other Captain Regent.
2. As Presidents of the Great and General Council, the Captains Regent shall:

a) Convene the Great and General Council at least once a month, without prejudice to a possible break in August;
b) Open the sitting of the Great and General Council, suspend it it and close it;
c) Ensure the orderly conduct of the sittings;
d) Enforce the rules of procedure of the sittings, with the assistance of the Secretariat of the Great and General Council;
e) Grant the members of the Council and the Ministers who so request the right to speak, and interrupt them if, despite warnings, they use improper and offensive expressions or fail to comply with the provisions of this Qualified Law;
f) Proclaim the results of votes, which are counted by the Secretariat of the Great and General Council.

Art. 8
(Composition and appointment of the Secretariat of the Great and General Council)

1. The Secretariat of the Great and General Council shall consist of five members appointed within the Great and General Council, in particular three full members and two alternate members. Two full members and one alternate member shall be appointed to represent the majority, while one full member and one alternate member shall be appointed to represent the opposition. The Secretariat of the Great and General Council shall be appointed by a two-thirds majority in the first two ballots and by an absolute majority in the third and subsequent ballots. All votes shall take place during the same sitting.
2. The meetings of the Secretariat of the Great and General Council may be attended by the Captains Regent and the Minister of Internal Affairs, or another member of the Congress of State in his/her place.
3. The Secretariat of the Great and General Council shall be appointed for the entire legislature and shall remain in office until the first meeting of the new Great and General Council.

Art. 9
(Tasks of the Secretariat of the Great and General Council)

1. The Secretariat of the Great and General Council shall perform the following functions:

a) To supervise the drafting of the minutes of the Great and General Council and of decisions, by resorting to the State Institutional Secretariat;
b) To attend the meetings of the Bureau of the Great and General Council;
c) To supervise the administration of the Autonomous Budget Fund reserved for the Great and General Council according to the procedures laid down in appropriate internal regulations;
d) It may propose to the Great and General Council the approval of draft regulations for the Parliamentary activities;
e) To verify the results of votes in the Great and General Council;

f) To verify that the initiatives proposed by individual members of the Council and Parliamentary Groups comply with these Rules of Procedure and that questions, interpellations, motions and decisions submitted meet the requirements of these Rules of Procedure;
g) To provide an opinion to the Captains Regent, together with the Minister of Internal Affairs, on the compliance of popular petitions (so-called Istanze d'Arengo) with the requirements of Law no. 72/1995 and subsequent amendments, and on their admissibility for consideration by the Great and General Council;
h) To assist the Captains Regent in the interpretation and application of these Rules of Procedure, with the technical and legal support of an official from the State Institutional Secretariat.

2. The decisions of the Secretariat of the Great and General Council shall be adopted by majority vote. It may be requested that dissenting opinions or abstentions be recorded in the minutes.

Art. 10

(Replacement of members of the Secretariat of the Great and General Council)

1. If the members of the Secretariat of the Great and General Council resign or become incompatible, they shall be replaced in accordance with the criteria laid down in Article 8, paragraph 1.

2. During the sittings of the Great and General Council, if one or more full members of the Secretariat of the Great and General Council are absent, they shall be replaced by the alternate members. If such replacement is not possible, they shall be replaced by other members of the Council, upon proposal of the Captains Regent and with the approval of a simple majority of those voting, by sitting and standing. In this case, the alternate member shall perform his/her function for the entire sitting and for the subsequent fulfilments.

Art. 11

(Parliamentary Groups)

1. All members of the Council shall belong to a Parliamentary Group.

2. A Group shall consist of at least three members of the Council, with the exception of the Mixed Group.

3. At the beginning of the legislature, the Parliamentary Groups shall be composed of the members of the Council elected in the same list, without prejudice to the numerical composition referred to in the preceding paragraph.

4. New Parliamentary Groups may be set up during the legislature with the numerical composition specified in the second paragraph.

5. The Mixed Group shall be composed *ex officio* by the members of the Council who have not declared to which Parliamentary Group they intend to belong, as well as by those who, during the legislature, have declared to be autonomous from their Group without forming a new one or joining an existing one. The Mixed Group may consist of any number of members of the Council.

6. Within fifteen days following the sitting in which the members of the Council take their oath, the Parliamentary Groups shall inform the Captains Regent in writing of the name of their Presidents.

7. The Mixed Group may also appoint its own President. Otherwise, it shall in any case indicate the addresses where all communications concerning it shall be sent.

8. Any change in the composition of the Parliamentary Groups, as well as the setting up of a new Group, shall be notified to the Captains Regent within ten days. The Captains Regent shall also be informed if a new President is appointed.

9. Following the setting up of a new Parliamentary Group and/or the change in the numerical composition of existing Groups, an update shall be made of the composition of all Commissions

appointed by the Great and General Council whose members are designated by the Groups on the basis of proportional allocation.

Art. 12

(Composition of the Bureau of the Great and General Council)

1. The Bureau of the Great and General Council shall be composed of the Presidents of the Parliamentary Groups. If the President is unable to attend, he/she may be replaced by a member of the same Parliamentary Group.
2. The meetings of the Bureau of the Great and General Council shall be attended by the members of the Secretariat of the Great and General Council and the Minister of Internal Affairs, or another Minister in his/her place, all without the right to vote.
3. If the Mixed Group consists of at least three members of the Council, one of them shall participate in the Bureau of the Great and General Council. If the Mixed Group includes members of the Council from both the majority and the opposition, they may each appoint a representative to attend the meetings of the Bureau of the Great and General Council. If the Mixed Group does not reach the minimum number of three members of the Council, its members may delegate other Parliamentary Groups to represent them.
4. For the purposes of participation in the meetings of the Bureau of the Great and General Council, the representation of a List is also considered a Parliamentary Group, even if it has less than three members of the Council due to the reduction of its elected members resulting from the granting of the so-called “stability reward”.

Art. 13

(Convening of the Bureau of the Great and General Council)

1. The Bureau of the Great and General Council shall be presided over by the Captains Regent.
2. The Bureau of the Great and General Council shall be convened by the Captains Regent in advance of each session of the Great and General Council and whenever it is deemed necessary for the fulfilment of the tasks entrusted to it.
3. The notice of the meeting shall be sent to each Parliamentary Group, as a rule three days before the meeting, except in urgent cases, by e-mail. During the sittings of the Great and General Council, the Captains Regent may also convene the Bureau of the Great and General Council on the spot when it is appropriate for the conduct and organisation of the current session.
4. The Captains Regent shall convene the Bureau of the Great and General Council when requested by the Presidents, or their delegates, of Parliamentary Groups representing at least half plus one of the members of the Great and General Council.

Art. 14

(Validity of the sittings and decisions of the Bureau of the Great and General Council)

1. The presence of a number of members representing at least the majority of the members of the Great and General Council shall be required for the sittings of the Bureau of the Great and General Council to be valid.
2. The Captains Regent shall convene the Great and General Council and draw up the agenda, taking into account the guidelines emerging from the Bureau of the Great and General Council, if, for any reason, the latter does not carry out the functions assigned to it by this Qualified Law or does not reach an agreement.
3. The State Institutional Secretariat shall draw up the minutes of the sittings, which shall be sent, together with the notice of the following sitting, to all Parliamentary Groups and approved at

the beginning of the following sitting. The minutes shall be internal documents and copies thereof shall be provided to the members of the Council who request them.

4. The minutes shall be kept by the State Institutional Secretariat, together with the notices of the meetings and all decisions adopted by the Bureau of the Great and General Council.

Art. 15

(Tasks of the Bureau of the Great and General Council)

1. The Bureau of the Great and General Council shall have the task of coordinating and planning the works and sessions of the Great and General Council and of drafting its agenda.

2. The Captains Regent may convene the Bureau of the Great and General Council for any issue relating to the activity of the Great and General Council. The Bureau of the Great and General Council shall also exercise the powers specifically entrusted to it by other laws and regulations.

Art. 16

(Convening of the Bureau of the Great and General Council during the Parliamentary works)

1. During the sittings of the Great and General Council, the Captains Regent may convene the Bureau of the Great and General Council on the spot to decide on the matter raised, with a view to solving issues relating to the conduct and organisation of the Parliamentary works.

2. The Secretariat of the Great and General Council and an official of the State Institutional Secretariat shall attend the meetings referred to in the preceding paragraph.

3. The meetings shall be held near the Captains Regent's throne or in a hall of the Government Building.

4. The Captains Regent shall suspend the current sitting of the Great and General Council for the duration of the meeting.

5. An official of the State Institutional Secretariat shall take the minutes of the meeting pursuant to paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 14.

Art. 17

(Appointment of members of the Commissions and of the Council of the Twelve)

1. The Great and General Council shall appoint the members of the Council of the Twelve and of the other Commissions provided for by law. Unless otherwise provided for, appointments shall be made by simple majority, taking into account the division and proportionality between majority and opposition in the Great and General Council.

2. The Permanent Parliamentary Commissions shall be composed of members of the Council appointed in order to ensure:

a) The presence of all Groups and Lists represented in the Great and General Council;
b) That the majority in the Great and General Council is granted a majority in the Commissions of at least half plus one of their members;
c) The observance of the proportion of Groups in so far as this is compatible with the criteria set out in letters a) and b) above.

3. In order to ensure compliance with the principles and criteria referred to in letters a), b) and c) above, the composition of the Commissions shall be updated by Regency Decree.

4. The Permanent Parliamentary Commissions shall be governed by Title XIII.

TITLE IV
GREAT AND GENERAL COUNCIL

CHAPTER I
SITTINGS OF THE GREAT AND GENERAL COUNCIL

Art. 18
(Convening criteria)

1. The sessions of the Great and General Council are convened on the basis of an ordinary schedule prepared by the Captains Regent at the beginning of the relevant six-month mandate.
2. The Captains Regent shall draw up the agenda of the Great and General Council taking into account the guidelines adopted by the Bureau of the Great and General Council.
3. In cases of need and urgency, after consultation with the Bureau of the Great and General Council, the Captains Regent may convene a session not provided for in the ordinary schedule.

Art. 19
(Notice of the meeting)

1. The Great and General Council shall be convened by means of a notice drawn up by the State Institutional Secretariat following the instructions of the Captains Regent. The notice shall indicate the day or days of the session, the time of the sittings and the items on the agenda.
2. The notice shall be posted on the notice board of the Government Building and sent to individual members of the Council at least five days before the sitting by e-mail.
3. In cases of urgency, after consulting the Bureau of the Great and General Council, the notice shall be sent to the members of the Council the day before the sitting.
4. At the beginning of the legislature, immediately after the inaugural sitting of the Great and General Council, the members of the Council shall be required to formally inform the State Institutional Secretariat of the e-mail address to which it shall send notices of meetings and any other communication relating to the activity of the Great and General Council.

