GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TÜRKİYE

THE SOVEREIGNTY UNCONDITIONALLY BELONGS TO THE NATION

Grand National Assembly of Türkiye

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Grand National Assembly of Türkiye

THE SOVEREIGNTY UNCONDITIONALLY BELONGS TO THE NATION

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PREFACE

The Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, established on April 23, 1920, pioneered our nation's war of independence and paved the way for the establishment of the new Turkish Republic on October 29, 1923. Ever since, the Assembly acted as one of the main institutional pillars of the Republic and the embodiment of the general will.

According to the Constitution, Türkiye is a republic in which the sovereignty belongs to the Nation without any restriction or condition, and the legislative power is vested in the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye on behalf of the Turkish Nation.

The Assembly has 600 deputies who are directly elected for five years. The Constitution grants significant powers to the Assembly. The Assembly makes new laws or amends and repeals existing ones. Each year the Assembly adopts the state budget. The Assembly approves the ratification of international treaties made by the government. The Assembly has the authority to declare war. The Assembly elects some members of the judiciary and certain administrative bodies. Finally, the oversight of the executive branch is also one of the important functions of the Assembly.

This book, based on constitutional provisions, laws, legislative rules and practices, is intended to be descriptive. It provides information about the parliamentary elections, the organization of the Assembly, powers and duties of the Assembly, the basic concepts related to the parliamentary timetable, the status of deputies, legislative procedures, oversight functions of the Assembly over the executive and parliamentary committees.

I hope the book will help readers to gain a better understanding of the nature of parliamentary rules and procedures and the role performed by the Assembly as a prominent institution in Turkish political system.

Numan KURTULMUŞ
Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye

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Grand National Assembly of Türkiye

THE SOVEREIGNTY UNCONDITIONALLY BELONGS TO THE NATION

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

Elections

The Grand National Assembly of Türkiye consists of six hundred deputies directly elected by universal, equal, and secret ballot.

Parliamentary elections are held every five years. Elections are scheduled to take place on the last Sunday before the end of five years following the previous election (Art. 6, Law No.2839). Early elections may be held before the expiration of five years only;

- if the Assembly decides to renew elections with a three-fifths majority of the total number of its members (360 deputies)
- if the President of the Republic decides to renew elections (Art. 116, Const.).

In every cases, parliamentary and presidential elections are held on the same day (Art., 77, Const.).

The Assembly may postpone parliamentary elections for one year if holding new elections is deemed impossible because of war (Art. 78, Const.).

Political parties nominate candidates for elections. Candidates can also run independently. Electoral alliances may stand in elections. In this case each of the parties within the alliance must submit their own candidate lists.

Six hundred seats are allocated according to the d'Hondh system of proportional representation with a 7% national threshold. Political parties and electoral alliances that have gained at least 7% of the valid votes throughout Türkiye obtain seats in the Assembly (Art. 33, Law No.2839).

By-Elections

Subject to the conditions laid down in the Constitution, when a seat in the Assembly becomes vacant, a by-election is held to fill the vacant seat.

Only one by-election shall be held in an electoral term and by-elections shall not be held unless 30 months have elapsed after the previous parliamentary election. If the number of vacant seats reaches 5% of the total number of the deputies, by-elections are held within three months. But in all the cases mentioned above, by-election shall not be held within one year before the next parliamentary election.

Apart from the above-mentioned cases, if all seats of a province or constituency fall vacant in the Assembly, by-election must be held on the first Sunday after 90 days following the vacancy (Art.78, Const.).

Right to Vote

Every Turkish citizen over eighteen years old is entitled to vote in parliamentary elections unless an individual is legally capable of voting (Art. 67, Const.). Additionally, a person can vote only if he/she is registered in the electoral register (Art. 34, Law No.298).

Conscripts, military cadets, and those who are in prison on a conviction for an offense other than negligent offenses are restricted from voting rights (Art. 67, Const.). Moreover, persons under guardianship and

those prohibited from public service are not entitled to vote (Art. 8, Law No.298).

Turkish citizens residing abroad have the right to vote under the provisions of the related laws (Art. 67, Const.).

Eligibility

A person is eligible to become a member of the Assembly if he/she is a Turkish citizen and is over the age of eighteen.

A person is disqualified from becoming a member of the Assembly if he or she;

- has not completed primary education,
- has been deprived of legal capacity,
- has been neither exempted nor deferred from military service,
- has been banned from public service,
- has been sentenced to imprisonment for one year or more in total except for negligent offenses, and been sentenced to heavy imprisonment, and
- has been convicted of dishonorable offenses such as embezzlement, corruption, bribery, theft, fraud, forgery, breach of trust, and fraudulent bankruptcy and convicted of smuggling, conspiracy in official bidding, or purchasing, of offenses related to the disclosure of state secrets, of involvement in acts of terrorism, or incitement and encouragement of such activities (even if they have been granted amnesty) (Art. 76, Const.).

Moreover, some officeholders (judges and prosecutors, members of supreme courts, lecturers in universities, members of the Council of Higher Education, civil servants) cannot stand as candidates in parliamentary elections unless they resign from office (Art. 76, Const.).

Constituencies

Deputies are elected from multi-member constituencies that represent administrative provinces. As a rule, each administrative province (currently 81) is considered a constituency. However, some provinces are divided into more than one constituency because of their large population.

The number of seats in each province is determined by the population. First, each province is assigned at least one membership irrespective of its population. Second, the remaining seats (total 600-81=519) are distributed among the provinces by using the formula that is based on their population.

Provinces that elect 18 or less deputies form one constituency; provinces that elect 19 to 35 deputies are divided into two constituencies, and; those that elect 36 or more deputies are divided into three constituencies (Art. 4, Law No.2839).

Administration of Elections

The Supreme Election Council is responsible for administration and scrutiny of the parliamentary elections. The Council is charged with ensuring fair and orderly conduct of the elections.

The Council is composed of seven regular members and four substitutes. Members of the Council are elected by the Court of Cassation and the Council of State from among their members (Art. 79, Const.).

ORGANIZATION OF THE ASSEMBLY

Bureau of the Assembly

Provisional Bureau of the Assembly

When the newly elected Assembly convenes its first meeting following parliamentary elections, the oldest deputy chairs the Plenary from the first sitting until the election of the Speaker. The next oldest deputy serves as Vice-Speaker. The six youngest deputies provisionally act as secretaries (Art. 8, RoP).

Composition of the Bureau

The first thing the Assembly is required to do is to establish its Bureau, which consists of 15 deputies: the Speaker, four vice-speakers, seven secretaries, and three quaestors. However, the Plenary may increase the number of secretaries and the quaestors to ensure that the strength of each

political party group is proportionally reflected in the composition of the Bureau (Art. 9, RoP).

Two elections are held for the members of the Bureau within a legislative term. The Bureau members who are elected at the beginning of a new legislative term serve for two years. After two years, new members of the Bureau are elected to serve for three years (Art. 10, RoP).

Duties of the Bureau

The Bureau has many responsibilities concerning the legislative activities and administration of the Assembly. According to the various articles of the Rules of Procedure and the Law on Administrative Organization of the Assembly (Law No.6253), the Bureau of the Assembly;

- decides on the procedure to make necessary corrections if it is found after the end of the sitting that there has been an important mistake during voting or elections in the Plenary (Art. 13/2, RoP),
- provides opinions to the Speaker regarding the fulfillment of his/her tasks if requested (Art. 13/3, RoP),
- grants permission to the committees to hold meetings during Plenary sittings (Art. 35/2, RoP),
- determines the dress of officials in the Plenary (Art. 56/3, RoP),
- examines the resignation letter of a deputy on its merits (Art. 136/1, RoP),
- examines the cases of incompatibility and forwards the conclusions to the Joint Committee (Art. 137/1, RoP),
- determines/identifies cases of non-attendance and forwards the conclusions to the Joint Committee (Art. 138/1, RoP),
- submits requests for a leave of absence for more than 10 days to the Plenary (Art. 151/3, RoP),
- keeps a non-attendance register and sends it to the deputies concerned, examines and decides about objections raised against the non-attendance register; makes necessary corrections in the non-attendance register upon the objection and publishes them (Art. 152, RoP),
- proposes to the Plenary that the salary and allowances should be paid to the deputies who have obtained a leave of absence for more than two months in a row within a legislative year (Art. 154, RoP),

- lays down the rules concerning special entrance cards into the buildings of the Assembly (Art. 168, RoP),
- adopts regulatory decisions regarding the internal affairs of the Assembly (Art. 171, RoP),
- stipulates conditions for using the library of the Assembly (Art. 173, RoP),
- finalizes the budget of the Assembly prepared by the quaestors (Art. 176/1, RoP), and
- lays down the administrative regulations related to mandates, jurisdictions, and responsibilities of the Administrative Organization of the Assembly (Art. 27, Law No.6253).

