

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

ACT
OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

No. 350/1996

ON RULES OF PROCEDURE
as amended

Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic
350/1996
on Rules of Procedure
of the National Council of the Slovak Republic
as amended

(Finding of the Constitutional Court No. 77/1998, Act 86/2000 Coll., Act 138/2002 Coll., Act 100/2003 Coll., Act 551/2003 Coll., Act 215/2004 Coll., Act 360/2004 Coll., Act 253/2005 Coll. and Finding of the Constitutional Court No. 320/2005, Act 261/2006 Coll., Act 199/2007 Coll., Act 400/2009 Coll., Act 38/2010 Coll., Act 153/2011 Coll., Act 187/2011 Coll., Resolution of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic No. 191/2011, Resolution of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic No.237/2011, Act 69/2012 Coll., Act 79/2012 Coll., Act 236/2012 Coll., Act 296/2012 Coll., Act 330/2012 Coll., Act 309/2013 Coll., Act 402/2013 Coll., Act 375/2015 Coll. and Act 399/2015 Coll.)

The National Council of the Slovak Republic has decided to pass the following Act:

PART ONE

§ 1

Introductory Provisions

- (1) This Act constitutes the Rules of Procedure and activities of the National Council of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter, "National Council") and its committees¹. It also regulates in greater detail the organization of the bodies of the National Council and its external relations.
- (2) The National Council and its committees may, within the limits of this Act, resolve to regulate its internal relations and to set out more detailed rules of proceedings by issuing a resolution.

PART TWO

§ 2

Force of the National Council

¹ Article 92 (2) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic

- (1) As provided for by the Constitution of the Slovak Republic² (hereinafter, "Constitution"), the National Council shall have legislative and supervisory force and authority in foreign relations, in establishing of its own bodies, and in other areas of activities as set out by law. [see § 91 section (1)]
- (2) For this purpose, the National Council shall mainly have the powers:
- a) to discuss proposals and adopt resolutions on the Constitution, amendments to the Constitution, constitutional statutes and laws (hereinafter, "law[s]"), and to supervise their observance;
 - b) to discuss international treaties;
 - c) to reconsider laws returned by the President of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter, "President of the Republic");
 - d) to discuss the Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter, "Government"), to supervise the activities of the Government, and to debate a vote of confidence in the Government or individual members of the Government;
 - e) to discuss and approve the national budget, and to discuss the positions submitted by the Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Supreme Audit Office") on the national budget proposals;
 - f) to discuss the reports of the Government on the implementation of the national budget, the final national revenue balance proposal, and the positions of the Supreme Audit Office on the final national revenue balance proposal;
 - g) to discuss the reports submitted by the Supreme Audit Office concerning the results of audits under the schedule set by special statutory regulations or at any time when so requested by the National Council;
 - h) to approve the budgets of other legal entities and to discuss their implementation under special regulations³;
 - ch) to discuss the reports on the monetary development submitted by the National Bank of Slovakia, and the reports of the financial situation of the National Bank of Slovakia;
 - i) to discuss the reports of the Government concerning especially the fundamental issues of domestic, international, economic, social and other policies;

² For example Article 86 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic

³ Such as e.g. Act 92/1991 governing rules of the transfer of state property to other persons, as amended; Act 581/2004 on health insurance companies, healthcare supervision, amending and supplementing certain other laws and Act 461/2003 on social insurance, as amended.

- j) to discuss the responses submitted by the Government, individual members of the Government, and Head Officials of other central state-administration authorities to the interpellations by the Members of the National Council;
- k) to discuss the reports on the state of the rule of law submitted by the General Prosecutor of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter, "General Prosecutor");
- l) to discuss the reports submitted by the Government on supervisory activities of the Government, government departments and other central state-administration authorities;
- m) to discuss the report of the President of the Republic on the state of the Slovak Republic and on other important political issues;
- n) to submit to the President of the Republic the nominees for the office of judge of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter, "Constitutional Court");
- o) to submit to the President of the Republic the nominees for the office of General Prosecutor and to propose his recall;
- p) to submit to the President of the Republic nominees for the granting of honor awards;
- r) to discuss information regarding the annual financial reports submitted by the political parties and political movements;
- s) to approve the vote of the Minister of Finance of the Slovak Republic in the Council of Governors of the European Stability Mechanism by a special regulation.^{3a)}

(3) The National Council shall further have the force:

- a) to elect and recall the Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter, "Speaker"), and the Deputy-Speakers of the National Council of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter, "Deputy-Speaker");
- b) to set up committees, special supervisory committees and commissions of the National Council, to decide on their number, and to elect and recall their Chairmen and members;
- c) to discuss proposals, initiatives, reports and declarations of the committees of the National Council (hereinafter, "committee"), and of the Government in matters within the force of the National Council;
- d) to discuss other proposals, initiatives, reports and declarations where so provided by law or so determined by the National Council;
- e) to acknowledge any resignation, expiration, or inability to fulfil the mandate of a Member of the National Council;
- f) to discuss and decide on criminal and disciplinary matters of the Members of the National Council and on matters concerning the incompatibility of functions of public functionaries that had been submitted to the National Council;⁴

^{3a)} Act 296/212 Coll. regarding European Stability Mechanism and amending certain acts.

g) to decide on the internal matters and more detailed rules of procedure [§ 1 section (2)];

h) to decide on an adjournment of its session.⁵

- (4) The National Council shall also exercise its force by elections as authorized by special regulations.⁶

⁴ Articles 77 and 78 (2) and (3) of the Constitution, Constitutional Act 357/2004 on the protection of public interest by the discharge of functions of public officials pursuant to Constitutional Act 545/2005 Coll.

⁵ Article 82 (3) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

⁶ For example §123 (4) of the Act 461/2003 Coll.

PART THREE

INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

§ 3

Convening the Inaugural Session

(1) The Inaugural Session of the National Council (hereinafter, “Inaugural Session”) shall be convened by the President of the Republic at such time so as to ensure that it takes place no later than thirty days following the announcement of the results of the elections of the National Council.⁷

(2) If the President of the Republic fails to convene the Inaugural Session under section (1) of this §, the National Council shall meet on the thirtieth day after the announcement of the election results.

(3) The place, date and time of the meeting of the Inaugural Session shall be announced by the Speaker of the National Council elected for the preceding electoral term⁸ (hereinafter, “acting Speaker of the National Council”).

(4) The acting Speaker of the National Council shall convene the leaders of political parties and political movements represented in the National Council to discuss preparations for the Inaugural Session.

(5) Until the election of a new Speaker of the National Council, the Inaugural Session shall be chaired by the acting Speaker of the National Council.

§ 4

Pledge of the Members of the National Council

(1) At the Inaugural Session, each Member of the National Council (hereinafter, “Member”) shall be sworn-in by taking the pledge administered by the acting Speaker of the National Council. A Member who is unable to attend the Inaugural Session shall take the pledge at the first session which he attends.⁹

⁷ Article 82 (2) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

⁸ Article 89 (3) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

⁹ Article 75 (1) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

(2) After the text of the pledge has been read to the whole assembly, each Member shall take the pledge by placing his right hand on the Constitution, saying "To this I pledge" and shaking hands with the acting Speaker of the National Council. The Member shall endorse his pledge by signing it.

(3) If the acting Speaker of the National Council had been re-elected as a Member, he shall, as first of all Members take the pledge to the acting Deputy-Speaker of the National Council.

§ 5

Each Member shall acquire his rights and duties by being elected into office. Each Member shall assume his office¹⁰ and shall commence to exercise the mandate on taking the pledge.

§ 6

Passing Election Rules

The National Council shall pass the Election Rules laying down the details of voting and election procedures at the Inaugural Session. These Election Rules shall apply during the whole electoral term.

§ 7

(1) After all Members have pledged, and the Election Rules have been approved, the National Council shall elect the Verifiers (§62), the Chairman and other Members of the Mandate and Immunity Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter, "Mandate and Immunity Committee"), the Chairman and other members of the Committee on Incompatibility of Functions¹¹ (hereinafter, "Committee on Incompatibility of Functions").

(2) The Members of the Mandate and Immunity Committee and members of the Committee on Incompatibility of Functions shall be elected on the basis of the principle of proportional representation of political parties and political movements in the National Council.

§ 8

Validity Verification of the Election of Members

¹⁰ Article 7 of Constitutional Act 357/2004 Coll. pursuant to Constitutional Act 545/2005 Coll.

¹¹ Article 7 (5) of Constitutional Act 357/2004 pursuant to Constitutional Act 545/2005 Coll.

(1) Each Member shall submit to the Mandate and Immunity Committee a certificate of election issued by the State Commission for Elections and Political Party Funding.¹²

(2) The Mandate and Immunity Committee shall examine the certificates of election [section (1)]; the report of such examination together with a proposal for a decision on validity verification of the election of Members shall be submitted to the National Council.¹³

(3) Each Member shall be presented with a Member of Parliament identification card following the validity verification procedure.

§ 9

Prevention of the Conflicts of Interest

The duties of the Members in prevention of a conflict of their personal and public interests during the performance of their office, the activities of the Committee on Incompatibility of Functions, and the proceedings in matters of conflict of personal and public interest are regulated by a special law.¹⁴

§ 9a

Ethical Code

Each Member while serving his term must oblige by the moral and ethical code of conduct, abide the Constitution, laws, and the Ethical Code of the Member, which shall be approved by the National Council resolution.

§ 10

(1) If a vacancy of mandate occurs before the termination of the Inaugural Session, the former Speaker of the National Council, or after his election, the new Speaker of the National Council shall announce a succession to the seat by a substitute Member.¹⁵

¹² § 70 of Act 180/2014 Coll. on Conditions of the Exercise of Voting Right and on amendment and supplementing of certain acts.

¹³ Article 76 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

¹⁴ Constitutional Act 357/2004 Coll. pursuant to Constitutional Act 545/2005 Coll.

¹⁵ §71 of Act 180/2014 Coll.

(2) The substitute Member shall assume office, as a result of:

- a) the loss of mandate;¹⁶
- b) the Member's unfulfilled mandate;¹⁷
- c) the Member's resignation;¹⁸
- d) the expiration of mandate of a Member who has been lawfully sentenced for a wilful and serious crime;¹⁹
- e) the death of a Member;
- f) proceedings on matters of a conflict of personal and public interests resulting in the expiration of the Member's mandate under a special law.²⁰

(3) The provisions of sections (1) and (2) of this § shall apply further when a vacancy occurs after the Inaugural Session and within the electoral term of the National Council.¹⁵

(4) On becoming a Member, the substitute shall take the pledge at the session of the National Council, which he or she first attends.

§ 11

(1) Where a Member does not exercise his mandate,¹⁷ the office of the Speaker or Deputy-Speaker of the National Council, of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or a committee Member, of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Member of a special supervisory committee, of the Chairman or a Member of a commission to which the Member has been elected, shall expire on the day of the Member's appointment to a Government office or with an appointment under a special law.¹⁷

(2) Following the expiration of the office during which the mandate has not been exercised, such office or membership section (1) shall be determined in the elections held pursuant to the Election Rules (§6).

§ 12

Establishment of Parliamentary Caucuses

¹⁶ Article 75 (2) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

¹⁷ Article 77 (2) and 78 (5) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic; Article 5 (8) of Constitutional Act 357/2004 Coll.

¹⁸ Article 81 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

¹⁹ Article 81a (f) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

²⁰ Article 11 (2) and Article 12 (2) of the Constitutional Act 357/2004 Coll.

Following the verification of the elections validity of the Members, the acting Speaker of the National Council shall adjourn the Inaugural Session for such a time as may be necessary for the establishment of parliamentary caucuses.

§ 13

Nomination of Candidates and Constituting Other Committees

(1) The parliamentary caucuses or the Members shall submit to the acting Speaker of the National Council written nominations for the office of the Speaker and Deputy-Speakers of the National Council, including proposals as to the number of Deputy Speakers and also as to the establishment of other committees not specified by law. At the same time, candidates nominated for the offices of Chairmen and committee Membership shall also be presented in writing.

(2) The acting Speaker of the National Council shall announce the candidates nominated under section (1) at the Inaugural Session of the National Council.

Elections of the Speaker, Deputy-Speakers, Chairmen and members of Committees of the National Council

§ 14

Elections of the Speaker and Deputy-Speaker of the National Council, Chairmen and Members of the Committees

(1) The Speaker of the National Council shall be elected by secret ballot by a vote of the majority of all Members.²³

(2) Should more candidates be nominated for the office of the Speaker of the National Council, but no candidate shall have a majority of votes of all Members, the election shall be repeated with those who have received the two largest numbers of votes in the first ballot. If the Speaker of the National Council is not elected in the second ballot, a new election shall be held not earlier than the next day. The candidates who were not elected in the first ballot or in the subsequent ballot may also be re-nominated.

(3) On the election of the Speaker of the National Council, the former Speaker of the National Council shall pass the Chairmanship of the session of the National Council to the new Speaker of the National Council, who shall call for the election of the Deputy-Speakers of the National Council, a vote for the approval of the establishment of other committees and the election of the Chairmen and Members of these committees.

§ 15

The Deputy-Speaker of the National Council shall be elected by secret ballot with the consent of an absolute majority of all Members.²⁴ The committee Chairmen of the National Council shall be elected by secret ballot with the consent of a majority of present Members. In their elections, the rules set in § 14 section (2) shall apply.

§ 16

The rules set in § 14 and 15 shall also apply to the recall of the Speaker, Deputy-Speakers, Chairmen and Members of the committees of the National Council during the term of the National Council.

²³ Article 89 (1) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

²⁴ Article 90 (1) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

PART FOUR
SESSIONS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

§ 17

Convening the Sessions of the National Council

(1) The sessions of the National Council shall be convened by the Speaker of the National Council²⁵ who shall also determine the place, day, and time, and propose the session agenda the session.

(2) The Speaker of the National Council shall convene a session when so requested by not less than one fifth of the Members.²⁶ In their request, the Members shall propose the agenda. In such a case, the Speaker of the National Council shall convene the session of the National Council within seven days^{2.2} A bill cannot be discussed at such a session if the fifteen-day period provided in § 72 section (1) has not been satisfied.

(3) The proposed motion to be considered at a session convened under section (2) of this section shall be submitted by the Speaker of the National Council for opinions to the Government, and simultaneously shall be referred to the competent committee for consideration unless it has already been done so. Where the Government fails to present their opinion before the session has been convened, the National Council shall debate the matter without the opinion of the Government.

Act on Protection of Classified Information and on amendment and supplementing to certain acts

Public Access to Sessions

§ 18

(1) Sessions of the National Council are public²⁷. Public attendance at the sessions of the National Council shall be limited by the number of available seats reserved for visitors.