Art. 20
(Sessions and items on the agenda)

1. The Great and General Council shall be convened by sessions. The sessions of the Great and General Council may consist of one or more sittings and of several days, including non-consecutive. The time and duration of the sittings shall be decided by the Bureau of the Great and General Council.
2. The matters on the agenda of the convened session of the Great and General Council shall be divided into items and clearly and precisely indicated in the notice of meeting.
3. Items on the agenda not dealt with shall be given priority on the agenda for the next Parliamentary session, unless the Bureau of the Great and General Council decides otherwise by a qualified two-thirds majority.

Art. 21
(Validity of the sittings)

1. The sittings of the Great and General Council shall be valid with the presence of at least thirty members of the Council, except for the provisions on the election of the Captains Regent contained in Article 1, paragraph 1 of Qualified Law no. 186/2005.

2. The Captains Regent shall, by roll call, verify the quorum at the beginning of each sitting or before the resumption of the sitting if it is interrupted.
3. Each member of the Council may, when a vote is necessary, request verification of the quorum.
4. In the absence of a quorum, the Captains Regent shall suspend the sitting for a maximum of one hour, pending the establishment of a quorum. If the quorum is not established within this time-limit, the sitting shall be declared void.

Art. 22
(Attendance recording)

1. The Secretariat of the Great and General Council shall take note of the members of the Council present and absent, of those who enter after the beginning or the resumption of works and of those who leave the Parliament Hall.
2. A member of the Council who leaves the Parliament Hall for any reason shall notify the Secretariat of the Great and General Council thereof. If he/she leaves the Parliament Hall but does not leave the Government Building, and only for reasons connected with his/her role as a member of the Council, he/she shall inform the Secretariat of the Great and General Council, which shall take note thereof on a special form. If the member of the Council leaves the Government Building for personal reasons, he/she shall deliver to the Secretariat of the Great and General Council the magnetic card that enables him/her to access the microphone system and electronic voting from his/her seat.
3. Also for the purpose of correctly calculating the fees to be paid for serving as member of the Council, the Secretariat of the Great and General Council shall be entrusted with the task of verifying the actual presence in the Parliament Hall of the members of the Council who are registered on the roll call form.
4. For the purposes of the calculation referred to in paragraph 3 above, a member of the Council who enters the Parliament Hall late with respect to the time of roll call shall have his/her attendance fee reduced by 10% every thirty minutes starting from the fifteenth minute of delay.
5. For the purposes of the calculation referred to in paragraph 3 above, the attendance fee shall be reduced by 10% every thirty minutes in case a member of the Council leaves the Parliament Hall and the Government Building before the end of the session.
6. The members of the Council who, not having notified their absence in accordance with paragraph 2, do not enter the Parliament Hall within five minutes of the verification of the quorum being requested by any member of the Council pursuant to Article 21, paragraph 3, shall be deemed to be absent with no reason. They shall not be paid the full attendance fee for the relevant sitting.

Art. 23
(Publicity of the sittings)

1. The sittings of the Great and General Council shall be public.
2. Subject to a decision of the Bureau of the Great and General Council, matters relating to international relations, administrative measures of private interest and issues requiring increased confidentiality may be dealt with in secret session.
3. The Great and General Council may always decide, by a qualified majority, that an item already on the agenda in open session be dealt with in secret session, and vice versa.

CHAPTER II
FUNCTIONING OF THE GREAT AND GENERAL COUNCIL

Art.24
(Communications)

1. At the beginning of each session, the Captains Regent, the members of the Council and the members of the Congress of State may take the floor to give communications concerning specific facts or events as they deem appropriate or as required by law, or to submit one or more motions and decisions. No communications shall be permitted on items on the agenda of the current Parliamentary session.
2. Each member of the Council and each Minister shall have ten minutes for communications, to be requested by a show of hands.
3. For particularly important communications, the Minister may be granted more time, upon decision of the Bureau of the Great and General Council.
4. If, during communications, a Minister is called upon to speak, he/she may reply for a maximum of five minutes.

Art. 25
(Development of the agenda)

1. During the sittings of the Great and General Council, the items on the agenda of the session shall be dealt with.
2. Upon proposal of the Captains Regent, the Great and General Council may decide, by a two-thirds majority, to bring forward or postpone the discussion of an item on the agenda. By unanimous vote of those present, it may withdraw an item on the agenda or enter a new one.
3. The proposer of an item on the agenda may always request that such item be omitted. The Great and General Council shall take note thereof.

Art. 26
(Interruption of the Parliamentary sitting and/or session)

1. Except in the case provided for in Article 67, the Parliamentary sitting or session shall be interrupted only by a unanimous decision of the Bureau of the Great and General Council.

CHAPTER III
LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE

Art. 27
(Legislative initiative and procedure for the approval of the laws)

1. The legislative initiative may be exercised by the Congress of State, by each member of the Council, by Parliamentary Groups, by the Township Councils, and according to the other procedures provided for by law.
2. Whoever exercises the legislative initiative shall transmit to the State Institutional Secretariat the draft law containing the articles, accompanied by an explanatory report specifying its purpose and content.

3. Draft laws that entail new or increased expenditure or a reduction in revenue in the State Budget shall provide for the necessary financial coverage.
4. The draft law shall be taken charge of by the State Institutional Secretariat and immediately posted on the appropriate section of the Great and General Council's website, indicating the proposer and the date of filing.
5. Under the ordinary procedure, a draft law shall be considered at first reading in accordance with Article 29 and assigned to the competent Permanent Parliamentary Commission in its drafting function for the consideration and final approval of the individual articles and the relevant amendments. Subsequently, the draft law shall be forwarded to the Great and General Council for final approval of the entire text.
6. Laws on institutional and electoral matters, on the approval of budgets and the budget law shall be considered directly by the Great and General Council, with no possibility of assignment to the Permanent Parliamentary Commissions.
7. The Great and General Council may, at first reading, decide by a two-thirds majority that the draft law be assigned to the competent Permanent Parliamentary Commission in its reporting function. In this case, at second reading, the Council shall consider and put to the vote the individual articles as approved by the Commission and, following the explanations of vote, shall put the entire text to the vote.
8. *Paragraph repealed*
9. *Paragraph repealed*
10. In order to be considered at first reading during the first possible Parliamentary session, a draft law shall be filed at least three days before the meeting of the Bureau of the Great and General Council in which it is decided to convene the session. Each draft law shall be put on the agenda by the Bureau of the Great and General Council for its consideration at first reading, unless otherwise agreed with the proposer, within sixty days of submission, and for its consideration at second reading within the following one hundred and eighty days. If the Bureau of the Great and General Council fails to do so within the above-mentioned time-limits, the Captains Regent shall directly enter the item on the agenda.
10 *bis*. Should the Commission, to which the draft law has been assigned, fail to meet in time to comply with the time-limits set out in paragraph 10, the Captains Regent may convene the Commission.
11. At the first reading, where a matter is deemed urgent by a two-thirds qualified majority, the Council, following the explanations of vote by the Parliamentary Groups, may decide that a draft law be discussed and approved by the Council at a single reading, even during the same sitting.

Art.28

(Popular legislative initiative – procedures)

1. The legislative initiative may also be exercised by the electorate under Title II of Qualified Law no. 1 of 29 May 2013.
2. Draft laws of popular initiative shall be submitted to the State Institutional Secretariat, which shall take charge of them and publish them on the website of the Great and General Council in accordance with Article 27, paragraph 4. They shall be put on the agenda by the Bureau of the Great and General Council for their consideration within the time-limits set out in Article 27, paragraph 10.
3. During consideration at first reading, the speaker designated by the submitters shall read out the explanatory report of the Promoting Committee. Consideration at first reading shall take place pursuant to Article 29.
4. The members of the Council intending to submit amendments shall be required to file them with the State Institutional Secretariat at least two days prior to the convening of the Permanent Parliamentary Commission, to which the draft law has been entrusted. Before the draft law is

considered by the Permanent Parliamentary Commission, the Secretariat of the Great and General Council shall bring the amendments to the attention of the Promoting Committee. The latter shall designate a speaker, who shall be invited to participate with speaking rights in the consideration of the draft law by the competent Permanent Parliamentary Commissions.

5. During the second reading, the Secretariat of the Great and General Council shall be responsible for reporting on the draft law and coordinating its consideration.

6. The provisions contained in Articles 27, 29, 30 and 31 shall apply insofar as compatible.

Art. 29

(Decisions on the legislative procedure)

1. During consideration at first reading, the Captains Regent shall, with the exception of the draft laws referred to in Article 27, paragraph 6, communicate to the Great and General Council the decision adopted by the competent Permanent Parliamentary Commission to consider the draft law in its drafting function. In any case, the Great and General Council, through a decision adopted by a simple majority, may assign the draft law to a Permanent Parliamentary Commission other than that indicated by the Captains Regent.

2. After the communication referred to in paragraph 1, each draft law shall be illustrated to the Great and General Council, within a maximum time-limit of fifteen minutes, by the proposer, who shall read out the report and supplement it if he/she deems it appropriate.

3. The members of the Council and the Ministers may ask for clarifications and make comments. It shall be required to register with the Secretariat of the Great and General Council to be entitled to take the floor. The Captains Regent shall grant the right to speak to the registered members of the Council, who may waive or forfeit this right if they are absent from the Parliament Hall at the time the floor is given to them. The members of the Council may exchange their turns, provided that this is notified to the Captains Regent. Each member of the Council and each Minister shall be allocated a speaking time of six minutes. The proposer may provide an answer not exceeding a maximum of eight minutes. For matters of particular importance, the Captains Regent may, in agreement with the Bureau of the Great and General Council, increase the time-limits to double them.

4. With the exception of the draft laws referred to in Article 27, paragraph 6, each member of the Council shall be entitled to submit a motion requesting that the draft law be assigned to the competent Permanent Parliamentary Commission in its reporting function. The Council shall approve the motion by a two-thirds majority.

5. *Paragraph repealed*

6. At second reading, each member of the Council may submit a procedural motion and request that it be voted, in order to prevent the draft law from being considered. If there are several procedural motions on the same subject, they shall be combined and put to a single vote. The approval of the procedural motion shall interrupt the consideration of the draft law. A rejected procedural motion shall not be resubmitted. In the event of a tied vote, the Great and General Council shall not decide and shall postpone the item and the vote on the procedural motion to the next Parliamentary session.