The Law on the Administrative Organization of the Assembly states that the issues that require presidential decrees and are related to the Assembly and the Administrative Organization will be carried out by the decisions of the Bureau of the Assembly (Art. 26/1, Law No.6253).

Finally, the Bureau has the power to define the status and conditions of its personnel within the limits of the relevant laws. Article 36/F of the Law on Civil Servants clearly authorizes the Bureau of the Assembly to decide on cadre, title, additional salary indicator, executive compensation, and other financial rights of the civil servants working for the Administrative Organization of the Assembly.

Quorum and Majority for Decision

The Bureau meets when the absolute majority of the members are present and decides with the votes of an absolute majority of the members present.

The Bureau cannot convene and make decisions if the Speaker or a Vice-Speaker designated by him/her is not present (Art. 13, RoP).

The Speaker

Election of the Speaker

At the beginning of each legislative term, the Assembly elects one of its members as Speaker for two years. After two years, a new Speaker is elected to serve until the end of the legislative term (Art. 94, Const.).

The Speaker is elected by secret ballot. If no candidate receives a two-thirds majority of the total number of deputies in the first ballot, a second

ballot is held in which the candidate who obtains the same majority is elected as the Speaker. If no candidate receives the requisite majority in the second round, a third ballot must be held. The candidate who receives an absolute majority of the total number of deputies is elected. If no candidate does so, a fourth ballot will be conducted between the two candidates who have received the highest number of votes in the third ballot. The candidate who receives the greater number of votes takes the Chair (Art. 94, Const.).

Powers and Duties of the Speaker

The Speaker has important powers and duties with regard to the activities of the Assembly and its organs. The Speaker has the responsibility to oversee the respect of the Rules of Procedure, as well as of constitutional or institutional provisions. In general, the Speaker represents the Assembly, presides over the Plenary, and oversees the administration of the Assembly.

The Speaker has the power to summon the Assembly during a recess or adjournment directly or upon the request of one-fifth of the deputies (Art. 93, Const.).

The Speaker, as head of the Assembly, represents the Assembly; chairs plenary sittings; chairs the Bureau and sets out the agenda of the Bureau; implements the decisions of the Bureau; presides over the Board of Spokespersons; supervises the compilation of the Journal of Minutes and summary of the minutes; supervises the committees of the Assembly. The Speaker also performs all other duties vested in him by the Constitution, laws, and the Rules of Procedure (Art. 14, RoP).

The primary responsibility of the Speaker is to preside over plenary sittings. The Speaker usually delegates his/her duty to chair the plenary sittings to the vice-speakers. In practice, the Speaker prefers to chair the first meeting of each legislative year, or plenary sittings when matters of greater importance, such as constitutional amendments or budget bills, are considered.

The Speaker opens, suspends, or adjourns the sittings; calls the roll; announces the results of voting; grants the floor to speakers; calls speakers to observe the rules and not to deviate from the issue; maintains order; invites speakers not to use unparliamentary language and if necessary, forces them to leave the floor and expels them from the Plenary; calls deputies to order, and; proposes the Plenary to issue a reprimand against a deputy or to temporarily suspend a deputy from the Assembly.

The Speaker receives all legislative initiatives, refers them to the relevant committees, examines questions on their conformity with the Rules of Procedure, and sends them to the ministry concerned.

As the administrative head of the Assembly, the Speaker is in charge of the general administration of the Assembly including internal and external security. The Speaker monitors, oversights, and controls the effective, economic and efficient use of parliamentary resources (Art.34, Law No.6253). He/she is in charge of taking all security measures in the parliamentary precincts (Art.40, Law No.6253).

The Speaker directly appoints the Secretary-General and deputy secretaries-general of the Assembly, and other parliamentary staff on the proposal of the Secretary-General (Art. 29, Law No.6253).

The Speaker of the Assembly is tried for offenses regarding his/her duties by the Constitutional Court in its capacity as the Supreme Criminal Tribunal (Art. 148, Const.).

The Speaker's Office

Impartiality of the Speaker

The Speaker must perform his/her duties impartially. Article 94 of the Constitution places various restrictions on the conduct of the Speaker in order to protect the impartiality of the Office. In order to ensure that the Speaker conducts his/her duties in complete impartiality, he/she is restricted to participate in party politics and parliamentary debates.

Firstly, political party groups cannot nominate a candidate for the election of the Speaker to protect the impartiality of the Office of the Speaker.

Second, the Speaker does not participate in the activities of the political party groups within or outside the Assembly. However, the Speaker is not required to resign from his/her political party.

Finally, except for the cases required by his/her duties, the Speaker cannot join the parliamentary discussions. The Speaker, whether he/she is chairing the Plenary sitting or not, cannot have the floor and vote.

Vice-Speakers

The Assembly elects four vice-speakers at the beginning of each legislative term. Two seats for vice-speakers are reserved for the political party group having the absolute majority of the deputies in the Assembly. The other two seats are allocated to political party groups starting from the one with the highest percentage.

Political party groups present their candidates to the seats reserved for them and the Plenary votes not for the candidates individually, but for a list of all (four) candidates (Art. 11, RoP).

The vice-speakers preside over plenary sittings on behalf of the Speaker. The Speaker decides the sittings in which the vice-speakers take the chair. They are responsible for overseeing the arrangements of the Journal of Minutes and the summary of the minutes of the meeting chaired by themselves.

When the Speaker is disabled or is out of Ankara during the sitting days of the Assembly, he/she appoints one of the vice-speakers in writing to perform his/her duties.

When chairing plenary sittings, the vice-speakers carry out their duties with impartiality. Similar to the Speaker, they are not allowed to take part in any activities of the political party or the party group they belong to. They cannot participate in parliamentary debates. Contrary to the

Speaker who never votes, vice-speakers can vote and explain their vote when they are not chairing the meetings (Art.94, Const.).

Secretaries

The Assembly elects seven secretaries collectively upon the proposal of the political party groups. The Plenary determines the number of secretaries reserved for the political party groups in proportion to their strengths in the Assembly. Upon the proposal of the Board of Spokespersons, the Plenary may increase the number of secretaries to ensure the proportional representation of all political party groups in the Bureau.

Secretaries assist the Speaker by performing the duties laid down in the Rules of Procedure. The secretaries supervise the proper recording of the minutes of plenary sittings; draw up a summary of the minutes; read out documents in the Plenary; call the roll; count the votes; monitor the conduct of elections to ensure that they are held in a fair and orderly manner; and register the list of speakers (Art. 16, RoP).

Quaestors

The Assembly elects three questors through the same procedure applied to the election of the vice-speakers and secretaries. The Plenary may increase the number of questors to ensure that the strength of each political party group is proportionally reflected in the composition of the Bureau.

The quaestors are "executive agents" of the Office of the Speaker in maintaining order and peace in the Assembly, ensuring transparency and freedom in deliberations, and using the security forces when necessary.

The quaestors are responsible for assisting the Speaker by performing administrative, financial, and security functions under the directions of the Speaker. They organize special ceremonies in the Assembly, prepare the draft budget of the Assembly and present it to the Speaker, and deliver entrance cards (Art.17, RoP).

Political Party Groups

Political party groups are the main (sometimes unique) actors in parliamentary business. The Constitution states that the provisions of the Rules of Procedure must ensure the participation of all political

party groups in proceedings of the Assembly in proportion to their numerical strengths (Art. 95).

At least 20 deputies from the same political party may form a party group in the Assembly (Art. 95/2, Const.). Deputies who are not a member of any political party group (independents) and deputies who do not belong to the same political party cannot form a party group even if their number exceeds 20. If the number of members falls below 20, the political party group ceases to exist and automatically loses its membership in the Bureau and committees (Art. 12/4, 22/3, RoP).

There are no formal conditions that must be fulfilled before a political party group can be formed. After their formation, party groups are under the obligation to submit their internal regulations, a list of members, and their constituencies at the beginning of each legislative term to the Office of the Speaker. The Office of the Speaker must be notified of any changes therein (Art. 18, RoP).

All political party groups must be represented in the Bureau and committees in proportion to the number of members in each. The committee seats must be distributed among party groups in such a way that at least one deputy represents the smallest party groups and the remaining seats are distributed in proportion to their size.