(2) Closed sessions, or parts of the session of the National Council, shall be held during debates involving classified information or commercial secrets,²⁸ or when specifically provided by law. Closed

²⁵ Article 83 (1) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

²⁶ Article 83 (2) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic

²⁷ Article 83 (3) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

sessions, or parts of the session, may be held due to other reasons when three fifths of all Members so resolve.²⁹

(3) Closed sessions or parts of the session of the National Council shall be held in debates dealing with reports of special committees controlling the activities of the services performed by special regulations.³⁰

(4) The sessions of the National Council where proposals and bills dealing with the national budget, tax matters and fees are discussed shall be always open to the public.

§ 19

No publication shall be restricted of any presentation of a Member made during a public session of the National Council.

§ 20

Attendance of Constitutional Officers and Other Officials at Sessions of the National Council

(1) The President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, and Ministers of the Government, the President of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter, "President of the Constitutional Court"), the Chairman of the Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter, "Chairman of the Supreme Audit Office") and the General Prosecutor shall have the right to attend the sessions of the National Council, and may not be excluded from these sessions.

(2) The provisions of section (1) shall apply also to the Governor of the National Bank of Slovakia.

(3) When so requested by the National Council, a member of the Government or a head of other state-administration authority is obliged to attend a session.³¹ A member of the Government may be substituted only by another member of the Government.

²⁸ For example Act 215/2004 Coll. on Protection of Classified Information and on amendment and supplementing of certain acts, as amended.

²⁹ Article 83 (4) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

³⁰ Section 5 paragraph (1) of Act 46/1993 Coll. of the Slovak National Council on Slovak Intelligence Service; Section 5 paragraph (1) of Act 198/1994 Coll. of the Slovak National Council on military intelligence. Section 72 of Act 215/2004 Coll.

(4) With the consent of the National Council, other persons may be also present at sessions of the National Council of the Slovak Republic.

§ 21

Attendance of Other Persons

(1) With the consent of the National Council, any prominent person in the economic and social fields, and any representative of a foreign country or an international organization invited by the National Council or by the Speaker of the National Council may address the assembly.

(2) Media journalists or other persons present at the session of the National Council shall be allowed to occupy only designated areas, and may not disturb the session in progress. In case of misconduct or disturbance, the Chair [§ 23 section (1)] may have the person causing a disturbance expelled or repropose from the premises and may be refused entry to the building of the National Council due to security risks. Should the disturbance continue, the Chair may order the area reserved for the public to be vacated. This paragraph shall apply adequately also to the meeting of the Committee.

§ 22

Session Days of a Session of the National Council

The usual session days of the National Council shall be generally on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The first session day of the session shall begin at 1:00 P.M., unless otherwise decided by the Speaker. The subsequent session days shall begin at 9 o'clock a.m. and end not later than 7 o'clock p.m., or 4 o'clock p.m. on Fridays, unless resolved otherwise by the National Council.

§ 23

Chairing the Sessions of the National Council

(1) The sessions of the National Council shall be presided over by the Speaker of the National Council or a Deputy-Speaker of the National Council authorized by the Speaker of the National Council³² (hereinafter, "Chair").

³¹ Article 85 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

³² Article 89 (2) (a) and Article 90 (1) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic

(2) When the Chair chooses to make a statement in the debate, another Chair shall preside over the session.

(3) At the beginning of each session day of the session, the Chair shall read the names of Members who have requested in writing that the Speaker of the National Council excuse their absence from the session or the session day.

(4) The quorum of the National Council shall be a simple majority of all Members.³³

(5) When within thirty minutes after the scheduled beginning of the session of the National Council (§17), if less than a simple majority of all Members are present, the Chair may adjourn the beginning of the session to the next day. He shall be obliged to do so when, within one hour after the notified beginning of the session, the number of Members present does not constitute a quorum. If even on the next day of the session, one hour after the notified beginning of the session, a simple majority of all Members are not present, the Chair shall end the session. The Speaker of the National Council shall propose the undiscussed items on the subsequent session agenda. He shall proceed in a similar manner if all items on the agenda are not discussed by the end of the session due to the repeated absence of a simple majority of all Members.

(6) If, during the registration of the Members present before voting at a session of the National Council, the number of Members present does not constitute a quorum, and if there is no quorum fifteen minutes after the registration, the Chair shall suspend the session and determine a new time of the next session.

(7) If, after such suspension of the session, the number of Members present does not constitute a quorum, the Chair may decide to begin a discussion of the next item on the agenda. The National Council may, without debate, resolve to proceed with the unfinished matters at a later time during the same session.

§ 24

Agenda of Sessions of the National Council

(1) At the beginning of each session, the National Council shall discuss and vote on the agenda proposed by the Speaker of the National Council. In considering the proposed agenda, the National Council may amend the agenda upon a proposal made by any Member. Members' names shall not be

³³ Article 84 (1) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

disclosed in any item on the agenda involving disciplinary proceedings, criminal prosecution or detention orders against any Member.

(2) A Member's presentation of a proposal to change or amend the National Council agenda shall last no more than one minute.

(3) The session agenda the session convened under § 17 section (2) may not be amended or changed.

(4) Upon a proposal of a Member, the National Council may vote without debate to change the order of agenda items of the session or to join two or more agenda items into one debate; such proposal and vote may also be carried out during the session of the National Council.

(5) Upon a proposal put forward by at least three Parliamentary caucuses, the National Council may vote without debate to include a new item in the session agenda or to exclude an item previously approved; such proposal and vote may also be carried out during the session of the National Council.

(6) Whenever a session day falls on Thursday, the session agenda shall include an hour for questions beginning at 2:00 P.M., except for sessions convened under §17 section (2) or except for a session convened under §109 (2). If the first session day falls on Thursday, the question hour shall not be included in a session agenda for the particular day.

(7) Interpellation shall become a regular part of the session agenda of the National Council, except for sessions convened under § 17 section (2) or for a session convened under § 109 (2). The item on the session agenda of the National Council for interpellation ends no later than the end of the session in which the discussion began, unless the National Council decides otherwise without a debate. This does not affect the provision § 129 (3).

8) The National Council shall, by a resolution, determine the date to finish the session. Any undiscussed agenda items shall be included in the draft agenda of the next session of the National Council.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Beginning of Proceedings

§ 25

Unless otherwise resolved by the National Council without debate, no discussion on the items on the agenda shall begin unless all written supporting documents for the debate have been distributed to all Members at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the debate.

§ 26

(1) In the debate on an issue included in the agenda of the session of the National Council, the person introducing the matter (hereinafter “sponsor”) shall speak first and thereafter the Rapporteur, if one has been designated. In the case of an issue introduced by the Government, it may be presented only by a member of the Government duly authorized to speak on its behalf. If the issue has been introduced by a committee, it may be presented on its behalf by a duly authorized Member of the committee. Where the issue has been proposed by another person under a special law, a duly authorized member of the Government or a Member of the appropriate committee, or, with the consent of the National Council, the person introducing the issue, shall speak first. In these cases, the National Council shall decide without debate whether such address or presentation may be made during the debate.

(2) Any Proposal submitted to the National Council shall be in writing, and shall state reasons justifying the proposal and a draft of the resolution recommended for approval by the National Council.

(3) Any proposal made and submitted to the National Council in compliance with the Constitution, the law, or on the basis of a resolution of the National Council shall be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and opinion; the National Council shall decide on such proposals, unless otherwise provided by this Act.

(4) Proposals submitted under section (2) of this § shall be assigned a printing number by the Chancellery of the National Council of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter, “Chancellery”). The proposal shall be delivered to all Members.

(5) The sponsor may withdraw the proposal at any time before the National Council has proceeded to vote on the proposal as a whole.

Debate

§ 27

(1) The Chair shall open the debate following the presentation made by the sponsor and a Rapporteur, if one has been designated.

(2) Members wishing to participate in the debate on the issue in question shall enter their names on the list of speakers after the agenda of the National Council has been approved and before the beginning of the debate on that proposal. After all the speakers on the list have spoken, a Member may ask for the floor. The Chair shall read the names of Members who have asked for the floor and announce that no new speakers will be accepted.

(3) Upon the opening of the debate, the Chair shall read the names of speakers who have entered their names on the list (section (2)). Before giving the floor to the first speaker on the list, the Chair shall announce the next speaker, and thereafter, the name of the speaker to follow the last speaker. A Member not present in the debating premises when called to speak shall lose his order on the list. The loss of place on the list of speakers shall mean that the speaker may speak in the debate only as the last one. Should several speakers lose their place on the list, they may make their presentation after all the speakers entered in the list who have not lost their place, and that in the order in which they lost their place on the list. If a speaker repeatedly loses his place on the list, he loses the chance to make a presentation in the debate.

(4) The Chair shall give the floor to all speakers in the order in which they applied. The Members authorized by the parliamentary caucuses shall speak first, provided that their names have been entered on the list. Each parliamentary caucus shall authorize only one Member to speak for that party. Any Member on the list of speakers may yield his or her place in favor of another speaker.

(5) A Member may speak only when given the floor by the Chair.

(6) During debate, speeches shall be made from the speaker's desk.

(7) A speaker may usually make his presentation in a free lecture, with or without notes.

(8) During the debate, the Rapporteur and sponsor may have the floor whenever they request to speak.

(9) After the debate has been closed, the sponsor, and the Rapporteur may express positions on the matters raised in the debate [§ 26 section (1)].

§ 28

(1) The Speaker and the Deputy-Speakers of the National Council, the President of the Republic and a member of the Government may have the floor whenever they request to speak.

(2) The President of the Constitutional Court, the President of the Supreme Court, the Chairman of the Supreme Audit Office, the General Prosecutor and the Governor of the National Bank of Slovakia, may be take the floor upon their request, with the consent of the National Council. The National Council shall vote thereon without debate.

§ 29

(1) During the debate, any Member may move amendments to the issue under discussion; any such an amendment shall be in writing and properly formatted.

(2) After an amendment has been proposed, the sponsor or any Member may move to suspend the debate until the committee specified by the National Council has submitted its opinion. A proposal to suspend the debate of a matter shall be voted on by the National Council without debate. At the same time, the National Council may determine the time limit within which the specified committee shall submit its opinions on an amendment.

(3) A Member may withdraw his amendment at any time before the National Council has proceeded to vote thereon.

§ 29a

Setting Time Limits for Debate

(1) The National Council may, upon the proposal of at least two parliamentary caucuses, resolve to set a time limit for debate on an item included on the agenda of the session of the National Council. Such a proposal shall be submitted by the beginning of the debate on the item on the agenda of the session of the National Council. Proposals submitted at a later time shall not be taken into consideration. The time limit for debate shall not be less than 12 hours.

(2) A proposal pursuant to section (1) cannot be submitted if the National Council is to debate a constitutional bill, the national budget bill, or the Manifesto of the Government.

(3) Should the National Council make a resolution pursuant to section (1), the Chair shall divide the time allocated for debate among the parliamentary caucuses and Members who are not members of parliamentary caucuses proportionately according to the number of Members. Members representing parliamentary caucuses shall make their presentations in the debate alternately with Members who are not members of parliamentary caucuses, in an order determined by drawing lots. The Chair shall be notified in writing of the order of speakers representing a parliamentary caucus by the Chairman or a delegated member of the parliamentary caucus, at latest by the opening of the debate. A Member who is not a member of a parliamentary caucus shall enter a list of speakers in writing or orally, at the latest by the opening of the debate. The order of speakers who are not members of any parliamentary caucus shall be determined by drawing lots.

(4) The time allotted to the parliamentary caucuses and members who are not members of parliamentary caucuses shall be measured by a technical device or by Verifiers. If the speakers representing a parliamentary caucus or a Member, who is not member of a parliamentary caucus, do not make use of the time allotted to them pursuant to section (1), the time limit for debate shall be reduced by the amount of unused time.

(5) The time limit pursuant to section (1) does not include the time of presentations made by the Chair, the sponsor, and the common Rapporteur of the committees. Should the sponsor or the common Rapporteur of committees be a member of a parliamentary caucus, the time of their presentation shall not be included in the time allotted to their parliamentary caucus. The time set for the parliamentary caucus and a Member who is not member of a parliamentary caucus shall also include the time used for brief comments (§ 33) and procedural proposals (§ 34).

(6) As soon as the time allotted to a parliamentary caucus or a Member who is not a member of a parliamentary caucus elapses, the Chair shall take the floor from the speaker. Upon the proposal of the speaker the National Council may resolve, without debate, to allow him to finish his presentation. The floor shall not be passed to other members who were to speak on behalf of the parliamentary caucus in compliance with the notification of the Chairman of the parliamentary caucus or a member of the parliamentary caucus delegated by him. Members who were ordered to discontinue speaking or Members who were not enabled to make a presentation due to the expiration of their allotted time are

entitled to submit their presentation in writing to the Chair, before the presentation of the common Rapporteur after the end of the debate. The Member's presentation in writing shall be included in the verbatim minutes of the session of the National Council [§ 41 section (1)] with a note stating that the presentation was not presented orally. Should the presentation in writing include an amendment, it shall be distributed to the Members, the common Rapporteur shall read it in his presentation before the voting and a vote will be taken on the amendment.

(7) Should the National Council resolve to determine the time limit for debate pursuant to section (1), the provisions of [§ 27 sections (2) and (4)], § 30, and [§ 35 sections (2), (3) and (6)] shall not apply.

§ 30

Time Limits for Speaking

The National Council may resolve, without debate, to set a time limit for speaking in the debate. Such limits shall not be less than ten minutes, or twenty minutes in the case of speakers authorized by a parliamentary caucus, unless otherwise provided by this Act.

§ 31

Language of Debate

The language of the debate at the sessions of the National Council shall be the official language. In the case of a speaker who is a foreigner, the Chancellery shall arrange for an interpreter.

§ 32

Maintaining Order in the Chamber

(1) Any speaker deviating from the matter under discussion shall be ordered by the Chair to speak to the point. If a speaker fails to keep to the matter after repeated calls, he shall lose the floor. If a speaker exceeds the time limit set under § 30, the Chair shall notify him, and if he fails to cease speaking immediately, the Chair shall take the floor from that Member.

(2) A Member who fails to stop speaking after the floor has been taken, or a Member whose conduct and manners do not accord with good behavior, shall be called to order by the Chair. If the conduct of the Member called to order does not improve, he or she may be ordered by the Chair to leave the Chamber until the day's debate is over. A Member ordered to leave has the right to return to vote on any proposal.

(3) No firearms³⁴, explosives, stunning devices and substances, or portable telecommunication devices shall be allowed into the Chamber. The Chair shall proceed against any person in breach of these restrictions under section (2).

(4) An order to leave the Chamber under sections (2) and (3) of this § shall constitute an unexcused absence from the session day of the session of the National Council.

³⁴ Act 190/2003 Coll. of the National Council on firearms and ammunition as amended.

(5) A complaint against any measure taken by the Chair under sections (1)-(3) of this § may be made by the Member concerned immediately after the measure has been imposed. Such complaint shall be resolved by the National Council without debate.

