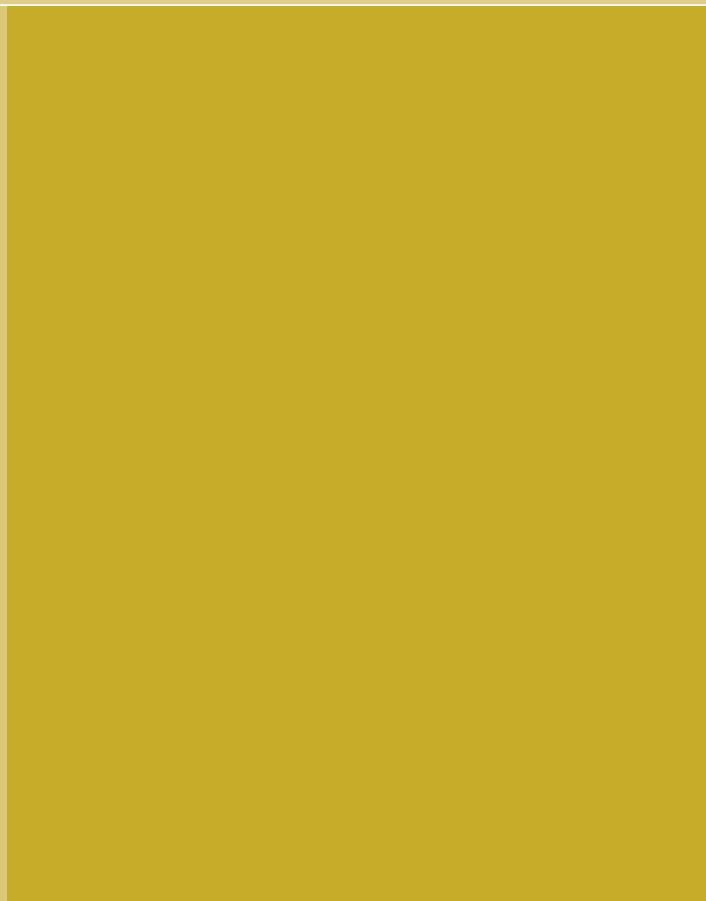




Stortinget The Norwegian Parliament Rules of Procedure and the Constitution



October 2013

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Rules of Procedure

Chapter 1 How the Storting is constituted

§ 1 Constitution after a general election

When the Storting assembles after a general election, the post of President shall on request be temporarily assumed by the President of the previous Storting. In the absence of the Member in question, the post of the President shall be temporarily assumed by, in order of priority:

1. the highest ranking Member of the previous Storting's Vice Presidents
2. the Member present with the greatest length of service in the Storting. If two or more have been Members of the Storting for an equal length of time, the oldest shall have precedence.

The President calls the roll and receives the credentials of the Members and the Substitute Members. The Rules of Procedure are approved. Notifications of absence and applications for leave are reported and decided on.

A committee is elected to examine the credentials. The parliamentary party groups shall as far as possible be proportionally represented on the committee. In addition to the credentials, the committee deals with the recommendation from the Preparatory Credentials Committee. Until the credentials have been approved, the Members of the Storting have a temporary right to sit and to vote.

After the recommendation from the Credentials Committee has been dealt with, the Storting elects Presidents and Secretaries (cf. § 6).

Then the President declares the Storting lawfully constituted and reports this to the King.

After the elections and the counting of votes ordered by the Storting in pursuance of §§ 13–3 and 14–1 of the Representation of the People Act¹, credentials must be examined at the earliest opportunity.

§ 2 Constitution of each new session of the Storting in the same electoral term

At each new session of the Storting in the same electoral term, the same rules shall be observed as prescribed for the first Storting of the term, apart from what is stated in § 1 concerning credentials.

§ 3 The Preparatory Credentials Committee

On the recommendation of the Election Committee, the Storting shall at its last sitting in the electoral term elect from among its Members a committee to examine provisionally the credentials of the Members and Substitute Members of the new Storting. At the same time the Storting elects as many Substitute Members as there are Members in the committee, and also elects the chair and the vice chair of the committee. As far as possible the parliamentary party groups should be proportionally represented on the committee.

The Preparatory Credentials Committee assembles when summoned by the chair. As far as necessary it shall consider and report on the contents of the documents received by the Storting in accordance with the Election Act and on all appeals and complaints submitted in due time insofar as they may effect decisions on credentials. On behalf of the Storting the committee is authorized to obtain any information which it deems necessary in this connection.

The Preparatory Credentials Committee shall, before the Storting assembles, present to the Storting's administration a provisional recommendation concerning all questions relating to the election and credentials which may affect the composition of the new Storting. The committee ceases to function on the day before the new Storting assembles.

¹ Act of 28 June 2002 no. 57 relating to parliamentary and local government elections

If the Preparatory Committee is obliged to submit its provisional recommendation concerning approval or rejection of credentials before it has managed to obtain the necessary information on each individual's credentials, it must give a special account in its recommendation of the reasons for the delay and state when a final decision may be available.

The provisional recommendation and all annexes to it must be duly registered and presented to the Credentials Committee of the new Storting as soon as the committee meets (cf. § 1). The recommendation must not be made public by the Preparatory Credentials Committee.

§ 4 The seating of the Members in the Storting Chamber

In the Storting Chamber, Members shall be seated in the alphabetical order of their constituencies.

§ 5 Leave of absence

Applications for leave of absence are dealt with by the Storting on the recommendation of the Presidium. The acting President is informed through the Storting's administration of absences of short duration. Members who have been on leave shall report on their return to the Storting's administration.

Chapter 2 The Presidents and the Secretaries

§ 6 The election of Presidents and Secretaries

At the beginning of each new Storting, the Storting shall elect a President, a First Vice President, a Second Vice President, a Third Vice President, a Fourth Vice President, a Fifth Vice President, a Secretary and a Vice Secretary.

In the first election of the President and Vice Presidents of the Storting during the electoral term, ballots shall be held by means of unsigned ballot papers. In subsequent elections during the same electoral term, the rules laid down in § 60, first paragraph, subparagraph a) shall apply, unless the conditions for voting by unsigned ballot papers in § 60, first paragraph, subparagraph d) are present.

For the election of Presidents and Secretaries, a simple majority is required, i.e. over half of the votes cast. If none of the candidates obtains such a majority in the first ballot or in a free re-election, a tied ballot shall be held restricted to the two candidates who received the greatest number of votes, cf. § 61, second paragraph.

If at least one-fifth of the Members of the Storting send the President a written demand for a new election of the President of the Storting or a Vice President, the Storting shall carry out such an election.

§ 7 The Presidium of the Storting

The President of the Storting and the five Vice Presidents constitute the Presidium. The President of the Storting is the chair of the Presidium; the First Vice President is the deputy chair.

The Presidium has a quorum when at least three of its members are present. The President of the Storting conducts the proceedings of the Storting on behalf of the Presidium. When the Storting is not in session, the President may adopt such measures as may be necessary concerning the internal affairs of the Storting.

§ 8 When the President, Vice Presidents or Secretaries are absent

If the President is obliged to be absent, the First Vice President deputizes as temporary President for the period in question. If the President or one of the Vice Presidents is absent for an extended period of time, the Storting may elect a temporary President for the period of absence.

Temporary Secretaries may also be elected to deputize for a Secretary who is absent for an extended period of time.

§ 9 Presiding over the sittings of the Storting

The President of the Storting presides over the sittings of the Storting. The President may hand over this duty to a Vice President or a temporary President elected under § 8, first paragraph, or an interim President that the Storting has elected for a shorter period of time. Vice Presidents, temporary Presidents and interim Presidents have the same authority as the President when presiding over sittings of the Storting.

The Vice Secretary may deputize for the Secretary.

The President presiding over a particular sitting may not simultaneously participate in the debate on an issue. Anyone who has participated in a debate on an issue may not preside over a sitting during the subsequent debate on that issue.

Chapter 3 The committees of the Storting

§ 10 The Election Committee

Immediately after the Storting has been constituted, an Election Committee of 37 members is elected. The parliamentary party groups should as far as possible be proportionally represented on it. The geographical distribution of constituencies should also be taken into account. The Election Committee decides the composition of the permanent committees of the Storting.

The Election Committee makes a recommendation concerning all the elections which the Storting assigns it to prepare. The recommendation shall be completed as soon as possible after receipt of the assignment.

The members of the Election Committee serve for the whole electoral term. If vacancies arise, the missing member should be replaced by means of a new election as soon as possible.

The Storting also elects substitutes to the Election Committee, according to the same principles as stated in the first paragraph. These substitutes shall be summoned to attend in any case of absence of a committee member.

§ 11 The Storting's permanent committees

The Storting may at any time decide to increase or reduce the number both of permanent committees and of the number of members on those committees.

The composition of the committees shall remain unchanged throughout all the sessions within the same electoral term. This does not apply if vacancies necessitate changes, the parliamentary party groups propose changes relating to Members from their own groups, or the Storting has made a specific decision to the contrary.

§ 12 The standing committees of the Storting

All the Members of the Storting, except the President, shall be assigned to one of the following committees:

1. The Standing Committee on Labour and Social Affairs
2. The Standing Committee on Energy and the Environment
3. The Standing Committee on Family and Cultural Affairs
4. The Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
5. The Standing Committee on Health and Care Services
6. The Standing Committee on Justice
7. The Standing Committee on Education, Research and Church Affairs
8. The Standing Committee on Local Government and Public Administration
9. The Standing Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs
10. The Standing Committee on Business and Industry
11. The Standing Committee on Transport and Communications
12. The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

§ 13 Composition of the standing committees

As soon as the Election Committee has been elected, it appoints the members of the standing committees of the Storting.

All parliamentary party groups shall be represented in the Standing Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs. In addition, the groups should, as far as possible, be proportionally represented on the other committees. Parliamentary party groups that are not represented on all committees after committee membership has been assigned may require that the group's member of the Standing Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs shall also be assigned to one of the other committees. The Election Committee submits a printed report of the appointments to the Storting.