Apart from being represented in the main organs of the Assembly, political party groups can introduce motions for resolutions and amendments to the bills. The following are some examples of the advantages granted to political party groups in the proceedings of the Assembly:

- While the speaking time of deputies during plenary debates is limited to 10 minutes, the speeches made on behalf of political party groups are limited to 20 minutes (Art. 60/2, RoP). Party groups have priority over deputies in the order of speeches (Art. 61/4, RoP).
- Political party groups may request closed (private) meetings in the Plenary (Art. 70/1, RoP).
- Political party groups may propose the bills to be debated and voted through a special legislative procedure under Article 91 of the Rules of Procedure.
- Political party groups may table a motion of general debate (Art. 102/1, RoP) and parliamentary inquiry (Art. 104/3, RoP).
- Political party groups have the right to propose changes in the duration of the state of emergency (Art. 126/2, RoP).

Meeting Hall for Political Party Groups

- Two political party groups with the highest number of members in the Assembly are granted the power to apply for annulment action to the Constitutional Court (Art. 150, Const.).
- Political party groups nominate candidates for the election of the members of the Radio and Television Supreme Council (Art. 133, Const.) and five members of the Personal Data Protection Authority (Art. 21, Law No.6698) in proportion to their number of members.

However, the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure include some restrictions on the activities of political party groups. Political party groups are barred from nominating candidates for the election of the Speaker (Art. 10/2, RoP). They cannot hold discussions and take decisions regarding parliamentary investigation (Art. 113/1, RoP) and parliamentary immunity (Art. 83/5, Const.).

Board of Spokespersons

The Board of Spokespersons consists of the Speaker and chairpersons of political party groups or deputy chairpersons. The Speaker or one of the vice-speakers presides over the Board's meetings. The vice-speakers may be invited to the Board of Spokespersons when necessary.

The Speaker may convene the Board on his/her initiative or upon the request of a political party group.

The Board carries out the duties assigned to it by the Rules of Procedure and provides advisory opinions upon the Speaker's request. The Board of Spokespersons submits proposals and delivers opinions about the composition of the Bureau and committees, and matters relating to the agenda and schedule of Plenary sittings and committee meetings.

The Board provides opinions and proposals only by unanimity. If the Board fails to convene in the first call or cannot submit proposals or provide opinions in unanimity, the Speaker or political party groups may submit their requests directly to the Plenary. Voting on these requests is placed on the agenda of the next sitting and conducted by show of hands (Art.19, RoP).

The proposals or opinions of the Board are not binding for the Plenary. The Plenary is free to accept or reject the proposals or opinions of the Board. However, a unanimous opinion or proposal of the Board indicates that a consensus on the matters under discussion has been reached among the political party groups. Therefore, the Plenary usually adopts the opinions or proposals of the Board.

The Administrative Organization of the Assembly

The head of the Administrative Organization of the Assembly is the Secretary-General who is appointed by the Speaker. Secretary-General is in charge of ensuring the duties of the Administrative Organization are performed in accordance with the relevant laws and strategic plan; administering the departments and providing coordination between them (Art. 5, Law No. 6253).

The Secretary-General is responsible to the Speaker of the Assembly for discharging the duties of the Administrative Organization which are:

- to provide all kinds of information, administrative and technical support to the Plenary, Bureau, committees, political party groups, and deputies,
- to inform committees about bills and other legislative documents, assist in the preparation of committee reports, and research issues within the competence of the committees,
- to prepare draft bills for deputies in line with their demands,
- to carry out minutes, analysis, and printing services,
- to provide necessary information, publication, and documents to the committees and deputies,
- to ensure coordination with the Presidency, and other public institutions regarding the work of the Assembly,
- to organize relations of the Assembly and Administrative Organization with international organizations and to carry out works and transactions related to international events,
- to organize relations with the media and public,
- to perform documentation, archive, and publishing services (Art. 3, 5, Law No.6253).

Departments in the Administrative Organization of the Assembly operate under the direct authority of the Speaker, Secretary-General, and three deputy secretaries-general.

Parliamentary staff is appointed to and removed from office by the Speaker of Assembly. Parliamentary staff is employed as civil servants, contractual or temporary staff. The Assembly has the power to define the status and conditions of its personnel within the limits of the relevant laws.

Guided Tours and Security

Guided tours are free of charge for groups from primary and secondary schools, universities, public institutions, and NGOs between predetermined hours on weekdays when the Assembly is not sitting and every Saturday. (except the first Saturday of each month) All groups need to book an appointment in advance. Moreover, guided tours are also available for visitors without an advance appointment on the first Saturday of each month between 11:00-15:00.

The Speaker is responsible for taking all security measures in the Assembly. Police forces under the authority of the Speaker are in charge of maintaining order and security within the parliamentary precinct.

Security staff searches the visitors before entering the Assembly. There are also secondary searches inside the main buildings. Guns, sharp items, or any other defense equipment is not permitted. Visitors are required to wear entrance cards until they leave the Assembly.

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE ASSEMBLY

Law Making

The legislative power is vested in the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye on behalf of the Turkish nation and this power cannot be delegated (Art. 7, Const.).

The Assembly has the authority to enact, amend, or repeal laws.

The Constitution does not explicitly place any limits on the legislative power of the Assembly. The Assembly has a general power to make laws on any subject matter. However, constitutional review of laws by the Constitutional Court and "unamendable provisions" of the Constitution may be interpreted as "limits" to the legislative power of the Assembly.

Article 11 of the Constitution states that the provisions of the Constitution bind legislative, executive, and judicial organs. All laws must conform to the provisions of the Constitution. Laws cannot be contrary to the Constitution. The Constitutional Court may annul a law if it decides that the law passed by the Assembly is unconstitutional. The President of the Republic, the two parliamentary groups having the greatest number of members in the Assembly and at least one-fifth of the total number of members of the Assembly have the right to apply for annulment action to the Constitutional Court with the claim of unconstitutionality of laws in the form or the substance. It must be noted that until the decision of the Constitutional Court that annuls an existing law is officially published, the law is valid and must be enforced.

Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by at least one-third and adopted by three-fifths of the total number of deputies. However, the Assembly's power to amend the Constitution is not unlimited. First, constitutional amendments are subject to the judicial review of the Constitutional Court only in respect of procedural formalities, i.e., whether the proposal is introduced and adopted by a required majority, and whether it was considered twice. Second, the Constitution includes some provisions that are defined as "unamendable." The Assembly is banned from amending the republican form of the state (Art. 1), the characteristics of the Republic (Art. 2), the indivisible nature of the State, official language, national anthem, the form of the national flag, and capital city of the Republic (Art. 3).

Approval of Budget Bill and Final Account Bill

The President of the Republic presents the budget bill and final account bill to the Assembly for approval within the time limits set by the Constitution. The Assembly debates and decides on the budget bill together with the final accounts bill before the beginning of the new fiscal year. The budgetary process is discussed in Chapter Six.

Granting General Amnesty and Pardon

A general amnesty or pardon may be granted only by a law adopted by a three-fifths majority of the total number of deputies (Art. 87, Const.).

Approval of the Ratification of International Treaties

The President of the Republic has the power to ratify and publish international treaties that have been concluded by the executive. With some exceptions, the ratification of the treaties by the President requires the approval of the Assembly.

Ratification of all treaties that envisage a change in domestic laws is subject to the approval of the Assembly. However, some treaties do not require the approval of the Assembly before ratification: Treaties that regulate economic, commercial, and technical relations and do not exceed one year come into force by only publication provided that the treaties do not pose a financial burden for the State finance and do not require any change to the personal rights and property rights of Turkish citizens in foreign countries. The Assembly must be informed of that type of treaty within two months after its publication.

Approval of the Declaration of State of Emergency

The President of the Republic may declare a state of emergency for a maximum period of six months during extreme situations stipulated in Article 119 of the Constitution.

The President's decision to declare a state of emergency is submitted to the Assembly for approval on the day of its publication in the Official Gazette. During the period of recess, the Assembly is called to convene immediately. The Assembly may shorten or extend the duration of the state of emergency, or lift the state of emergency.

The Assembly may also extend the duration of the state of emergency (already approved by the Assembly) upon the request of the President of the Republic, but no longer than four months. However, this time limit is not applicable in a state of war.

The President's request for changing the duration of the state of emergency or lifting an existing state of emergency is also subject to the approval of the Assembly.

Declaration of War and Authorization for Use of the Armed Forces

The Assembly has the authority to declare war, and authorize the sending of Turkish armed forces abroad or stationing of foreign armed

forces on national territory (Art.92, Const.) upon the request of the President of the Republic (Art. 129, 130, RoP).

During the period of adjournment or recess, the President of the Republic may decide to use armed forces when the country is under military attack and the use of armed forces becomes unavoidable (Art. 92/2, Const.). In this case, the President convenes the Assembly immediately (Art. 129/2, RoP).