§ 33

Factual Comments

(1) During debate, Members have the right to make one factual comment by which they may respond to the presentation of the preceding speaker. A factual comment cannot be a response to another factual comment. After the presentation of factual comments by Members, the Chair shall enable the speaker, whose presentation the members responded with factual comments, to respond with a factual comment. During such comments, no proposals to supplement or amend the agenda of the session of the National Council, or amendments or draft resolutions of the National Council may be made.

(2) Any factual comment and the presentation of the speaker to which Members responded by factual comments (section (1)), third sentence] shall not exceed the limit of two minutes. If such a statement is not a factual comment under section (1) of this §, or when a Member exceeds the time limit, he or she shall be ordered to discontinue speaking by the Chair. A decision of the Chair shall be final.

§ 34

Procedural Motions

(1) The Members have the right to make procedural motions in relation to the method of debate on a matter, and the schedule and subject matter of the debate of the National Council, with the exception of voting on the merits of the given matter. The presentation of a procedural motion shall not exceed the limit of one minute.

(2) The Member begins the procedural motion by making a proposal in relation to the method of discussion on a matter, and the schedule and subject matter of the discussion of the National Council. Consecutively, the member states reasons for making a procedural motion.

§ 35

Closure of Debate

(1) The debate shall be closed by the Chair after all speakers wishing to speak have done so.

(2) The National Council may resolve to close the debate before all speakers on the list have spoken when a proposal to end the debate has been made by not less than two parliamentary caucuses. Such

proposal shall be resolved without debate. A proposal to close debate may be voted on only if each parliamentary caucus has been represented by at least one speaker.

(3) When the National Council has resolved to close the debate under section (2) of this §, the Members whose names have been entered on the list of speakers before the proposal to end debate, and also the Members wishing to put forward amendments to the matter under discussion, shall still have the right to speak before the debate is closed.

(4) When requested by at least two parliamentary caucuses after the debate has been closed and before voting, the Chair shall suspend the deliberation on a session agenda item of the session of the National Council and announce a break period of not less than fifteen minutes for a consultation of the individual caucuses.

(5) After the debate has been closed and following the consultation of the caucuses section (4), a Member authorized by each caucus may present the opinion of that caucus in a report not longer than two minutes.

(6) Whenever a member of the Government takes the floor after the debate has been closed and before voting, the debate shall be reopened.

(7) Upon a proposal by the Speaker of the National Council, the National Council may decide to close the debate. In such a case, the debate shall end immediately upon the decision of the National Council.

(8) After closure of the debate pursuant to section (7) of this §, Members who asked to speak in the debate have the right to submit their presentation in writing to the Chair. The Member's written presentation shall be included in the verbatim minutes of the session of the National Council [§ 41 section (1)], with a note stating that the presentation was not presented orally. Should the presentation in writing include an amendment, it shall be distributed to the Members, the common Rapporteur shall read it in his or her presentation before the voting, and he or she shall call a vote on the amendment. In order to be able to take all the actions pursuant to this paragraph, the Chair shall announce a ten-minute technical break after the closure of the debate.

(9) After the debate has been closed and after having heard the report from a delegated member of a parliamentary caucus section (5), the Chair shall start a debate on another item on the agenda, if the National Council has passed a resolution pursuant to § 36 section (1).

Voting at Sessions of the National Council

§ 36

(1) Any proposal put before the National Council shall be decided by a vote. Voting shall usually take place immediately after the debate ends or is closed, unless the National Council decides otherwise without debate.

(2) Prior to a vote, the Chair shall announce that a vote will be taken, instruct Members on the method of voting and ascertain the number of Members present.

(3) Prior to any vote, the Chair or the Rapporteur shall announce the proposal on which the vote will be taken; if the proposal has not been presented to Members in writing, he shall reread the precise wording thereof. Thereupon, the Chair shall proceed to conduct the voting.

(4) A vote may not be interrupted; during voting, the Chair may not give the floor to anyone.

(5) The Members shall usually vote from their seats designated according to the official seating arrangement. The Rapporteur shall vote from the place designated for a Rapporteur.

§ 37

(1) Where amendments have been proposed, voting on them shall be taken first in the order in which they have been proposed. Voting on amendments included in the report of a committee or the joint report of committees shall have priority over other proposals presented in the debate. If an approved amendment pre-empts further amendments, they shall not be voted on. If any Member expresses doubts about such pre-emption, the National Council shall decide without debate whether such amendments shall be considered.

(2) Where a resolution must be passed by an absolute majority of Members³⁵ or where a three-fifths majority of all Members is prescribed by the Constitution³⁶, amendments may be passed only with the consent of a majority required for the particular case.

³⁵ Article 84 (3), Article 88 (2), Article 89 (1) and Article 90 (1) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

³⁶ Article 83 (4), Article 84 (4), Article 106 (1) and Article 107 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

(3) When proposed by a Member, voting on individual parts of an amendment may be taken separately. If any part of the amendment is not approved in separate voting, there shall be a vote on the already approved parts as a whole, provided that they constitute a logically consistent unit.

(4) After voting on individual amendments, a vote on the proposal as a whole shall be taken.

§ 38

(1) Voting on procedural motions § 34 shall be held without debate.

(2) Any procedural motion that appears to have the general support of the National Council may be decided also without voting. In such cases the Chair shall ask whether any Member demands a vote thereon. Should at least one Member require a vote, the procedure under § 39 shall apply.

(3) The Chair shall immediately hold a vote on any procedural motion which does not appear to have the support of the National Council. Should the Chair establish during the voting that the quorum is not present in the National Council, the debate shall proceed in accordance with the agenda. In such a case, the Chair shall hold another vote on a procedural motion, provided that it is still relevant, as soon as the quorum is present in the National Council.

§ 39

(1) Voting shall be public or secret.

(2) Public voting shall normally be conducted through technical equipment or by a show of hands, unless another method of public voting has been decided by the National Council.

(3) The results of a vote shall be announced by the Chair; he shall state the number of Members that have voted, the number of affirmative and negative votes, and the number of abstaining and non-voting Members.

(4) Immediately after voting, any Member may object to the results of voting due to a failure of the technical system. Such objection shall be resolved by the National Council without debate. Where the objection is upheld by the National Council, public voting shall be repeated by means of technical equipment, unless otherwise decided by the National Council. The Chair may also ask the Verifiers of the National Council to count the votes.

(5) In a voting by roll call, the Members are called by the Chair. Each Member, when his name has been called, shall say: "Voting in favor of the proposal", or "Voting against the proposal", or "Abstaining from voting". Each statement shall be repeated by the Chair. Any other statement shall be considered as abstaining from voting. Voting by roll call may be proposed by not less than one fifth of Members present. Such motion shall be resolved by the National Council without debate.

(6) No Member may be substituted in voting by another Member or any other person. A Member who has cast a vote for another Member shall be subject to disciplinary proceedings under § 136 section (2) subsection b).

(7) Rules of voting by technical equipment or by roll call shall be regulated by a resolution of the National Council.

(8) Secret voting shall be taken in cases stipulated by the Constitution³⁷, by law, as well as in the case of an election or a recall, or when so resolved by the National Council without debate. In the case of an election or a recall, the National Council may, without debate, resolve to hold a public vote on the issue, unless otherwise provided by a special law.

(9) In secret voting, a ballot shall be used; ballot papers shall be distributed by the Verifiers of the National Council to each Member upon entering the area designated for secret voting. The process of secret voting by ballot shall be under the supervision of the Verifiers of the National Council who shall count the votes and prepare the minutes of secret voting.

(10) The authorized Verifier shall report to the National Council the number of distributed ballots, the number of Members that have voted in favor of the proposed candidate, the number of Members who have voted against the proposed candidate, negative votes, the number of Members who have abstained, the number of those who had not returned the ballot papers, and the number of invalid votes. The election results shall be announced by the Chair.

(11) The results of secret voting shall be announced by the Chair informing the National Council of the number of distributed ballots, the number of affirmative votes, and the number of negative votes, the number of Members abstaining from voting, the number of those who have not returned the ballot papers, and the number of invalid votes.

(12) The information provided by technical equipment showing the results of a public vote and the minutes of secret voting, or the minutes of election results, shall be included in the minutes of the session of the National Council.

³⁷ Article 89 (1). Article 90 (1) and Article 92 (1) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

§ 39a

Details of the officials' election and appeal, excluding officials of the National Council pursuant to § 2 section 3 subsection a) and b), will be amended by the Rules of Procedure as proposed by the Constitutional Committee and approved by the National Council.

§ 40

Signing Resolutions of the National Council

A Resolution of the National Council shall be signed by the Speaker of the National Council and two Verifiers of the National Council.

§ 41

The Minutes of the Sessions

(1) Minutes of each session of the National Council shall be made. The Minutes of the Session shall indicate the Member presiding over the session, the number of Members present, the names of the Members who were absent, the names of Members who sought to be excused from the sessions, the names of speakers in the debate, and the results of voting.

(2) The Minutes of the Session of the National Council include the transcription of the recorded session.

(3) The Minutes of the Session shall be the authentic record of the session of the National Council and shall be archived together with the submitted supporting materials, annexes and resolutions. The Minutes of the Session shall contain the full versions of tabled motions, approved resolutions, proclamations and other materials considered during the session of the National Council, the attendance register, and the results of voting.

(4) On the basis of the Minutes of the Session of the National Council, the Official Journal published after each session of the National Council shall be prepared. In the event of closed sessions, or parts thereof, the Speaker of the National Council may decide on another method of publishing the Journal.

(5) The Journal issued under section (4) of this Section, shall state particularly the name of the Member presiding over the sessions, the full versions of addresses presented by the speakers, the final voting roll with names, the results of voting, the texts of approved resolutions or proclamations (except for Acts). The Journal may also include other details as resolved by the National Council.

(6) Each session of the National Council shall be audio-recorded and the recordings shall be kept for not less than six months.

§ 42

(1) The results of each daily session of the National Council shall be outlined in a brief summary containing the particulars specified in section (2). This summary shall be prepared before the beginning of the next day's session.

(2) The particulars of such a summary of the results of the session of the National Council on that day shall include:

- a) the order of agenda items from the Session with the full title and the printing numbers of the documents;
- b) the names of the sponsors and Rapporteurs of the agenda items, and of speakers participating in the debate;
- c) the results of the voting on a proposal as a whole.

(3) The Chancellery shall be responsible for the preparation and the completeness of the summary of the results of each session day of the National Council.

PART FIVE

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Officers of the National Council

§ 43

Speaker of the National Council

(1) The Speaker of the National Council shall exercise the powers granted by the Constitution.³⁸

³⁸ Article 89 (2), Article 82 (4), Article 83 (1) and (2) and Article 91 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

(2) For these purposes, the Speaker of the National Council shall, in particular,

- (a) represent the National Council;
- (b) sign resolutions of the National Council;
- (c) submit reports to the National Council on measures he has taken;
- (d) announce the elections to municipal self-administration authority;³⁹
- (e) arrange for the promulgation of Acts passed by the National Council, proposals approved in a referendum^{39a)} and resolutions passed by the National Council, where necessary;
- (f) promulgate the complete wording of the Acts, when so empowered by law;
- (g) arrange the matters related to the proceedings before the Constitutional Court;
- (h) notify, without delay, the Mandate and Immunity Committee, of a Member arrested while committing a crime;⁴⁰
- (ch) take cognizance of a notification of the establishment of a parliamentary caucus and of its composition;
- (i) approve a termination of employment or related contracts of a Member against his will during the term of his or her office or during the twelve months following the expiration of his or her mandate;⁴¹
- (j) appoint and recall the Head of the Chancellery;
- (k) perform other duties as authorized by the National Council or as provided by law.⁴²

(3) The Speaker of the National Council shall convene meetings of committee Chairmen when so required.

§ 44

Deputy-Speakers of the National Council

The Deputy-Speakers of the National Council shall:

³⁹ § 181 of Act 180/2014 Coll.

^{39a)} Article 98 (2) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

⁴⁰ Article 78 (4) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

⁴¹ § 8 (3) of Act 120/1993 of the National Council on remuneration certain holders of high offices under the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

⁴² For example Constitutional Act 357/2004 Coll. pursuant to Constitutional Act 545/2005 Coll.

- a) direct and organize the business of the National Council in the areas authorized by the Speaker of the National Council;
- b) serve as substitute for the Speaker of the National Council in the performance of his or her duties in the order as may be determined and authorized by the Speaker of the National Council;
- c) perform other activities set out in this Act.

§ 45

Committees

(1) The National Council shall establish committees composed of its own Members for the purpose of acting as the initiative and supervisory bodies.

(2) The National Council shall appoint the Mandate and Immunity Committee, the Committee on Incompatibility of Functions, the Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic on European Affairs (hereinafter, "Committee for European Affairs") and the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter, "Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee"). The National Council may appoint other committees; the scope of their responsibilities shall be determined as necessary.

(3) The committees shall, in particular,

a) submit to the National Council bills and other recommendations in matters within their scope;

b) supervise the observance and implementation of laws and whether the regulations issued for their implementation are in accordance with the laws. Where a committee finds a breach of a law or that the implementing of regulation violates the law, or that such implementing regulation has not been issued at all, or has not been issued in a timely manner, it shall notify the appropriate member of the Government, or the head of the appropriate central-state administration authority, and shall require immediate remedial action; if no remedial action is taken, the committee shall report it to the National Council;

c) discuss, within the scope of their authority, the principal matters of economic and social development of the Slovak Republic, particularly the fulfillment of the Proclamation of Government Policies, the national budget proposal and its implementation and the final national revenue balance; for this purpose they shall cooperate with the members of the Government and the heads of other state authorities, public corporations and other authorities established by law;

d) cooperate with the authorities of public administration and use their initiatives and suggestions through the performance of the committees' activity. For the purpose of obtaining information the committees may invite representatives of public administration authorities to committee meetings for consideration of matters under discussion, particularly of bills; they may also carry out parliamentary surveys and hold committee meetings outside the National Council.

(4) The Speaker of the National Council shall not be a member of any committee.

§ 46

(1) The committees shall discuss any matter referred to them by the Speaker of the National Council or by the National Council, and any other matters, which the committees have resolved to consider. A matter referred to a committee shall be discussed within such time limit as may be determined.

(2) For the purpose of reviewing a matter under consideration, the Chairman of the committee shall appoint a Rapporteur from among the committee's members. The Rapporteur shall prepare a report on the matter under discussion and propose a motion for a resolution thereon.

(3) The committees shall submit their proposals, initiatives, and opinions to the National Council and in certain cases, to the Speaker of the National Council.

(4) The committees shall submit draft opinions concerning proposals for legally binding acts and other acts of the European Communities and the European Union under § 58a section (3) subsection a).

§ 47

(1) The committees may also refer their proposals, initiatives, and opinions to the appropriate members of the Government or to the heads of other central state-administration authorities; if the nature of the matter so requires, they shall also inform the Speaker of the National Council.