§ 14 The division of work between the standing committees

The principal rule governing the division of work is:

1. *The Standing Committee on Labour and Social Affairs*: Matters relating to the labour market and the working environment; work-

-
- related benefits; pensions; social benefits; and policy regarding persons with disabilities.
2. *The Standing Committee on Energy and the Environment:* Matters relating to oil; energy; watercourses; environmental protection; and regional planning.
 3. *The Standing Committee on Family and Cultural Affairs:* Matters relating to families, children and young people; gender equality; consumer affairs, including matters relating to debt settlement; and cultural affairs.
 4. *The Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs:* Matters relating to economic policy; financial administration; financial markets; accounting and auditing; National Insurance revenues; and taxes, duties and tariffs. For consideration of the Fiscal Budget and the National Budget, see § 43.
 5. *The Standing Committee on Health and Care Services:* Matters relating to health services; care and attendance services; public health; drug and alcohol policy; and pharmaceuticals.
 6. *The Standing Committee on Justice:* Matters relating to the judicial system; the correctional services; the police; other judicial issues; civil preparedness; ex gratia payments; general public administration legislation; the penal code; procedural legislation; and general civil legislation.
 7. *The Standing Committee on Education, Research and Church Affairs:* Matters relating to education; research, including research in the fields of agriculture, fisheries and business and industry; and church affairs.
 8. *The Standing Committee on Local Government and Public Administration:* Matters relating to local government; regional and rural policy; block grants to municipalities and counties; immigration policy; housing policy; building and construction; national minorities; Sami issues except the regulations on election to the Sámi Parliament; matters relating to the organization and operation of government agencies; government administration; personnel policy for state employees including pay; and political party funding and support.
 9. *The Standing Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs:* Constitutional matters; legislation relating to elections;

appropriations to the Storting and to the Royal Household. Matters relating to the Storting's scrutiny of the public administration, cf. § 15, first paragraph. Matters in which the Storting shall consider the extent to which constitutional responsibility shall be asserted, including whether the Storting's Accountability Select Committee shall be requested to make the necessary enquiries to determine the basis for such responsibility, cf. § 15, second and third paragraphs and § 44. The committee shall also review and submit recommendations to the Storting on:

- a) records of proceedings etc. of the Council of State, cf. § 75, subparagraph f) of the Constitution;
 - b) the annual report from the Government concerning the follow-up of resolutions of the Storting containing petitions to the Government and concerning Private Members' Bills submitted by the Storting to the Government for consideration and comments;
 - c) documents from the Office of the Auditor General, and other matters concerning the Office of the Auditor General's activities;
 - d) reports from the Parliamentary Ombudsman for Public Administration and other matters concerning the Ombudsman's activities;
 - e) reports from the Parliamentary Ombudsman's Committee for the Armed Forces;
 - f) reports from the Storting's Committee for the Monitoring of Intelligence, Surveillance and Security Services and other matters concerning the committee's activities; and
 - g) reports from the Storting's Accountability Select Committee and commissions of inquiry appointed by the Storting.
10. *The Standing Committee on Business and Industry*: Matters relating to business, industry and trade; shipping; state ownership policy; state guarantees for exports, etc.; competition and price policy; agriculture; the Agricultural Agreement; food policy; fisheries; whaling; aquaculture; and salmon fishing.
11. *The Standing Committee on Transport and Communications*: Matters relating to domestic transport; postal services; general matters relating to telecommunications and electronic

communication; and the responsibilities of the Norwegian National Coastal Administration.

12. *The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence*: Matters relating to foreign affairs; military defence; development cooperation; Norwegian interests on Svalbard or in other polar regions; and matters in general relating to agreements between Norway and other states or international organizations.

§ 15 *The Standing Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs*

One-third of the members of the Standing Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs may decide that the committee shall request a minister to procure particular information required necessary for the Storting's scrutiny of the public administration. One-third of the committee's members may then decide that the committee shall deal with such a scrutiny matter, and itself make the further inquiries within the administration deemed necessary for this.

One-third of the members of the Standing Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs may require that the committee on its own initiative shall deal with a matter in which the Storting shall consider the extent to which constitutional responsibility shall be asserted, cf. the Act of 5 February 1932 no. 1 relating to Responsibility for Offences Indicted before the Court of Impeachment, and the Act of 5 February 1932 no. 2 relating to the Legal Procedure for Offences Indicted before the Court of Impeachment.

Should the committee find that circumstances in an external request regarding breach of constitutional duties cannot be prosecuted through the Court of Impeachment, the request shall be referred to the appropriate prosecuting authority. Furthermore, the committee may decide that a request shall not be put before the Storting when it is evident that the circumstances in question will not result in further action. The request shall be put before the Storting in a recommendation if one-third of the committee's members require this. The party that has put forward the request shall be notified of the result of the matter once it has been dealt with.

Before other committees submit a recommendation that puts forward a proposal that constitutional responsibility shall be asserted

or that the Storting's Accountability Select Committee shall make the necessary enquiries, a draft recommendation from the committee concerned shall be submitted to the Standing Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs for comment.

The Standing Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs shall make recommendations on the matters it deals with. The committee decides in each case whether a draft recommendation shall be submitted to the appropriate standing committee for comment before the recommendation is submitted.

The Committee may lay down further rules for its secretariat, including the duties of the secretariat and the use of the secretariat that may be made by individual committee members.

§ 16 The Enlarged Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

In addition to the standing committees mentioned in § 12, the Election Committee also appoints an Enlarged Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence.

The task of the Enlarged Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence is to consult with the Government on important foreign policy, trade policy, national security policy and emergency preparedness issues, including the prevention of terrorism. These consultations should take place before important decisions are made. In special cases the Enlarged Committee may put recommendations before the Storting.

The Enlarged Committee consists of the ordinary members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, the President of the Storting and the chairs of the parliamentary party groups (if they are not already members of the Committee). The Election Committee may, at the request of a group, appoint further members if it finds that considerations regarding the proportional representation of the groups so indicate.

The First Vice President of the Storting shall function as deputy for the President of the Storting and the vice-chairs of the parliamentary party groups shall function as deputies for the chairs of the parliamentary party groups. The Presidium may, at the request of the party group in question, decide that a Substitute Member who attends meetings in the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence shall attend meetings of the Enlarged Committee as well.

The Committee is convened when the chair finds it necessary; or at the request of the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs or one-third of the members of the Committee. This also applies at the request of the Minister of Defence in important emergency preparedness questions, or at the request of the Minister of Justice and Public Security in important prevention of terrorism questions.

The business of the Enlarged Committee shall be kept secret unless otherwise expressly provided. The chair may decide that even the summons to meetings of the Committee shall be secret.

The Enlarged Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence may decide to hold joint meetings with other committees. The rules laid down in § 16, sixth paragraph also apply for such joint meetings. The rules laid down in § 16, fourth paragraph, second sentence also apply for Substitute Members in committees with whom the joint meetings are held.

A matter on the agenda of a meeting of the Enlarged Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence shall be put before a sitting of the Storting when at least six members of the committee so request in a meeting where the matter is on the agenda. The Committee shall consider whether the conditions for consideration by the Storting are present and in such event notify the Presidium of this. The Committee may decide to continue consideration of the matter during the same meeting or a subsequent meeting even though a request pursuant to the first sentence has been submitted. The Storting shall decide in camera whether such a sitting shall be held in public or in camera. Consideration by the Storting shall be introduced by a statement by a member of the Government. The Storting shall decide whether a debate concerning the matter shall be held immediately after the statement or during a subsequent sitting. Proposals that relate to the Storting's consideration of such a matter may not be submitted for consideration by committees.

§ 17 The European Consultative Committee

The Government's consultations with the Storting on matters regarding the Agreement on the European Economic Area (the EEA Agreement), including proposals regarding new or amended acts in a field within the scope of the EEA Agreement, and matters regarding

coterminous agreements with the European Union (EU), shall take place with the European Consultative Committee.

The European Consultative Committee consists of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence and the members of the Norwegian delegation to the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee. The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence or its chair may also decide that one or more of the other committees shall take part in specific consultations. Substitute Members in the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence also attend the European Consultative Committee. The same applies for Substitute Members in other committees that take part in the consultations referred to in the second sentence above.

The chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence convenes consultations when he or she deems necessary, or when a member of the Government or one-third of the members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence so request.

Documents which the European Consultative Committee receives from the Government shall also be submitted to the appropriate standing committees. The committees may request that the Government submits other documents regarding EU/EEA matters. The committees may also submit written questions on such matters to the responsible member of the Government, but may not hold hearings. A committee may decide to submit a written statement to the European Consultative Committee on a matter that the consultative committee shall deal with. The committee decides whether a spokesperson shall be elected for such a matter. A written statement from a committee to the European Consultative Committee is made public once it has been submitted, unless the committee decides otherwise.

Meetings of the European Consultative Committee are held in camera. The same applies to joint meetings between this body and other committees. The minutes of proceedings in the consultative committee are made public as soon as they are available, unless the consultative committee decides otherwise. It is prohibited to repeat statements made in a meeting when the minutes of the business of that matter have not been made public.

Matters which are taken up in the European Consultative Committee shall be submitted to a sitting of the Storting when the

Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence so demands at a meeting of the European Consultative Committee where the matter is on the agenda. The Storting shall decide in camera whether such a meeting shall be public or held in camera. The rules laid down in § 16, seventh paragraph, second to final sentence shall apply accordingly.

§ 18 Special committees

If the Storting deems it necessary, special committees may in exceptional cases be set up to deal with a particular matter, or with matters of a particular kind. Appointments to such special committees are made by the Election Committee, which in making such appointments should as far as possible avoid creating difficulties for the ordinary work of the standing committees.

§ 19 Commissions of enquiry

The Storting may appoint a commission of inquiry to clarify or assess a previous actual course of events. It should be possible for the terms of reference to allow an assessment of responsibilities in so far as such assistance is required by the Storting.

A proposal concerning the appointment of a commission of inquiry shall be considered by the Standing Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs or by a special committee appointed by the Storting pursuant to § 18. The Standing Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs may submit such a proposal on its own initiative.

The Storting lays down the terms of reference of the commission and the specific procedures for its work. The extent to which the commission is to be bound by the general rules and guidelines that apply to public commissions of inquiry should be specified. Furthermore, an assessment should be made of whether the commission requires statutory authority in order to ensure the necessary access to information and documents.

A commission of inquiry appointed by the Storting shall consist of persons with the necessary professional competence and integrity. The commission shall carry out its duties autonomously and independently of the Storting.

The commission of inquiry shall report directly to the Storting. The report shall be public unless special considerations indicate that it should be wholly or partly confidential. Before the Storting makes its final assessment of the report, it should be submitted to the Government for written comment.

Chapter 4 The working procedures of the committees

§ 20 Election of a committee's leadership, convening meetings, attendance rules, etc.

As soon as the committees have been appointed, each of them convenes and elects a chair, first vice chair and second vice chair. Notification of the elections shall immediately be made to the Storting. New elections shall be held each year in the electoral term, at the earliest opportunity after the Storting has been constituted.

The committee chair convenes the meetings of the committee and presides over them. In the absence of the chair, the first vice-chair takes over these duties. In the absence also of the first vice-chair, the duties are taken over by the second vice-chair.

A committee may meet also while the Storting is not sitting. The Storting's administration shall be informed about such committee meetings.

The Members are under the same obligation to attend committee meetings as to attend sittings of the Storting. Absence shall be notified to the chair.

The Presidium may consent to committee applications, for which grounds have been stated, for permission to employ paid help.

§ 21 Substitute Members

A Substitute Member who is summoned to attend in place of a Member serves on the committee to which the Member belongs, unless the Presidium decides otherwise. Separate rules apply, however, for the Election Committee, the Enlarged Committee on Foreign Affairs and the European Consultative Committee, cf. §§ 10, 16 and 17.

In the event of absence of a committee member from a meeting while the Storting is not in session (cf. § 20, third paragraph), for

reasons the committee chair finds acceptable, the chair may summon the Member in question's Substitute Member. The same applies to absence from committee meetings when the Storting is in session, but when there is no sitting, and it has not been possible for the Member in question to apply for leave of absence. § 5, third paragraph shall apply accordingly.

§ 22 The allocation of matters to the committees

On the proposal of the President, the Storting distributes all matters requiring committee preparation to the respective standing committees. In general, all matters shall be distributed according to the procedures laid down in § 14. On the proposal of the Presidium, the Storting may depart from this for practical reasons.

The Storting may decide that a matter shall first be dealt with by a specified committee, and that this committee's draft recommendation shall then be submitted for comment to another committee before the recommendation is presented. The Storting may also decide that a matter shall first be dealt with by a specified committee, and that this committee's draft recommendation shall be referred to another committee, which then submits a recommendation. After a matter has been referred to a committee, a decision pursuant to the first or second sentences above may be taken by the Presidium.

The Storting may also decide that two standing committees shall deal with a matter jointly. As a rule, the matter shall then be dealt with provisionally by a joint committee consisting of an equal number of members from each of the two standing committees. The spokesperson for this matter shall be elected from among the members of this joint committee.

Where large extraordinary appropriations are concerned, the Storting may decide that the committee recommendation on the matter shall be submitted to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs to give this committee the opportunity to comment on the financial aspects of the recommendation.