Criminal Liability of the President of the Republic

An absolute majority of the total number of deputies may request to launch an investigation into allegation of a crime against the President of the Republic.

When the Assembly decides to carry out an investigation by three-fifths votes of the statutory membership (360 deputies), a committee of fifteen members conducts the investigation and submits its report within two months to the Office of the Speaker.

The Plenary debates the report and may decide to refer the case to the Supreme Criminal Tribunal with a two-thirds majority of the total number of deputies.

The mandate of the President of the Republic ceases if he/she is convicted by the Supreme Criminal Tribunal of a crime that prevents him/her from being elected (Art. 105, Const.).

Vice-presidents and ministers may also be investigated and removed from office by the same procedure mentioned above, but only on allegation of a crime solely related to his/her duties (Art. 106, Const.).

Election of Members of Constitutional Organs

The Assembly elects all or some members of certain constitutional organs. The Assembly elects;

- Three members of the Constitutional Court (Art. 146, Const.),
- Chief Ombudsman (Art. 74, Const.),
- All members of the Radio and Television Supreme Council (Art. 133, Const.),
- President and members of the Court of Accounts (Art. 16, Law No.6085),

- Five members of the Personal Data Protection Authority (Art., 21, Law No. 6698), and
- Three members of the Council of Judges and Prosecutors (Art., 159, Const.).

Amending the Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure may be amended by a resolution adopted by the Assembly. Deputies may move the proposals for amendments to the Rules of Procedure. Proposed amendments are deliberated in the Committee on the Constitution before it is debated and voted in the Plenary. The Committee prepares a report including gaps and defects of the Rules of Procedure and recommendations for the adoption of appropriate measures and submits it to the Office of the Speaker.

If the Bureau of the Assembly agrees with the Committee's recommendations, the Speaker warns the Plenary to make necessary amendments to the Rules of Procedure.

The Plenary may adopt a resolution on the amendment to the Rules of Procedure by simple majority which cannot be less than a quarter plus one of the statutory number of deputies. An amendment to the Rules of Procedure comes into force when it is published in the Official Gazette unless another date is specified in the resolution (Art. 181, RoP).

PARLIAMENTARY TIMETABLE

First Sitting

The newly elected Assembly convenes at 14:00 on the third day following the announcement of the final election results by the Supreme Election Council.

The oath-taking ceremony takes place at the first sitting (Art. 3, RoP).

Legislative Term

A legislative term is a period between two parliamentary elections, which is five years under normal circumstances (Art.1, RoP).

When the Assembly meets after a general election, a new legislative term begins. In the strict sense, a legislative term implies the period that begins with the first meeting of the Assembly following a general election and lasts until the first meeting of the subsequent Assembly.

Although Article 77 of the Constitution provides for parliamentary elections to be held every five years, the legislative term can be shorter or longer than five years. First, early parliamentary elections shorten (end) a legislative term before the expiration of five years. Second, when the Assembly postpones parliamentary elections due to a war, according to Article 78 of the Constitution, the legislative term extends beyond five years.

Legislative Year

A legislative year is a period that usually lasts for one year. A legislative year begins when the Assembly convenes on October 1st each year (Art. 93, Const.) and ends on September 30th (Art. 1, RoP).

However, the first or the last legislative year may be shorter than one year. The first legislative year following a general election begins upon the first sitting of the Assembly and lasts until the 30th of September. Likewise, the last legislative year, which normally begins on October 1st may end before the one-year period due to the early elections.

Recess

Recess is the adjournment of parliamentary business for a specific period. Recess is a longer time of adjournment, which normally begins on the first day of July unless the Assembly decides otherwise (Art. 5, RoP).

The length of the recess cannot last more than three months in a legislative year (Art., 93, Const.).

Adjournment

The Assembly may adjourn the parliamentary business for not more than 15 days. The Assembly decides on a motion of adjournment after the Board of Spokespersons states its opinion (Art. 6, RoP).

Summoning of the Assembly

The President of the Republic may summon the Assembly during an adjournment or recess. The Speaker has the right to summon the Assembly directly or on the written request of one-fifth of the deputies (Art. 93, Const.).

The proclamation to summon the Assembly must specify the time and topics that required such a meeting (Art. 7, RoP). If the quorum is

present, the Assembly debates topics indicated in the proclamation. After deliberation of the topics is concluded, recess or adjournment continues unless the Assembly decides otherwise (Art. 7, RoP).

Days and Hours of Sittings

A sitting is a meeting of the Plenary opened on a specific day (Art. 1, RoP). As a rule, the Assembly sits between 15:00 and 21:00 on Tuesdays and between 14:00 and 21:00 on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Plenary may alter the hours, dates, and weeks of the sittings and may choose to sit on other days upon the proposal of the Board of Spokespersons (Art. 54, RoP).

The Plenary may adopt a resolution to hold sittings at the weekend or may sit all night or until the next morning in exceptional circumstances.

Suspension of Plenary Sittings

Suspension of a sitting means that the sitting is temporarily interrupted for a few minutes or a maximum of one hour without formally ending the sitting. After suspension, the Plenary continues to sit until the next suspension or closure of the sitting.

The Speaker may suspend a sitting for a maximum period of one hour when it is found that the quorum is not present. If the quorum does not exist after the suspension, the Speaker closes the sitting (Art. 57/4, RoP).

The Speaker may also suspend the sitting at his/her discretion if he/she fails to maintain order when the noise or disorder arises. If the noise or disorder continues after the suspension of a maximum of one hour, he/she closes the sitting (Art. 68, RoP).

Adjournment of Plenary Sittings

The Speaker ends the sitting when the time of closure fixed by the Rules of Procedure or by the Plenary is over. Under certain circumstances, the Plenary may extend the sitting beyond the fixed time for the completion of an item of business that is about to come to an end (Art. 55, RoP).

The Speaker closes the plenary sitting in some cases described in the Rules of Procedure. In cases where the quorum does not exist even after a suspension that was due to the lack of a quorum (Art. 57, RoP) or where the Speaker fails to maintain order after a suspension that was due to noise and disorder, the Speaker closes the sitting (Art. 68, RoP).

STATUS OF DEPUTIES

Number of Deputies

The total/statutory number of deputies in the Assembly is 600. This number does not change even if a vacancy occurs in the membership. However, for the elections in the Assembly, the vacancies are excluded from the total number to determine the percentage of political party groups and independent deputies (Art. 2, RoP).

Parliamentary Mandate

Deputies do not represent their constituency or the people who voted for them but the whole nation (Art. 80, Const.). The nature of the mandate is free representation.

Term of Office

Deputies serve for five years. The mandate of the deputies extends beyond five years if the Assembly adopts a resolution deferring parliamentary elections for one year in case of a war. The parliamentary mandate begins when the provincial election boards prepare the official records that declare the names of the candidates who have been elected.

Deputies remain in office until the opening of the first sitting of the new Assembly following parliamentary elections.

Oath-Taking

Oath-taking ceremony takes place at the first sitting of the new Assembly following a general election (Art.3, RoP). Newly elected deputies must take the following oath written in Article 81 of the Constitution:

> "I swear upon my honor and integrity, before the great Turkish Nation, to safeguard the existence and independence of the state, the indivisible integrity of the country and the nation, and the absolute sovereignty of the nation; to remain loyal to the supremacy of law, to the democratic and secular Republic, and Atatürk's principles and reforms; not to deviate from the ideal according to which everyone is entitled to enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms under peace and prosperity in society, national solidarity and justice, and loyalty to the Constitution."

Oath-taking is a pre-condition of assuming the full powers of the parliamentary mandate. Deputies who abstain from taking the oath cannot benefit from the rights arising from the status of a deputy.

Deputies are called to take oath according to alphabetic order of their constituencies, last names, and names. Deputies who are absent at the first sitting may take the oath at the beginning of the sitting they attend (Art. 3, RoP).

Loss of Membership

Article 84 of the Constitution identifies various reasons because of which the parliamentary mandate is lost before expiration of the legal term of office. The parliamentary mandate could end, automatically or

on a resolution passed by the Assembly, for the reasons of resignation, judicial decision, incompatibility with the parliamentary mandate, or non-attendance to the Plenary or committee meetings.

Resignation

A deputy may resign from his/her membership and loses his/her seat only if the Plenary decides on the resignation after the Bureau has determined the authenticity of the resignation.

A resignation letter presented to the Assembly does not automatically result in the loss of parliamentary seat. The resignation takes effect if the Assembly adopts a resolution on the loss of membership (Art. 84, Const.).