(2) The members of the Government and the heads of other central-state administration authorities are obliged to notify the committee within thirty days, unless a longer term has been agreed upon by a committee, of the measures recommended by that committee.

(3) If a committee receives no reply within the term specified in section (2), or if a committee disagrees with such a reply, its recommendation may be submitted to the National Council.

§ 48

(1) The inaugural meeting of a committee shall be convened by its Chairman. A committee shall elect one or two Vice-Chairmen and two Verifiers.

(2) The Vice-Chairman or the Verifier of a committee may be elected or recalled with the consent of an absolute majority of the Members of the committee.

§ 49

(1) The meetings of a committee shall be convened usually during session days of a session § 22 and by the committee Chairman. After the meeting has been opened, the Chairman shall announce the names of Members who have asked in writing to be excused for their absence.

(2) The Chairman of a committee shall convene the committee meeting upon a resolution of the National Council, upon a request of the Speaker of the National Council or a request of not less than one third of the Members of the committee. If no date has been fixed in the resolution of the National Council or in the request, the Chairman of the committee shall convene the meeting within seven days of the adoption of such resolution or of the delivery of such request.

(3) The agenda of the meeting and the mode of proceedings shall be drafted and presented to a committee by its Chairman. Changes and supplements to the agenda may be proposed by any Member of the committee.

(4) In his or her absence, the Chairman of a committee shall be substituted for by a duly authorized Vice-Chairman who shall serve as substitute for the Chairman whenever so authorized. In the absence of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, a Member of the committee duly authorized by the Chairman or by the committee shall serve as Chairman.

§50

(1) Committee Meetings shall be open to the public, unless otherwise provided for by this Act [§ 57 section (3)] and [§ 60 section (3)]. Visitors shall be admitted as long as the seating facilities in the committee room permit. Non-public committee meetings shall be governed by § 18 sections (2) and (3) where appropriate.

(2) Members of committees to which a matter has not been referred for consideration may submit their written opinions to the lead committee. The lead committee shall consider these opinions even when the Member concerned is not present.

(3) Members have the right to attend meetings of committees of which they are not Members. They have the right to speak, but not to vote.

(4) Non-public committee meetings may be attended by Members of the National Council, the President of the Republic, members of the Government and other persons with the consent of the committee.

§51

Publication of Members' presentations made during a public committee meeting shall not be restricted.

§ 52

(1) A decision of a committee shall be taken by a resolution. The voting of a committee is public.

(2) The quorum of a committee shall consist of an absolute majority of its Members.

(3) [§ 36 section (2)-(4)] and § 37, § 38 shall apply to voting in committees as appropriate.

(4) A resolution shall be passed by a majority of the Members of a committee present at the meeting, except for cases stipulated by the Constitution where the consent of an absolute majority of the members or the consent of at least a three-fifths majority of all Members shall be necessary for a valid resolution of the National Council. In such cases, the consent of an absolute majority of the Members of the committee or of at least three-fifths of all Members shall be necessary in order to pass the resolution.

(5) If at least one third of committee Members present at the meeting disagrees with the resolution, their opinion shall be published in the resolution of the committee whenever so requested by any of the committee Members present at the meeting.

§ 53

(1) The President of the Republic, members of the Government, the General Prosecutor and the Head of the Supreme Audit Office have the right to attend the meetings of a committee and to address the meeting whenever they so request.

(2) Committees have the right to invite to their meetings members of the Government, heads of other state-administration authorities and the General Prosecutor, and to demand their explanations, reports or necessary documents. When invited, they shall attend the committee meeting and submit their clarifications, reports and documents as required. With the consent of the committee, they may send a duly commissioned representative as substitute.

(3) The President of the Republic, members of the Government, heads of other state-administration authorities and the General Prosecutor or their duly commissioned representatives may attend the committee meetings accompanied by experts of their own choice and request that the committee Chairman allow such experts to address the committee.

§ 54

(1) Committees may also invite to their meetings various specialists and other persons and request their opinions.

(2) Committees may request experts, institutes of science or other authorities to prepare expert analyses and opinions, which may be necessary for committee debates. Any committee may request the expert in charge of a report to present an oral explanation at the committee meeting.

§ 55

The proceedings of a committee shall be recorded in the minutes. The minutes and resolutions shall be verified by the means of the signature of a committee Verifier. Following the verification the minutes shall be signed by the Chairman of the committee or a Member substituted for the Chairman [§ 48 section (1)].

§ 56

(1) Upon mutual agreement, committees may hold joint meetings and submit joint proposals.

(2) The debates at joint committee meetings shall be governed by the rules of proceedings in committees as appropriate. The committee Chairmen shall take turns in chairing the joint committee meeting; votes shall be taken in each of the committees separately.

(3) A joint meeting of committees may also be convened at the request of the Speaker of the National Council who may convene a joint meeting of all committees.

§ 57

Mandate and Immunity Committee

(1) The Mandate and Immunity Committee shall, in particular,

- a) submit to the National Council proposals to verify the validity of Members' mandates [§ 8 section (2)];
- b) ascertain whether a Member has taken the pledge or has taken the pledge with reservations. Where the Committee finds that a Member has refused to take the pledge or has taken a pledge

with reservations, it shall recommend the National Council a resolution on the loss of the Member's mandate;⁴³

c) ascertains whether a Member has lost eligibility;

d) considers whether there are grounds to refuse to permit a Member to be detained in custody;

e) decide on requests to permit the detention of a Member who has been caught and detained while committing a crime.⁴⁰⁾ This decision shall be reported to the Speaker of the National Council and the National Council at the next session;

f) conduct disciplinary proceedings (§ 136 - 140);

g) debate on matters dealing with the loss, resignation or expiration of a Member's mandate,⁴⁴ moving proposals thereon to the National Council;

h) discuss termination of employment or related contract of a Member, which is to be performed against Member's will.⁴¹⁾

(2) When the appropriate authority requests that the National Council grant permission for criminal prosecution⁴⁵ or disciplinary action against a Member⁴⁰⁾, the Mandate and Immunity Committee shall immediately consider the request, and permit the Member to participate in the debate and to state his or her opinion on the matter. The Mandate and Immunity Committee shall report the results of such consideration together with proposals thereon to the National Council.

(3) The meetings of the Mandate and Immunity Committee shall be closed to the public at all times. Provisions of [§ 50 section (3)] and [§ 143 section (6)] do not apply to meetings of this committee. The Speaker of the National Council has the right to attend these meetings; any other person may attend the meetings only with the consent of the Committee.

§ 58

Committee for Incompatibility of Functions

(1) The Committee for Incompatibility of Functions shall, in particular,

⁴³ Article 75 (2) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

⁴⁴ Article 75 (2) and Article 81a (b), (c) (e) and (f) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

⁴⁵ Article 78 (3) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

a) examine whether a Member performs any other duties or holds any function incompatible with the office of a Member of the National Council or a function due to which his or her mandate cannot be fulfilled;⁴⁶

b) discharge tasks related to the examination of the conduct of state officials⁴⁷, and to whether such conduct is in contravention of a special law,^{47a)}

c) submit reports on the results of the examinations conducted under (a) and (b) to the National Council, and propose a proposal for a resolution to be adopted by the National Council.

(2) The meetings of the Committee on Incompatibility of Functions in service to the public interest and preclusion of conflicts of interest under a special regulation, shall be open to the public at all times.

§ 58a

Committee for European Affairs

(1) The National Council shall elect the Chair and the members of the Committee for European Affairs on the basis of proportional representation of political parties and movements, the members of which hold parliamentary seats in the respective electoral term.

(2) The National Council shall elect a substitute member for each regular member of the Committee for European Affairs (hereinafter, “substitute member”). A substitute member may participate in meetings of the Committee for European Affairs instead of the regular member provided that the latter informs the Chair of the committee. In such case the substitute member is counted among the committee members present [§ 52 section (2)] and has the right to vote at the meeting of the Committee for European Affairs. If a substitute member participates in a Committee meeting together with the regular member for whom he substitutes, or without a notification by the regular member of the participation of the substitute member, the substitute member shall not be included in the headcount of the Members present and shall not have the right to vote. The substitute member for the committee Chair or the Vice-Chair shall participate in the meeting of the Committee for European Affairs as a member.

(3) The Committee for European Affairs shall:

⁴⁶ Article 77 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic. Constitutional Act 357/2004 Coll. as amended by the Constitutional Act 545/2005 Coll.

⁴⁷ Article 2 of the Constitutional Act 357/2004 Coll. on the protection of public interest by the discharge of functions of public officials as amended by the Constitutional Act 545/2005 Coll.

§ 4 (4) of the Act 402/2013 Coll. on Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Postal Services and Transport and on amending and supplementing of certain acts.

^{47a)} Constitutional Act 357/2004 Coll. as amended by the Constitutional Act 545/2005 Coll.

Act 402/2013 Coll.

- a) discuss the drafts of legally binding acts and other acts of the European Union,
- b) approve the opinions of the Slovak Republic on the proposals under subsection a), which are to be discussed by the relevant institutions of the European Union,
- c) assess the compliance of draft legislative acts of the European Union with the principle of subsidiarity, including the approval of reasoned positions,^{47aa)}
- d) discuss action draft proposals on the grounds of infringement upon the principle of subsidiarity by a legislative act of the European Union,
- e) discuss reports and information submitted to the National Council by the Government and members of the Government, and acts submitted to the National Council by the EU institutions.
- f) request, in its discretion, position of other committees of the National Council on proposals under a) and b) of this Section,
- g) submit activity reports to the National Council under subsections a) through f) of this Section.

(4) The National Council may reserve the right to decide on matters under section (3) subsection a) - c).

(5) The meetings of the Committee for European Affairs shall be convened by the Chair of the Committee, as necessary.

(6) An authorized member of the Government shall attend the meetings of the Committee for European Affairs and inform the Committee of the drafts of legally binding acts and other acts of the European Communities and the European Union under section (3) subsection a) and provide information on the results of the discussions of those bodies of which he is a member.

(7) Members of European Parliament elected in the territory of the Slovak Republic under a special law^{47b)} may participate in a meeting of the Committee for European Affairs and may speak on the matters discussed.

(8) The Government or an authorized member of the Government shall submit to the Committee for European Affairs without delay the drafts of legally binding acts and other acts of the European Communities and the European Union under section (3) subsection a), which are to be discussed by

^{47aa)} Protocol (No 2) on the Application of the Principles of Subsidiarity and Proportionality (Official Journal of the European Union, C 326, 26 October 2012).

^{47b)} Third part of the Act 180/2014 Coll.

the representatives of governments of European Union member states. The Government or an authorized member of the Government shall, no later than three weeks after having received the draft of a legally binding act as mentioned above, submit to the Committee for European Affairs a preliminary opinion on that draft. The preliminary opinion shall contain, in particular, brief information on the content and objectives of the draft, the type and time schedule of the decision-making procedure in the European Communities and European Union, on the compliance of the draft with the principle of subsidiarity, and an evaluation of the impact of the draft on the Slovak Republic with respect to political, legislative, economic, social and environmental aspects.

(9) The Government or an authorized member of the Government shall, sufficiently in advance, submit to the Committee for European Affairs the proposed opinion of the Slovak Republic on the proposals under section (3) subsection a).

(10) A member of the Government may ask the Committee for European Affairs to change the position of the Slovak Republic.^{47d)}

(11) If a member of the Government deviates from the opinion of the Committee stated in section (3) subsection b), he shall forthwith provide the Committee for European Affairs an explanation and justification for such action.

(12) The Government shall provide for regular notification of the Committee for European Affairs by members of the Government serving in bodies of the European Union, of all topical issues discussed in those bodies. Unless resolved otherwise by the National Council, by the end of March of each year the Government shall submit to the National Council a report on matters related to the membership of the Slovak Republic in the European Union for the preceding calendar year.

(13) The Committee for European Affairs may at any time request that the Government or an authorized member of the Government submit reports, information, justifications or explanations of any matters related to the membership of the Slovak Republic in the European Union.

§ 58b

Action on the Grounds of Infringement upon the Principle of Subsidiarity by a Legislative Act of the European Union

(1) The Committee for European Affairs or one-fifth of Members may request in writing that the National Council pass the resolution on Subsidiarity Principle Infringement Action by a legislative act

^{47d)} Article 2 (5) of Constitutional Act 397/2004 Coll.

of the European Union (hereinafter “action draft”). The action draft shall contain the exact wording of the respective action subject to the resolution of the National Council.

(2) The action draft proposal is submitted to the Chairman of the National Council, no later than fifteen days prior to the action submission deadline^{47e)}. The Speaker of the National Council shall incorporate the action draft into the program of the next session of the National Council or a special hearing and shall convene such session or hearing to allow for the timely discussion of the action draft.

(3) The action draft shall be delivered to Members at least 72 hours prior the discussion of action draft by the National Council.

(4) Should the National Council approve the action draft, the National Council shall entrust a Member or another appropriate person / persons, with their prior consent, to represent the National Council and appear before the Court of Justice of the European Union (hereinafter “authorized representative”). The mandate is not linked to the duration of the mandate of a Member.

(5) The authorized representative is bound by the text of the Action and is not entitled to rescind the Action.

(6) The National Council may amend the Action draft or the valid resolution pertaining to the “authorized representative” if permitted by the law of the European Union.

(7) Chairman of the National Council shall immediately forward the resolution of the National Council containing the text of the Action to the Government. The government is bound by the resolution of the National Council and the text version of the Action. The government shall immediately present the Action to the Court of Justice of the European Union.

(8) The Government, Members of Government, Heads of other central state-administration authorities and public administration authorities shall cooperate and provide the necessary support to the authorized representative in proceedings before the Court of Justice of the European Union.

(9) The authorized representative shall inform the Committee for European Affairs about the proceedings in time and manner designated by the Committee.

(10) The status of the National Council as a participant in proceedings before the Court of Justice of the European Union, and the status of the authorized representative, shall not be affected by the end of the parliamentary term of the National Council or by the dissolution of the National Council.

^{47e)} Article 263 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

§ 59

Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee

The Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee shall, in particular,

- a) present to the National Council initiatives aimed at improving the system of law and order in the Slovak Republic;
- b) discuss all bill proposals, mainly with regard to the compatibility of the bills with the Constitution, constitutional statutes, international treaties binding the Slovak Republic, laws of the Slovak Republic and the laws of the European Union;
- c) recommend to the Speaker of the National Council the procedures necessary for the implementation of tasks related to proceedings before the Constitutional Court;
- d) discuss and recommend to the National Council candidates for justices of the Constitutional Court⁴⁹ and if so authorized other high officials elected by the National Council under special laws;
- e) discuss the reports on the state of the rule of law and on the activities of public prosecution, the judiciary and prison administration.