When committees other than the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence deal with matters which affect Norwegian interests abroad or Norwegian interests on Svalbard or in other polar

regions, the draft recommendation from the committee shall be submitted to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence for comment before the recommendation is submitted.

Matters which have already been referred to committees may be reallocated through a decision by the Presidium. If the Presidium unanimously decides that a matter does not require preparation by any other committee, the Presidium may itself present a recommendation on the matter.

The committees may not deal with matters other than those submitted by the Storting, with the exceptions made in these Rules of Procedure. Committees may, however, up to twice within the same Storting session, call for a matter to be debated in the Storting in addition to the specific matters that the committee has been sent for consideration, provided the subject matter falls within the committee's sphere of responsibility.

§ 23 Time limits for submitting matters

The chair shall at the earliest opportunity put before the committee all matters of business received from the Storting. The committee shall as soon as possible set a time limit for submitting a recommendation, and shall notify the Storting's administration of the time limit. The chair shall ensure that the work on these matters proceeds in accordance with the specified time limits. A decision to postpone a specified time limit for submission requires the consent of the Presidium if the postponement entails a change in the date of proceedings in the provisional long-term programme for sittings of the Storting.

A resolution on the point at which a recommendation may be submitted, including time limits for submission, may be put forward for the Presidium's consideration by a minority of at least one-third of the members of a committee, through a decision at the same meeting.

§ 24 Spokespersons for committee matters

For each matter to be dealt with during the Storting session, the committee elects a spokesperson or, upon request, more than one spokesperson, from among its members. When a committee is merely asked to comment on a recommendation or a draft recommendation

prepared by another committee, the committee shall decide whether or not to elect a spokesperson.

The spokesperson shall present the matter to the committee and shall attempt to obtain the information and institute the inquiries which members of the committee deem necessary. The spokesperson shall be responsible for formulating the recommendation in writing and shall sign it together with the chair of the committee.

The spokesperson for the committee may, not later than one week before the recommendation shall be submitted, require that the committee submits specific written questions to the appropriate member of the Government on an issue that is under consideration in the committee.

§ 25 Committee meetings

A summons for a committee meeting shall include the agenda. The time of the meeting shall be announced in a suitable manner.

Committee meetings shall be held in camera. Statements made by other committee members in a closed committee meeting may not be quoted.

A committee may appoint subcommittees of its own members to prepare particular matters. Final committee proceedings, however, must always take place in the fully assembled committee.

§ 26 Voting in the committees

A committee decision is valid when at least three-fifths of the members have been present and voted.

As a rule, committee decisions are made by a simple majority. With the exception of elections, the committee chair's vote is decisive in the event of a tied vote. In the absence of the committee chair, the acting committee chair's vote is decisive.

For elections, § 61, second paragraph applies.

§ 27 Committee hearings

The committee may hold hearings. By hearing is meant a meeting of the committee where oral statements are made by persons whom the committee requests to attend or who request to submit information to

the committee. One-third of the members of the committee may require that a hearing shall be held on a matter and who shall be requested to attend. A decision to hold a hearing that has the support of only a minority of the members of the committee may be put forward for the Presidium's consideration by a minority of at least one-third of the members of the committee, through a decision at the same meeting.

The question of whether a hearing is to be held shall be listed as a separate matter in the summons for the committee meeting. Only matters submitted for consideration by the committee and for which spokespersons have been elected may be the subject of a hearing.

Hearings shall not be held when there is a sitting of the Storting to consider constitutional amendments. Public scrutiny hearings shall not be held when there is a sitting of the Storting with the exception of during ordinary Question Time.

Persons summoned to attend a hearing are free to decide whether or not to attend and whether or not to answer the questions of the committee. The committee may on request receive the consent of the Presidium to cover necessary expenses incurred by persons who participate in a hearing on the request of the committee.

The committee's hearings shall be held in public. If considered appropriate, the committee may decide by simple majority that the hearing shall be held wholly or partly in camera. A member of the committee may demand that a public hearing be adjourned so that the committee may discuss further progress including proposals that the hearing be discontinued or continued in camera. Confidential information may only be received by the committee in camera. During public hearings the committee's members may not repeat or refer to information that is subject to a duty of secrecy laid down in Statute or instructions.

There shall be no exchange of views between committee members during a public hearing.

Public hearings shall be announced not later than 24 hours prior to the hearing. In extraordinary circumstances, shorter notice of public hearings may be given. During public hearings there shall be seats for members of the public. The number of spectators may be limited by reasons of space. Any persons who create a disturbance may be asked to leave.

The committee may decide that a stenographic record shall be made of a public scrutiny hearing, cf. the Rules for Public Scrutiny Hearings. A decision to make a stenographic record of other hearings requires the consent of the Storting's Presidium. The committee may also decide that a hearing shall be recorded on tape. The committee may decide that no audio or video recording may be made of a hearing which is otherwise public.

The committee may lay down further rules relating to the conduct of its hearings, including the allocation of speaking time, and the order and number of questions and follow-up questions each member may be allowed. Public scrutiny hearings shall take place in accordance with the Rules for Public Scrutiny Hearings, adopted by the Storting.

§ 28 *Committee travel*

A committee may travel if it finds it necessary for its work and the Presidium has given its consent.

§ 29 *Recording of committee business*

Committee business shall be recorded in a separate journal. The committee chair is responsible for ensuring that minutes are taken, that documents sent to the committee are registered, and that important documents and annexes are filed in the Archives. Once each Storting has concluded its negotiations, the committees' Record of Proceedings and appurtenant documents shall be filed in the Archives of the Storting.

Classified documents shall be brought to the attention of the members of the committee inside the committee room. Documents with a classification higher than *Restricted* or *Confidential* may not be taken out of the committee room, unless the committee decides that this may be done. Classified documents that are taken out of the committee room must be kept safe in such a way as to be inaccessible to unauthorized persons.

The Presidium may on request give its consent to one Member from each party that is not represented on a committee being given access to all the documents in the committee in question. In such cases,

the same rules of confidentiality and the handling of the committee's documents apply for the Member that has been given such access.

§ 30 How committees deal with Private Member's Motions

If the committee determines that a Private Member's Motion, in whole or in part, should be accepted, and that the matter is ready for decision by the Storting without further study, a substantive recommendation should be submitted after the Minister concerned has had the opportunity to comment. In addition, one-third of the members of the committee may require that a letter is sent to a Minister that requests the Minister to comment on the Private Member's Motion.

If it is the view of the committee that for technical reasons the Storting should not consider the substantive aspects of the Motion, it should recommend that the Motion be rejected. If further consideration is needed before a substantive decision is taken, the committee may recommend that the Motion be sent to the Government for further study and comment. In all other cases, a recommendation is given to attach the Private Member's Bill to the Record of Proceedings, if necessary in addition to other motions.

§ 31 Committee recommendations to the Storting

Committees shall submit recommendations to the Storting in writing for all matters they receive for consideration. In special cases recommendations may be presented orally; in such cases, draft resolutions shall as a rule have been distributed in advance.

All recommendations shall be as brief as possible and chiefly contain the committee's comments. Recommendations shall not reprint documents which may equally well be referred to. If a recommendation does, in exceptional cases, quote from printed documents, this shall be clearly indicated. It is the responsibility of the President to ensure that these rules are observed.

The committees are responsible for the printing, to the extent they find appropriate, of the documents and annexes which have been sent to them by the Storting.

Matters which belong together shall as far as possible be dealt with in one and the same recommendation. When special grounds so

indicate and subject to the approval of the Presidium, a committee may first submit its recommendations concerning part of a matter, and later submit its recommendations concerning the remainder of the matter.

Proposals dealt with and formulated in the recommendation, cf. § 40, first paragraph, shall be presented summarily and numbered consecutively in a separate section of the recommendation. The schedule shall make it clear who is introducing the proposal.

A committee recommendation may contain the recommendation for a draft Bill or a proposal only when a Bill provides the basis for the committee recommendation. A committee recommendation may not contain both a draft enactment of a Bill and a draft recommendation or proposal for a resolution of the Storting. The exception is that a committee recommendation may contain both a draft enactment of a Bill and a draft resolution of the Storting which contains a petition to the Government. By "resolution of the Storting" is meant all resolutions that are not draft enactments of Bills.

Publication of a recommendation prior to its submission is not permitted. Once submitted, a recommendation shall be delivered to the Storting's administration as soon as possible.

§ 32 The Presidium's supervision of the time limits set by the committees

The Presidium supervises the committees' setting of time limits for submission of recommendations, that the time limits are adapted to the provisional long-term programme for meetings of the Storting and that the recommendations are submitted in accordance with the time limits.

The Presidium may summon the committee chairs to meetings concerning time limits for submission and for the committees' work on matters. After the committee chair has been given the opportunity to state his/her views, the Presidium may stipulate a different time limit for submission than that set by the committee, or stipulate a time limit for a matter for which the committee has not set a time limit.

If a committee does not submit a recommendation within the time limit set, the Presidium may transfer the matter of business to another committee or place it on the order of business for consideration by the Storting without any recommendation.

Chapter 5 How sittings of the Storting are convened and adjourned

§ 33 Convening sittings of the Storting

The Presidium decides when the Storting is to convene.

In accordance with the decision of the Presidium, the Storting is convened by notices posted in the Storting building and by making the notice available to members on paper or in electronic form not later than 24 hours before the appointed time for the sitting. The notice shall contain the order of business. Under extraordinary circumstances a sitting may be called at shorter notice. The same applies when the order of business comprises matters of report only.

§ 34 Sittings of the Storting

Sittings of the Storting usually start at 1000 hours, with the exception of Fridays, when sittings usually start at 0900 hours. The Presidium may decide that sittings, with the usual notice, shall be adjourned and reconvened on the same day. With the consent of the Storting, sittings may continue beyond 2200 hours.

No sitting may be called to order before the President has ascertained that the number of Members required by the Constitution is present.

§ 35 The programme for sittings of the Storting

By Friday at 1500 hours at the latest, a programme for the work of the Storting in the following week should be posted and made available on paper or in electronic form. This programme concerns which days there are to be sittings, when the sittings will start, and if evening sittings are expected. Preliminary order of business for the sittings should be posted and simultaneously made available on paper or in electronic form.

At sittings of the Storting, matters of business are usually dealt with according to the order of business put forward by the President.

The announced weekly programme, which is mentioned in the first paragraph, first and second sentences, and the announced order of business should not be departed from unless necessary. A decision to make such a change requires a simple majority if the proposal is put

forward by the President, but a two-thirds majority if it is put forward by a Member. If the President intends to propose a change, this should be made known at the earliest opportunity.

If a sitting does not complete its order of business, the matters outstanding shall be dealt with at the beginning of the next sitting or included in a new order of business. However, matters which have been postponed to a stated time shall always be dealt with at the time decided.

§ 36 Sittings in camera

If the President intends to propose that proceedings should be held in camera, the sitting shall be called to order in camera; the President then urges the Storting to decide whether the proceedings shall be held in camera (cf. Article 84 of the Constitution).²

The President may admit officials of the Storting's administration and the Storting's official reporters to proceedings in camera. The President may likewise allow certain of the Storting's attendants access to the Chamber during proceedings to bring necessary messages to the President or a Member. The President may also, at the request of a Minister, ask the Storting to consent to the presence of senior government officials and civil servants from the ministries during the sitting.

Records of the Proceedings are kept in a separate edition (cf. § 64), which together with whatever draft minutes there may be, must be sealed and deposited in the Archives.

Proceedings in camera may be published if the Storting so decides.

If it proves desirable to open a sealed matter in the Archives, the Presidium decides whether this is to be done.