6 *bis*. Draft laws may be withdrawn by proposers at any stage of the legislative procedure.

Art. 30

(Consideration of draft laws at second reading)

1. During consideration at second reading, the Captains Regent shall open the general debate, which shall take place in accordance with the procedures laid down in Article 36. The following may take part in the debate, provided they have registered with the Secretariat of the Great and General Council: the proposer; the majority rapporteur and the minority rapporteur appointed by the

Commission, where the draft law has been considered by the Commission; the members of the Council; and the Ministers.

2. Under the ordinary procedure, the entire text of the draft law, as approved by the Commission, shall be put to the vote. Before the vote, explanations of vote may be made in accordance with Article 31.

3. No new amendments shall be submitted during consideration at second reading under the ordinary procedure of draft laws by the competent Permanent Parliamentary Commission. Amendments may be submitted:

a) in the case referred to in Article 95, paragraph 14;

b) provided they are signed by a qualified majority of two-thirds of the members of the Council;

c) in the cases referred to in paragraph 5 below.

4. Amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Secretariat of the Great and General Council before the start of the discussion on the relevant agenda item.

4 *bis*. In the case of draft laws considered by the Commission in its reporting function, following the debate referred to in paragraph 1, the individual articles, as approved by the Commission, shall be put to the vote. No new amendments shall be submitted, except as provided for in paragraph 3. Once the consideration of the articles has been completed, the text of the draft law shall be put to the vote, following any explanations of vote in accordance with Article 31.

4 *ter*. With regard to the draft laws referred to in Article 27, paragraph 6, following the debate referred to in paragraph 1, each member of the Council and, if they are the proposers of the draft law, the Ministers, may submit amendments to the articles or parts thereof in writing, signed by the proposer, to the Secretariat of the Great and General Council, no later than the third day prior to the start of the Council session in whose agenda the item is included for second reading. Amendments which, compared with the Budget Law, entail new or increased expenditure or a reduction in revenue shall specify in detail the means by which the necessary budget coverage shall be provided.

5. The members of the Council and the Ministers, if they are the proposers, may propose amendments also during the discussion of individual articles, when this is necessary for proper coordination with amendment proposals approved in previous articles, with a view to correcting formal errors or making technical adjustments, or to harmonising different amendment proposals concerning the same article.

6. The individual amendments shall be put to the vote following the order of the paragraphs of the relevant articles, with the first vote being on totally repealing amendments, followed by partially repealing amendments, then changing amendments and finally those adding new paragraphs or parts of individual articles. The various amendments may be combined.

6 *bis*. Subsequently, amendments that add entire new articles shall be considered, following the order determined by the Secretariat of the Great and General Council, after consulting the State Institutional Secretariat. The order shall ensure a fair rotation among proposals submitted by the Government, the Majority or individual Majority Parliamentary Groups, and those submitted by the Opposition or individual Opposition Parliamentary Groups, in accordance with the order of priority indicated by them to the State Institutional Secretariat. The order may be amended by unanimous agreement amongst all the Majority and Opposition Parliamentary Groups.

7. The approval of the article or parts thereof shall prevent any further voting on such article or parts thereof.

8. Voting on individual articles shall be by open ballot, except where a secret ballot is expressly provided for.

9. As provided for in paragraph 6 *bis* of Article 29, draft laws may be withdrawn by their proposers at any stage of the legislative procedure.

10. During consideration of the State Budget, the following shall be put to the vote, according to the procedures provided for in this Article and in this order: amendments to individual chapters, the revenue side, the expenditure side, individual articles of the Budget Law and the entire Budget Law.

Art. 30-*bis*

(Time limit on the consideration of the articles of a draft law)

1. Should the consideration of the articles of a draft law extend beyond twenty-five hours of sitting time following the conclusion of the general debate, the absolute majority of the members of the Council shall be entitled to submit a written motion to put to an immediate and comprehensive vote the series of amendments that they do not wish to support.
2. Following a fifteen-minute time for each Parliamentary Group – including the Mixed Group – to make their explanations of vote, the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. The motion, which shall be approved by an absolute majority, shall entail the definitive rejection of the amendments listed therein; subsequently, consideration of the remaining amendments to the articles shall resume.
3. Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply to draft constitutional and qualified laws.

Art. 31

(Overall vote on the law)

1. Once all articles have been voted, before proceeding to the overall vote on a draft law, each Parliamentary Group or List represented in the Great and General Council may make an explanation of vote lasting no more than 10 minutes. The Ministers shall not take the floor to make an explanation of vote.
2. In the event that the Mixed Group is composed of members of the Council belonging both to the majority and the opposition, one representative of each side may make an explanation of vote for a maximum of five minutes each.
3. Individual members of the Council may make dissenting statements, for which the time-limits set out in paragraph 1 shall apply.
4. The entire draft law shall then be put to vote, according to the procedure envisaged in Title VII, and shall be deemed to have been approved by the majority of those voting, unless specific laws require qualified majorities.

Art. 32

(Promulgation and publication of the law)

1. The text of the law approved by the Great and General Council shall be:
a) Promulgated by the Captains Regent, who shall affix their signature, together with that of the Minister of Internal Affairs, at the bottom of two originals of the law, one of which shall be kept with the State Institutional Secretariat and the other one with the Ministry of Internal Affairs;
b) Published by the State Institutional Secretariat upon instruction of the Captains Regent, in accordance with Qualified Law no. 2 of 26 October 2010 and Regulation no. 5 of 17 May 2011.

2. Unless otherwise provided for in the promulgated law, the latter shall enter into force on the fifteenth day following that of its legal publication.
3. At least five days shall elapse from its publication for the entry into force of the law.
3 *bis*. The draft budget law may, where expressly provided for therein, come into force on the date of its publication.
4. The provisions of this Article shall also apply to delegated decrees, decree-laws, Regency decrees, Parliamentary decrees and regulations. They shall enter into force on the date of their publication.

Art.33

(Ratification of decree-laws and delegated decrees)

1. As provided for in the Declaration on the Citizens' Rights (Article 3 *bis*, paragraph 5), Constitutional Law no. 183/2005 (paragraph 2, letter b) and Qualified Law no. 186/2005 (Article 8, paragraph 3), decree-laws and delegated decrees shall be ratified by the Great and General Council within three months of their enactment, under penalty of forfeiture. The Captains Regent shall in any case be required to put the ratification of decree-laws on the agenda of the Great and General Council in the first Parliamentary session following their enactment.

2. When enacted, decree-laws and delegated decrees shall be accompanied by a report explaining their purpose and content.

3. As a rule, ratification shall consist in the overall voting of decree-laws and delegated decrees. It shall be possible to request the separation of individual decrees, which shall then be considered and ratified separately.

4. Each member of the Council and of the Congress of State may propose amendments to the decree to be ratified. The amendments shall be submitted to the Secretariat of the Great and General Council at the opening of the discussion on the item relating to the ratification of the decree and shall be discussed in the manner set out in Article 36, paragraph 4.

4 *bis*. The members of the Council or the Ministers, if they are the proposers, may propose amendments also during the discussion of the articles, when this is necessary for proper coordination with amendment proposals approved in previous articles or to harmonising different amendment proposals concerning the same article.

5. In the event that the proposed amendments are accepted, the Great and General Council, before submitting the amended text of the decree for ratification, shall be required to approve a specific provision, to be included in the text, governing the relations that have arisen on the basis of the original decree.

6. The text, as amended and ratified, shall be promulgated by the Captains Regent as a new decree-law or delegated decree and published in accordance with Article 32. The preamble of the new decree shall indicate all the details of the original decree, the sources of law and - in the case of a decree-law - the reasons of necessity and urgency that originally motivated it.

7. If the decree is ratified without any amendments, the ratification by the Great and General Council shall consist in an ad-hoc decision to be published in the Official Bulletin.

8. Decree-laws and delegated decrees not ratified by the Great and General Council within three months of their enactment shall lapse. The declaration of lapse shall consist of an official communication by the Minister of Internal Affairs and published in the Official Bulletin.

9. Following the declaration of lapse, the Congress of State shall be required to immediately adopt a delegated decree, to be submitted for ratification during the first possible session of the Great and General Council, which shall govern exclusively the relations arising on the basis of the lapsed decree.

10. Decree-laws and delegated decrees that could not be ratified within three months of their enactment due to the dissolution of the Great and General Council may be "reiterated" for all legal purposes in the texts already published. In this case, the Congress of State shall adopt, by means of an ad-hoc decision, the "reiteration" decree-law or delegated decree, which shall be promulgated by the Captains Regent pursuant to Article 5 of Constitutional Law no. 185/2005 and Articles 8 and 9 of Qualified Law no. 186/2005.

11. "Reiterated" decrees and the respective "reiteration" decrees shall be ratified by the Great and General Council during the first Parliamentary session following the installation of the Congress of State of the new legislature, under penalty of forfeiture.

CHAPTER IV
ADMINISTRATIVE ACTS

Art.34
(Administrative acts of the Great and General Council)

1. The Great and General Council shall exercise the administrative powers provided for by law.
2. The Great and General Council shall adopt administrative acts by means of a "decision" entered in the minutes.
3. The administrative decisions adopted by the Great and General Council shall become effective when the State Institutional Secretariat transmits them to the interested parties, in certified copy, by registered mail, and to the offices of the Administration according to the procedures envisaged for the Administration. The notification may also take place before the conclusion of the minutes.

TITLE V
DISCUSSION

Art.35
(Topics under discussion and popular petitions)

1. The Great and General Council may only discuss and decide on topics on the agenda.
2. Unless otherwise provided for in this Qualified Law, the Captains Regent shall introduce topics for discussion in the order in which they are submitted.
3. The Bureau of the Great and General Council may put an item already rejected on the agenda of its next session, except where the law provides otherwise.
4. Popular petitions shall be discussed within the six-month mandate of the Captains Regent in which they are submitted. After the report of the Minister responsible for the specific matter, and after the opinion of the Township Council, if any, has been read, each member of the Council may take the floor, subject to registration with the Secretariat of the Great and General Council, on any popular petition submitted to the Great and General Council for its consideration. Each Parliamentary Group shall be allocated a speaking time of fifteen minutes. The total speaking time may be divided among the members of the Council belonging to the same Group. A member of the Council not belonging to a Parliamentary Group shall be allocated a speaking time of five minutes. For matters of particular importance, the Captains Regent may, in agreement with the Bureau of the Great and General Council, allocate a speaking time of five minutes to each member of the Council.