§ 60

Special Control Committees

(1) The National Council shall also establish special control committees consisting of Members of the National Council to control the operation of the National Security Authority and of the services provided under special laws.³⁰ The Rights and obligations of special control committees shall be governed by special laws.⁵⁰

(2) The Members of special control committee shall be elected by the National Council on the basis of proportional representation of Members in the parliamentary caucuses and with respect to the number of Members allotted for the special control committee. Any Member can give up membership in the special control committee.

(3) The debates in special control committees shall not be open to the public; only Members of the committee, and other persons with the consent of the committee may attend. The Speaker of the

⁴⁹ Article 134 (2) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

⁵⁰ Act 46/1993 Coll. of the National Council of the Slovak Republic as amended. Act 198/1994 Coll. of the National Council of SR, as amended. Act 215/2004 Coll.

National Council has the right to attend the debates of special control committee. Other provisions of this Act shall apply to the proceedings of these committees as appropriate.

PART SIX

§ 61

Commissions

The National Council and its committees may set up standing and ad hoc commissions to be consulted on various issues and to prepare opinions on matters within their powers. The Members of a commission may be chosen from Members of the National Council and other persons. Only a Member of the National Council may Chair such a commission. The committees may also create joint commissions.

PART SEVEN

§ 62

Verifiers of the National Council

(1) The Verifiers of the National Council shall supervise the accuracy of voting and election procedures at sessions of the National Council. Upon a proposal of the Chairman, the National Council may decide without debate to have the votes counted by Verifiers if there are any doubts concerning the results of a vote.

(2) The Verifiers shall be responsible for the correct and complete Minutes of the sessions of the National Council; they shall sign resolutions and other documents approved by the National Council.

(3) If no Verifiers are present at the session of the National Council, the duties of Verifiers under sections (1) and (2) shall be performed by Members designated by the National Council.

(4) The provisions of sections (1)-(3) of this § shall apply to Verifiers in committees as appropriate.

PART EIGHT

§ 63

Attendance of Members at the Sessions of the National Council and its Committees

(1) Each Member shall attend the sessions of the National Council and the meetings of the committees to which he has been elected. A Member shall also participate in any other activities within the powers of the National Council or its committees, if so determined or commissioned by the National Council or a committee.

(2) For each session day of a session of the National Council, an attendance roster shall be prepared, which shall be signed by all Members present at the session.

(3) A Member unable to attend a session of the National Council or its committees (section (1)) because of illness or any other serious reason, shall, prior to such session, send a written explanation for his absence to the Speaker of the National Council or to the Chairman of a committee. In such an excuse he will state the reason for which he is unable to attend the session together with the estimated length of absence. No excuse shall be required for absence in relation to the duties of a Member performed with the consent of the Speaker of the National Council or the Chairman of the committee, where appropriate.

(4) In the case of an absence from a session for which no written explanation under section (3) can be delivered, the Member may ask to be excused through other appropriate means. Such excuse must be confirmed in writing without delay.

(5) The Speaker of the National Council shall consider after a consultation with the Chairman of the parliamentary caucus, if the Member is a member of a parliamentary caucuses, whether the Member's given reason for absence from sessions of the National Council (section (3)) is a reasonable cause for his absence⁵¹; the reasons of a Member's absence from a committee meeting shall be considered by the Chairman of the committee concerned. The Member shall be given an opportunity to express his opinion on the matter.

(6) A Member's absence from sessions under section (5) shall be considered immediately after the end of the current month. Having considered the reasons of a Member's absence, the Speaker of the National Council or the Chairman of the committee in question shall announce their decisions to the Member and also to the Chancellery, which, in the case of unexcused absences shall arrange for a loss of the Member's claims or a modification of certain claims as authorized by a special law⁵². The Chancellery shall also deliver the decision to the Chairman of the respective parliamentary caucus.

(7) If a Member's absence from a session of the National Council was not excused by the Speaker of the National Council, or the Member's absence from a meeting of a committee was not excused by the

⁵¹ § 7 (1) and (2) and § 9 of Act 120/1993 Coll. of the National Council of the Slovak Republic [§9 (1) has been abolished].

⁵² 7 (1) and (2) of Act 120/1993 Coll. of the National Council of the Slovak Republic.

Chairman of the committee, the Member may, within five days of receiving notification of the decision not to excuse his absence, lodge an objection in writing against the unexcused absence with the Speaker of the National Council and request the Speaker to rule on the matter again, taking into account the opinion of the Mandate and Immunity Committee and the Deputy-Speakers of the National Council. The decision of the Speaker of the National Council shall be final.

(8) Registration of attendance at each session of the National Council or at the meetings of committees shall be administered and kept by the Chancellery.

(9) If a Member fails to excuse his absence from a session of the National Council or from a meeting of a committee, or if a Member fails to do so in the manner prescribed by sections (3) and (4) of this §, such absence shall be deemed unexcused. ⁵²⁾

(10) For consideration of Member's partial absence from a session day, the provisions of sections (1)-(9) shall apply as appropriate.

§ 63a

(1) The National Council or the committee may delegate a Member or a group of Members to make a parliamentary survey determining the compliance and implementation of laws and to find out whether the management of public funds is consistent with the laws. A member or a group of Members shall perform the parliamentary survey (as stated in the first sentence) within

- a) public authorities and the statutory institutions managing the budget funds, according to the law approved by the National Council,
- b) entities managing the assets, liabilities, financial resources, property rights and claims of the state and public institutions,
- c) legal entities with the partial ownership of the state and legal entities with a partial ownership of public institutions.

(2) Entities under section (1) subsection a) - c) are required to provide to the Member or group of Members any information, explanations and documents related to the conduct of a parliamentary survey and to receive those upon a request.

PART NINE

PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUSES AND GREMIUM OF MEMBERS

Parliamentary Caucuses

§ 64

(1) Members may associate in parliamentary caucuses according to their affiliation to political parties, political movements or election coalitions for which they had been elected to the National Council.

(2) If, during the election term, the election coalitions split or the political parties or movements merge, their parliamentary caucuses shall either split or merge, provided that the requirements of this Act have been satisfied.

(3) If Members wish to form a parliamentary caucus in a manner other than that laid down in sections (1) or (2) of this §, the formation of that parliamentary caucus must be approved by the National Council.

(4) Each Member of the National Council may belong only to one parliamentary caucus.

(5) At least eight Members are required to form a parliamentary caucus. The formation of a caucus shall be registered in the minutes and signed by all constituent Members of the parliamentary caucus. The number of members of the parliamentary caucus, as stated in the first sentence, must be met throughout the whole election period. If during the election period the number of members of the parliamentary caucus decreases below the limit, the parliamentary caucus ceases to exist.

(6) The Chairman of a new parliamentary caucus shall inform the Speaker of the National Council in writing of its name, the first and last names of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and the first and last names of all Members belonging to the new caucus.

(7) The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, or another authorized Member of the parliamentary caucus shall be entitled to act on behalf of the caucus.

§ 65

(1) Each parliamentary caucus shall be entitled to use a room in the National Council for its activities. The Speaker of the National Council shall regulate the details.

(2) The costs of parliamentary caucuses shall be reimbursed from the Chancellery's budget in the amount specified by the Speaker of the National Council for each financial year proportionately according to size of each caucus.

(3) The rules of financial management in the parliamentary caucuses shall be approved by the Speaker of the National Council.

(4) The parliamentary caucuses shall record the contributions received under section (2) and ensure that their spending is supported by the appropriate documents. The caucuses shall submit to the Speaker of the National Council all documents related to the spending of the contributions whenever demanded by the Speaker. The parliamentary caucuses shall submit to the Speaker of the National Council a summary report of spending in the previous calendar year within a term to be fixed by the Speaker of the National Council.

§ 66

Parliamentary Gremium

(1) The Parliamentary Gremium (hereinafter "Gremium") shall consider issues of a political and procedural nature concerning the activities of the National Council and its bodies.

(2) The opinions of the Gremium shall be deemed recommendations for the National Council, its bodies and its Speaker.

(3) The Gremium shall consist of Members delegated by parliamentary caucuses. Their number shall be determined by dividing the number of members of the parliamentary caucus by fifteen with the resulting number rounded according to statistical rules.

(4) The Speaker of the National Council shall convene the Gremium as necessary or upon the request of at least two caucuses; in such a case the Gremium must be called without delay.

(5) The Gremium may be attended by the Deputy-Speakers of the National Council.

PART TEN

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Bill Proposal

§ 67

(1) A bill may be submitted by a committee, any Member and by the Government⁵³ (hereinafter, “sponsor”).

(2) A bill shall be submitted to the Speaker of the National Council in the required number of written copies and in electronic form.

(3) If a bill has been submitted by a committee or by a Member, the required number of written copies and the electronic form shall be provided by the Chancellery.

§ 68

(1) A bill shall be presented in the exact legislative form and supported by an explanatory report.

(2) The wording of the bill shall be comprehensible and shall clearly state the aim of the proposed act.

(3) The explanatory report shall contain an evaluation of the current social, economic and legal background and explain the reasons why the new enactment is necessary, include the method of its implementation, its economic and financial impact, its impact on the government budget⁵⁴, labor force and organizational structures, as well as an analysis of other issues relevant to the general evaluation of the bill. The explanatory report shall also detail the compatibility of the bill with the Constitution, other laws, and international treaties; the report will explicitly affirm that the law is compatible with the law of the European Union. In addition to the general part, the explanatory report to the bill shall also state the justification of each provision.

(4) If an implementing regulation is to be issued on the basis of the proposed Act, the Speaker of the National Council may demand that the sponsor present its draft. The sponsor of the bill shall present a draft of the implementing regulation whenever such regulation is to come into effect concurrently with the proposed Act.

(5) If a presentation of the bill has been preceded by a public discussion, the sponsor of the bill shall submit an evaluation thereof.

⁵³ Article 87 (1) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

⁵⁴ § 33 of Act 523/2004 Call. on budgetary rules in public administration as amended.

§ 69

(1) The legislative process, details of procedures for drafting, submitting and considering the laws, and their form shall be governed by legislative rules to be passed by a resolution of the National Council.

(2) The sponsor of a bill shall be bound by these legislative rules.

§ 70

(1) If the bill fails to comply with the requirements of this Act or the legislative rules (§ 69), the Speaker of the National Council shall recommend that the sponsor of the bill correct any defects. If the sponsor disagrees with such recommendations, the Speaker of the National Council shall present his recommendation together with the sponsor's opinion at the next session of the National Council, which shall decide without debate.

(2) If a bill, compliant with prescribed requirements, is introduced by a committee or by a Member, and the National Council has resolved that it shall be discussed in second reading, the Speaker of the National Council shall deliver it to the Government requesting a position to be submitted within thirty days. The Government shall submit a position to the Speaker of the National Council. If the Government fails to submit a position within thirty days, the bill shall be considered without it. If the Government submits a position at a later time, it may be taken into consideration.

First Reading

§ 71

The Speaker of the National Council shall arrange for the immediate post on the web site of the National Council of a bill complying with the requirements of this Act. The Speaker of the National Council shall propose that the National Council refers the bill for consideration to the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee and, depending on the nature of the bill, to other committees. At the same time, the Speaker of the National Council shall propose a lead committee responsible for that bill.

§ 72

(1) The bill shall be posted on the web site of the National Council at least fifteen days prior to the session of the National Council during which the bill is to be presented for the First Reading.

(2) The Speaker of the National Council shall put the bill onto the agenda of the next session of the National Council. The provisions of § 24 section (1) shall not apply. The bill cannot be put onto agenda of the session if the time limit stipulated in section (1) has not elapsed.

(3) The National Council may change the order of considering bills in the session agenda.

§ 73

(1) The bill shall be introduced by the sponsor, followed by the Rapporteur designated by the lead committee.

(2) The bill and its merits shall be discussed in a general debate, in which no amendments shall be proposed.

(3) The National Council may resolve:

- a) to refer the bill back to the sponsor for further elaboration;
- b) to discontinue further discussion on the bill, or
- c) to refer the bill to the Second Reading.

(4) If the National Council adopts no resolution under section (3), there will be no further debate on the bill.

§ 74

(1) If a resolution has been passed by the National Council to refer the bill to the Second Reading, the National Council shall simultaneously decide on the proposal of the Speaker of the National Council to assign the bill to committees and to determine a lead committee; each bill shall always be referred to the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee. Any amendments proposed by Members concerning referral to committees shall be resolved by the National Council without debate.

(2) The National Council, upon a proposal of the Speaker of the National Council, shall fix the time limit during which the bill shall be considered in the committees to which it has been referred. This time limit shall be not less than thirty days after the day of its referral to committees.

(3) Where/If the National Council does not so resolve under sections (1) and (2) of this §, the proposal of the Speaker of the National Council shall be followed.

Second Reading

§ 75

- (1) The bill shall be considered in the committees to which it has been referred.
- (2) Members who are not Members of the committee to which the bill has been committed may communicate their opinion to the lead committee before the beginning of the debate in that committee under § 79 section (2).

§ 76

A bill introduced by the Government shall be explained in a committee by a member of the Government or by the Head of a central-state administration authority authorized by the Government. Other authorized persons may do so only with the consent of the committee. A bill introduced by a committee or by a group of Members shall be justified by a duly authorized Member, and in the case of a Member's bill, it shall be justified by the sponsor.

§ 77

- (1) At the request of the Chairman, a committee shall designate one of its Members as Rapporteur who shall speak after the sponsor.
- (2) The Rapporteur shall inform the committee of the comments, opinions and information requested by or delivered to the committee or the Rapporteur and propose a committee resolution.
- (3) Where the bill has been introduced by committees or Members, the Rapporteur shall also present the position of the Government pursuant to § 70 section (2).

§78

The Committee shall submit to the National Council the results of discussions during the second reading, along with a written report containing the opinion of the committee recommending for or against passage of the bill; along with the exact wording of amendments resolved by the committee. These amendments shall be exactly formulated and justified. The committee shall pass in the form of a resolution, a written report of the opinion of the committee, for submission to the National Council.

§ 79

(1) When the bill has been discussed by several committees, a joint written report prepared by the lead committee shall be presented to the National Council.

(2) The lead committee shall be the last to discuss the bill.

(3) If the opinions of the committees differ, the lead committee shall seek to achieve unanimity. The lead committee may call a joint meeting of the committees.

(4) By a special resolution, the lead committee shall confirm a common report of the committees containing

- a) the names of committees to which the bill has been assigned for debate and which committees have debated thereupon;
- b) information on the opinions of Members who have submitted their opinions to the lead committee;
- c) information on the opinions of the committees, including its own opinion as to whether they recommend that the bill should be passed by the National Council;
- d) the amendments proposed in the committees in the order in which the provisions appear in the bill together with the justifications thereof;
- e) its opinion on proposals mentioned in subsections (c) and (d) of this Section;
- f) its final opinion as to whether to recommend approval of the bill to the National Council, or whether to refer the bill back to the sponsor for further elaboration, to postpone the debate, or to discontinue further debate of the bill.