§ 37 Adjourning the proceedings of the Storting in June

The proceedings of the Storting shall be adjourned on the third Friday in June at the latest, but the Presidium has the right to prolong the session under special circumstances. The Presidium may decide

² Article 84 of the Constitution reads: "The Storting shall meet in open session and its proceedings shall be published in print, except in those cases where a majority decides otherwise."

that the proceedings of the Storting shall be resumed at a later date before the next Storting assembles in accordance with Article 68 of the Constitution.³

Chapter 6 The Storting's working procedures

§ 38 Presentation and submission of propositions and proposals

The presentation of Royal Propositions and submission of proposals to amend the Constitution and Private Member's Motions should generally take place at the opening or the conclusion of a sitting. Proposals to amend the Constitution and Private Member's Motions shall be delivered to the Storting's administration by 0830 hours at the latest on the date of the sitting at which they are to be submitted to the Storting.

As a rule, proposals and applications shall be submitted in writing, but need not be signed by more than 10 Members. Bills shall be set out in statutory form.

Proposals to amend the Constitution and Private Member's Motions shall as soon as possible, together with the Member's grounds, if any are stated, be made available to the Members on paper or in electronic form.

Private Member's Motions may be withdrawn by means of written notification to the Storting's administration in addition to oral notification to the Storting. Proposed amendments to the Constitution may not be withdrawn after the Storting has decided to print and announce the proposal.

When a proposal has been finally decided, it must not be brought up again or put on an order of business during the same session. If it is urgently necessary, or the Government introduces a Proposition or a Report to the Storting within the same sphere of responsibility, the Storting may nevertheless resolve to reconsider a proposal, on condition that the matter is again dealt with by a committee.

³ Article 68 of the Constitution reads: "The Storting shall as a rule assemble on the first weekday in October every year in the capital of the Realm, unless the King, by reason of extraordinary circumstances, such as hostile invasion or infectious disease, designates another town in the Realm for the purpose. Such a decision must be publicly announced in good time."

§ 39 *Consideration of propositions and proposals*

The Presidium proposes the procedure for the Royal Propositions and Reports, and for Private Member's Motions and applications, when they have been received by the Storting.

When new matters of business, including proposals, requests and applications, have been reported, the Storting decides whether the matter shall be

- a) sent to the Government without a substantive vote,
- b) sent to a committee,
- c) made available for examination by the Members for at least a day, and then be placed on the order of business to be dealt with,
- d) decided at once, unless the President or one-fifth of the Members present are opposed to this,
- e) rejected or not dealt with.

If the President considers that certain matters which are to be reported may appropriately be decided at the same sitting, the President should have them included as separate items on the order of business with notice that it will be proposed to deal with them at once.

New documents relating to matters which have already been sent to a committee shall not be treated as separate matters, but shall be sent directly to the committee which has the matter in hand, unless the Presidium decides that the matter should be reported to the Storting.

A Member may obtain comments from the Ministry concerned regarding a proposal, application or request that the Storting has submitted to the Government without a substantive vote.

§ 40 *Proposals put forward while a matter is under consideration*

Proposals which are discussed and presented in the committee recommendation are to be decided upon together with the recommendation, when the proposer so demands. The same applies to other proposals concerning the same matter when notice has been given in advance to the President through the Storting's administration by 0830 hours at the latest on the day when the Storting has the matter on the order of business. Otherwise, the same rules apply for such proposals as for proposals formulated in the committee recommendation, cf. § 31, sixth paragraph. A proposal that

constitutional authority shall be asserted or a proposal to implement enquiries as mentioned in § 44, first paragraph shall nevertheless be sent to the Standing Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs if the circumstances have not already been dealt with by or submitted to the committee, cf. § 15, second to fourth paragraph. In special cases, the Storting may by a two-thirds majority decide that the rules of the first and second sentences shall not apply.

Proposals put forward during the debate are otherwise to be dealt with in accordance with § 39, second paragraph. The same applies for proposals put forward in connection with a debate concerning a statement pursuant to § 45, when such a debate is held during a subsequent sitting of the Storting.

§ 41 Postponing or sending matters back to a committee

Before a debate on a matter is concluded, a proposal to send the matter back to the committee or to postpone further consideration of the matter by the Storting to a later sitting in the same Storting session may be put forward. A proposal to postpone a matter to a later sitting of the Storting must be considered and voted on at once.

§ 42 Consideration of Bills

If, during the first reading of a Bill, the Storting adopts an amendment which has not been considered in committee, the committee in question shall as a rule comment on the resolution before it is dealt with again in the Storting.

When, during the consideration of a Bill, a proposal containing a petition to the Government is put forward, the principal rule is that the proposal shall be considered at the same time as the first reading of the Bill. However, petition proposals that predetermine the outcome of the consideration of the Bill shall be included on the order of business as a separate item after the Storting has concluded its consideration of the Bill. Other proposals may not be presented during the consideration of such a matter.

If a proposal concerning a Bill presented during the second reading of a Bill is not notified in advance by submission to the President through the Storting's administration by not later than 0830 hours on

the date that the matter is to be considered, the President or one-fifth of the Members present may refuse to vote over the proposal.

§ 43 Consideration of the Fiscal Budget and the National Budget

A Royal Proposition concerning the Fiscal Budget for the next fiscal year shall be submitted to the Storting within six days after the opening of the Storting, cf. § 8 of the Appropriation Regulations. The Report to the Storting concerning the National Budget shall be submitted at the same time.

After the Royal Proposition concerning the Fiscal Budget has been presented to the Storting, the Presidium submits a recommendation on how the chapters of the budget are to be distributed among the standing committees and on expenditure areas. After the committee chairs have been given the opportunity to state their views, the Presidium shall decide and announce the dates for proceedings on the budget recommendations.

Not later than 20 November, the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs shall present a recommendation concerning the National Budget and the Fiscal Budget, containing the proposed resolution on budget ceilings for appropriations in accordance with the expenditure areas laid down by the Storting. The proposals concerning appropriations formulated in the recommendation or submitted in connection with the consideration of the recommendation by the Storting shall contain amounts for all budget headings, and may not be below the total budget ceiling. The Storting may not vote separately on the separate parts of such a proposal.

The Storting shall consider the recommendations laid down in the third paragraph above within one week following their submission. The Storting's resolution on budget ceilings is binding for the subsequent consideration of the budget during the same year.

Thereafter, the standing committees shall present recommendations concerning appropriations within the expenditure areas allocated to them. Proposals concerning appropriations that are formulated in such a recommendation or submitted in connection with its consideration by the Storting shall include all budget chapters and budget items within each separate expenditure area, and may not deviate from the limits decided by

the Storting. The Storting may not vote separately on the separate parts of such a proposal.

The budget recommendations of the standing committees shall be considered by the Storting not later than 15 December. The budget resolutions made by the Storting after consideration of these recommendations are final.

Any Royal Proposition concerning amendments to all the separate budgets of the individual Ministries shall be submitted by 15 May during the fiscal year in question, in connection with the submission of the Report to the Storting concerning the Revised National Budget. The Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs submits a recommendation concerning such amendments not later than the second Friday of June. For amendments to the Fiscal Budget during the fiscal year, the Storting may only vote separately on the separate parts of such a proposal if no objection to this is made by the proposer.

§ 44 Consideration of matters of constitutional responsibility

For decisions that require support from one-third of the Members, the Storting may request the Storting's Accountability Select Committee to initiate enquiries to clarify whether there are grounds to prosecute through the Court of Impeachment pursuant to Article 86 of the Constitution, cf. the Act of 5th February 1932 no. 2 relating to the Legal Procedure for Offences Indicted before the Court of Impeachment chapter 3. This does not, however, apply if in the same matter it is decided that the Storting shall or shall not bring a prosecution against the person or persons the inquiries will be directed against for the circumstances included in the request.

When a decision has been made to prosecute through the Court of Impeachment, the Standing Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs acts on behalf of the Storting during the preparation and implementation of the matter.

§ 45 Oral statements to the Storting by members of the Government

By the consent of the Presidium of the Storting, a member of the Government may make an oral statement at a sitting of the Storting. If

possible the statement shall be placed on the order of business. The assembly decides whether the statement shall

- a) immediately be followed by a debate,
- b) be put on the order of business of a subsequent sitting,
- c) be sent to a committee, or
- d) be attached to the Record of Proceedings.

In a debate immediately following the statement, one Member from each of the parliamentary party groups, and the Minister concerned, may speak for a maximum of five minutes each. No proposals may be submitted during such a debate. At the end of such a debate the assembly decides whether the statement shall be attached to the Record of Proceedings or be dealt with further according to alternative b) or c) in the first paragraph.

§ 46 How committee recommendations are made available

After a committee has submitted a recommendation, it shall as soon as possible be made available to the Members on paper or in electronic form. Proceedings on a recommendation may not begin until 48 hours after it is made available to the Members. In special cases the Storting may nevertheless decide by a simple majority to take the matter up sooner.

§ 47 List of the matters which the Government intends to put forward and matters for consideration

In October and January of each session of the Storting, the Presidium obtains a list of the Propositions and Reports which the Government intends to put forward.

The Presidium ensures that a list of all matters of business which have been taken up is continuously made available to the Members, stating when these were sent to the appropriate committee, who the spokesperson is and when the committees will submit their recommendations.

§ 48 Matters which have not been conclusively dealt with within a Storting session or electoral term

Royal Propositions to the Storting that have not been conclusively dealt with by the Storting within the electoral term during which they were submitted at a sitting of the Storting may, subject to a proposal by the Presidium, be dealt with in the new electoral term after a statement has been acquired from the Government. This also applies to Royal Reports to the Storting that have not been conclusively dealt with by the Storting within the electoral term during which they were referred at a sitting of the Storting.

Private Member's Motions and applications submitted during an earlier Storting session in the same electoral term, but not decided on there, shall remain on the pending list unless the proposer has made reservations to the contrary. Private Member's Motions that have not been fully dealt with during the electoral term in which they are submitted are discontinued.

If a recommendation from a committee is not decided on by the Storting before the sitting is over, it shall be dealt with during the next sitting in the same electoral term, without further committee proceedings. A recommendation that is not decided on by the Storting by the end of the electoral term discontinues.

Questions and interpellations which have not been answered by the end of the parliamentary term discontinue.

§ 49 Summoning persons to appear before the Storting

When the Storting deems it necessary to require persons to appear before the Storting pursuant to Article 75 (h) of the Constitution, the President shall ensure that a summons is sent.

The summons shall expressly mention the matter or the matters on which the Storting wishes to hear statements. It shall also contain the decision that the person summoned shall confirm the statements by solemn declaration. The person summoned shall also receive a copy of the provisions adopted by the Storting concerning the procedure when a person's attendance is required pursuant to Article 75 (h) of the Constitution.

§ 50 Requesting the submission of documents

When the Storting deems it necessary to request that documents be submitted pursuant to Article 75 (f) of the Constitution, a resolution is made on this. The request may apply to any document in the possession of the Government or the subordinate administration that has been prepared or obtained in the course of public activity. The President ensures that the request is forwarded to the Government, which then submits the documents as soon as possible.

Chapter 7 Debates in the Storting

§ 51 Lists of speakers and limits on the duration of debates

At the opening of a debate the assembly may, at the proposal of the President, decide to limit the duration of the debate and allocate speaking time between the parliamentary party groups. As a consequence of this decision the individual speaker may be given less speaking time than is stipulated in § 52.

The spokesperson on a matter will generally open the debate, after which speakers will be called upon in the same order as they have caught the President's eye. In the event of simultaneous requests, the President decides who may speak first. If the parliamentary party groups have submitted to the President, through the Storting's administration, the names of Members who wish to take part in the debate, the President may on this basis establish the order of speakers. One speaker from each parliamentary party group shall head the list of speakers.