Art.36
(Procedure for the discussion of proposals)

1. For each item on the agenda, the Captains Regent shall:
a) Introduce the discussion of the item by reading it out as entered on the agenda;
b) Invite the members of the Council who wish to take the floor on the specific subject to register with the Secretariat of the Great and General Council before the start of the discussion;

c) Invite the speaker or the submitter to deliver his/her speech, which shall not exceed 15 minutes, on the subject under discussion, unless the Bureau of the Great and General Council decides to increase the time allowed;
d) Grant the right to speak to the registered members of the Council, who may waive or forfeit this right if they are absent from the Parliament Hall at the time the floor is given to them; the members of the Council may exchange their turns, provided that this is notified to the Captains Regent. Unless specifically provided otherwise, each member of the Council shall be allocated an eight-minute speaking time, increased by eight minutes only for the President of the Parliamentary Group or another member of the Council designated by the Group;
e) Subsequently, give the floor to the speaker for his/her reply for a maximum of eight minutes;
f) Grant those who have registered the right to a reply of up to four minutes;
g) Finally, invite the speaker to conclude the debate, for a maximum duration of five minutes.

2. The Ministers may also speak during the debate. In this case, the Minister of Internal Affairs, or another Minister delegated by him/her, shall register with the Secretariat of the Great and General Council those colleagues who wish to speak on the specific item. The Ministers may intervene within the limits and in the manner set out in the preceding paragraph. The provisions in Articles 37, 38, 39 and 40 below shall apply to the Ministers.

3. The members of the Council and the Ministers who are involved for any personal facts during the debate may ask to speak at any stage of the debate, for a maximum of two minutes. Any statement detrimental to the personal dignity of a member of the Council and a Minister to whom it is addressed shall be considered an "involvement for personal facts".

4. During the discussion of individual articles of a draft law, after the submitter or one of the submitters reads out the draft law, the procedure shall be as follows:

- The proposer or one of the proposers of the amendments shall take the floor for a maximum of five minutes to explain the proposed amendment in the cases and according to procedures provided for;
- Subsequently, the members of the Council and the Ministers may speak only once on the relevant article, including proposed amendments, for a total of four minutes;
- The submitter of the draft law may speak in reply for a total of five minutes;
- The proposer of the amendment may reply for a maximum of two minutes.

5. For matters of particular importance, the Captains Regent may, in agreement with the Bureau of the Great and General Council, increase the time-limits to double them.

6. The same rules shall apply to the discussion in the Permanent Parliamentary Commission, unless specifically provided otherwise. Any increase or decrease in speaking times shall be decided by the Commission by an absolute majority.

Art. 37
(Subject under discussion)

1. The member of the Council who has the floor shall speak strictly on the subject under discussion.

Art. 38
(Disclaimer)

1. The members of the Council shall not be prosecuted or tried for any opinion, comment or statement made in the Great and General Council and for any vote expressed in the exercise of their functions.

Art. 39
(Speeches by the members of the Council)

1. Those speaking in the Great and General Council and in the Commissions shall not deal with subjects not on the agenda, nor read speeches of absent members of the Council, nor speak on their behalf.
2. In the Great and General Council the speaker shall address the Captains Regent and the assembly from a standing position. During consideration of the articles of a draft law, the submitter of such draft law may be allowed to remain seated.
3. The speaker shall not be interrupted when speaking, except by the Captains Regent - in the Great and General Council - or by the President - in the Permanent Parliamentary Commissions - for points of order.
4. The member of the Council may file the written text of his/her speech with the State Institutional Secretariat and ask for it to be attached to the minutes.

Art. 40
(Conclusion of the debate)

1. At the end of the discussion, the Captains Regent shall, if necessary, put the subject dealt with to the vote, clearly indicating the voting terms, and, after declaring the item closed, shall move on to the subsequent items on the agenda.
2. During the vote, no member of the Council shall speak on the subject under discussion.

TITLE VI
CONTROL AND POLICY GUIDANCE INSTRUMENTS

CHAPTER I
QUESTIONS, INTERPELLATIONS, MOTIONS AND DECISIONS

Art. 41
(Questions and interpellations)

1. Questions shall consist of asking whether a fact is true, whether information has been acquired by the Congress of State, or is accurate, or of requesting data, documents and information.
2. Interpellations shall consist of asking the reasons for or intentions of the conduct of the Congress of State in matters concerning certain aspects of its policy, or whether the Congress of State has taken or intends to take certain measures on a specific subject.
3. Questions and interpellations shall be submitted in writing to the State Institutional Secretariat, which shall issue a receipt certifying the date of submission, or to the Secretariat of the Great and General Council during Parliamentary sittings.
4. Interpellations and questions may also be submitted by fax or e-mail. The State Institutional Secretariat shall transmit - in the same manners - to the member of the Council submitting the question or interpellation a receipt certifying the relevant filing.

Art. 42
(Motions)

1. The purpose of motions shall be to promote discussion in the Great and General Council on administrative or political matters. The Great and General Council may be called upon to express its opinions on the matters discussed by voting on a final "decision".
2. The decision approved following a motion shall not be a legislative act, but a control and policy guidance instrument. It shall politically commit the Congress of State or any other competent bodies to implementing the measures approved through the decision, taking into account the State's financial resources.

Art. 43
(Submission of motions)

1. If a member of the Council submitting an interpellation is not satisfied with the answer received, an interpellation may turn into a motion, or a motion may be submitted directly by at least three members of the Council, or by a President of a Parliamentary Group.
2. Motions may also be submitted by fax or e-mail. The State Institutional Secretariat shall transmit to the member of the Council submitting the motion - in the same manners - a receipt certifying the relevant filing.

Art. 44
(Discussion of questions, interpellations and motions)

1. Questions and interpellations shall be answered no later than 30 days after they have been submitted, or within a predetermined time-limit following agreement between the member of the Council submitting the question or interpellation and the relevant addressee, unless the member of the Council submitting the question or interpellation requests a written answer, which shall be sent within 30 days of submission. It shall not be possible to request both a written and oral answer to the same question and/or interpellation. The member of the Council submitting the question/interpellation shall clearly indicate the form of the answer at the bottom of the question/interpellation. If this is not specified, the answer shall be given orally.
2. Oral answers shall be given in the Parliament Hall without the requirement of a quorum and in accordance with an order laid down in advance by the Bureau of the Great and General Council. Such order shall be posted, together with the full texts of questions and interpellations, on the Great and General Council's website. Questions and interpellations shall be answered by a member of the Congress of State and in the presence of the members of the Council submitting the questions or interpellations. Before the answer, the Captains Regent shall read out the summary title of the question or interpellation.
3. If they receive an oral answer, the members of the Council submitting a question or interpellation shall be entitled to reply for no more than five minutes, in order to state the reasons for their satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the answer received.
4. The discussion of individual motions shall be established by a separate item on the agenda of the Great and General Council, which shall be dealt with within six months of submission.

Art. 45
(Motion of no confidence)

1. Pursuant to Article 9 of Constitutional Law no. 183/2005, the motion of no confidence against the Congress of State or an individual Minister shall be motivated and submitted in writing to the Captains Regent, signed by at least one-fifth of the members of the Great and General Council, and

discussed no earlier than three days and no later than the seventh day from the date of its filing. The Captains Regent shall promptly summon the Bureau of the Great and General Council in order to convene the Parliamentary sitting to discuss the motion.

2. At the end of the debate, the motion of no confidence shall be voted by an open roll-call vote and be approved by an absolute majority.

3. Neither split vote nor the submission of decisions shall be permitted.

4. A motion of no confidence against the Congress of State or an individual Minister shall not be submitted until six months have elapsed since the relevant appointment.

5. A motion of no confidence, whether against the Congress of State or an individual Minister, shall not be resubmitted on the same grounds or facts as a rejected motion of no confidence, unless there are new elements.

6. When accepting motions, the Captains Regent shall assess, together with the Secretariat of the Great and General Council, whether the motions, due to their content, are covered by the provisions of paragraphs 4 and 5.

7. In the event of a motion of no confidence being admitted, and in any case of acknowledged resignation of the Congress of State, all draft laws, interpellations and questions submitted by the Congress of State shall lapse.

Art.46

(Decisions)

1. When dealing with the item on communications, or matters on the agenda and during the relevant discussion, any member of the Council may request, through the submission of a specific decision, that the Great and General Council express its opinion and indicate the commitments undertaken or to be undertaken with regard to the matter raised, unless it is possible to discuss such matter by any other means provided for by this Qualified Law.

2. After consulting the Presidents of the Parliamentary Groups, and taking into account the nature and urgency of the matter, the Captains Regent may put the decision to the vote during the current or the following Parliamentary session.

3. Before putting the decision to the vote, the Captains Regent shall allocate ten minutes to the submitter to report thereon, five minutes to the Minister responsible for the matter, and five minutes to each Parliamentary Group or List represented in the Great and General Council to make explanations of vote.

4. Individual members of the Council may make dissenting statements, for which the time limits set out in the previous paragraph shall apply.

5. The approval of a decision shall have the effects referred to in Article 42, paragraph 2.

Art. 47

(Verification of the implementation of decisions adopted by the Great and General Council)

1. The Captains Regent may, *ex officio* or at the request of twelve members of the Council, ask the Congress of State, or individual Ministers for matters falling within their competence, to report on the implementation of commitments undertaken through decisions.

2. The Congress of State and the individual Ministers shall be required to submit the report in writing within twenty days, or when dealing with the item on communications during the first possible session of the Great and General Council.

CHAPTER II
POWERS OF ENQUIRY OF THE GREAT AND GENERAL COUNCIL

Art. 48
(Commissions of Inquiry - Establishment - Installation)

1. Within the framework of the control activity recognised to the Great and General Council by the Declaration on the Citizens' Rights, it may order that inquiries be conducted into matters of public interest.
2. To this end, the Great and General Council may, through an ad hoc law, establish Parliamentary Commissions ensuring:
- The presence of all Groups and Lists represented in the Great and General Council;
- That the majority in the Great and General Council is granted a majority in the Commission of at least half plus one of their members;
- The observance of the proportion of Groups in so far as this is compatible with the preceding criteria.

3. The law establishing the Commission of Inquiry shall indicate the tasks and the composition of the Commission and the time-limit within which it shall conclude its works, the time-limit for the submission of concluding reports, which in any case shall not exceed thirty days from the conclusion of the works, and the time-limit for the submission of any periodic reports to the Great and General Council. The extension of these time-limits shall only be provided for by law.
4. After its submission for first reading, the draft law establishing a Commission of Inquiry shall be put on the agenda of the first possible session of the Great and General Council for the second reading. The urgency procedure may be requested.
5. Within ten days of its appointment, the Commission shall be installed by the Captains Regent. At its inaugural meeting, the Commission shall appoint its President and Vice-President by a two-thirds majority of its members. If the necessary quorum is not reached in the first three votes, the Commission shall vote by an absolute majority, with the appointment of the Vice-President being reserved for the opposition Parliamentary Groups. At its inaugural meeting, the Commission shall also establish the usual venue for its works. The Great and General Council shall be informed of the choice of the venue at its first possible meeting. The minute-taking and secretariat functions shall be performed by the State Institutional Secretariat.