Judicial Decision

A deputy who has been convicted of an offense that disqualifies one from being elected as a deputy or has been put under guardianship by a competent judicial organ loses his/her seat automatically when the Assembly is notified of the final court ruling (Art. 84, Const.).

Parliamentary Incompatibilities

A deputy who persists in holding an office or performing a duty that is incompatible with the parliamentary mandate may lose his/her seat, if the Assembly passes a resolution for loss of membership (Art. 84, Const.).

Non-Attendance

A deputy who fails to attend parliamentary businesses, without a valid excuse or leave of absence, for five sitting days in total in one month may lose his/her seat if the Assembly adopts a resolution with an absolute majority of the total number of deputies (Art. 84, Const.).

Moreover, a deputy ceases to be a deputy when;

- He/she has been elected as the President of the Republic (Art. 101, Const.)
- He/she has been appointed as vice-president or minister (Art. 106, Const.).

Parliamentary Immunity

Deputies have certain legal immunities regulated by the Constitution, which allows them to perform their duties without any threats or interference and ensures the proper functioning of the Assembly. Article 83 of the Constitution contains two traditional forms of immunity: Non-accountability, which guarantees the freedom of speech, and the inviolability, which protects deputies from any risk of criminal prosecution and arbitrary arrest.

Non-Accountability

Deputies cannot be held accountable in respect of opinions expressed and votes cast in parliamentary proceedings. Non-accountability also includes the repetition of the same opinions outside the Assembly unless the Assembly decides otherwise (Art. 83, Const.).

The scope of non-accountability is limited to the parliamentary proceedings, which include anything said in the Plenary sittings or committee meetings and anything put in writing that forms part of a parliamentary proceeding (questions, motions, votes, bills, etc.). Non-accountability also covers the votes cast and statements expressed in parliamentary committees working outside the Assembly.

Non-accountability provides absolute protection and lasts beyond the term of office. The Assembly cannot waive non-accountability.

Inviolability

Any deputy who is alleged to have committed an offense before or after the elections cannot be detained, interrogated, arrested, and tried without the decision of the Assembly.

There are two exceptional cases where there is no immunity for deputies. The competent authority must notify the Assembly immediately in:

- Cases of flagrante delicto related to serious offenses are excluded from the scope of the immunity. If a deputy is caught in flagrante delicto which requires heavy imprisonment, he/she may be arrested, detained, or interrogated without prior authorization of the Assembly.
- Cases identified by Article 14 of the Constitution are beyond the scope of the immunity provided that the investigation was initiated before the elections.

Inviolability also implies that the execution of the punishment imposed on a deputy before or after the election will be postponed for the duration of his/her term of office. However, the statute of limitations suspends during the term of office (Art. 83, Const.).

Inviolability does not cover all legal proceedings. The Constitution states that "No member of the Assembly…can be detained, arrested, interrogated, tried". Therefore, it is possible to file a suit, conduct a preparatory investigation, search a deputy's house or premises, seize a deputy's property, or call the deputy as a witness.

Inviolability provides protection only against criminal prosecutions but not against civil proceedings during the term of office and suspends the execution of criminal punishment until the end of the parliamentary mandate.

Procedure for Lifting Inviolability

Contrary to the non-accountability, inviolability may be lifted by a resolution of the Assembly. Inviolability is a matter of public interest and cannot be waived by the deputy individually.

A request for lifting immunity of a deputy is filed by prosecutors or courts. The request is forwarded to the Presidency of the Republic by the Ministry of Justice to be submitted to the Office of the Speaker.

The Office of the Speaker forwards such a request to the Joint Committee composed of the members of the Committees on the Constitution and Justice (Art. 131, RoP).

The chair of the Joint Committee sets up a preparatory committee of five members to examine the related documents and submit a report to the Joint Committee within a month. The preparatory committee may hear the deputy concerned but not witnesses (Art. 132, RoP).

The Joint Committee considers the report of the preparatory committee and finalizes its report within one month. The Committee may decide to either lift inviolability or suspend the investigation until the end of the deputy's term of office (Art. 133, RoP).

If the Joint Committee (in its report) request that the investigation be suspended, the report is read out in the Plenary. If no objection is raised against the report within 10 days, the report becomes final (Art.133, RoP). However, if the Committee requests that inviolability be lifted, or if an objection has been made, the committee report is debated and voted in the Plenary.

The deputy concerned may defend himself/herself personally or by another deputy in the Joint Committee or the Plenary (Art. 134, RoP).

If the Assembly decides to lift the immunity of a deputy, the deputy concerned or another deputy may appeal against the resolution of the Assembly to the Constitutional Court within seven days on the ground that the resolution is not in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution, laws, or the Rules of Procedure. The Constitutional Court must decide on the appeal within 15 days (Art. 85, Const.).

Exercise of Parliamentary Mandate

Attendance and Leave of Absence

Deputies are obliged to attend plenary sittings and committee meetings regularly unless they have a leave of absence or a valid excuse that may prevent them from being able to be present.

A deputy who failed to be present, without a valid excuse or a leave of absence, during roll call or voting by public ballot in the plenary or committee meeting is deemed absent for that sitting day.

Deputies who will not be able to attend the plenary sittings or committee meetings may apply to the Speaker in writing for a leave of absence. The Speaker may grant a leave of absence for ten days. A leave of absence for more than ten days may only be granted by the Plenary on the proposal of the Bureau of the Assembly (Art. 151, RoP).

The Bureau of the Assembly keeps a non-attendance register, which indicates the absentees in the plenary or committee meetings. The Bureau sends relevant parts of the non-attendance register to the deputies concerned. A deputy may object to the records on the non-attendance register within seven days. The Bureau evaluates whether the deputy's objection has valid grounds. The Bureau may ask for required documents or information from the deputy concerned. After the Bureau completes its examination, it publishes a new non-attendance register.

The non-attendance register is published at least three times in a legislative year (Art. 152, RoP).

Sanctions for Non-Attendance

Deputies are expected to attend plenary sittings and committee meetings regularly unless they have a leave of absence or a valid excuse that may prevent them from being able to attend.

Any deputy who frequently fails to attend plenary sittings or committee meetings without a valid excuse or a leave of absence is subject to penalties (loss of membership and financial sanctions) laid down by the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure.

Loss of Membership

A deputy who fails to attend parliamentary business, without a valid excuse or leave of absence, for five sitting days during one month loses his/her seat only if the Assembly decides so (Art. 84, Const.).

When the Bureau of the Assembly identifies the case of non-attendance, it submits the case to the Joint Committee, which is composed of the members of the Constitution Committee and Justice Committee. The Joint Committee examines the case of non-attendance and submits its reports to the Plenary for deliberation. The deputy may defend himself/herself in the Joint Committee or the Plenary.

BAĞIMSIZLIK VE ÖZGÜRLÜK
BENİM KARAKTERİMDİR.
KEMAL ATATÜRK

The Plenary debates the committee reports and votes on the loss of membership no sooner than 24 hours. If the Assembly adopts a resolution for loss of membership by an absolute majority of the total number of deputies, the deputy concerned loses his/her seat (Art. 138, RoP).

A deputy who has lost membership due to non-attendance may appeal to the Constitutional Court against the resolution of the Assembly within seven days (following the decision) on the ground that it is not in conformity with the Constitution, laws, or the Rules of Procedure. The Constitutional Court decides on the appeal within 15 days (Art. 85, Const.).

Deputies are also under the obligation to participate in committee meetings regularly. Committees present attendance registers to the Office of the Speaker and the leadership of political party groups. Any deputy who did not attend committee meetings, without valid reason or leave of absence, three times successively or one-third of the committee meetings within a year may be withdrawn from committee membership by the political party group he/she belongs to (Art. 28, RoP).

Financial sanctions

Any deputy who failed to attend more than 45 days in total in a legislative year, without a valid excuse or leave of absence, may have a cut in his/her travel allowance of three months (Art. 153, RoP).

Deputies who have taken a leave of absence for more than two months continuously are paid their salaries and travel allowances only if the Assembly agrees (Art. 154, RoP).

Parliamentary Discipline

The Assembly may discipline its members in various ways if their misconduct constitutes a violation of the Constitution or the Rules of Procedure. The Speaker may warn deputies if, for example, they use abusive language or interrupt the speaker. The Assembly has the right to issue a reprimand to express its disapproval of the conduct of a deputy and suspend deputies from parliamentary proceedings due to several serious misconducts listed in the Rules of Procedure.

The Rules of Procedure describes three forms of sanctions for the deputies who fail to respect the rules of the Assembly (Art. 156, RoP). These are:

- Warning (call to order),

- Reprimand (censure), and
- Temporary suspension from the Assembly.