No speaker may take the floor more than twice during the debate on a matter, or during each part of the debate if the debate has been divided up. The following exceptions to this apply:

- a) The restriction does not apply to the committee's spokesperson on the matter or the Minister under which the matter belongs. In general political debates, the restriction does not apply to the Prime Minister and the leaders of the parliamentary party groups.
- b) The President may permit a brief remark.
- c) The President may permit one speaker from each parliamentary party group to speak more than twice.

- d) For debates on matters laid down in § 22, seventh paragraph, second sentence, one Member from each party is permitted to an unlimited number of speeches.
- e) At the proposal of the President, exceptions may be made to these rules if the Storting so consents.

The Storting may decide to terminate a debate before all enrolled speakers have spoken ("closure"). Proposals to this effect must be put forward by the President or by ten Members, as for proposals to limit the speaking time. The proposal must obtain a two-thirds majority to be adopted. A vote is taken after one speaker has spoken in favour and one against – once each.

§ 52 General limits on speaking time

Speaking time must not exceed 30 minutes in the first speech, ten minutes in the second speech and three minutes in any subsequent speeches. A brief remark is nevertheless restricted to one minute. An oral statement by a member of the Government, cf. § 45, may not exceed one hour. At the proposal of the President, the Storting may consent to extend speaking time.

At the proposal of the President or a written proposal by at least ten Members, the Storting may consent to reduce speaking time, though this must not be set at less than three minutes. At the proposal of the President, exceptions may be made for committee spokespersons, leaders of the parliamentary party group and members of the Government.

§ 53 Remarks and replies to direct questions

The President shall permit a debate with exchanges of brief remarks and replies and arrange for this, provided that the Storting does not decide otherwise. A remark shall be related to the speech in question. Each speaker may speak for up to one minute. The speaker whose speech causes debate may reply to each speaker in turn.

If the President believes that it may be of importance to the further debate, remarks of up to one minute may be allowed out of turn in connection with the most recent speech, in order to answer a direct

question or to correct an obvious misunderstanding. In such cases a speaker may not take the floor more than twice.

§ 54 Questions that it is desirable to bring up before the adjournment of a sitting

At the end of each sitting, the President shall invite comments from Members concerning procedural errors, if any.

At the end of each sitting and with the consent of the President, questions may also be put to the Presidium or to members of the Government on matters which for particular reasons it is desirable to bring up at once and which cannot suitably be raised in other ways. Members wishing to do this shall inform the President in good time before the end of the sitting. The questioner and the answerer have a speaking time of up to five minutes each. After the answer, a Member from each of the other parliamentary party groups may speak once for up to three minutes. Finally, the questioner and the answerer may speak once more for up to three minutes each.

Proposals may not be put forward during the proceedings that are described in the second paragraph.

§ 55 Rules of conduct for speakers

A speaker addresses the speech to the President. The speaker should adhere strictly to the matter that is being debated.

The use of quotations should be limited. The beginning and the end of a quotation must be clearly indicated in the speech, and the speaker must give the source of the quotation.

Improper or insulting behaviour or speech is not permitted. Such behaviour or speech shall be censured by the President.

§ 56 General rules of conduct during proceedings

Noisy expressions of disapproval or applause are not permitted during the proceedings.

§ 57 Participation of members of the Government in proceedings

When members of the Government take part in the proceedings, they have, in accordance with Article 74⁴ of the Constitution, the same rights and obligations under the Rules of Procedure as Members of the Storting.

§ 58 Breaches of the Rules of Procedure

If any Member disregards the Rules of Procedure, the President may give the Member a warning, which is repeated if necessary.

If the Member still fails to observe the Rules of Procedure, the President calls for a vote on whether the Member in question shall be refused permission to speak or be excluded from the proceedings for the rest of the day.

Chapter 8 Voting

§ 59 How votes are organized

When all the speakers enrolled have spoken, the President declares the debate closed. Matters are put to the vote at the end of the day's sitting unless the Storting decides that one or more matters shall be put to the vote earlier.

If there are several proposals relating to one matter, the President shall put each of them to the vote in a logical order. The order of voting must be announced and accepted in advance.

A Member who is not present in the Chamber when the President declares that a matter is to be put to the vote, shall not vote. The Members who are present must not leave the Chamber until the voting has been concluded.

§ 60 How votes are conducted

The voting is conducted in one of the following ways:

- a) By a request from the President that the Members in favour of, or

⁴ Article 74 states that members of the Government have the right to attend and take part in any proceedings in open sittings, when constituted, although without voting.

those against the proposal, rise. The President may also ask for a vote to the contrary.

- b) By means of the electronic voting system.
- c) By roll call. If the President finds the roll call unnecessary, but a Member so requests, the Storting decides the method of voting without any debate and by a vote according to subparagraph a) or b). The roll call begins with the constituency and the Member whose number is drawn by lot in advance. The roll call continues in the order of the Members.
- d) By unsigned ballot papers. This method of voting is used only for elections when two or more proposals have been put forward for the same office or when so demanded by a Member who is present or when decided by the assembly following a proposal by the President. Voters shall write on the unsigned ballot papers the names of the persons they are voting for and personally deposit the papers in the ballot box. If any Member votes for more persons than shall be elected, the last name or names on the ballot paper shall not be counted.

If there has been a vote as mentioned under subparagraph a) or b), but the President or one-fifth of the voters declare that the result may not be considered correct, a new vote shall be carried out, pursuant to subparagraph b) or c).

§ 61 Whether votes require a simple or a relative majority

Votes according to § 60, first paragraph, subparagraphs a), b) or c) are decided by a simple majority, i.e. more than half of the votes cast, unless the Storting has decided otherwise. If there is an equal number of votes for and against, the President has the casting vote when he or she is presiding over the sitting. If another President is chairing the sitting, he or she has the casting vote in cases where the vote relates to how a matter shall be dealt with in the Storting. If the vote relates to the substance of a matter, a tied vote entails that no valid decision has been reached, and consideration of the matter continues at a later sitting. If the new vote also results in a tie, the vote of the chair of the sitting is decisive.

Votes according to § 60, first paragraph, subparagraph d) are decided by a relative majority, i.e. more votes than for any other proposal, unless it has been decided by law or regulation, or for the matter in question, that more than half of the votes must be obtained for anyone to be considered elected. If blank voting slips have been returned, these slips shall be counted to determine whether there is a quorum, but not in deciding the outcome of the election itself. Whoever then has a relative majority of the valid votes is elected. If more than one candidate has obtained the highest number of votes, any Member may at once request a new vote among the candidates who have won an equal number of votes. If no such request is made, or if the number of votes is equal also after a new vote, the election shall be decided by lot.

§ 62 The requirement of a vote before a sitting is adjourned

When a matter is being debated, the sitting must not be adjourned until the matter has been put to the vote, or the Storting has resolved to postpone the proceedings.

Chapter 9 The Records of the Storting, and Dispatch of Business

§ 63 The Records of the Storting

The President authorizes the Record of Proceedings in two editions, one concerning matters dealt with in public sittings, the other for matters dealt with in camera. The Secretary shall keep the Record of Proceedings, which the President and the Secretary shall sign.

§ 64 Inspection and correction of the Records

After each public sitting the Record of Proceedings is available for inspection in the Storting's administration. The same applies after sittings in camera if the assembly has resolved that the proceedings may be made public. If anyone objects to the entry in the Record, the President replies to the objections, after which the Storting decides by a vote without a debate whether to make corrections.

Proceedings in camera which it is decided not to make public (cf. § 36, third paragraph) shall be recorded. The Record is read out and adopted before the sitting is adjourned.

§ 65 Dispatch of approved business

When a matter has been decided, the Storting's administration drafts the necessary letters and endorsements and, when the President has approved the drafts, the matter is dispatched. In cases of Addresses from the Storting to the King, or communications which on special occasions shall express the wishes and opinions of the Storting, drafts of such communications shall be read out to the Storting.

§ 66 The signing of decisions adopted in the Storting

All legislation that shall be sent to the King for the Royal Assent and notification of other decisions shall be signed by the President. Resolutions on amendments or additions to the Constitution shall be signed by the President and the Secretary of the Storting.

§ 67 The signing of the Record of Proceedings

When the Storting has concluded its proceedings, the Members sign the Record of Proceedings. Afterwards, the records and appurtenant documents are sent to the Archives of the Storting.

Chapter 10 Interpellations and Questions

§ 68 Interpellations

Any Member who wishes to put an interpellation to the Government or a member of the Government must submit it in writing to the Presidium of the Storting through the Storting's administration. The interpellation must be brief. The President should reject interpellations concerning matters

- a) that fall outside the sphere of responsibility of the Government,
- b) that are being considered in the committees,
- c) on which recommendations have been made, but which have not yet been considered by the Storting,
- d) on which interpellations or questions for Question Time have already been submitted, and which have not yet been answered.

That the interpellation has been raised as a single proposal in a more wide-ranging matter does not provide grounds for refusal under subparagraph b) or c).

The President may also intervene against wording such as is referred to in § 55, third paragraph. If the interpellation is accepted, the President informs the member of the Government in question.

The interpellation shall be answered in the Storting at the earliest possible opportunity, at the latest within one month after it was submitted, unless the Presidium consents to its being answered at a later time. The period of time during which the Storting is not sitting in the summer shall not count in the time limit.

When a matter is dealt with in the Storting, the interpellator is called upon first to speak for no longer than 10 minutes to explain the substance of the interpellation. If a member of the Government states that the interpellation will not be answered, the proceedings are thereby concluded.

If the interpellation is answered, the member of the Government who answers the interpellation may speak for no longer than 10 minutes. The Prime Minister and other ministers whose ministries are affected by the interpellation may also answer, and may speak for the same length of time.

In the ensuing debate, the interpellator and the member of the Government are first entitled to make one speech each that is no longer than three minutes. Thereafter, other members may speak once each for a maximum of five minutes. Finally, the interpellator and the member of the Government are each entitled to speak for no longer than three minutes.

Consideration of the interpellation must not last longer than one hour and 30 minutes. Speaking time used by the Prime Minister and ministers other than the minister to whom the interpellation is addressed shall not be counted.

Proposals may not be submitted in connection with deliberations concerning an interpellation.

§ 69 Questions to the Presidium

Questions concerning the work of the Storting and decisions by the Presidium are submitted in writing to the President of the Storting. The question must be brief. The answer should be given as soon as possible after the question has been submitted.

When the question is being considered, the questioner has the right to elaborate on the grounds for the question for up to five minutes. The member of the Presidium who is answering the question has the same speaking time, but may, with the approval of the Storting, be permitted by the President to speak for up to ten minutes. If the aforementioned member of the Presidium states that the question will not be answered, the proceedings are thereby concluded.

If the question is answered, the questioner and the member of the Presidium both have the right to speak once more for up to three minutes each. The questioner may then raise a brief supplementary question. Proposals may not be put forward in connection with such a question. No one else may take the floor.

At the opening of the consideration of a question, the assembly may, pursuant to the first to third paragraphs of this section, give permission for other Members than the questioner to speak once for up to three minutes each after the first speech of the member of the Presidium. Finally, the questioner and the answerer may speak once more each. Otherwise, the procedure is governed by the rules drawn up in the first to third paragraphs of this section.

§ 70 Questions to be answered in writing

A Member who wishes to have a written answer to a question put to a member of the Government submits the question in writing to the President of the Storting, through the Storting's administration, with an endorsement stating that a written answer is requested. The question shall be brief, but may also be elaborated in a maximum of one A4 page. The question shall be signed personally by the questioner.

The President should reject questions concerning matters that are outside the sphere of responsibility of the Government, and may intervene against such wording as is referred to in § 55, third paragraph. The President sends the question to the member of the Government concerned, who may refuse to answer the question.