Art. 49
(Powers)

1. The Commission of Inquiry shall be entrusted with the powers exercised by the judicial authority at the preliminary investigation stage and shall therefore carry out investigations and examinations with the same powers and limitations. It may order inspections and personal and house searches, seizures, telephone tapping, expert opinions, surveys, examination of witnesses and forced examination of reluctant witnesses, in accordance with the rules of criminal procedure in force.
2. Without prejudice to the powers of the judicial authority, the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure shall apply to hearings before the Commission, insofar as they are compatible.
3. The provisions in force shall apply to State, official and professional secrets.
4. Secrecy shall always be enforceable between the lawyer and the party in the proceedings within the scope of the mandate.
5. The agents and officers of the judicial police shall not be required to disclose to the Commission the names of those who have provided information.

6. The Commission may obtain, also by way of derogation from the prohibition laid down in the rules of criminal procedure, copies of acts or documents relating to proceedings, investigations or inquiries from the judicial authority or other investigative bodies, even if they are covered by the secrecy to be maintained during preliminary investigations. The Commission shall ensure that secrecy be maintained as long as the acts and documents transmitted are subject to the secrecy requirement.
7. If the judicial authority, for investigative reasons, considers that it cannot derogate from the secrecy maintained during preliminary investigations, it shall issue a reasoned decree of rejection. When these reasons cease to exist, the judicial authority shall transmit the requested acts and documents.
8. The Commission shall establish which acts and documents shall not be disclosed, including in connection with other ongoing investigations or inquiries.
9. The Commission may obtain from the bodies and offices of the Public Administration copies of acts and documents held, drafted or otherwise acquired by them on matters relating to the purposes of the Commission.

Art.50
(Secrecy requirement)

1. The members of the Commission, officials and staff providing administrative support to the Commission and all other persons who cooperate with the Commission or who carry out or take part in investigative acts or who become aware of such acts for reasons pertaining to their office or service shall be subject to secrecy maintained during preliminary investigations.
2. Unless the fact constitutes a more serious offence, the violation of such secrecy shall be punished in accordance with Article 377 of the Criminal Code.
3. Unless the fact constitutes a more serious offence, the same punishments shall apply to anyone who discloses, in whole or in part, even in summary or as information, acts and documents pertaining to the inquiry procedure and the disclosure of which has been prohibited.

Art. 51
(Functioning)

1. The activity and functioning of the Commission shall be governed by rules of procedure approved by the Commission prior to the initiation of the inquiry activity.
2. The Commission shall meet in secret session.
3. The Commission may resort to the agents and officers of the judicial police and to any cooperation it deems necessary for the purposes of appropriate coordination with the judicial and police bodies. The Commission may also avail itself of the contribution of a magistrate, authorised, with his/her consent, by the Judicial Council in ordinary session, at the request of the President of the Commission.
4. To fulfil its functions, the Commission shall resort to the staff of the State Institutional Secretariat.
5. The expenses for the functioning of the Commission shall be borne by the Autonomous Fund of the Great and General Council.

Art. 52
(Final reports - Fulfilment of subsequent requirements)

1. The final reports of the Commissions of Inquiry shall contain the information acquired, an assessment of the facts established and any proposals.

2. They shall be delivered to the Captains Regent in sealed envelopes, which shall be signed by all members of the Commission who have signed the reports. At the same time, all documents drawn up by the Commission shall also be delivered to the Captains Regent in sealed boxes signed by all members.
3. The final reports shall be discussed in the Great and General Council at the first possible session and copies thereof shall be distributed to all members of the Council at least three days before the discussion.
4. All material pertaining to the Commission shall be kept in the archives of the State Institutional Secretariat.
5. Following the discussion of the final reports of the Commission, the Great and General Council shall have the duty to refer to the judicial authority all the documents drafted by the Commission, as well as the final reports, if they reveal alleged criminal facts.

TITLE VII
VOTING

Art.53
(Voting procedures)

1. The Great and General Council shall adopt its decisions, as a rule, by open vote, unless otherwise specified by law. Appointments shall always be excluded from open voting. Draft laws relating to matters of high ethical content and concerning fundamental human rights, as well as acts relating to specific persons, may be excluded from open voting by a two-thirds majority decision of the Bureau of the Great and General Council.
2. An open vote shall be taken in the cases and in the manner set out below:
a) By means of an electronic mechanism indicating the voting choice of each member of the Council;
b) By sitting and standing: in this case, the Captains Regent shall ask the members of the Council to express their opinion on the proposal to be voted on by standing up, or by a show of hands; the result shall be proclaimed after the count, to be carried out by the Secretariat of the Great and General Council;
c) By roll-call in the cases expressly provided for by law: in this case, the Secretariat of the Great and General Council, at the request of the Captains Regent, shall invite the individual members of the Council who are present to express their opinion on the proposal to be voted on.
3. A secret vote shall be taken in the cases and in the manner set out below:
- By means of an electronic mechanism or by balls: the member of the Council shall push the appropriate button or place a black or white ball in the ballot box, depending on whether or not he/she intends to approve the proposal;
- By ballot paper: the Captains Regent shall adopt this method in all cases of appointments entrusted to the Great and General Council. In this case, the members of the Council shall write the name voted for on the ballot paper in a clear and intelligible manner.
4. The members of the Council may express approval, disapproval or abstention.
5. Before the final vote on draft laws and before voting on decisions, each Parliamentary Group or List shall be entitled to make explanations of vote lasting a maximum of ten minutes. In the event that the Mixed Group is composed of members of the Council belonging both to the majority and the opposition, one representative of each side may take the floor for a maximum of five minutes. Individual members of the Council may make dissenting statements, for which the same time-limits shall apply.

6. Ministers shall not be allowed to make explanations of vote. Moreover, neither the members of the Council nor the Ministers shall be allowed to make explanations of vote on articles of and amendments to a draft law.
7. It shall be prohibited to say voting instructions out loud during voting.

Art.54
(Voting result)

1. At the end of the vote, the Secretariat of the Great and General Council shall verify the result by counting the number of members of the Council who are present, those voting, votes in favour, votes against and the number of abstentions or blank or invalid ballots.
2. The result of the vote shall be recorded by the Secretariat of the Great and General Council on a special form, signed by the members of the Secretariat, and shall be proclaimed by the Captains Regent.
3. Abstentions shall not be counted in the number of voters.
4. Non-completed or invalid ballots shall be regarded as votes against where the legal provisions explicitly provide for a specific proposal to be considered and voted on.

Art. 55
(Duty to abstain)

1. The members of the Council who have a personal and direct interest in a subject put on the vote shall have the duty to abstain from voting and from the discussion.
2. The Bureau of the Great and General Council may adopt an appropriate code of conduct for cases covered by the previous paragraph.
2 *bis*. Failure to comply with the provisions of the code of conduct shall result in the imposition of the sanctions provided for therein.

Art. 56
(Approval of the proposal)

1. Any proposal shall be deemed to have been approved if it obtains the favourable vote of a simple majority, except in cases where the law provides for qualified majorities.
2. Qualified majorities shall be those calculated on the number of those entitled to vote:
a) Absolute majority: half plus one of those entitled to vote;
b) Qualified majority: two thirds of those entitled to vote.

Art. 57
(Tied vote and non-adoption of articles and amendments)

1. In the event of a tied vote, the Great and General Council shall not decide on the proposal, and the Bureau of the Great and General Council shall postpone the decision to another sitting.
2. The non-approval of an article of a draft law or of an amendment shall not prevent the continuation of the consideration of the articles and the final approval of the whole text. The proposer may decide whether to continue with the consideration or to interrupt it and withdraw the draft law.

TITLE VIII
MINUTES

Art. 58
(Minutes of the Great and General Council)

1. The State Institutional Secretariat shall draw up the minutes of the sittings of the Great and General Council, which shall list the acts, measures and decisions adopted and the results of the votes, indicating the subject of the discussions and the names of the members of the Council and the Ministers who took part in the debate.
2. A copy of the summary minutes shall be sent by e-mail to all members of the Council, together with the notice of the session of the Great and General Council following the one to which the minutes refer. The minutes shall be approved at the opening of such session. Subsequently, the approved minutes shall be posted on the website of the Great and General Council.
3. The minutes shall be signed by the Captains Regent and the Secretariat of the Great and General Council. The Secretariat of the Great and General Council shall also sign all annexes thereto.
4. For each sitting, the State Institutional Secretariat shall catalogue and keep the documents relating to the subjects dealt with.

Art.59
(Recording of the sittings of the Great and General Council)

1. Each phase of the sittings of the Great and General Council and the Permanent Parliamentary Commissions shall be recorded by appropriate computerised means. The recordings shall be collected, catalogued, stored and kept by the State Institutional Secretariat.

Art.60
(Consultation of recordings)

1. The recordings referred to in Article 59 shall be published, with the exception of secret sittings, on the website of the Great and General Council, or on another more suitable Internet platform, no later than thirty days after the Parliamentary session to which they refer.
1 *bis*. A physical copy of the recordings shall be sent by the State Institutional Secretariat to the State Archive and the State Library at the same time as they are published on the Internet.
2. Each member of the Council shall be entitled to obtain from the State Institutional Secretariat full audio or transcribed extracts of parts of the sittings of the Great and General Council and the Commissions, with the exception of confidential sittings and decisions.
3. The Judicial Authority may obtain extracts of the Parliamentary sittings if they involve acts of judicial proceedings.
4. Other requests for consultation of recordings of Parliamentary sittings, with the exception of confidential sittings and decisions, shall be authorised by the Bureau of the Great and General Council. Audio recordings of Parliamentary sittings shall be consulted through the procedures indicated by the Bureau of the Great and General Council.

Art. 61
(Clerical errors)

1. In case of clerical errors in the text of laws or decrees, the Minister of Internal Affairs shall, after informing the Captains Regent, issue a corrigendum, to be published in the same manner as indicated in Article 32.

2. In case of a discrepancy with the minutes or an error in the text of decisions already notified, the State Institutional Secretariat shall make the necessary correction, to be notified in the same manner as the original decision.