(5) By the means of a resolution under section (4) of this §, the lead committee may authorize the common Rapporteur of committees [§ 80 section (1)] to present the amendments made under § 25, [§ 83 section (4)], [§ 84 section (2)] and § 86.

§ 80

(1) The lead committee shall designate a common Rapporteur of the committees (hereinafter, "Common Rapporteur") for debate on the bill in the National Council. If no Common Rapporteur has been designated by the lead committee, he or she shall be designated by the Chairman of that committee.

(2) The Common Rapporteur shall inform the National Council of the results of the debates in committees, presenting the justifications of the proposal and the opinion of the lead committee. If the lead committee has not passed the joint report or opinion, the Common Rapporteur shall present only

information on the results of the committee discussions and shall submit a proposal for further proceedings.

§ 81

(1) The committees' joint report or information by the Common Rapporteur on the results of the debate on the bill during the second reading shall be delivered to the sponsor and all Members and shall be posted on the web site of the National Council.

(2) The bill may be considered by the National Council in the second reading no sooner than 48 hours following the delivery of the committees' joint report or information by the Common Rapporteur. Upon the proposal of the lead committee or the Common Rapporteur, in the case of uncomplicated bills, a shorter time limit may be decided by the National Council without debate.

§ 82

(1) If the lead committee or the Common Rapporteur has recommended that the National Council return the bill to the sponsor for further elaboration, postpone the debate on the bill or discontinue the debate on the bill, such recommendation shall be the first to be voted on without debate.

(2) Amendments to the bill [§ 29 section (1)] shall be proposed with the consent of at least fifteen Members. The consent of a Member shall be expressed by his signature to a written justified amendment. Proposed amendments shall be posted on the website of the National Council. If a Member withdraws his or her agreement prior to the vote on the amendment in question and if consequently there is not a sufficient number of Members' signatures, the amendment is considered withdrawn.

§ 83

(1) After the conclusion of the debate on the bill in the second reading, amendments to the bill shall be voted on. If, during the debate, it has been proposed to return the bill for further elaboration, to postpone or discontinue the debate, the vote on such a proposal shall be taken first.

(2) The Common Rapporteur shall not comment on any amendment; instead he shall draw attention how the amendment relate to the bill and the proposals included in the joint report of the committees.

(3) When no additional amendments have been proposed during the second reading, the vote shall be taken on the proposals included in the joint report of committees.

(4) When amendments have been proposed during the second reading at the session of the National Council, the Chairman shall arrange for their delivery to the Members. Voting on proposals included in the joint report of the committees and on the distributed proposals proposed at the session of the National Council shall be held no earlier than 48 hours after the submission of the amendment in the debate. Upon a request by the lead committee or by the Common Rapporteur, the National Council may resolve without debate that the time limit needs to be reduced.

§ 84

Third Reading

(1) When no amendments have been approved during the second reading, the vote on the bill as a whole shall be taken in the third reading.

(2) When amendments have been approved in the second reading, at the earliest the third reading shall take place no earlier than one day after their approval (§ 83; it may also take place earlier when, upon the proposal of the lead committee or the Common Rapporteur, it is so resolved by the National Council without debate.

§ 85

(1) The third reading shall be limited solely to those parts of the bill to which amendments were proposed during second reading.

(2) In the third reading, Members may propose only corrections of linguistic and legislative-technical mistakes.

(3) Other amendments aimed at correcting other mistakes concerning provisions under section (1) of this §, and a proposal to repeat the second reading may be put forward by at least thirty Members.

(4) In the repeated second reading, the bill shall be discussed as amended by the amendments passed to date. These may be further amended; this also relates to provisions to which amendments have not yet been passed. Upon the proposal of the Speaker of the National Council, the National Council shall, without debate, resolve whether:

- a) the bill should be again discussed by all the committees to which the bill had been assigned [§ 74 section (1)], or
- b) the bill should be again discussed only by the lead committee, or
- c) the bill should be again discussed at a session of the National Council.

§ 86

Provided that no corrections or amendments have been approved in the third reading, the vote on the bill as a whole shall be taken. If any amendments have been approved, the lead committee or the Common Rapporteur may propose to postpone the vote thereon until these amendments have been distributed to all Members in writing. Such a proposal shall be resolved by the National Council without debate.

§ 87

Consideration of the National Budget

(1) The time limit for introducing the bill on the national budget is set out by a special law.⁵⁵

(2) The bill on the national budget shall be considered in the second and third reading. The bill shall be referred to all committees except the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee and the Committee on Incompatibility of Functions. The time limit under § 74 section (2) shall be determined by the Speaker of the National Council.

(3) A bill on the national budget shall contain no provisions amending or repealing the existing law.

§ 88

Consideration of International Treaties

(1) International treaties requiring consent of the National Council before ratification shall be considered in the second and third readings. The particulars prescribed under § 74 shall be decided by the Speaker of the National Council.

(2) If the treaty submitted by the Government to the National Council for its approval under section 1 is an international treaty on human rights and fundamental freedoms, a self-executing international treaty, or an international treaty directly establishing rights or obligations of natural persons or legal entities, which takes precedence over national laws^{55a)}, such treaty shall be submitted together with a precedence clause. The precedence clause shall explain the precedence of the treaty over specific national laws, and its impact on the laws of the Slovak Republic.

⁵⁵ §14 (2) of Act 523/2004 Coll.

^{55a)} Article 7 paragraph (5) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

(3) In the second reading, the Common Rapporteur or the lead committee shall recommend whether the international treaty should be approved by the National Council.

(4) The National Council shall resolve in the third reading whether or not to approve the international treaty. The National Council may also decide to postpone the debate on the approval.

(5) Other provisions governing the second and third reading shall apply as appropriate.

§ 89

Fast-Track Legislative Procedure

(1) The National Council may, at the request of the Government, resolve to consider a bill under the fast-track legislative procedure under extraordinary circumstances: when fundamental human rights and freedoms are at stake, or the national security is in jeopardy, or when there is a threat that the state could suffer considerable economic damage.

(2) The National Council may resolve to employ the fast-track legislative procedure when a resolution of the United Nations Security Council on actions safeguarding international peace and security adopted under Section 41 of the Charter of the United Nations requires that a law be passed immediately.

(3) Restrictions under provisions of § 25, [§ 72 section (1)], [§ 74 section (2)], [§ 81 section (2)], [§ 83 section (4)], [§ 84 section (2)], and § 86 shall not apply to the fast-track legislative procedure.

§ 90

Bills Returned by the President of the Republic

(1) If the President returns a bill with comments⁵⁶ to be reconsidered by the National Council, the bill shall be discussed in the second and third readings, during which only the comments of the President of the Republic shall be considered. The comments shall contain the precise wording of proposed modifications, unless the President of the Republic has opposed the bill as a whole.

(2) The Speaker of the National Council shall reassign to committees the bill opposed by the President of the Republic; he shall also determine the lead committee and the time limit for a debate thereon.

⁵⁶ Article 87 (2) and Article 102 (1) subsection o) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

(3) The provisions relating to sponsors of bills shall apply to the President of the Slovak Republic, where appropriate. In justified cases, the attendance of the President of the Slovak Republic at a session of the National Council may be substituted for by the Head of the Office of the President of the Slovak Republic.

(4) At committee meetings, the President of the Republic may be substituted for by an official of the Office of the President of the Slovak Republic.⁵⁷ With the consent of the committee, an authorized official of the Office of the President of the Slovak Republic may speak.

(5) The National Council shall vote on the comments to the returned law separately from voting on the law as a whole.

§ 91

Joint Provisions of Part Ten

(1) The title of this Act shall not include the words “the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic”.

(2) The introductory clause to an Act shall read as follows:

”The National Council of the Slovak Republic has decided to pass the following Act:”

§ 92

[Repealed by Act 399/2015 Coll.]

§ 93

(1) Where the regular bill has not been returned by the President of the Republic with comments, the Speaker of the National Council shall submit the bill for publication in the Collection of Laws of the Slovak Republic within 21 days of its approval.

⁵⁷ § 2 (2) of Act 16/1993 Coll. on the Office of the President of the Slovak Republic, as amended.

(2) Should the National Council pass a bill which was returned to the National Council by the President of the Republic with comments, the Speaker of the National Council shall submit the bill returned by the President of the Republic after its repeated consideration for announcement in the Collection of Laws of the Slovak Republic not later than fourteen days after having been passed.

§ 94

(1) Debate on a bill or international treaty shall relate only to the bill or international treaty under consideration.

(2) During the debate on a bill by which another existing law will be amended, proposals extending the submitted bill may only be submitted provided that the sponsor gives his or her consent to the proposal prior to the vote at the latest.

(3) During the debate on a bill, an amendment on another bill of which the content is not related to the debate of the bill, shall not be submitted.

(4) When the proposal fails to meet the requirements laid down in section (2) or section (3) of this §, the Chairman shall not call a vote. An objection by the Member who has proposed the proposal against such a decision shall be resolved by the National Council without debate.

§ 95

The sponsor may withdraw the bill at any time; in the third reading, such withdrawal shall only be possible with the consent of the National Council.

§ 96

(1) Written justification of approved amendments shall be deemed a part of the bill and shall be used for the interpretation and implementation of the law.

(2) When a session of the National Council has been adjourned, the time limits stipulated for the consideration of a bill under this Act shall be suspended.

(3) When a bill has not been passed by the National Council, a new bill on the same matter may not be presented until six months after the rejection of the first bill. This shall not apply to bills referred to the sponsor for further elaboration [§ 73 section (3) subsection a)] ^{57a)}, bills proposing the state budget,

^{57a)} Constitutional Fiscal Responsibility Law No. 493/2011 Coll.

and budget proposals of public administration authorities approved by the National Council of the Slovak Republic which are resubmitted under conditions laid down by a specific act.

(4) If the sponsor withdrew the bill approved in the agenda of the session of the National Council (§ 95), a new bill on the same matter may not be submitted on the agenda of the session of the National Council until six months after the withdrawal of the first bill. Upon a request by the Speaker of the National Council, the National Council may resolve otherwise without debate.

(5) Any bill introduced in the preceding electoral term may be discussed in the subsequent electoral term only if introduced as a new bill.

§ 97

Unless otherwise stated in this Part, provisions contained in Part Four and provisions contained in § 45 to § 56 shall apply to debates on bills.

PART ELEVEN

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

Election of the President of the Republic

[Heading repealed by Act. 399/2015 Coll.]

§ 98-105

[Repealed by Act 86/2000 Coll.]

§ 106

Impeachment of the President of the Republic

(1) Any proposal to impeach the President of the Republic for willful violation of the Constitution or for treason⁶³ may be submitted to the National Council by at least one fifth of the Members.

(2) A proposal for impeachment put forward under section (1) of this § shall be referred by the Speaker of the National Council to the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee for consideration and delivered to the President of the Republic and the Government. The Speaker of the National Council shall convene the session of the National Council not later than thirty days following the submission of the proposal to impeach the President of the Republic, in order to consider the proposal for the impeachment and the opinion submitted by the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee, and to decide thereon. The President of the Republic shall be invited to attend this session of the National Council and shall have an opportunity to express his opinion on the proposal for impeachment and make a presentation in the debate.

(3) A proposal to indict the President of the Republic put forward under section (1) of this § shall be decided by the National Council in a secret ballot.

(4) If the proposal to impeach the President of the Republic (section (3)) has been passed by the National Council, the Speaker of the National Council shall, without delay, refer the matter to be decided by the Constitutional Court.

PART TWELVE

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROCLAMATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND OF A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT OR A MEMBER OF GOVERNMENT

§ 107

(1) After the Government has been appointed, the Speaker of the National Council shall convene a session of the National Council so that the Prime Minister can make a Proclamation of Government Policies and request a vote of confidence on the thirtieth day after the appointment of the Government. When requested by the Government, the Speaker of the National Council may convene the session of the National Council before the end of the thirty-day term.

(2) The Speaker of the National Council shall refer the Proclamation of Government Policies and the request for a vote of confidence to all committees except the Mandate and Immunity Committee and the Committee on Incompatibility of Functions for consideration.

⁶³ Article 107 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

(3) When the Proclamation of Government Policies, or the request for a vote of confidence has not been approved, the Speaker of the National Council shall inform the President of the Republic.

§ 108

(1) The Government may request the National Council to take a vote of confidence at any time⁶⁴ and it shall do so whenever the procedures are in an accordance with the special law.^{57a)} The request, including a justification thereof, shall be submitted to the Speaker of the National Council.

(2) The Government may require that a vote on a bill or a vote on another matter be taken concurrently with a vote of confidence in the Government.⁶⁵

(3) A request of the Government submitted under sections (1) and (2) of this § shall be referred by the Speaker of the National Council for consideration to all committees except the Mandate and Immunity Committee and the Committee on Incompatibility of Functions.

(4) The Speaker of the National Council shall convene a session of the National Council for a debate on a request of the Government submitted under sections (1) and (2) of this §, within thirty days of receipt.

(5) When a vote of confidence has not been approved by the National Council, the Speaker of the National Council shall, without delay, inform the President of the Republic thereof.

§ 109

(1) The National Council shall debate a proposal of no-confidence in the Government, or any of its members, if requested by at least one fifth of its Members.⁶⁶ Such a request shall be submitted to the Speaker of the National Council; it shall be made in writing and justified.

(2) Unless one fifth of Members request the session to be convened within seven days, the Speaker of the National Council shall convene a session of the National Council to debate the proposal under section (1) of this § not later than thirty days after such request.⁶⁷

⁶⁴ Article 114 (2) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

⁶⁵ Article 114 (3) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

⁶⁶ Article 88 (1) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

(3) The Speaker of the National Council shall, without delay, refer the proposal made under section (1) of this § to the Government for an opinion to be submitted within the time limit set by the Speaker of the National Council under section (2) of this §. He shall refer the proposal for debate to all committees except the Mandate and Immunity Committee and the Committee on Incompatibility of Functions. If the Government fails to express its opinion within the designated time limit, the committees and the National Council shall consider the proposal without such an opinion.

(4) If the proposal of no-confidence in the Government or any of its members under section (1) is put forward during the session of the National Council, the debate thereon may be held as the last item of the agenda.

(5) If the proposal of no-confidence in the Government or any of its member, put forward under section (1), has been passed by the National Council, the Speaker of the National Council shall, without delay, inform the President of the Republic thereof.

PART THIRTEEN
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
AND THE SUPREME AUDIT OFFICE

§ 110

(1) The nomination of candidates for the offices of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Supreme Audit Office may be submitted by the Members in writing to the Speaker of the National Council not later than ten days before the date set for their election (§ 111). Such a nomination shall be supported by a summary of the educational and professional background of the candidates and their written consent to run for the office.

(2) The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Supreme Audit Office shall be elected by the National Council ballot.⁶⁷ The candidate who has received the majority of votes of Members present at the session in a secret vote shall be elected.