Disciplinary sanctions are also applicable for the vice-presidents and the ministers (Art. 163, RoP).

Warning (Call to Order)

The Speaker has the authority to warn a deputy if the deputy (Art. 157, 158, RoP):

- interrupts the speaker,
- disturbs the peace and order, or
- makes personal remarks offensively (engages in personalities).

If the deputy who has been warned requests an opportunity to defend himself/herself, the floor must be given to him/her at the end of the sitting or, if the Speaker decides, immediately. If the Speaker finds the explanation sufficient, he/she may decide to revoke the sanction. If a deputy is warned twice in the same sitting, the warning shall be recorded in the summary of the minutes (Art. 158, RoP).

A deputy who has been warned twice in the same sitting may be deprived of the right to speak until the end of the sitting. Such a decision can be taken by the Plenary upon the proposal of the Speaker (Art. 159, RoP).

Reprimand (Censure)

The Assembly has the power to reprimand a deputy due to the acts identified by the Rules of Procedure. The Plenary may issue a reprimand against a deputy who (Art. 160, RoP):

- has been warned twice in the same sitting but refuses to comply with the request,
- has been warned three times in a month,
- makes abusive and offensive remarks and actions,
- enters into the premises of the Assembly with weapon,
- makes noise and causes fights in the Assembly and initiates or provokes a collective action to prevent the Assembly from exercising its functions, and
- brings and uses charts, banners, and similar materials that disrupt the order and peace of the Plenary.

ANKARA'YA
KAZANDIRDIĞI ESERLER
1927-1931 Milli Müdafaa Bakanlığı
1925-1931 Genelkurmay Başkanlığı
1926-1932 Ankara Orduevi
1925-1934 Sağlık ve İçişleri Bakanlığı
1931-1932 Cumhurbaşkanlığı Köşkü (Çankaya Evi)
1930-1934 İçişleri Bakanlığı
1930-1935 Ankara Yenişehir
1931-1934 Merkez Bankası
1932-1935 Gülün Aşkı
(Hayrettin Anton ATAATA'nın eseri TEOFAN'la)
1932-1934 Güvenpark ve Zafer Bulvarı
1933-1934 Yenişehir
1933-1934 Emlak ve Kredi Bankası
1934-1935 İktisat ve Ticaret Bakanlığı (Çankaya-Ulus)
1935-1936 Avusturya Sefaretleri
1936-1937 Vilayetler Meydanı
1936-1937 Türk'ün Bilgisi Binası (Ulus)

A reprimand may solely be ordered by the Plenary, voting by show of hands and without prior debate, on the proposal made by the Speaker. The reprimand must be recorded in the summary of the minutes (Art. 163, RoP).

Temporary Suspension from the Assembly

A deputy may be temporarily suspended for a period of up to three sitting days if the deputy:

- has been reprimanded three times in the same sitting,
- has been reprimanded five times in a month,
- during the debates, insults or swears at the President of the Republic, the Assembly, the Speaker, the Bureau, the vice-speaker chairing the Plenary, the deputies, the history and common past of the Turkish Nation, the constitutional order outlined in the first four articles of the Constitution; makes definitions contrary to the administrative structure of the Turkish Republic,
- encourages and provokes people, state forces, public organs, institutions, and public officers into starting unlawful actions and riots or into disrupting the provisions of the Constitution,
- carries weapon in the Plenary or the committees,
- engages in unlawful actions within the precincts of the Assembly, and
- makes a physical attack (Art. 161, 162, RoP).

The temporary suspension is the ultimate penalty, which is applicable immediately. If a deputy who has been temporarily suspended refuses to leave the Plenary, the Speaker suspends the sitting and orders the quaestors to exclude him/her from the Plenary.

A deputy who is temporarily suspended cannot take part in the parliamentary business of the Plenary, committees, Bureau, and the Board of Spokespersons for the duration of the suspension (Art. 162, RoP).

The authority to temporarily suspend a deputy from the parliamentary business rests with the Plenary. Without prior debate and through voting by show of hands, the Plenary may temporarily suspend a deputy on the proposal of the Speaker. The same as the reprimand, the temporary suspension must be recorded in the summary of the minutes.

The deputy concerned can defend himself/herself or have a colleague speak on his/her behalf. If the deputy concerned requests permission to take the floor and presents an apology, he gains the right to be present in the Assembly.

Ethical Rules

Incompatibilities

Deputies cannot engage in certain occupations and activities during their term of office. They cannot hold office or assume duties in;

- state departments and other public corporate bodies and organizations that are affiliated with them,
- enterprises and partnerships where there is direct or indirect participation of the state or other public corporate bodies, and
- the executive and supervisory boards of non-profit associations whose revenues and privileges are provided by law; and of the foundations receiving subsidies from the state and enjoying tax exemption; and of the professional organizations having the characteristics of public institutions and trade unions.

Deputies cannot be appointed as representatives of the above-mentioned bodies. They may not accept any contracting work directly or indirectly, and may not act as representative and arbitrator (Art. 82, Const.).

Deputies may not be assigned any official or private duty that requires recommendation, appointment, or approval of the executive organ are incompatible with membership (Art. 82, Const.).

Deputies cannot work as lobbyists, brokers, or consultants in state departments and state-affiliated institutions. When deputies exercise their professions and manage their enterprises, they cannot use their title of "Deputy." (Art. 3, Law No.3069).

Deputies cannot accept any paid employment or post by a foreign state or an international organization unless otherwise decided by the Assembly. Moreover, deputies cannot hold an administrative post as secretary-general, secretary, or under any other title in state departments and state-affiliated institutions. (Art. 4, Law No.3069).

Any person who has assumed a responsibility that is prohibited by the Law before being elected as a deputy has to comply with the Law within six months. Provisions of the Rules of Procedure concerning the loss of mandate will be applied to the deputy who acts against the Law (Art. 6, 7, Law No.3069).

Declaration of Assets and Gifts

Deputies are obliged to make declaration of income, assets and liabilities. Deputies must submit information not only for themselves but also for their spouses and children under their guardianship.

Declaration of assets must be submitted to the Office of the Speaker within two months following the general election. The declaration must be renewed in years ending with 0 or 5, or within one month in case of a significant change in assets. Declarations of assets are not open to the public (Art. 2-9, Law No 3628).

Deputies must hand over a gift they receive from foreign states, international organizations, international legal entities and foreign persons (natural or legal) or organizations to the Assembly if the value of the gift exceeds ten times of net minimum wage (Art. 3, Law No 3628).

LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE

The Rules of Procedure regulates all stages of the legislative process. The Constitution also contains some general rules about the legislative procedure as the right to introduce bills (Art. 88), the publication of the laws by the President (Art. 89), the quorum (Art. 96), and the publicity and publication of the plenary meetings (Art. 97).

The legislative process starts with the introduction of a bill to the Assembly. A bill must be examined first in the parliamentary committees and then must be adopted by the Assembly before becoming law.

Ordinary Legislative Procedure

Right to Introduce a Bill

Any deputy may introduce a bill (Art. 88, Const.). However, Article 161 of the Constitution provides that only the President of the Republic may introduce the budget and final account bills. Parliamentary committees do not have the right to introduce bills (Art. 35, RoP).

A bill must be submitted to the Office of the Speaker with an explanatory note. More than one deputy may sign the bill (Art. 74, RoP). In other words, there is no limit on the number of deputies who can sign the bill.

As the Constitution explicitly defines some provisions as "unamendable" at any time and under any circumstances, deputies cannot propose a bill amending the first, second, third, and fourth Articles of the Constitution (Art. 4, Const.).

Withdrawal and Re-introduction of a Bill

The sponsoring deputy may withdraw a bill before it is placed on the agenda of the Plenary. However, the debate continues if another deputy or the primary committee supports the withdrawn bill. Once such a bill has been placed on the agenda of the Plenary, it can only be withdrawn by the decision of the Plenary (Art. 75, RoP).

Any bill rejected by the Assembly cannot be reintroduced for one year following the date of rejection during the same legislative term (Art. 76, RoP).

A bill that has not been concluded by the Assembly during a legislative term is deemed void. However, deputies may re-introduce this bill during the next legislative term (Art. 77, RoP).

Referral of Bill to Committees

The Speaker refers bills to the standing committees for a detailed examination (Art. 74, RoP). When the Speaker refers a bill to more than one committee, he/she must also designate the committee that is responsible to consider the bill and report to the Plenary. The committee that is responsible for submitting a report to the Assembly is called as "primary committee." The other committee named as "secondary committee" is expected to present its opinion to primary committee on the subject and articles of the bill.