TITLE IX
BROADCASTING OF THE WORKS OF THE GREAT AND GENERAL COUNCIL AND OF COMMISSIONS

Art.62
(Broadcasting of the works of the Great and General Council)

1. The public sittings of the Great and General Council shall be fully broadcast live on the radio and streamed live on the website of the Great and General Council. The public sittings of the Permanent Parliamentary Commissions shall be streamed live on the website of the Great and General Council.

1 *bis*. At the request of at least three members of the relevant Permanent Parliamentary Commission, the public sittings of that Commission, or the discussion of individual items on the agenda deemed to be of particular institutional, political or social significance, shall also be broadcast live on the radio. The request shall be submitted in writing to the President of the Commission and to the State Institutional Secretariat at least three days before the Commission's sitting or session, in order to allow for the necessary technical arrangements to be made with the relevant radio broadcaster. In cases where an urgent meeting is convened, the request shall be submitted promptly and, in any event, no later than twenty-four hours before the start of the sitting, subject to the technical and organisational requirements of the broadcast. The exclusion from broadcasting of sittings, or parts thereof, declared to be secret in accordance with this Qualified Law shall remain unaffected.

2. The Bureau of the Great and General Council may also have certain parts of the sittings pre-recorded and broadcast on television at times to be determined by the Bureau of the Great and General Council, in agreement with the State television broadcasting company, on exceptional occasions and for particular subjects of major institutional importance. The Bureau of the Great and General Council may also resort to other broadcasting means.

3. Access to the Parliament Hall by broadcasters other than the State broadcasting company for television filming during the sittings of the Great and General Council or the Permanent Parliamentary Commissions shall be authorised by the Bureau of the Great and General Council. When granting the authorisation, the Bureau of the Great and General Council shall also indicate the manner and timing of filming. Access by photographers shall also be authorised.

4. It shall always be possible for journalists and photographers from newspapers to take photographs and video recordings from the gallery, subject to the issue of a pass by the State Institutional Secretariat.

Art. 63
(Internet website)

1. The website of the Great and General Council, managed by the State Institutional Secretariat, shall contain institutional information concerning the Great and General Council, the Permanent Parliamentary Commissions and the Council of the Twelve, as well as the legislation governing the composition and functioning of these bodies; moreover it shall include:

- The notice of sittings of the Great and General Council, the Permanent Parliamentary Commissions and the Council of the Twelve, as well as their agendas;

- All initiatives, requests and proposals submitted to the consideration of the bodies referred to in the previous point with the relevant procedure, preliminary documents, if any, and decisions;
- The minutes of the aforementioned bodies, drawn up in accordance with this Qualified Law or other specific laws.

2. The posting on the website of what indicated in the preceding paragraph - with the exception of the notices of sittings - shall constitute formal communication to the members of the Council.
3. The Bureau of the Great and General Council may order the inclusion of additional information.

TITLE X
MAINTENANCE OF ORDER DURING THE SITTINGS OF THE GREAT AND GENERAL COUNCIL AND THE COMMISSIONS

Art. 64
(Maintenance of order in the Great and General Council)

1. The Captains Regent shall be responsible for maintaining order in the Parliament Hall.
2. The Guards of the Great and General Council shall not enter the Parliament Hall except by order of the Captains Regent and after the sitting has been declared suspended or concluded.

Art. 65
(Behaviour to be adopted in the Parliament Hall)

1. In the Parliament Hall, the members of the Council, the Ministers and all those admitted shall behave with dignity and in a way that is appropriate for this institutional venue. It shall be prohibited to adopt behaviours or wear clothing that do not reflect the decorum of the Great and General Council.
2. It shall be prohibited to utter unseemly words or to disturb, through one's own conduct, the freedom of discussion or the order of the sitting.
3. The Bureau of the Great and General Council may adopt regulations implementing the provisions of this Article.

Art. 66
(Calls to order)

1. If a member of the Council or a Minister violates the provisions of the preceding Article, the Captains Regent shall call him/her to order.
2 If the Captains Regent call a member of the Council or a Minister to order several times during the same sitting, or if a member of the Council or a Minister, irrespective of previous calls, utters offensive remarks, causes turmoil or disorder in the Hall, the Captains Regent may order the exclusion of the member of the Council or Minister from the Hall, even for the remainder of the sitting or for several sittings.

Art. 67
(Suspension of the sitting)

1. If turmoil breaks out in the Hall and calls for order are unsuccessful, the Captains Regent shall suspend the sitting. Once the sitting is resumed, if the turmoil continues, the Captains Regent shall declare the sitting closed.

Art.68

(Persons admitted to the Parliament Hall)

1. In addition to the members of the Council and the Ministers, also the employees of the State Institutional Secretariat shall be admitted to the Parliament Hall during the sittings of the Great and General Council. During the consideration of decree-laws and delegated decrees submitted for ratification, and during the second reading of draft laws not submitted for consideration in the Permanent Parliamentary Commission, also officials and experts of the Ministries and/or officials and experts of the Public Administration may be admitted to the Parliament Hall, subject to prior notification to the Captains Regent, in order to assist the proposing Minister or otherwise reporting on the relevant matter.

1 *bis*. After notifying the Captains Regent thereof, the speaker designated by the Committee promoting a draft law of popular initiative under Article 28 shall also be admitted to the Parliament Hall.

2. The public may attend the works of the Great and General Council from the gallery, provided they adopt a proper behaviour and remain silent. This access shall be governed by ad hoc regulations.

3. The Captains Regent may remove those who, from the gallery, disturb the works of the Great and General Council with their behaviour.

TITLE XI
FEES AND PREROGATIVES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Art. 69

(Fees paid to the members of the Council)

1. The payment of fees to the members of the Great and General Council for the performance of their institutional functions shall respect the principle of equal treatment, regardless of the social and employment status of each member of the Council.

2. The amount of the fees and the way in which they are paid shall be decided by the Bureau of the Great and General Council through a specific regulation, which shall be approved by a two-thirds majority.

Art. 70

(Other prerogatives of the members of the Council - Diplomatic Protocol)

1. All members of the Council shall be entitled:

a) To be issued an identification card by the State Institutional Secretariat, which shall be valid for the entire legislature;
b) To be greeted by the Police Forces and all members of the Republic's Military Corps;
c) To freely use all State car parks on the occasion of meetings of institutional bodies of which they are a member.

2. The members of the Council shall be entitled to attend State ceremonies and institutional events. The forms and manner of participation shall be defined by a specific regulation drawn up by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Diplomatic Protocol, after consulting the Bureau of the Great and General Council.

TITLE XII
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Art. 71
(Administrative functions)

1. The functions of institutional, technical, legal and administrative support to the Great and General Council shall be performed by the State Institutional Secretariat.

Art. 72
(Drafting of regulations)

1. The Bureau of the Great and General Council may draw up appropriate regulations on matters entrusted to it by this Qualified Law, by other legislative provisions and in general on matters falling within its competence.

TITLE XIII
PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONS

CHAPTER I
FUNCTIONS, ESTABLISHMENT AND BODIES OF THE PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONS

Art. 73
(Permanent Parliamentary Commissions. Subjects falling within their competence)

1. The following Permanent Parliamentary Commissions shall be hereby established to deal with the subjects listed hereunder for each of them:

I Constitutional and Institutional Affairs; Public Administration; Internal Affairs, Civil Protection, Relations with the Township Councils; Justice; Education, Culture, Cultural Goods, University and Scientific Research;

II Foreign Affairs, Emigration and Immigration, Security and Public Order, Information;

III Finance, Budget and Planning; Handicraft, Industry, Trade; Tourism, Services, Transport and Telecommunications, Labour and Cooperation;

IV Hygiene and Health, Pensions and Social Security, Social Policies, Sports; Territory, Environment and Agriculture.

2. At the beginning of each legislature, a different allocation of subjects among the Commissions referred to in paragraph 1 may be made by Regency Decree.

3. The Great and General Council may, by a two-thirds majority, always decide to appoint Special Commissions, composed in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 75.

Art.74
(Functions)

1. The Permanent Parliamentary Commissions shall meet:

a) In their reporting function, for the consideration and approval in the first reading of draft laws, pursuant to Article 27, paragraph 5, and Article 29, paragraph 5;

b) In their drafting function, for the consideration and approval of the articles of draft laws to be submitted to the Great and General Council only for final approval, pursuant to Article 27, paragraph 7, and Article 29, paragraph 4;
c) In their advisory function, to express opinions on draft laws or subjects entrusted to other Commissions;
d) In their deciding function, for the consideration of motions deriving from the transformation of interpellations.

2. The Commissions shall also meet to hear and discuss communications from the Congress of State, as well as to perform policy guidance, control and information functions, and for hearings on matters falling within their competence.

Art.75

(Composition, appointment, duration)

1. At the beginning of the legislature and in any case following the installation of a new Government, each List represented in the Great and General Council shall appoint its members to the Permanent Parliamentary Commissions referred to in Article 73. The renewal of the composition of the Commissions following a Government crisis may be put on the agenda of the Parliamentary session in which the new Government programme is discussed and voted on and the new Congress of State is appointed.

2. The Commissions shall be composed of fifteen members of the Council appointed in order to ensure:

a) The presence of all Lists represented in the Great and General Council;
b) That the majority in the Great and General Council is granted a majority in the Commissions of at least half plus one of their members;
c) The observance of the proportion of Groups in so far as this is compatible with the criteria set out in letters a) and b) above, and, for the Mixed Group, only if it consists of at least three members of the Council.

The Groups and Lists represented in the Great and General Council may appoint the same member of the Council to more than one Commission.

3. In order to ensure compliance with the principles and criteria referred to in letters a), b) and c) of the preceding paragraph, the composition of the Commissions shall be updated by Regency Decree, after hearing the Bureau of the Great and General Council.

4. Throughout their mandate, the Captains Regent shall not be members of the Commissions to which they have been appointed and shall be replaced by other members of the Council designated by the Groups or Lists to which they belong.

5. The status of member of the Congress of State shall be incompatible with that of member of the Permanent Parliamentary Commissions.

6. The Great and General Council shall appoint the members of the Commissions by acknowledging the designations made by the Groups and Lists.

7. The Commissions shall remain in office for the entire legislature, except as provided for in paragraph 1.

8. At the end of the mandate as Captain Regent, the member of the Council shall resume his/her office within the Commissions of which he/she was a member prior to being elected Captain Regent.

Art.75-*bis*

(Alternate members of the Permanent Parliamentary Commissions)

1. In order to ensure that the Parliamentary Groups and the Lists represented in the Great and General Council continue to participate fully in the works of the Permanent Parliamentary Commissions, each Parliamentary Group or List may appoint one alternate member for each

Permanent Parliamentary Commission in which it is represented. Alternate members shall be appointed in the same manner as full members.