(3) When the Chairman or a Vice-Chairman of the Supreme Audit Office has not been elected [section (2)], a repeated ballot shall be held.

⁶⁷ Article 83 (2) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

⁶⁸ § 8 (2) of Act 39/1993 Coll. of the National Council on the Supreme Audit Office.

(4) The two candidates who have received the largest number of votes shall be included in the repeated ballot; if the votes are equally distributed, all candidates who have received the same number of votes shall be included in the repeated ballot.

(5) If the Chairman or a Vice-Chairman of the Supreme Audit Office has not been elected, a new election will be held.

§ 111

The election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Supreme Audit Office shall be held no later than thirty days prior to the expiration of their previous terms of office. The date of the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen shall be determined by the Speaker of the National Council.

§ 112

(1) A proposal to recall the Chairman or a Vice-Chairman of the Supreme Audit Office⁶⁹ may be submitted by the Members; such a proposal shall be submitted to the Speaker of the National Council who shall present it to the National Council at its next session. Such a proposal shall be reasoned and submitted in writing. The Chairman or a Vice-Chairman shall be given an opportunity to express their opinions on their recall.

(2) A proposal to recall the Chairman or a Vice-Chairman of the Supreme Audit Office shall pass if approved by the majority of present Members.

§ 113

Repealed by Act 153/2011 Coll.

§ 114

The Supreme Audit Office shall submit to the National Council an annual report on the results of its supervisory activities in the past calendar year by the end of March each year, or at any time when so requested by the National Council.⁷⁰

⁶⁹ § 12 of Act 39/1993 of the Slovak National Council

⁷⁰ Article 62 of the Constitution, §13 of Act 39/1993 Coll. as amended.

PART FOURTEEN
NOMINATION OF JUDGES
OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

§ 115

(1) The National Council shall present to the President of the Republic twice the number of candidates for judges of the Constitutional Court⁷¹, the candidates obtaining the largest number of votes cast in a ballot, provided that the votes constitute at least a majority of the Members present, shall be nominated.

(2) In the event that the number of candidates nominated for appointment to the office of judges of the Constitutional Court under section (1) of this § is not twice the number of candidates for judges, secret ballot for additional candidates, up to the stipulated number of candidates, shall be held.

(3) If the remaining vacancies for the candidates for the office of judge of the Constitutional Court have not been filled in a repeated ballot, new elections shall be held in which the remaining number of candidates shall be elected.

(4) Details of the elections of candidates for the office of judges of the Constitutional Court shall be regulated by specific laws.⁷² Nominations shall be made to the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee, which shall submit the nominations together with its opinions to the Speaker of the National Council. The Speaker of the National Council shall propose to hold the elections of the candidates for the office of judge of the Constitutional Court at the next session of the National Council.

§ 116

⁷¹ Article 134 (1) and (2) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

§ 11 of Act 38/1993 Coll. of the National Council of the Slovak Republic on the Organization of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic, on Proceedings before the Court and the Status of its Judges as amended by Act 124/2002 Coll.

⁷² § 11 of Act 38/1993 Coll., as amended by Act 124/2002 Coll.

(1) In the event of a resignation or a recall of a judge of the Constitutional Court, the President of the Republic shall appoint another judge of the Constitutional Court for a new term of office from two candidates nominated by the National Council.⁷³

(2) The provisions of § 115 shall apply as appropriate for the nomination and election procedures under section (1) of this §.

PART FIFTEEN

Repealed by Act 399/2015 Coll. (§ 117 - 122)

PART SIXTEEN

NOMINATION AND RECALL OF THE GENERAL PROSECUTOR

§ 123

(1) Nominations of candidates for the office of the General Prosecutor shall be submitted by Members²² to the Speaker of the National Council in writing, factually based and within the time limit set by the Speaker of the National Council; these nominations shall be referred for consideration to the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee. Any nomination shall include a curriculum vitae and the candidate's consent to run for the office. The Constitutional and Legal Matters Committee shall submit a nomination with its opinion to the Speaker of the National Council who shall include it, together with the Committee's opinion, in the proposed agenda for the next session of the National Council.

(2) The National Council proposes to the President of the Slovak Republic a candidate for the appointment to the office of the General Prosecutor.

(3) The candidate who has received the vote of the majority of present Members shall be nominated.

(4) If no candidate has been elected (section 3), a repeated ballot shall be held.

(5) In the repeated ballot, the two candidates who have received the largest number of votes shall be included. If votes are equally distributed, all candidates obtaining the same number of votes shall be included in repeated ballot.

(6) If no candidate for the office of the General Prosecutor has been elected, a new ballot will be held.

§ 124

⁷³ Article 139 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

(1) A proposal to recall the General Prosecutor may be put forward in writing by at least one fifth of the Members of the National Council. The proposal shall be submitted to the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee and it shall submit the proposal with an opinions to the Speaker of the National Council. The Speaker of the National Council shall include the proposal to recall the General Prosecutor, together with the opinion of the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee, for the agenda of the next session of the National Council. The General Prosecutor shall have an opportunity to express his opinion on his recall.

(2) A proposal to recall the General Prosecutor shall be passed if approved by the majority of Members present at the session in a secret ballot. The proposal to recall the General Prosecutor shall be referred by the National Council to the President of the Republic.

§ 125

Repealed by Act 153/2011 Coll.

PART SEVENTEEN

ELECTION AND RECALL OF OTHER OFFICERS

§ 126

(1) The National Council shall elect and recall other officers, if so stated by law.

(2) Proposals under section (1) of this § shall be submitted by the Government, Members or Committees, unless otherwise provided by a special law. Proposals shall be submitted to the National Council by the appropriate committee.

(3) Any nomination for the election made under section (1) of this § shall contain a curriculum vitae and the candidate's written consent to run for the office.

PART EIGHTEEN

SUPERVISORY ACTIVITIES

OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

§ 127

The National Council, its committees or Members shall carry out supervisory powers within the scope defined by special laws and by this Act.⁸⁰

§ 128

Reports

(1) The National Council may demand from the Government, heads of central state-administration authorities and senior government officials, the submission of reports on issues within their authority; such reports shall be submitted within thirty days or within a different time limit as determined by the National Council, which shall be at least fifteen days.

(2) Committees may request reports to be submitted by the members of the Government, heads of other central-state administration authorities and senior government officials, who shall be obliged to meet the request of those committees within thirty days.

Interpellations

§ 129

(1) For the purposes of this Act, interpellation is defined as a qualified question relating to the implementation and enforcement of laws, and the fulfillment of the Proclamation of Government Policies and the resolutions of the National Council by the Government and its members.

(2) A Member can interpellate the Government, a member of the Government or a head of another central state-administration authority on matters within their official powers⁸¹.

(3) An interpellation shall be submitted in writing to the Speaker of the National Council who shall deliver it to the interpellated person and to the Prime Minister.

⁸⁰ Such as for example Article 62, Article 80 (1), Article 86 (f) and (g), Article 92 (1) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, § 5 (1) of Act 46/1993 Coll. of the National Council of the Slovak Republic as amended, and § 5 (1) of Act 198/1994 Coll. of the National Council of the Slovak Republic.

⁸¹ Article 80 (1) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

(4) A Member can also make an oral interpellation during the period of the session's agenda of the National Council reserved for interpellations. A written version of the interpellation shall be delivered by a Member to the Speaker of the Council, and the National Council shall refer it to the interpellated person.

§ 130

(1) The person being interpellated shall submit a written response to the interpellating Member and to the Speaker of the National Council within thirty days. The response may be presented orally during the respective agenda item of the session of the National Council reserved for interpellation; an oral reply shall not preclude the obligation of the person being interpellated from presenting a written response.

(2) Where the National Council declares the interpellation to be urgent, it shall set a time limit for a response, which shall be not less than fifteen days.

(3) The written interpellation and the response to the interpellation shall be posted on the web site of the National Council.

(4) Following the delivery of the response to an interpellation, such response shall be included in the agenda for the next session. The person being interpellated shall be present during the debate.

(5) The interpellating Member shall state whether he found the response satisfactory.

(6) The National Council shall express an opinion on the response to the interpellation by the means of a resolution in the event that the interpellating Member considers the response to be unsatisfactory. When requested by the Government, a vote on a resolution may be taken concurrently with a vote of confidence in the Government.⁸²

(7) At the time of interpellation, at least one third of the (members of) Government shall be present. The Prime minister shall supply the list to the President / Speaker of the National Council prior to the beginning of the interpellation on the agenda of the National Council.

§ 131

⁸² Article 80 (2). Article 88 (1) and Article 114 (3) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

Question Time

(1) A Question Time of one hour shall be included in the agenda of each session of the National Council convened under § 17 section (1), during which the members of Government, the General Prosecutor, and the Chairman of the Supreme Audit Office shall answer questions on topical issues within their force, which have been submitted by the Members before 12 a.m. [midnight] of the day preceding the Question Time.

(2) The National Council may decide that the Question Time shall be devoted only to a specific issue.

(3) The introductory fifteen minutes shall be reserved for questions submitted to the Prime Minister.

(4) Questions shall be brief and enabling a brief reply. The order of questions shall be determined by lot drawn from all questions submitted. A Member, who has filed a written question, has the right to ask one additional oral question. Any question not answered immediately during the Question Time shall be answered in writing within thirty days.

(5) The answer to the question shall not exceed five minutes. Presentation of an oral supplementary question shall not exceed two minutes.

(6) The floor shall be given pursuant to § 27, as appropriate.

(7) All members of the Government shall be present at the Question Time. Where the Question Time shall be devoted solely to a specific issue (section (2)), the presence of the appropriate member of the Government shall suffice. In justified cases, the Prime Minister may determine which member of Government shall answer the questions on behalf of an absent member of the Government, or announce that he shall answer the question himself.

(8) During the Question Time, no proposal shall be received, or procedural proposals put forward.

§ 132

Initiatives and Observations of Members

(1) At committee meetings, the Members may submit initiatives or observations to members of the Government in matters within their authority.

(2) When the initiatives or observations have not been explained during committee debate, the committee Chairman shall refer the matters to the appropriate members of the Government, requiring them to provide notification of the measures taken on their basis within thirty days. The Members shall be informed about these measures at the next committee meeting.

PART NINETEEN

PETITIONS

§ 133

(1) Petitions delivered to the National Council, its committees, the Speaker and Deputy-Speakers of the National Council, shall be submitted to the Chancellery, which shall keep records thereof. The Speaker of the National Council shall refer the petition to the lead committee for consideration and opinions. Where a petition falls within the powers of more than one committee, the appropriate committee shall be responsible for the coordination of all activities and settlement.

(2) Where the petition relates to matters outside the powers of the National Council, the Chancellery shall refer it to the appropriate Ministry or another central state-administration authority.

(3) A petition signed by at least 100,000 citizens shall be considered by the National Council.

§ 134

(1) The committees shall submit to the National Council a report on petitions submitted under § 133 section (1) at least once each calendar year.

(2) Any Member may review any petition or their records at any time.

PART TWENTY

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

§ 135

Each Member is subject to the disciplinary authority of the National Council in the case of:

- a) any statement made during the performance of a Member's functions in the National Council or any of its bodies,⁸³
- b) any breach of the ban on voting for another Member [§ 39 section (6)],
- c) any major breach of the Member's pledge,
- d) any breach of the Member's Ethical Code.

§ 136

(1) Disciplinary proceedings shall be initiated in the Mandate and Immunity Committee.

(2) A proposal to initiate disciplinary proceedings may be put forward by

- a) a body of the National Council or a Member who feels offended by a statement made by a Member during the performance of his official function in the National Council or its body⁸³,
- b) a Member, in the case of breach of the ban on voting in the place of another Member,
- c) a body of the National Council or a Member, in the case of a major breach of the Member's pledge or any breach of the Member's Ethical Code.

(3) The Mandate and Immunity Committee may also initiate disciplinary proceedings upon its own resolution.

§ 137

(1) In the disciplinary proceedings, the Mandate and Immunity Committee shall discover all facts, on the basis of which the proceedings against a Member have been initiated.

(2) The Member against whom the disciplinary proceedings are conducted has the right to be informed of all evidentiary documents by the Mandate and Immunity Committee, and to express his opinion.

(3) All persons other than the Members of the Mandate and Immunity Committee, the complainant, the Member concerned, and the Committee Secretary shall be excluded from the disciplinary proceedings before the Mandate and Immunity Committee.

⁸³ Article 78 Article (2) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

(4) A Member of the Mandate and Immunity Committee against whom disciplinary proceedings are conducted shall be excluded from the consideration of the matter.

§ 138

(1) Following the proceedings under § 137, the Mandate and Immunity Committee shall decide to impose a disciplinary measure or to suspend the proceedings.

(2) If the proposal to impose a disciplinary measure or to suspend the proceedings did not obtain a majority of votes of the present Members of Mandate and Immunity Committee, the procedure shall be stopped.

(3) Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated and a disciplinary measure may be imposed within one year of the occurrence of the disciplinary offense.

§ 139

(1) Should the Mandate and Immunity Committee establish that a Member's statement made during the performance of his function in the National Council or its body has offended another Member, a body of the National Council, or another person holding high office under the Constitution, and where the mere debate on the matter is not sufficient, the Committee shall recommend that the Member apologize at the next session of the National Council. If the Member fails to do so, the Mandate and Immunity Committee shall immediately refer the matter to the National Council with a proposal for a resolution. The National Council may impose a fine up to EUR 1,000.

(2) Should the Mandate and Immunity Committee establish that the Member voted fraudulently in the place of another Member, the Committee shall recommend the National Council to reprimand the Member and impose a fine of up to EUR 1,000.

(3) When the Mandate and Immunity Committee establishes that the Member has materially breached the pledge or breached the ban on voting fraudulently in the place of another Member, the Committee shall recommend the National Council to propose a resignation of the Member.

(4) When the Mandate and Immunity Committee establishes that the Member has materially breached the Ethical Code, the Committee shall recommend the National Council to impose a fine up to EUR 500.

(5) When the Mandate and Immunity Committee makes none of the findings mentioned in sections (1)-(4), the Committee shall inform the National Council thereof.

§ 139a

No Member may be prosecuted for conduct constituting an offense which is, or has been, discussed by the competent authority.

PART TWENTY-ONE

APPROVAL PROCEEDINGS CONCERNING

ARREST, CRIMINAL PROSECUTION, DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST MEMBERS AND

DETENTION OF MEMBERS

§ 140

When the appropriate body informs the Speaker of the National Council and the Chairman of the Mandate and Immunity Committee that a Member has been caught and arrested in the commission of a crime, Chairman of the Mandate and Immunity Committee shall request a meeting of the Mandate and Immunity Committee to be convened without delay to decide whether to approve the detention of a Member.⁴⁰

§ 141

(1) When an appropriate body informs the Speaker of the National Council that it requests approval from the National Council for detention of Member in custody,⁸⁴ the Speaker of the National Council shall convene a meeting of the Mandate and Immunity Committee.