Consideration of a Bill in Committees

Committees can begin their deliberation on bills referred to them only 48 hours after the date of referral (Art. 36, RoP). If the Speaker refers the bill to multiple committees, the secondary committee must complete its work within ten days (Art. 37, RoP). Even if the secondary committee cannot provide an opinion in due time, the primary committee must conclude its examination of a bill within 45 days after referral (Art. 23, 37, RoP).

Committees may only work on a bill referred to them. They may accept or reject the bill with or without amendments. Committees have the power to consolidate bills that are related to each other. However, committees cannot divide a bill into parts and submit them as separate texts to the Plenary (Art. 35, RoP).

Committees are obliged to examine the conformity of a bill with the Constitution and reject it if it is considered unconstitutional before the debate begins on articles (Art. 38, RoP).

During committee meetings, only the committee members can vote and table motions of the amendment (Art. 31, RoP).

Committee Reports

The primary committee submits a report recommending the adoption, rejection, or modification of a bill. The committee report includes the final text of the bill and the justification for the amendments.

The committee report is signed by committee members who participated in the final vote on the bill. The Members who wish to attach their dissenting opinions to the report have the right to do so, as long as they specify the articles they disagree with.

During plenary debates or other committee meetings, committee members who signed the report may express their objections only over matters about which they have already declared their objections and abstentions in the committee report.

Committee members who agree with the report have the right to append additional opinions to the report before the deadline fixed by the committee chair.

Committee reports are printed and distributed to the deputies and annexed to the minutes of the next sitting (Art. 42, RoP).

Consideration of a Bill in Plenary

The committee report is placed on the agenda of the Plenary and published in the Order Paper. The committee report is also distributed to political party groups, committees, and deputies. Unless otherwise decided by the Plenary upon the request of the primary committee, the Plenary cannot debate the committee's report within 48 hours of its distribution (Art. 52, RoP).

The Plenary can begin its deliberations only if a representative of the primary committee is present in the Plenary (Art. 45, RoP).

If the Plenary approves the committee report recommending the rejection of the bill, the bill is deemed rejected. However, if the Plenary does not approve the report, the bill will be referred back to the committee (Art. 80, RoP).

If the committee submits a report in favor of a bill with or without amendments, the Plenary debates the final text of the bill as passed by the committee.

During the consideration of a bill, the Plenary follows the procedures outlined by Article 81 of the Rules of Procedure:

1) *Deliberation of the entire bill*: A debate is held on the entire bill. At this stage, unless otherwise decided by the Plenary upon the request of the Board of Spokespersons, political party groups and the committee are entitled to 20 minutes of speaking time. The deputies may have the floor maximum of ten minutes each.

2) *Questions to the committee*: Deputies may ask questions to the committee. The time allotted for questions and answers is 20 minutes.

3) *Vote on whether to review the bill on an article-by-article basis*: A vote takes place to decide whether to proceed with article-by-article consideration of the bill. When the Plenary does not agree to begin discussions over articles, the bill is deemed rejected.

4) *Deliberation of articles:* If the Plenary decides to debate the articles of the bill, articles of the bill together with the motions of amendments are debated and voted in the Plenary. Articles are debated and voted in the order in which they appear on the bill (Art. 83, RoP). The speaking time on the articles allotted to each political party group and the committee is ten minutes, and to each deputy is five minutes.

5) *Vote on entire bill*: Before final voting on the bill as a whole, two deputies, one against and the other in favor of the bill, are given the floor to explain their vote with a brief and clear speech including their reasons (Art. 86, RoP).

At the final stage, the Plenary votes on the bill as a whole. If the Plenary passes the bill by an absolute majority of the deputies present, the bill becomes law.

If requested by the primary committee, the entire bill or certain articles of the bill must be referred to the committee once. If the entire bill is requested to be sent back to the committee, all motions of the amendment are referred to the committee. If only certain articles of a bill are requested to be sent back to the committee, motions of amendments related to those articles are sent to the committee (Art. 88, RoP).

Before the entire bill is put to a final vote, the primary committee may request that certain articles of the bill be re-deliberated in the Plenary by stating the reasons for the request. Such a request is voted by show of hands without prior debate after consultation with the Board of Spokespersons. This provision does not apply to constitutional amendments (Art. 89, RoP).

Motions of Amendment

Each deputy and the primary committee may propose amendments to a bill addressed to the Office of the Speaker after the bill is published and distributed. However, only at least five deputies may table a motion of amendment to a bill after plenary debate on the bill has begun.

A motion of amendment must meet the flowing requirements specified by Article 87 of the Rules of Procedure:

- A motion of amendment may only be tabled for the rejection of an article in a bill; referral of a bill or one of its articles back to the committee; amendment of an article; or addition of a supplementary or transitional article to a bill. This rule means that a motion of amendment cannot introduce a new article not already included in the bill.
- A motion of the amendment that proposes an addition or amendment in other laws that are not related to the main subject matter of the bill under debate cannot be tabled.
- A motion of amendment must contain rationale and specify the articles of the bill to be amended, repealed, or added.
- The number of motions of the amendment tabled by deputies is limited to seven. Each political party group has the right to table one motion of amendment. If a party group does not use its right to propose amendments, other party groups or independent deputies may use it.

The motions of amendment are read out in chronological order and deliberated in the order of inconsistency with the bill under debate (Art. 87, RoP). However, a motion of amendment demanding the rejection of a particular article of a bill based on a claim that it is unconstitutional must be voted before other motions of the amendment (Art. 84, RoP).

The Speaker first asks the committee whether they agree with the motion of amendment or not. The committee can explain its reasons for not agreeing with the motion. If the committee rejects the motion of amendment, the sponsor of the motion is given the floor to make further explanations for five minutes. Finally, each motion of amendment is voted separately by show of hands (Art. 87, RoP).

The committee may request a motion of amendment and related article to be referred back to the committee if the motion is adopted by the Plenary despite its disagreement. If the request is accepted by the Plenary, the motion of amendment is sent back to the committee. The committee may propose a new text by taking account of the motion of amendment or persist in its final text. It is the Plenary that has the final say (Art. 87, RoP).

Promulgation of Laws and Presidential Veto

The law passed by the Assembly is sent to the President of the Republic for promulgation. The President has fifteen days to promulgate

the law or return it (except for the budget law) to the Assembly for reconsideration with his/her rationale.

The Assembly can pass the vetoed law with or without amendments. If the Assembly passes the same law with an absolute majority of the total number of deputies (301 deputies), the President must promulgate the law. However, the President may return the law once again to the Assembly if the Assembly has passed it with amendments (Art. 89, Const.).

Entry into Force

A law comes into force on the day of its publication in the Official Gazette unless a specific date is provided by the law itself (Art. 7, Presidential Decree No.19).

Constitutional Amendments

Unamendable Provisions

Except for those stated in Article 4 of the Constitution, all provisions of the Constitution are subject to revision. The republican form of the State (Art. 1), the characteristics of the Republic (Art. 2), and the indivisible nature, official language, flag, national anthem, and capital of the state (Art. 3) cannot be amended or their amendment cannot be proposed (Art. 4, Const.).

Introduction and Adoption of Constitutional Amendments

Constitutional amendments may be proposed by at least one-third of the total number of deputies (at least 200 deputies) and must be adopted with a majority of three-fifths of the total number of deputies (at least 360 deputies) by secret ballot (Art. 175, Const.).

The bill amending the constitution requires two separate readings in the Plenary. (Art. 175, Const.). At least 48 hours must elapse between the first and second readings (Art. 93, RoP).

Approval of the articles in the first and second readings and the bill as a whole in the second reading requires the support of at least 360 deputies. Voting on articles and the bill as a whole is conducted by secret ballot (Art. 94, RoP).

Publication of Constitutional Amendments and Referendum

The President may send back the law amending the constitution to the Assembly for reconsideration. If the Assembly readopts the law by a two-thirds majority of the total number of deputies, the President may ratify the law or may submit it to a referendum. In this case, the referendum is optional.

If the law amending the constitution is adopted by a three-fifths or less than a two-thirds majority of the total number of deputies (if ayes are between 360 and 400) and is not returned to the Assembly by the President for reconsideration, the law must be published in the Official Gazette and submitted to the referendum. This is a compulsory referendum in nature.

If the law amending the constitution was adopted directly by a two-thirds majority of the total number of deputies or was adopted with the same majority after having been sent back to the Assembly, the President may submit the law or some articles of it to the referendum. In this case, the law or articles that are not submitted to the referendum are published in the Official Gazette.

Constitutional amendments submitted to the referendum require the approval of more than half of the valid votes cast (Art. 175, Const.).