2. An alternate member shall replace a full member belonging to the same Parliamentary Group or List only in the event of the absence or temporary impediment of said full member, and solely for the sitting or session of the Commission for which the replacement has been communicated.

3. This communication shall be made before the start of the sitting, prior to the verification of the quorum, by means of a roll call.

4. For the duration of the replacement, the alternate member shall exercise the same rights as a full member, including the right to speak and to vote, and shall be counted for the purposes of the validity of the sitting and of votes.

5. The replacement shall be recorded in the minutes of the sitting.

Art. 76

(Presidency)

1. Permanent Parliamentary Commissions shall elect their President and Vice President at their inaugural meeting convened by the Captains Regent. Until the election of the President, his/her functions shall be temporarily performed by the most senior member of the Council or, in case of equal seniority, by the oldest one.

2. Permanent Parliamentary Commissions shall resort to the State Institutional Secretariat in the performance of their duties.

Art. 77

(Election of the President)

1 The member of the Council who obtains two thirds of the votes, by secret ballot, of the members of the Commission shall be elected President. If, after two ballots, no one reaches this majority, a runoff shall be held, by secret ballot, between the two members of the Council, who have obtained the highest number of votes. In the event of a tie, the most senior member of the Council shall be proclaimed elected and, in the event of equal seniority, the oldest member of the Council.

2. The election of the Vice President shall be carried out in accordance with paragraph 1.

3. The same provisions shall apply to supplementary elections. In the event that a new President is to be appointed, the Commission shall be convened by the Vice President or, in case of absence or impediment, by the most senior member of the Commission and, in case of equal seniority, by the oldest one. The sitting shall be temporarily presided over according to the same procedures.

Art. 78

(Functions of the President and Vice President)

1. The President shall represent, convene and preside over the Commission, prepare its agenda, open and close sittings and sessions, and direct the debate within the Commission.

2. The President shall verify the results of the votes and the drafting of the minutes of the sittings.

3. The Vice President shall replace the President in case of absence or impediment.

CHAPTER II
CONVENING, SITTINGS AND MINUTES

Art. 79
(Convening)

1. Permanent Parliamentary Commissions shall be convened for their installation by the Captains Regent. During this sitting, the bodies referred to in Article 76 shall be appointed. Subsequently, the Commissions shall be convened by the President or, in case of impediment, by the Vice President, on the basis of an ordinary schedule, either by individual sitting or by sessions, in accordance with Article 20.
2. The notice of the meeting shall be drawn up by the State Institutional Secretariat upon instruction of the President, and shall indicate the day of the sitting, or the days of the session, with the relevant time, and the agenda.
3. The notice of the meeting shall be sent by e-mail to all members of the Council - including those who are not members of the Commission - at least five days before the sitting or session.
4. In cases of urgency, which shall be duly motivated, the notice of the meeting shall be sent to the members of the Council up to the day before the sitting or session.

Art. 80
(Extraordinary sittings)

1. Extraordinary sittings of a Permanent Parliamentary Commission shall be convened for the discussion of specific topics by the President, when requested by the Captains Regent or the Congress of State or by one third of the members of the Commission.
2. If the President fails to convene an extraordinary sitting as required under the preceding paragraph, the Commission shall be convened directly by the Captains Regent.
3. In case of necessity and urgency, sittings or sessions not included in the ordinary schedule may be convened.

Art. 81
(Sessions. Deferral)

1. The works of the Permanent Parliamentary Commissions may be organised by sessions, with the continuation of the agenda indicated in the notice of the meeting.
2. If the works of a Commission are carried out pursuant to the preceding paragraph, Article 20 shall apply.

Art. 82
(Coordination)

1. The Captains Regent shall periodically convene the Presidents of the Permanent Parliamentary Commissions in order to coordinate their works with the activity of the Great and General Council. These meetings shall be attended by a member of the Congress of State.

Art. 83
(Validity of the sittings)

1. The sittings of the Permanent Parliamentary Commissions shall be valid when at least the majority of their members are present.

2. The quorum shall be verified by the President at the beginning of the sitting by roll call. Before the adoption of any decision, any member may request a verification of the quorum.
3. If it is established that there is no quorum, the President shall suspend the sitting for a maximum of one hour. If there is still no quorum when the sitting is resumed, the President shall close the sitting and convene a subsequent one, by indicating the date and time and with the same agenda as the sitting that was closed. The new sitting shall be convened without any further formalities.

Art. 84
(Attendance recording)

1. The President of the Commission shall take note of the members of the Council present, of those who enter after the beginning or resumption of works and of those who leave the Parliament Hall.
2. A member of the Council who enters the Parliament Hall after the beginning of the sitting, or after the verification of the quorum pursuant to Article 83, shall notify the President thereof and request the magnetic card that enables him/her to access the microphone system and electronic voting from his/her seat.
3. A member of the Council who leaves the Parliament Hall shall notify the President thereof and shall deliver his/her magnetic card.
4. Also for the purpose of correctly calculating the fee to be paid for serving as member of a Commission, the President shall be entrusted with the task of verifying the actual presence in the Parliament Hall of the members of the Council who are registered on the roll call form.
5. For the purposes of the calculation referred to in paragraph 4 above, a member of the Council who enters the Parliament Hall late with respect to the time of roll call shall have his/her attendance fee reduced by 10% every thirty minutes starting from the fifteenth minute of delay.
6. For the purposes of the calculation referred to in paragraph 4 above, the attendance fee shall be reduced by 10% every thirty minutes in case a member of the Council leaves the Parliament Hall and the Government Building before the end of the sitting.
7. The members of the Council who, not having notified their absence in accordance with paragraph 3, do not return to the Parliament Hall within five minutes of verifying the presence of the members of the Council as required under Article 21, paragraph 3, shall be deemed to be absent with no reason. In this case, since the President has not been notified as provided for in paragraph 2 above, the member of the Council who is absent with no reason shall not be paid the entire attendance fee for that sitting.

Art. 85
(Voting)

1. Voting in the Permanent Parliamentary Commissions shall take place in accordance with Title VII.

Art. 86
(Minutes of the sittings)

1. Minutes are drawn up of each sitting of the Commissions. The President shall oversee the drafting of the minutes.
2. The provisions of Title VIII shall apply to the drafting of the minutes and in any case to this matter.

Art. 87
(Publicity of the sittings)

1. The sittings of the Permanent Parliamentary Commissions shall be public, in accordance with Article 68, paragraph 2.
2. Items requiring confidentiality may be dealt with in secret session, subject to a decision by the President, after hearing the members of the Commission, one representing each Parliamentary Group and List.
3. The Commission may always decide, by a two-thirds majority, that an item already on the agenda in open session be dealt with in a secret session.
4. In case of secret session, each member of the Commission, and the members of the Council present who are not members of the Commission, shall be bound by secrecy as to the subject of that sitting.
5. In addition to the members of the Council and the Ministers, employees of the State Institutional Secretariat, as well as officials and technical experts of the Ministries and/or officials, consultants and technical experts of the Public Administration shall be admitted to the Parliament Hall during the sittings of the Commissions in order to assist the proposing Minister or otherwise reporting on the relevant matter.

CHAPTER III
RELATIONS OF THE PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONS WITH THE CAPTAINS REGENT AND THE CONGRESS OF STATE

Art. 88
(Participation of the Captains Regent and the Congress of State in the works of the Commissions)

1. The Captains Regent and the members of the Congress of State shall be entitled to attend the sittings of the Permanent Parliamentary Commissions.
2. The Captains Regent and the members of the Congress of State shall be entitled to take the floor whenever they deem it appropriate. The President of a Commission shall grant the members of the Congress of State the right to speak, upon request, as soon as the agenda so permits.
3. The members of the Congress of State shall be obliged to attend the sittings of the Commissions whenever the latter so request. In case of impediment, they may delegate another member of the Congress of State.
4. Upon request of the Commission or of the President, and for specific items on the agenda, officials and technical experts of the Public Administration may attend the meetings of the Commissions; technical and IT facilities may also be provided if they are necessary for the discussion of the items on the agenda.
5. When the Ministers are the speakers for an item on the agenda, they may be assisted by officials and technical experts from the Public Administration, after notifying the President thereof.

Art. 89
(Communications)

1. At the beginning of each sitting or session of the Permanent Parliamentary Commissions, the Captains Regent, the President of the Commission, the members of the Congress of State and the members of the Council who are members of the Commission shall make such communications as they deem appropriate or which are due by law, within a maximum of eight minutes each. After

consulting the representatives of the Parliamentary Groups present in the Commission, the President may grant more time for particularly important communications.

Art. 90
(Agenda)

1. Each Permanent Parliamentary Commission may only deal with the items on the agenda of the sitting or session and following their order.
2. Upon proposal of the President, each Commission, on its own initiative or whenever so requested by the Captains Regent or the Congress of State or a member of the Commission, may decide to reverse the order of the items on the agenda, or, in case of urgency, to include items not on the agenda.
3. The decision referred to in paragraph 2 shall be adopted by a vote by sitting and standing, by two-thirds majority of those present. No more than one member of the Commission in favour and one against shall be entitled to speak for an explanation of vote for a maximum of five minutes each.
4. The proposer may decide to interrupt the consideration of an item on the agenda or to withdraw it. The Commission shall take note thereof.
5. The members of the Commission may request the deferral or suspension of the consideration of an item on the agenda. The Commission shall decide on such a request by a two-thirds majority of those present.

CHAPTER IV
ASSIGNMENTS AND OPINIONS

Art. 91
(Assignment of draft laws and topics to the Commissions)

1. The Captains Regent shall indicate to which of the competent Permanent Parliamentary Commissions the draft laws on the agenda of the Great and General Council shall be assigned, once the latter has decided in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5 of Article 29. In addition, the Captains Regent shall assign to the competent Permanent Parliamentary Commissions the other topics that these Commissions are called upon to consider or on which they are called upon to decide in accordance with this Qualified Law, and shall inform the Great and General Council thereof.
2. In any case, the Great and General Council may always decide, by a majority of those present, to assign draft laws and topics to a different Commission.
3. After the completion of the procedure envisaged for the consideration and approval of a draft law under paragraphs 4 and 5 of Article 29, the Captains Regent shall instruct that the draft law be transmitted to the competent Commission for its consideration and possible approval, according to the relevant procedures.
4. If they deem it appropriate, the Captains Regent, after consulting the Bureau of the Great and General Council, may order that a draft law be assigned to more than one Commission for its joint consideration and the adoption of a common decision. Joint Commissions shall be usually presided over by the oldest of the Commissions' Presidents.
5. The consideration of the articles of the draft law by the Commission cannot start before five days have elapsed from the date of assignment of the draft law, unless otherwise decided by the Bureau of the Great and General Council.
6. For the purpose of carrying out their functions, the members of the Commissions shall have access to all acts and decisions of the Congress of State, of the other Commissions and of any other public body or entity, except for confidential ones.