(2) The Mandate and Immunity Committee shall consider the request of the appropriate body submitted under section (1) of this §. The Member concerned shall be allowed to participate in the consideration of the matter and to express his views before the Committee.

⁸⁴ Article 78 (3) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

(3) The Mandate and Immunity Committee shall submit a report of its findings and propose a resolution to be passed by the National Council.

§ 142

Having been informed of the request § 141 section (1) and on the basis of the submitted report of the Mandate and Immunity Committee on the results of its findings § 141 section (3), the National Council shall decide whether to, or disciplinary action against a Member or the detention in custody of a Member,⁸⁴ The National Council shall decide on such request at the next session of the National Council after the receipt by the Speaker of the National Council of such request, provided that the Mandate and Immunity Committee will have submitted the report on its findings by then.

PART TWENTY-TWO

§ 143

Chancellery of the National Council

(1) The Chancellery is a state budgetary organization. It shall provide expert, organizational and technical services related to the operation of the National Council, its committees and special control committees and commissions, including parliamentary documentation and printing services; it shall provide services related to the operation of the Parliamentary Council of the Slovak Republic.^{84aa} In order to perform the activities of the National Council in matters relating to the European Union, the Chancellery may set up branches abroad.

(2) The Chancellery shall also carry out the duties set out by other regulations, particularly in the area of employment relations, protection and administration of public property, and the spending of public funds as the administrator of a Budget Chapter.

(3) The Chancellery shall be directed and represented by the Head of the Chancellery. The Head shall be responsible and report to the Speaker of the National Council about the activities of the Chancellery.

(4) The Head of the Chancellery shall be substituted for by a deputy in the performance his or her duties.

^{84aa} Article 7 of the Constitutional Act 227/2002 Coll. on State Security in Time of War, State of War, Martial Law and State of Emergency.

(5) The Head of the Chancellery shall be appointed and recalled by the Speaker of the National Council.

(6) The Head of the Chancellery has the right to attend the public and closed sessions of the National Council and the public or closed meetings of its committees.

(7) Tasks of the Chancellery shall be carried out by civil servants^{84a} and employees^{84b}. The number of civil servants and employees of the Chancellery shall be approved by the Speaker.

(8) The Speaker of the National Council shall determine the salary for the Head of the Chancellery and the lump sum for reimbursement of expenses in connection of his official duties and other particulars. The remuneration of civil servants of the Chancellery and employees of the Chancellery is laid down in a special law,^{84d} and wage orders are attached in the Annex. The wage order of the Chancellery shall include the characteristics of wage categories of civil servants working in the Chancellery, wage tariffs of civil servants of the Chancellery, catalogues of the activities of employees of the Chancellery and the scales of wage tariffs of Chancellery employees. The remuneration of civil servants in the Chancellery and employees of the Chancellery shall be governed by a special law,^{84e} unless otherwise provided in this Act.

(9) Wage tariff increase of civil servants in the Chancellery and the increase of wage tariff scale of the Chancellery employees shall be regulated in accordance with the amount stated by a special law.^{84f}

Increased wage tariff of civil servants in the Chancellery and employees of the Chancellery, and its effective date shall be laid down in an internal regulation.

(10) The Head of the Chancellery shall issue organizational rules, rules for printing and disposing of documents, and other internal rules of the Chancellery.

^{84a} Act 400/2009 Coll. on Civil Service and on Amendment and Supplementing of Certain Acts.

^{84b} Act 552/2003 Coll. on Performance of Work in the Public Interest, as amended.

Act 311/2001 Coll. The Labor Code.

^{84d} Act 400/2009 Coll.

Act 553/2003 Coll. on Remuneration of Certain Employees Performing Work in Public Interest and on Amendment and Supplementing of Certain Acts.

^{84e} Act 400/2009 Coll., Act 553/2003 Coll., Act 311/2001 Coll.

^{84f} § 113 Act 400/2009 Coll.

§ 28 of Act 553/2003 Coll.

(11) The Chancellery may demand from the state authorities, other authorities and legal entities, any documents, information and explanations which may be necessary for the operation and activities of the National Council and its committees. These authorities and legal entities are obliged to meet such requirements.

(12) The authorized staff of the Chancellery may attend the sessions of the National Council. At committee meetings they may submit observations regarding bills and other matters under consideration.

(13) The Chancellery shall be responsible for filing all materials and prints delivered to the National Council, its committees, special control committees and commissions, and to the Speaker and Deputy-Speakers of the National Council, as well as all materials delivered to the Chancellery and administered within its scope.⁸⁵

§ 144

The Parliamentary Institute

(1) The Parliamentary Institute, as a part of the Chancellery, shall perform information and training tasks related to the activities of the National Council and its Members.

(2) Further details of the Parliamentary Institute shall be regulated by the Organizational Rules of the Chancellery.

PART TWENTY-THREE

JOINT, TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

§ 145

(1) All papers, especially documents necessary for sessions of the National Council shall be delivered to Members electronic way. Invitation to a session of the National Council shall be delivered to Members via e-mail.

(2) The term of delivery shall be the day of posting the document on the web site of the National Council.

⁸⁵ Act 395/2002 Coll. of the Slovak National Council on archives and registers and supplementing certain acts, as amended by Act 515/2003 Coll.

§ 146

Should doubts arise during a session of the National Council as to whether a procedure is in accordance with this Act, the Chair shall decide. Upon the proposal of a Member, the National Council may resolve without debate that the Chair should decide on any doubts regarding the procedure under this Act, after an opinion has been submitted by the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee.

§ 147

(1) No proposals delivered to the National Council or its bodies during the previous election term may be discussed in a new term; this rule does not apply to petitions and requests administered under special laws;⁸⁶ these may be administered by the Speaker of the National Council or the Chancellery within their respective authority.

(2) If the Member's mandate was lost or cannot be fulfilled or if a Member has resigned, or if his or her mandate has expired,⁸⁷ the proposals tabled by that Member may not be discussed.

§ 148

(1) Fines imposed under § 139 sections (1), (2) and (4) shall be revenues of the state budget.

(2) If a Member fails to pay a fine within fifteen days of its imposition, the Chancellery shall deduct the amount from the Member's salary.

§ 149

(1) Expenses incurred in relation to the activities of the National Council, its committees, special control committees, commissions and Members shall be covered by the Chancellery budget. Expenses

⁸⁶ E.g. Act 85/1990 Coll. on petition rights, Act 9/2010 Coll. on complaints as amended by Act 289/2012 Coll.

⁸⁷ Article 75 (2), Article 77 (2), Article 78 (5), Article 81 and 81a of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic. Constitutional Act 357/2004 Coll. as amended by the Constitutional Act 545/2005 Coll.

paid by the Members out of the fixed lump-sum reimbursement determined by the National Council under a special law shall not be covered.⁸⁸

(2) Persons summoned to meetings of committees, special control committees or commissions may apply to have their itemized expenses and income loss reimbursed by an application submitted to the Chairman of the committee within three days; thereafter their entitlement shall expire. Chairmen of the committees, special control committees or the Chairman of the commissions shall inform these persons of their entitlement and the time limit thereof.

§ 150

Bills and drafts of principles submitted to the National Council before the effective date of this Act shall be considered under the laws in place heretofore.⁸⁹

§ 150a

Transitional provisions for regulations effective from January 1, 2016

Bills submitted to the National Council before 1 January 2016 shall be discussed in accordance with regulations effective until December 31, 2015.

§ 151

Act 44/1989 on Rules of Procedure in the National Council, as amended by Act 133/1990 of the National Council, and Regulation 246/1990 adopted by the Presidium of the National Council, Act 268/1991, Act 28/1992 of the National Council and the Ruling of the Constitutional Court 2/1996, shall be repealed.

§ 151a

Act 45/1989 on Members of the National Council, as amended by Act 356/1990 of the National Council, Act 28/1992 of the National Council, and Act 236/2012, shall be repealed.

⁸⁸ § 4 of Act 120/1993 Coll. of the National Council of the Slovak Republic

⁸⁹ § 57 et seq. of Act 44/1989 Coll. on Rules of Procedure in the National Council as amended.

This Act shall come into force on 1 January 1997

The Finding of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic of 24 February 1998 No. 77/1998 Coll. was published in the Collection of Laws of the Slovak Republic on 25 March 1998.

Act 86/2000 Coll. became effective as of 21 March 2000

Act 138/2002 Coll. became effective as of 26 March 2002 and 1 April 2002.

Act 100/2003 Coll. became effective as of 21 March 2003

Act 551/2003 Coll. became effective as of 1 January 2004 and 1 January 2005.

Act 215/2004 Coll. became effective as of 1 May 2004

Act 360/2004 Coll. became effective as of 1 July 2004

Act 253/2005 Coll. became effective as of 18 June 2005

Finding of the Constitutional Court of 23 June 2005 No. 320/2005 was published in the Collection of Laws of the Slovak Republic on 20 July 2005

Act 261/2006 Coll. became effective as of 13 May 2006

Act 199/2007 Coll. became effective as of 1 May 2007

Act 400/2009 Coll. became effective as of 1 November 2009 except of the Article I § 84 (1) a) of the second part which became effective as of 1 June 2010

Act 38/2010 Coll. became effective as of 1 July 2010

Act 153/2011 Coll. became effective as of the day of declaration.[□]

Act 187/2011 Coll. became effective on the fifteenth day after its declaration.[□]

Resolution of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic No.191/2011 became effective as of 29 June 2011

Resolution of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic No. 237/2011 became effective as of 26 July 2011

Act 69/2012 Coll. became effective as of 1 March 2012

Act 79/2012 Coll. became effective as of 1 March 2012

Act 236/2012 Coll. became effective as of 1 September 2012

Act 296/2012 Coll. became effective as of the day of declaration.[□]

Act 330/2012 Coll. became effective as of the day of declaration.[□]

[□] 26 May 2011

[□] 13 July 2011

[□] 28 September 2012

[□] 1 November 2012

Act 309/2013 Coll. became effective as of the day of declaration.^[7]

Act 402/2013 Coll. became effective as of day of declaration^[8] except of Article I paragraph 1 through 3, paragraph 4 section 3 through 19, paragraph 5 through 10, paragraph 11 section 3 through 8, paragraph 12, paragraph 17 and 18, Article II through VI, Article VII point 1 through 4, and Article VIII through X, all of which became effective as of 1 January 2014, and Article VII point 5 became effective as of 1 September 2014.

Act 375/2015 Coll. became effective as of 15 December 2015 except section III point 27, which became effective as of 31 December 2015; and except § 1, § 2 section 1, 2, 4 through 6, § 3 through 7 Article I, Article II, points 1 through 26 and 28 through 35 Article III, Article IV through XV, points 5 and 6 Article XVI and Articles XVII and XVIII, all of which became effective as of 1 January 2014.

Act 399/2015 Coll. became effective as of 1 January 2016 except of Article I points 12, 63, 64, 67, 68 and 73, all of which became effective as of 1 July 2016.

^[7] 8 October 2013

^[8] 4 December 2013

RULES OF PROCEDURE
ENACTED BY THE SLOVAK NATIONAL COUNCIL
TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART ONE

Introductory Provisions 1

PART TWO

Force of the National Council 2

PART THREE

INAUGURAL SESSION
OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Convening the Inaugural Session 3

Pledge of the Members of the National Council 4

Passing Election Rules 6

Validity Verification of the Election of Members 8

Prevention of the Conflict of Interest 9

Ethical Code 9a

Establishment of Parliamentary Caucuses 12

Nomination of Candidates and

Constituting Other Committees 13

Elections of the Speaker and Deputy-Speaker of the
National Council, Chairmen
and Members of the Committees 14

PART FOUR

SESSIONS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Convening the Sessions of the National Council 17
Public Access to Sessions 18 – 19
Attendance of Constitutional Officers
and Other Officials at Sessions of the National Council 20
Attendance of Other Persons 21
Session Days of a Session of the National Council 22
Chairing the Sessions of the National Council 23
Agenda of Sessions of the National Council 24

PROCEEDINGS IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Beginning of Proceedings 25 – 26
Debate 27 – 29
Setting Time Limits for Debate 29a
Time Limits for Speaking 30
Language of Debate 31
Maintaining Order in the Chamber 32
Factual Comments 33
Procedural Motions 34
Closure of Debate 35
Voting at Sessions of the National Council 36 – 39
Signing Resolutions of the National Council 40
The Minutes of the Sessions 41

PART FIVE

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Officers of the National Council

Speaker of the National Council 43

Deputy-Speakers of the National Council 44

Committees 45 – 56

Mandate and Immunity Committee 57

Committee on Incompatibility of Functions 58

Committee for European Affairs 58a

Action on the Grounds of Infringement

upon the Principle of Subsidiarity by a Legislative Act of the European Union 58b

Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee 59

Special Control Committees 60

PART SIX

Commissions 61

PART SEVEN

Verifiers of the National Council 62

PART EIGHT

Attendance of Members at the Sessions

of the National Council and its Committees 63

PART NINE

PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUSES AND GREMIUM OF MEMBERS

Parliamentary Caucuses 64 – 65

Parliamentary Gremium 66

PART TEN

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Bill Proposal 67 – 70
First Reading 71 – 74
Second Reading 75 – 83
Third Reading 84 – 86
Consideration of the National Budget 87
Consideration of International Treaties 88
Fast-Track Legislative Procedure 89
Bills Returned by the President of the Republic 90
Joint Provisions of Part Ten 91 – 97

PART ELEVEN

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

Repealed 98 – 105
Impeachment of the President of the Republic 106

PART TWELVE

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROCLAMATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND OF A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT OR A MEMBER OF GOVERNMENT

PART THIRTEEN

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL AND THE SUPREME AUDIT OFFICE 110 – 114

PART FOURTEEN

NOMINATION OF JUDGES OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT 115 – 116

PART FIFTEEN

Repealed 117 – 122

PART SIXTEEN

NOMINATION AND RECALL

OF THE GENERAL PROSECUTOR 123 – 125

PART SEVENTEEN

ELECTION AND RECALL

OF OTHER OFFICERS 126

PART EIGHTEEN

SUPERVISORY ACTIVITIES

OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL 127

Reports 128

Interpellations 129 – 130

Question Time 131

Initiatives and Observations of Members 132

PART NINETEEN

PETITIONS 133 – 134

PART TWENTY

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS 135

PART TWENTY-ONE

APPROVAL PROCEEDINGS CONCERNING ARREST,

CRIMINAL PROSECUTION, DISCIPLINARY ACTION

AGAINST MEMBERS AND DETENTION OF MEMBERS 140 – 142

PART TWENTY-TWO

Chancellery of the National Council 143

Parliamentary Institute 144

PART TWENTY-THREE
JOINT, TRANSITIONAL
AND FINAL PROVISIONS 145-152