In the course of any one calendar week, a Member may submit up to two questions to be answered in writing. Questions to be answered in writing may not be submitted during the month of July.

Within six working days after the question was sent from the Storting, a member of the Government shall submit a written answer to the question to the President of the Storting, through the Storting's administration, or state in writing why the question will not be answered within the time limit, and in that case when it will be answered, or that it will not be answered. As a general rule, the answer should not exceed two A4 pages in length. The Storting's administration forwards the answer to the questioner, and ensures that the question and the answer are printed in the Official Report on Storting Proceedings.

§ 71 When Question Time is held

Question Time is generally held in the Storting every Wednesday at 1000 hours, first oral Question Time, afterwards ordinary Question Time. The Presidium may decide in any week that the oral Question Time or ordinary Question Time shall not be held. In special cases, the Presidium may decide that the oral Question Time or ordinary Question Time shall be rescheduled.

§ 72 Oral Question Time

During the oral Question Time, members of the Government answer questions which are put to them orally by Members. At the latest by Monday at 1100 hours, the Prime Minister informs the President of the Storting which members of the Government will take part in the oral Question Time that same week, and the President informs the Members of this.

The Members may put brief questions, limited to two minutes, to one of the members of the Government who are present. A Member may not ask more than one main question during an oral Question Time.

Members who wish to ask questions should notify the President, through the Storting's administration, of this in advance. The President decides which Members are to ask questions, and in which order.

Members of the Government may refuse to answer questions. The maximum time allotted for the first answer of the member of the Government after a main question is two minutes; otherwise speaking time shall be limited to one minute. After the answer, the questioner is

entitled to speak once. The President may call upon other Members to speak once concerning the matter that was addressed in the question. A member of the Government is entitled to speak after each speech by a Member, in addition to which the President may call upon other members of the Government to speak.

The President decides when an oral Question Time shall end.

§ 73 Ordinary Question Time

During the ordinary Question Time, members of the Government answer questions submitted in writing by the Members to the President of the Storting through the Storting's administration. Questions shall be brief. A Member may ask one question during ordinary Question Time. If a question must be postponed owing to the absence of the Minister, the member may ask two questions during the next Question Time. Questions to be raised during a Question Time must be submitted not later than 1400 hours on the last Thursday prior to the Question Time. If a Thursday falls on a public holiday, the deadline for submitting written questions is 1400 hours on the last preceding working day.

The President should reject questions submitted for Question Time concerning any matter that falls outside the sphere of responsibility of the Government and concerning matters for which interpellations or questions for Question Time have already been submitted and which are still unanswered. Moreover, the President may intervene against such wording as is referred to in § 55, third paragraph. The President sends the questions to the members of the Government concerned. The Storting's administration publishes the questions. The member of the Government may refuse to answer a question.

The questions to be dealt with during Question Time are reproduced and distributed to the Members before Question Time begins. Questioners speak in turn and may, without stating any grounds for their question, request a reply from the Minister. If the questioner is not present, another Member may bring the question up. If that is not done, the question is considered dropped.

In answering a question in Question Time, a Minister should speak for no more than three minutes. After the Minister has answered a question, the questioner and the Minister are each permitted to speak

two more times to make brief comments, limited to one minute, on the matter about which the question was raised. In this connection, the questioner is entitled to ask brief supplementary questions. At the beginning of Question Time, the President may decide that the questioner and the Minister may only speak once each after the Minister has answered, if the President deems this necessary in order that the matters on the order of business may be dealt with in the course of the prescribed time for the morning sitting.

§ 74 Requests for access to documents

A member who wishes to request access to Government and the public administration's documents may submit its request in writing to the President of the Storting through the Storting's administration. The President sends the request to the responsible member of the Government, who shall as soon as possible and at the latest within three days either submit the document or inform in writing why it has not been submitted within the time limit and in such case when it will be submitted or why it will not be submitted.

The member of the Government may refuse the request to the extent that the document is subject to the right of secrecy pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, but, in his assessment, shall place emphasis on the Members' special status and need for information.

Chapter 11 Miscellaneous Provisions

§ 75 Members' duty of secrecy

Members are pledged to secrecy on all matters that are dealt with in camera by the Storting, and also when such matters are dealt with in the committees.

Members are further pledged to secrecy concerning matters they acquire knowledge of in the exercise of their parliamentary duties:

- a) information that is classified pursuant to the Act relating to Protective Security Services or the Protection Instructions, and
- b) matters of the nature referred to in § 13 of the Public Administration Act (certain personal affairs or technical devices and procedures, as well as operational or business matters which

for competition reasons it is important to keep secret in the interests of the person to whom the information relates). The rules laid down in § 13 a) to 13 f) of the Public Administration Act shall apply accordingly wherever appropriate.

When attending a sitting for the first time, a Member shall sign a pledge of secrecy as formulated by the Presidium.

§ 76 Register of Members of the Storting's Appointments and Economic Interests

Members shall register the appointments and economic interests described in the Regulation on the Register of Members of the Storting's Appointments and Economic Interests in the manner and under the conditions prescribed in these regulations. This also applies to Substitute Members who attend in place of elected Members.

§ 77 Parliamentary party groups

By the term "parliamentary party group" in these Rules of Procedure is understood the Member or Members who were elected from a registered party which presented lists of candidates for election in at least one-third of the counties.

§ 78 Order in the Storting building

The President of the Storting shall by agreement with the competent authorities ensure that good order is maintained in the Storting building. Within the limits imposed by the regulations which apply to the building, access to the visitors' galleries must be as unrestricted as possible.

§ 79 Departure from the Rules of Procedure

Under special circumstances the Storting may decide that certain provisions in the Rules of Procedure shall not apply. Unless the proposal is put forward by the President, such a resolution requires a two-thirds majority. Proposals put forward by the President shall be decided by a simple majority.

The Constitution

The Constitution, as laid down on 17 May 1814 by the Constituent Assembly at Eidsvoll and subsequently amended.

A.

Form of Government

Article 1

The Kingdom of Norway is a free, independent, indivisible and inalienable Realm. Its form of government is a limited and hereditary monarchy.

Article 2

Our values will remain our Christian and humanist heritage. This Constitution shall ensure Democracy, the Rule of Law and Human Rights.

B.

The executive power, the King And the Royal Family and Religion

Article 3

The Executive Power is vested in the King, or in the Queen if she has succeeded to the Crown pursuant to the provisions of Article 6 or Article 7 or Article 48 of this Constitution. When the Executive Power is thus vested in the Queen, she has all the rights and obligations which pursuant to this Constitution and the Law of the Land are possessed by the King.

Article 4

The King shall at all times profess the Evangelical-Lutheran religion.

Article 5

The King's person is sacred; he cannot be censured or accused. The responsibility rests with his Council.

Article 6

The order of succession is lineal, so that only a child born in lawful wedlock of the Queen or King, or of one who is herself or himself entitled to the succession, may succeed, and so that the nearest line shall take precedence over the more remote and the elder in the line over the younger.

An unborn child shall also be included among those entitled to the succession and shall immediately take her or his proper place in the line of succession as soon as she or he is born into the world.

The right of succession shall not, however, belong to any person who is not born in the direct line of descent from the last reigning Queen or King or a sister or brother thereof, or is not herself or himself a sister or brother thereof.

When a Princess or Prince entitled to succeed to the Crown of Norway is born, her or his name and time of birth shall be notified to the first Storting in session and be entered in the record of its proceedings.

For those born before the year 1971, Article 6 of the Constitution as it was passed on 18 November 1905 shall, however, apply. For those born before the year 1990 it shall nevertheless be the case that a male shall take precedence over a female.

Article 7

If there is no Princess or Prince entitled to the succession, the King may propose his successor to the Storting, which has the right to make the choice if the King's proposal is not accepted.

Article 8

The age of majority of the King shall be laid down by law.

As soon as the King has attained the age prescribed by law, he shall make a public declaration that he is of age.

Article 9

As soon as the King, being of age, accedes to the Government, he shall take the following oath before the Storting: "I promise and swear that I will govern the Kingdom of Norway in accordance with its

Constitution and Laws; so help me God, the Almighty and Omniscient.”

If the Storting is not in session at the time, the oath shall be made in writing in the Council of State and be repeated solemnly by the King at the first subsequent Storting.

Article 10

(Repealed)

Article 11

The King shall reside in the Realm and may not, without the consent of the Storting, remain outside the Realm for more than six months at a time, otherwise he shall have forfeited, for his person, the right to the Crown.

The King may not accept any other crown or government without the consent of the Storting, for which two thirds of the votes are required.

Article 12

The King himself chooses a Council from among Norwegian citizens who are entitled to vote. This Council shall consist of a Prime Minister and at least seven other Members.

The King apportions the business among the Members of the Council of State as he deems appropriate. Under extraordinary circumstances, besides the ordinary Members of the Council of State, the King may summon other Norwegian citizens, although no Members of the Storting, to take a seat in the Council of State.

Husband and wife, parent and child or two siblings may never sit at the same time in the Council of State.

Article 13

During his travels within the Realm, the King may delegate the administration of the Realm to the Council of State. The Council of State shall conduct the government in the King's name and on his behalf. It shall scrupulously observe the provisions of this

Constitution, as well as such particular directives in conformity therewith as the King may instruct.

The matters of business shall be decided by voting, where in the event of the votes being equal, the Prime Minister, or in his absence the highest-ranking Member of the Council of State who is present, shall have two votes.

The Council of State shall make a report to the King on matters of business which it thus decides.

Article 14

The King may appoint State Secretaries to assist Members of the Council of State with their duties outside the Council of State. Each State Secretary shall act on behalf of the Member of the Council of State to whom he is attached to the extent determined by that Member.

Article 15

Any person who holds a seat in the Council of State has the duty to submit his application to resign once the Storting has passed a vote of no confidence against that Member of the Council of State or against the Council of State as a whole.

The King is bound to grant such an application to resign.

Once the Storting has passed a vote of no confidence, only such business may be conducted as is required for the proper discharge of duties.

Article 16

All inhabitants of the Realm shall have the right to free exercise of their religion. The Church of Norway, an Evangelical-Lutheran church, will remain the people's church and will as such be supported by the State. Detailed provisions as to its system will be laid down by law. All religious and philosophical communities should be supported on equal terms.

Article 17

The King may issue and repeal ordinances relating to commerce, customs, all livelihoods and the police, although these must not

conflict with the Constitution or with the laws passed by the Storting (as hereinafter prescribed in Articles 76, 77, 78 and 79).

Article 18

As a general rule the King shall provide for the collection of the taxes and duties imposed by the Storting.

Article 19

The King shall ensure that the properties and regalia of the State are utilised and administered in the manner determined by the Storting and in the best interests of the general public.

Article 20

The King shall have the right in the Council of State to pardon criminals after sentence has been passed. The criminal shall have the choice of accepting the King's pardon or submitting to the penalty imposed.

In proceedings which the Storting causes to be brought before the Court of Impeachment, no pardon other than deliverance from the death penalty may be granted, unless the Storting has given its consent thereto.

Article 21

The King shall choose and appoint, after consultation with his Council of State, all senior civil and military officials. Before the appointment is made, such officials shall swear or, if by law exempted from taking the oath, solemnly declare obedience and allegiance to the Constitution and the King, although senior officials who are not Norwegian nationals may by law be exempted from this duty. The Royal Princes must not hold senior civil offices.