Art. 92

(Conflicts of competence)

1. If the Permanent Parliamentary Commission to which a draft law or a topic has been assigned deems to be incompetent, it shall inform the Captains Regent thereof. After hearing the Bureau of the Great and General Council, the Captains Regent shall adopt a relevant decision and shall inform the Great and General Council thereof.
2. If several Commissions deem to be competent, they shall inform the Captains Regent thereof. After hearing the Presidents of the Commissions concerned and the Bureau of the Great and General Council, the Captains Regent shall adopt a final decision. Such decision shall be communicated to the Great and General Council.

Art. 93

(Opinions on draft laws and topics)

1. The Captains Regent may establish that on a draft law or on a topic assigned to a Permanent Parliamentary Commission the opinion of another Permanent Parliamentary Commission be expressed.
2. If a Commission, to which a draft law or a topic has been assigned, deems it useful to hear the opinion of another Commission, it shall submit a relevant request through the Captains Regent. The same procedure shall be adopted if a Commission deems it useful to express an opinion on draft laws or topics that have been assigned to a different Commission.
3. The opinion shall be given in writing by the President of the Commission, or by a member of the Commission delegated by the President, and shall be annexed to the report that the competent Commission submits to the Great and General Council, in cases where this is provided for.

Art. 94

(Time-limits for the submission of opinions)

1. The requested Permanent Parliamentary Commission shall submit its opinion within fifteen days, unless the Captains Regent establish a longer or shorter time-limit, taking into account the circumstances and urgency.
2. If the requested Commission deems it appropriate not to deliver an opinion, it shall be required to notify this within the established time-limit. Once this time-limit has expired, it shall be understood that it deems not to deliver an opinion.
3. The requested Commission may apply to the Captains Regent for only one extension of the established time-limit, which may not exceed the duration of the initial time-limit.

CHAPTER V
PROCEDURE OF COMMISSIONS IN THEIR REPORTING AND DRAFTING FUNCTIONS

Art. 95

(Procedure of Commissions in their reporting function)

1. Consideration, discussion and voting of draft laws by the Permanent Parliamentary Commissions in their reporting function shall take place in accordance with the provisions governing the consideration, discussion and voting of draft laws in the Great and General Council, insofar as they are applicable and unless otherwise provided for.

2. Consideration shall follow an explanation by the proposer lasting a maximum of twenty minutes. If the proposer is absent, he/she may delegate the President or a member of the Commission to this end. The explanation shall be followed by a general and summary discussion on the entire draft law, where each member may speak for ten minutes. This discussion shall be followed by the proposer's reply for fifteen minutes and by the replies of the members of the Commission for five minutes. Finally, the proposer shall conclude the debate with a speech of no more than five minutes.
3. If the member of the Council proposing the draft law is not a member of the Commission, he/she shall be notified that the Commission has been convened to consider the draft law. In this case, the proposer, who is not a member of the Commission, may participate in the meetings without voting rights.
4. All members of the Council may submit or, if they are not members of the Commission, transmit through the President of the Commission, in writing, additional articles and amendments to individual articles of the draft law or to parts of an article.
5. If the members of the Council proposing amendments are not members of the Commission, they may request to explain them to the Commission, without the right to vote.
6. The members of the Council who are not members of the Commissions may participate in the works of the Commissions without the right to speak.
7. The Congress of State may submit in writing additional articles and amendments to individual articles of the draft law or parts of an article, and explain them without voting rights.
8. All additional articles and amendments to individual articles or parts thereof may be submitted before the start of the discussion of the articles to which they refer.
9. The President, the proposer and the Congress of State may submit additional articles and amendments to individual articles or parts thereof, or amendments to amendments already submitted and discussed, until the voting on the article to which they refer begins, even if the relevant discussion has been concluded, whenever this is necessary for a proper coordination with the proposed amendments approved in previous articles.
10. The discussion of, and voting on, articles and amendments shall take place according to the order laid down for the discussion and voting on articles and amendments in the Great and General Council.
11. After the final vote, the Commission shall appoint a speaker from among its members to report to the Great and General Council on the draft law considered at first reading. The report shall be submitted within fifteen days from the date of the assignment, which may be extended only once for the same period by means of a communication to the members of the Council by the State Institutional Secretariat upon reasoned request by the speaker. Reports may be submitted by minority parties within the same time-limit as majority parties. The possible extension shall also apply to reports by minority parties.
12. Within five days after the report has been filed, the President of the Commission shall transmit to the Bureau of the Great and General Council the draft law accompanied by the report, any reports by minority parties, any opinions and in any case all related attachments. The State Institutional Secretariat shall immediately publish it on the Great and General Council's website.
13. The final report and any reports by minority parties may be supplemented orally by the respective speakers during the discussion in the Great and General Council.
14. Amendments proposed and rejected by a simple majority by the competent Commission in its reporting function pursuant to this Article may be re-submitted to the Great and General Council for a second reading upon request of at least six members of the Council. Exceptions shall be made in case of amendments containing clerical errors. No new amendments shall be submitted unless they are signed by a qualified majority of two-thirds of the members of the Council.

Art.96

(Procedure to be followed by Commissions in their drafting function. Final vote on draft laws by the Council)

01. Consideration of draft laws by Commissions in their drafting function shall involve a phase of general discussion on draft laws and the submission of any amendments.

02. Amendments shall not be considered until five days have elapsed since they were submitted. To this end, once the stage referred to in paragraph 01 has been completed, the President shall defer the Commission's works to a later date, in accordance with the aforementioned time-limit, or shall issue a new notice of meeting.

1. With regard to the consideration, discussion and approval of the articles of a draft law assigned to a Permanent Parliamentary Commission in its drafting function, the provisions of Article 30 shall apply.

2. The Council may lay down criteria and guiding principles, which the Commission shall follow.

3. After the approval of the individual articles, the Commission shall appoint from among its members the speakers, or the sole speaker, with the task of drafting the written report within a time-limit that can be extended only once.

4. Within five days after the report is filed, the President shall transmit the draft law, accompanied by the report and all its attachments, to the Bureau of the Great and General Council, which shall put it on the agenda of the Great and General Council for its final approval.

5. The speaker of the Commission in its drafting function, to which the draft law has been assigned, the speakers of the minority parties and the members of the Council shall be entitled to speak during the general debate in the Great and General Council in accordance with Article 36.

The draft law shall then be put to a final vote, without considering the articles, subject to the right to make explanations of vote pursuant to Article 31.

CHAPTER VI
FACT-FINDING AND POLICY GUIDANCE ACTIVITIES

Art. 97

(Information and clarifications requested from the Congress of State)

1. The Permanent Parliamentary Commissions may request information on matters falling within their competence from the Congress of State.

2. The Commissions may also request clarifications from the Congress of State on administrative and political matters relating to their areas of competence.

3. The Commissions may request the Congress of State to report, also in writing, on the enforcement of laws and the implementation of resolutions, popular petitions and decisions approved by the Great and General Council or the Permanent Parliamentary Commissions concerning matters falling within their competence.

4. The Congress of State may reply through its members, or it may request that the information, clarifications and reports referred to in the preceding paragraphs be provided or supplemented through the hearing of officials of the Public Administration or of the Autonomous State Corporations.

Art. 98

(Acquisition of information on draft laws and topics)

1. The Permanent Parliamentary Commissions, when the need arises with regard to the consideration of a draft law or a topic falling within their competence, may request the members of

the Congress of State to instruct the administrations, bodies and entities subject to the control of their respective Ministries to provide administrative or technical information and data relevant to the consideration of the draft law or topic.

2. The information and data referred to in paragraph 1 may also be provided through personal participation in the meetings of the Commission concerned of officials or directors expressly authorised thereto by the competent Ministries.

Art. 99

(Own-initiative reports, proposals and resolutions of the Commissions)

1. The Permanent Parliamentary Commissions may submit to the Great and General Council, on their own initiative, such reports and proposals on matters falling within their competence as they deem appropriate.

2. For matters falling within their competence on which they do not have to report to the Great and General Council, the Commissions may vote on resolutions designed to express the opinions or to define the guidelines they deem appropriate on specific topics. A member of the Congress of State may be invited to take part in the discussions referred to in this paragraph.

3. For the acquisition of information necessary to perform the tasks referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, the provisions of Articles 97 and 98 shall apply.

4. Resolutions shall be transmitted, accompanied by a written report, to the Captains Regent for their communication to the Great and General Council.

Art.100

(Modalities of discussion)

1. With regard to the modalities of discussion in the Permanent Parliamentary Commissions, the provisions contained in Title V shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

2. In the Commission, the speaker may remain seated.

3. For each item on the agenda of a Commission, the proposer of the item, if not a member of the Commission, shall be entitled to attend the meeting of the Commission and to report on the topic. If unable to attend, he/she may delegate the President of the Commission or another member of the Commission.

CHAPTER VII
FEES

Art. 101

(Fees)

1. The members of the Permanent Parliamentary Commissions shall be paid a fee on account of their participation in the works of the Commission. The amount and manner of payment of such fee shall be established in accordance with Article 69. A fee is also paid to the members of the Council of the Twelve, to the members of the Commissions composed exclusively of members of the Council and to the members of the Bureau of the Great and General Council, on account of their respective participation in these bodies.

TITLE XIV
TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Art. 102
(Repeal and deferral)

1. All provisions that conflict with this Qualified Law shall be repealed.

Art. 103
(Financial costs)

1. The financial costs arising from the activities of the Great and General Council, the Permanent Parliamentary Commissions and other Commissions composed of members of the Council shall be charged to the Autonomous Fund of the Captains Regent and of the Great and General Council and to other specifically dedicated expenditure chapters.

Art. 104
(Transitional provisions)

1. In order to ensure the necessary adaptation of the equipment provided to the Secretariat of the Great and General Council and to the State Institutional Secretariat, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 105 below, Articles 22, 53, 60 and 84 shall enter into force at the time of the actual implementation of the IT systems used by said offices, and in any case no later than 31 July 2019.
2. Article 69 shall start to apply from the XXX Legislature.

Art. 105
(Entry into force)

1. This Qualified Law shall enter into force on the fifteenth day following that of its legal publication.