Article 22

The Prime Minister and the other Members of the Council of State, together with the State Secretaries, may be dismissed by the King without any prior court judgment, after he has heard the opinion of the

Council of State on the subject. The same applies to senior officials employed in government ministries or in the diplomatic or consular service, the highest-ranking civil officials, commanders of regiments and other military formations, commandants of fortresses and officers commanding warships. Whether pensions should be granted to senior officials thus dismissed shall be determined by the next Storting. In the interval they shall receive two thirds of their previous pay.

Other senior officials may only be suspended by the King, and must then without delay be charged before the Courts, but they may not, except by court judgment, be dismissed nor, against their will, transferred.

All senior officials may, without a prior court judgment, be discharged from office upon attaining the statutory age limit. It may be determined by law that certain senior officials who are not judges may be appointed for a term of years.

Article 23

The King may bestow orders upon whomever he pleases as a reward for distinguished services, and such orders must be publicly announced, but no rank or title other than that attached to any office. The order exempts no one from the common duties and burdens of citizens, nor does it carry with it any preferential admission to senior official posts in the State. Senior officials honourably discharged from office retain the title and rank of their office. This does not apply, however, to Members of the Council of State or the State Secretaries.

No personal, or mixed, hereditary privileges may henceforth be granted to anyone.

Article 24

The King chooses and dismisses, at his own discretion, his Royal Household and Court Officials.

Article 25

The King is Commander-in-Chief of the land and naval forces of the Realm. These forces may not be increased or reduced without the consent of the Storting. They may not be transferred to the service of

foreign powers, nor may the military forces of any foreign power, except auxiliary forces assisting against hostile attack, be brought into the Realm without the consent of the Storting.

The territorial army and the other troops which cannot be classed as troops of the line must never, without the consent of the Storting, be employed outside the borders of the Realm.

Article 26

The King has the right to call up troops, to engage in war in defence of the Realm and to make peace, to conclude and denounce treaties, to send and to receive diplomatic envoys.

Treaties on matters of special importance, and, in all cases, treaties whose implementation, according to the Constitution, necessitates a new law or a decision by the Storting, are not binding until the Storting has given its consent thereto.

Article 27

All Members of the Council of State shall, unless lawfully absent, attend the Council of State, and no decision may be adopted there unless more than half the number of Members are present.

Article 28

Proposals regarding appointments to senior official posts and other matters of importance shall be presented in the Council of State by the Member within whose competence they fall, and such matters shall be dealt with by him in accordance with the decision adopted in the Council of State. However, matters strictly relating to military command may, to the extent determined by the King, be excepted from proceedings in the Council of State.

Article 29

If a Member of the Council of State is prevented due to lawful absence from attending the meeting and from presenting the matters that fall within his competence, these shall be presented by another Member temporarily appointed by the King for the purpose.

If so many Members are prevented due to lawful absence from attending that not more than half of the stipulated number are present, the requisite number of other men or women shall be temporarily appointed to take a seat in the Council of State.

Article 30

All the proceedings of the Council of State shall be entered in its records. Diplomatic matters which the Council of State decides to keep secret shall be entered in a special record. The same applies to military command matters which the Council of State decides to keep secret.

Everyone who has a seat in the Council of State has the duty frankly to express his opinion, to which the King is bound to listen. But it rests with the King to make a decision according to his own judgment.

If any Member of the Council of State is of the opinion that the King's decision conflicts with the form of government or the laws of the Realm, it is his duty to make strong remonstrances against it, as well as to enter his opinion in the records. A Member who has not thus protested is deemed to have been in agreement with the King, and shall be answerable in such manner as may be subsequently decided, and may be impeached by the Storting before the Court of Impeachment.

Article 31

All decisions drawn up by the King shall, in order to become valid, be countersigned. Decisions relating to military command are countersigned by the person who has presented the matter, while other decisions are countersigned by the Prime Minister or, if he has not been present, by the highest-ranking Member of the Council of State present.

Article 32

The decisions adopted by the Government during the King's absence shall be drawn up in the King's name and be signed by the Council of State.

Article 33

(Repealed)

Article 34

The King shall make provisions concerning titles for those who are entitled to succeed to the Crown.

Article 35

As soon as the Heir to the Throne has completed her or his eighteenth year, she or he is entitled to take a seat in the Council of State, although without a vote or responsibility.

Article 36

A Princess or Prince entitled to succeed to the Crown of Norway may not marry without the consent of the King. Nor may she or he accept any other crown or government without the consent of the King and the Storting; for the consent of the Storting two thirds of the votes are required.

If she or he acts contrary to this rule, they and their descendants forfeit their right to the Throne of Norway.

Article 37

The Royal Princes and Princesses shall not personally be answerable to anyone other than the King, or whomever he decrees to sit in judgment on them.

Article 38

(Repealed)

Article 39

If the King dies and the Heir to the Throne is still under age, the Council of State shall immediately summon the Storting.

Article 40

Until the Storting has assembled and made provisions for the government during the minority of the King, the Council of State shall be responsible for the administration of the Realm in accordance with the Constitution.

Article 41

If the King is absent from the Realm unless commanding in the field, or if he is so ill that he cannot attend to the government, the person next entitled to succeed to the Throne shall, provided that he has attained the age stipulated for the King's majority, conduct the government as the temporary executor of the Royal Powers. If this is not the case, the Council of State will conduct the administration of the Realm.

Article 42

(Repealed)

Article 43

The choice of trustees to conduct the government on behalf of the King during his minority shall be undertaken by the Storting.

Article 44

The Princess or Prince who, in the cases mentioned in Article 41, conducts the government shall make the following oath in writing before the Storting: "I promise and swear that I will conduct the government in accordance with the Constitution and the Laws, so help me God, the Almighty and Omniscient."

If the Storting is not in session at the time, the oath shall be made in the Council of State and later be presented to the next Storting.

The Princess or Prince who has once made the oath shall not repeat it later.

Article 45

As soon as their conduct of the government ceases, they shall submit to the King and the Storting an account of the same.

Article 46

If the persons concerned fail to summon the Storting immediately in accordance with Article 39, it becomes the unconditional duty of the Supreme Court, as soon as four weeks have elapsed, to arrange for the Storting to be summoned.

Article 47

The supervision of the education of the King during his minority should, if both his parents are dead and neither of them has left any written directions thereon, be determined by the Storting.

Article 48

If the Royal Line has died out, and no successor to the Throne has been designated, then a new Queen or King shall be chosen by the Storting. Meanwhile, the Executive Power shall be exercised in accordance with Article 40.

C.

Rights of Citizens and The Legislative Power

Article 49

The people exercise the Legislative Power through the Storting.

Article 50

Those entitled to vote in elections to the Storting are Norwegian citizens, men and women, who, at the latest in the year when the election is held, have completed their eighteenth year.

The extent, however, to which Norwegian citizens who on Election Day are resident outside the Realm but who satisfy the aforementioned conditions are entitled to vote shall be determined by law.

Rules may be laid down by law concerning the right to vote of persons otherwise entitled to vote who on Election Day are manifestly suffering from a seriously weakened mental state or a reduced level of consciousness.

Article 51

The rules on the keeping of the electoral register and on the registration in the register of persons entitled to vote shall be determined by law.

Article 52

(Repealed)

Article 53

The right to vote is lost by persons:

- a) sentenced for criminal offences, in accordance with the relevant provisions laid down by law;
- b) entering the service of a foreign power without the consent of the Government.

Article 54

The elections shall be held every fourth year. They shall be concluded by the end of September.

Article 55

The elections shall be conducted in the manner prescribed by law. Disputes regarding the right to vote shall be settled by the Electoral Committee, whose decision may be appealed to the Storting.

Article 56

(Repealed)

Article 57

The number of representatives to be elected to the Storting shall be one hundred and sixty -nine.

The Realm is divided into nineteen constituencies.

One hundred and fifty of the representatives to the Storting are elected as representatives of constituencies and the remaining nineteen representatives are elected as members at large.

Each constituency shall have one seat at large.

The number of representatives to the Storting to be chosen from each constituency is determined on the basis of a calculation of the ratio between the number of inhabitants and surface area of each constituency and the number of inhabitants and surface area of the entire Realm, in which each inhabitant counts as one point and each square kilometre counts as 1.8 points. This calculation shall be made every eighth year.

Specific provisions on the division of the Realm into constituencies and on the allotment of seats in the Storting to the constituencies shall be determined by law.

Article 58

The polls shall be held separately for each municipality. At the polls votes shall be cast directly for representatives to the Storting, together with their proxies, to represent the entire constituency.

Article 59

The election of representatives of constituencies is based on proportional representation and the seats are distributed among the political parties in accordance with the following rules.

The total number of votes cast for each party within each separate constituency is divided by 1, 4, 3, 5, 7 and so on until the number of votes cast is divided as many times as the number of seats that the party in question may be expected to obtain. The party which in accordance with the foregoing obtains the largest quotient is allotted the first seat, while the second seat is allotted to the party with the second largest quotient, and so on until all the seats are distributed.

List alliances are not permitted.

The seats at large are distributed among the parties taking part in such distribution on the basis of the relation between the total number of votes cast for the individual parties in the entire Realm in order to achieve the highest possible degree of proportionality among the parties. The total number of seats in the Storting to be held by each party is determined by applying the rules concerning the distribution of constituency seats correspondingly to the entire Realm and to the parties taking part in the distribution of the seats at large. The parties

are then allotted so many seats at large that these, together with the constituency seats already allotted, correspond to the number of seats in the Storting to which the party in question is entitled in accordance with the foregoing. If a party has already through the distribution of constituency seats obtained a greater number of seats than it is entitled to in accordance with the foregoing, a new distribution of the seats at large shall be carried out exclusively among the other parties, in such a way that no account is taken of the number of votes cast for and constituency seats obtained by the said party.

No party may be allotted a seat at large unless it has received at least four per cent of the total number of votes cast in the entire Realm.

Specific provisions concerning the distribution among the constituencies of the seats at large allotted to the parties shall be determined by law.

Article 60

Whether and in what manner those entitled to vote may deliver their ballot papers without personal attendance at the polls shall be determined by law.

Article 61

No one may be elected as a representative unless he or she is entitled to vote.

Article 62

Officials who are employed in government ministries, except however State Secretaries and political advisers, may not be elected as representatives. The same applies to Members of the Supreme Court and officials employed in the diplomatic or consular services.

Members of the Council of State may not attend meetings of the Storting as representatives while holding a seat in the Council of State. Nor may State Secretaries attend as representatives while holding their appointments, and political advisers in government ministries may not attend meetings of the Storting as long as they hold their positions.

Article 63

It is the duty of anyone who is elected as a representative to accept such election, unless:

- a) He is elected outside the constituency in which he is entitled to vote.
- b) He has as a representative attended all the sessions of the Storting following the previous election.
- d) He is a member of a political party and he is elected on a list of candidates which has not been issued by that party.

Rules for the time within which and the manner in which anyone who has the right to refuse election shall assert this right shall be prescribed by law.

It shall similarly be prescribed by law by what date and in which manner anyone who is elected as representative for two or more constituencies shall state which election he will accept.

Article 64

The representatives elected shall be furnished with credentials, the validity of which shall be adjudged by the Storting.

Article 65

Every representative and proxy called to the Storting shall be entitled to receive from the Treasury such reimbursement as is prescribed by law for travelling expenses to and from the Storting, and from the Storting to his home and back again during vacations lasting at least fourteen days.

He shall further be entitled to remuneration, likewise prescribed by law, for attending the Storting.

Article 66

Representatives on their way to and from the Storting, as well as during their attendance there, shall be exempt from personal arrest, unless they are apprehended in public crimes, nor may they be called to account outside the meetings of the Storting for opinions expressed

there. Every representative shall be bound to conform to the rules of procedure therein adopted.

Article 67

The representatives elected in the aforesaid manner shall constitute the Storting of the Kingdom of Norway.

Article 68

The Storting shall as a rule assemble on the first weekday in October every year in the capital of the Realm, unless the King, by reason of extraordinary circumstances, such as hostile invasion or infectious disease, designates another town in the Realm for the purpose. Such a decision must be publicly announced in good time.

Article 69

When the Storting is not assembled, it may be summoned by the King if he finds it necessary.

Article 70

(Repealed)

Article 71

The Members of the Storting function as such for four successive years.

Article 72

(Repealed)

Article 73

The Storting nominates a President, five Vice-Presidents and two Secretaries. The Storting may not hold a meeting unless at least half of its Members are present. However, Bills concerning amendments to the Constitution may not be dealt with unless at least two thirds of the Members of the Storting are present.

Article 74

As soon as the Storting is constituted, the King, or whoever he appoints for the purpose, shall open its proceedings with a speech, in which he shall inform it of the state of the Realm and of the issues to which he particularly desires to call the attention of the Storting. No deliberations may take place in the presence of the King.

When the proceedings of the Storting have been opened, the Prime Minister and the Members of the Council of State have the right to attend the Storting and, like its Members, although without voting, to take part in any proceedings conducted in open session, while in matters discussed in closed session only insofar as permitted by the Storting.

Article 75

It devolves upon the Storting:

- a) to enact and repeal laws; to impose taxes, duties, customs and other public charges, which shall not, however, remain operative beyond 31 December of the succeeding year, unless they are expressly renewed by a new Storting;
- b) to raise loans in the name of the Realm;
- c) to supervise the economic affairs of the Realm;
- d) to appropriate the moneys necessary to meet government expenditure;
- e) to decide how much shall be paid annually to the King for the Royal Household, and to determine the Royal Family's appanage, which may not, however, consist of real property;
- f) to have submitted to it the records of the Council of State, and all public reports and documents;
- g) to have communicated to it the treaties which the King, on behalf of the State, has concluded with foreign powers;
- h) to have the right to require anyone, the King and the Royal Family excepted, to appear before it on matters of State; the exception does not, however, apply to the Royal Princes if they hold any public office;
- i) to review the provisional lists of salaries and pensions and to make therein such alterations as it deems necessary;

- k) to appoint five auditors, who shall annually examine the State Accounts and publish extracts of the same in print, for which purpose the Accounts shall be submitted to the auditors within six months of the end of the year for which the appropriations of the Storting have been made, and to adopt provisions concerning the procedure for authorising the accounts of government accounting officials;
- l) to appoint a person, not a member of the Storting, in a manner prescribed by law, to supervise the public administration and all who work in its service, to assure that no injustice is done against the individual citizen;
- m) to naturalise aliens.

Article 76

Every Bill shall first be proposed in the Storting, either by one of its own Members, or by the Government through a Member of the Council of State.

Once the Bill is passed there, a new deliberation is to take place in the Storting, which either approves or rejects it. In the latter case the Bill, with the comments appended by the Storting, shall again be taken into consideration by the Storting, which either shelves the Bill or approves it with the said comments.

Between each such deliberation there shall be an interval of at least three days.

Article 77

When a Bill has been approved by the Storting in two consecutive meetings, it is sent to the King with a request that it may receive the Royal Assent.

Article 78

If the King assents to the Bill, he appends his signature, whereby it becomes law.

If he does not assent to it, he returns it to the Storting with a statement that he does not for the time being find it expedient to give his assent. In that case the Bill must not again be submitted to the King by the Storting then assembled.

Article 79

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

Article 80

The Storting shall remain in session as long as it deems it necessary and shall terminate its proceedings when it has concluded its business.

In accordance with the rules of procedure adopted by the Storting, the proceedings may be resumed, but they shall terminate not later than the last weekday in the month of September.

Within this time the King shall communicate his decision with regard to the Bills that have not already been decided (cf. Articles 77 to 79), by either confirming or rejecting them. All those which he does not expressly accept are deemed to have been rejected by him.

Article 81

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

Article 82

The Government is to provide the Storting with all information that is necessary for the proceedings on the matters it submits. No Member of the Council of State may submit incorrect or misleading information to the Storting or its bodies.

Article 83

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

Article 84

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

Article 85

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

D.

The Judicial Power

Article 86

The Court of Impeachment pronounces judgment in the first and last instance in such proceedings as are brought by the Storting against Members of the Council of State or of the Supreme Court or of the Storting for criminal or other unlawful conduct in cases where they have breached their constitutional obligations.

The specific rules concerning indictment by the Storting in accordance with this Article shall be determined by law. However, the limitation period for the institution of indictment proceedings before the Court of Impeachment may not be set at less than 15 years.

The judges of the Court of Impeachment comprise six Members elected by the Storting and the five longest-serving, permanently appointed Members of the Supreme Court, including the President of the Supreme Court. The Storting elects the Members and their deputies for a period of six years. A Member of the Council of State or of the Storting may not be elected as a Member of the Court of Impeachment. In the Court of Impeachment the President of the Supreme Court shall preside.

Any person sitting in the Court of Impeachment who has been elected by the Storting shall not lose his seat in the Court if the period for which he is elected expires before the Court of Impeachment has concluded the proceedings in the case. Nor shall a Justice of the Supreme Court who is a Member of the Court of Impeachment lose his seat in the Court, even if he resigns as a Member of the Supreme Court.

Article 87

Specific provisions as to the composition of the Court of Impeachment and its procedures shall be laid down by law.

Article 88

The Supreme Court pronounces judgment in the final instance. Nevertheless, limitations on the right to bring a case before the Supreme Court may be prescribed by law.

The Supreme Court shall consist of a President and at least four other Members.

Article 89

(Repealed)

Article 90

The judgments of the Supreme Court may in no case be appealed.

Article 91

No one may be appointed a Member of the Supreme Court before reaching 30 years of age.

E.*General Provisions*

Article 92

To senior official posts in the State may be appointed only Norwegian citizens, men or women, who speak the language of the Country, and who:

- a) either were born in the Realm of parents who were then subjects of the State;
- b) or were born in a foreign country of Norwegian parents who were not at that time subjects of another State;
- c) or hereafter have resided for ten years in the Realm;
- d) or have been naturalised by the Storting.

Others may, however, be appointed as teachers at the university and institutions of higher learning, as medical practitioners and as consuls in places abroad.

Article 93

In order to safeguard international peace and security or to promote the international rule of law and cooperation, the Storting may, by a three-fourths majority, consent that an international organisation to which Norway belongs or will belong shall have the right, within specified fields, to exercise powers which in accordance with this Constitution are normally vested in the authorities of the State, although not the power to alter this Constitution. For the Storting to grant such consent, at least two thirds of its Members shall be present, as required for proceedings for amending the Constitution.

The provisions of this Article do not apply in cases of membership in an international organisation whose decisions only have application for Norway exclusively under international law.

Article 94

The first, or if this is not possible, the second ordinary Storting, shall make provision for the publication of a new general civil and criminal code. However, the currently applicable laws of the State shall

remain in force, provided they do not conflict with this Constitution or with such provisional ordinances as may be issued in the meantime.

The existing permanent taxes shall likewise remain operative until the next Storting.

Article 95

No dispensations, protection from civil arrest, moratoriums or redresses may be granted after the new general code has entered into force.

Article 96

No one may be convicted except according to law, or be punished except after a court judgment. Interrogation by torture must not take place.

Article 97

No law must be given retroactive effect.

Article 98

When special fees are paid to officials of the Courts of Justice, no further payment shall be made to the Treasury in respect of the same matter.

Article 99

No one may be taken into custody except in the cases determined by law and in the manner prescribed by law. For unwarranted arrest, or illegal detention, the officer concerned is accountable to the person imprisoned.

The Government is not entitled to employ military force against citizens of the State, except in accordance with the forms prescribed by law, unless any assembly disturbs the public peace and does not immediately disperse after the Articles of the Statute Book relating to riots have been read out clearly three times by the civil authority.

Article 100

There shall be freedom of expression.

No person may be held liable in law for having imparted or received information, ideas or messages unless this can be justified in relation to the grounds for freedom of expression, which are the seeking of truth, the promotion of democracy and the individual's freedom to form opinions. Such legal liability shall be prescribed by law.

Everyone shall be free to speak his mind frankly on the administration of the State and on any other subject whatsoever. Clearly defined limitations to this right may only be imposed when particularly weighty considerations so justify in relation to the grounds for freedom of expression.

Prior censorship and other preventive measures may not be applied unless so required in order to protect children and young persons from the harmful influence of moving pictures. Censorship of letters may only be imposed in institutions.

Everyone has a right of access to documents of the State and municipal administration and a right to follow the proceedings of the courts and democratically elected bodies. Limitations to this right may be prescribed by law to protect the privacy of the individual or for other weighty reasons.

It is the responsibility of the authorities of the State to create conditions that facilitate open and enlightened public discourse.

Article 101

New and permanent restrictions on freedom of livelihood must not in future be granted to anyone.

Article 102

Search of private homes shall not be made except in criminal cases.

Article 103

Asylum for the protection of debtors shall not be granted to such persons as hereafter become bankrupt.

Article 104

Land and goods may in no case be made subject to forfeiture.

Article 105

If the welfare of the State requires that any person shall surrender his movable or immovable property for the public use, he shall receive full compensation from the Treasury.

Article 106

The purchase money, as well as the revenues of the landed property constituting ecclesiastical benefices, shall be applied solely to the benefit of the clergy and to the promotion of education. The property of charitable foundations shall be applied solely to the benefit of the foundations themselves.

Article 107

Allodial right and the right of primogeniture shall not be abolished. The specific conditions under which these rights shall continue for the greatest benefit of the State and to the best advantage of the rural population shall be determined by the first or second subsequent Storting.

Article 108

No earldoms, baronies, entailed estates or fideicommissa may be created in the future.

Article 109

As a general rule every citizen of the State is equally bound to serve in the defence of the Country for a specific period, irrespective of birth or fortune.

The application of this principle, and the restrictions to which it shall be subject, shall be determined by law.

Article 110

It is the responsibility of the authorities of the State to create conditions enabling every person capable of work to earn a living by his work.

Specific provisions concerning the right of employees to co-determination at their work place shall be laid down by law.

Article 110 a

It is the responsibility of the authorities of the State to create conditions enabling the Sami people to preserve and develop its language, culture and way of life.

Article 110 b

Every person has a right to an environment that is conducive to health and to a natural environment whose productivity and diversity are maintained. Natural resources should be managed on the basis of comprehensive long-term considerations whereby this right will be safeguarded for future generations as well.

In order to safeguard their right in accordance with the foregoing paragraph, citizens are entitled to information on the state of the natural environment and on the effects of any encroachment on nature that is planned or carried out.

The authorities of the State shall issue specific provisions for the implementation of these principles.

Article 110 c

It is the responsibility of the authorities of the State to respect and ensure human rights.

Specific provisions for the implementation of treaties thereon shall be determined by law.

Article 111

The form and colours of the Norwegian Flag shall be determined by law.

Article 112

If experience shows that any part of this Constitution of the Kingdom of Norway ought to be amended, the proposal to this effect shall be submitted to the first, second or third Storting after a new General Election and be publicly announced in print. But it shall be left to the first, second or third Storting after the following General Election to decide whether or not the proposed amendment shall be adopted. Such amendment must never, however, contradict the principles embodied in this Constitution, but solely relate to modifications of particular provisions which do not alter the spirit of the Constitution, and such amendment requires that two thirds of the Storting agree thereto.

An amendment to the Constitution adopted in the manner aforesaid shall be signed by the President and the Secretary of the Storting, and shall be sent to the King for public announcement in print as an applicable provision of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Norway.

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