Budget Bill and Final Accounts Bill

The Constitution provides special deadlines for the budgetary process. The budgetary process begins when the President of the Republic submits the budget bill to the Assembly at least 75 days before the beginning of the fiscal year. The Budget Committee examines the budget bill and adopts a final version of the bill within 55 days. After concluding its deliberations, the Committee submits its report to the Plenary. The Assembly has to approve the budget bill before the beginning of the fiscal year (Art. 161).

If the budget law cannot be put into force in time, a provisional budget is adopted. If Assembly fails to pass the provisional budget, the budget of the previous year, increased by the revaluation rate, is applied.

Deputies have the right to propose amendments to the budget bill but no deputy can introduce amendments that involve an increase in the expenditures or a decrease in the revenues during the plenary debate.

Bills that envisage an increase in appropriations in the current annual budget or bills that require an additional burden on the current and future budgets cannot be submitted to the Assembly unless fiscal resources to cover this expenditure are indicated.

The President of the Republic is required to submit the final account bill for the previous year within six months following the end of the fiscal year. After 75 days from the introduction of the final account bill, the Court of Accounts presents a "statement of general conformity" to the Assembly. The Plenary debates and decides the final account bill together with the budget bill.

Plenary debate on the budget bill begins with a speech delivered by a vice-president or a minister on the behalf of the Executive. Vice-presidents and ministers may attend plenary sittings where budget and final account bills are debated and may express their opinions (Art. 62, RoP).

PLENARY DEBATES

Plenary Agenda

The plenary agenda is composed of items of business to be dealt with during plenary sittings. The order in which items of business are placed on the agenda of the Plenary is as follows (Art. 49, RoP):

1) Presentations of the Office of the Speaker to the Plenary,
2) Items to be included in the special agenda,
3) Election,

4) Items to be voted,
5) Reports of the committees of investigation,
6) Preliminary debates concerning the conduct of general debate or parliamentary inquiry,
7) Bills and other items of business submitted by the committees.

A list of items on the agenda of the sittings is printed and distributed to the deputies on sitting days.

Specific days and hours in each week may be set aside for the 3rd, 4th, and 6th categories of the agenda by the Plenary on the proposal of the Board of Spokespersons.

The Assembly proceeds with the items of business in the order in which they stand on the agenda of the Plenary. Items in each category are deliberated in the order they are received by the Office of the Speaker.

When deemed necessary by the Office of the Speaker, the Board of Spokespersons may propose that the Plenary change the order in which items in the 7th category are debated. The primary committee or sponsors of the bills may also request for a change in the order of the items in the 7th category on the agenda. Such requests are to be considered by the Board of Spokespersons. Therefore, certain bills or other items submitted by the committees may be brought forward on the agenda if the Plenary agrees with the proposal of the Board of Spokespersons.

Quorum for Plenary Sittings

Quorum for plenary sittings exists when one-third of the total number of deputies are present in the Plenary (Art. 96, Const.). It is currently 200.

If the Speaker has doubts about the presence of a quorum at the beginning of the sitting, he/she may call the roll. During the debates before the voting by show of hands, 20 deputies may request a roll call by standing at their seats or tabling a motion.

The roll call is carried out by pushing electronic buttons on deputies' seats or if deemed necessary, by reading names from the name list.

After the roll call, if it is found that there is no quorum in the Plenary, the sitting may be suspended for a maximum of one hour. If there is still no quorum after the break, the Speaker closes the sitting (Art. 57, RoP).

Majority for Plenary Decisions

Unless the Constitution, laws, and the Rules of Procedure provide otherwise, the Assembly decides by an absolute majority of those present. However, the majority for a decision, in any case, cannot be "less than a quarter plus one" of the statutory number of deputies (Art. 96, Const.). Currently, the consent of at least 151 deputies is required to pass bills and resolutions.

The Constitution requires a qualified majority to adopt certain bills and resolutions. Different majorities are required for:

- Constitutional amendments (three-fifths majority) (Art.175, Const.),
- General amnesty and pardon (three-fifths majority) (Art. 87, Const.),
- Renewal of general elections (three-fifths majority) (Art. 116, Const.),
- Election of the Speaker (two-thirds majority in the 1st and 2nd round; absolute majority of the total membership in the 3rd round) (Art. 94, Const.),
- Election of the Chief Ombudsman (two-thirds majority in the 1st and 2nd round; absolute majority of the total membership in the 3rd round) (Art. 74, Const.),
- Election of two members of the Constitutional Court (two-thirds majority in the 1st round; absolute majority of the total membership in the 2nd round) (Art.146, Const.),
- Election of the three members of the Council of Judges and Prosecutors (two-thirds majority in 1st round; three-fifths majority in 2nd round) (Art. 159, Const.),
- Resolution about referring the case of the President of the Republic, Vice-Presidents, and ministers to the Supreme Criminal Tribunal (two-thirds majority) (Art. 105, 106, Const.), and
- Resolution about the loss of membership due to non-attendance (absolute majority of the statutory number) (Art. 84, Const.)

Representation of the Executive in the Plenary

Executive may be represented at plenary meetings in the following cases listed in Article 62 of the Rules of Procedure:

- Vice-president or a minister makes the budget presentation.
- Vice-presidents and ministers may attend plenary meetings and express their opinions on the budget bill.

- Vice-presidents, ministers, or deputy ministers, and senior public official administrators may inform the Plenary on the invitation of the Speaker only in cases related to the state of emergency stipulated in Article 119 of the Constitution.
- In case of necessity, the President of the Court of Accounts or a head of the department, or a member authorized by the President of the Court of Accounts may make an explanation in the Assembly.

Moreover, in cases of extraordinary emergencies, the President of the Republic, vice-presidents, and ministers are granted leave to speak upon their request (Art. 59, RoP).

Representation of Committees in the Plenary

The chair or vice-chair of the committee or a spokesperson represents the committee in plenary sittings. The plenary debate cannot begin if the representative of the primary committee is not present at the sitting.

The representative of the committee is under an obligation to defend the position of the committee. If the quorum (absolute majority of the committee members) is present in the plenary, the committee may decide on a motion of amendment during the debate. If the quorum does not exist, the representatives of the committee must reject any proposal that modifies the final text of the bill adopted by the

committee or request the articles of the bill about which amendments are proposed to be referred back to the committee (Art.45, RoP).

Dress Code in the Plenary

The Speaker who presides over the debates and secretaries on the rostrum have to wear black suits. Male deputies, ministers, and public officials wear a jacket, trousers, and tie. Female deputies, ministers, and public officials are expected to wear a jacket and skirt or a jacket and trousers (Art. 56, RoP).

Speeches in the Plenary

The rules related to the speeches in the plenary debates show that political party groups and committees are given an advantage in comparison with deputies. They are given priority in the order they speak and have more speaking time than individual deputies.

Leave to Speak

Deputies can speak only if their names are included on the speakers' list or if they are granted leave to speak by the Speaker. Deputies are not allowed to speak on topics other than those related to the items on the agenda.

Deputies must address their speeches to the Plenary from the rostrum. The Speaker may allow a deputy to give a short speech from his/her seat.

Deputies may read any written statement from the rostrum or, if the Speaker permits, one of the secretaries may read it (Art. 60, RoP).

Number of Speeches

Unless the Rules of Procedure provides otherwise, only one deputy on behalf of each political party group and two deputies on their behalf are entitled to speak once in the plenary. However, if the Plenary decides to continue the debate, political party groups, and the deputies are given the right to speak a second time.

Length of Speeches

In principle, speeches on behalf of political party groups and committee(s) cannot be longer than 20 minutes. Deputies may speak for ten minutes. For the second speeches, political party groups and committees will be allowed to speak for ten minutes, and deputies will be allowed to speak for five minutes. However, the Plenary has the right to change the speaking time at the request of the Board of Spokespersons (Art. 60, RoP).

Order of Speeches

Deputies are called to speak in the order their requests are received or registered. If the Plenary deems necessary, the floor may be given to speakers who want to speak for, against, or about the matter under debate, successively.

The primary committee and political party groups take precedence over individual deputies. The floor is granted to the primary committee and political party groups, respectively. Party groups may speak in the order in which their request is received.

The final word belongs to the deputies. Deputies can assign their turn to speak to each other (Art. 61, RoP).

Interruption of a Speaker by the SPEAKER

Only the Speaker may interrupt a speaker in order to invite him/her to conform to the Rules of Procedure and ask him/her not to depart from the subject. The speech must be relevant to the subject of the debate.

Despite having been warned for the second time, a deputy who does not obey the directions of the Speaker and persists in speaking on irrelevant subjects, the Speaker may propose the Plenary not to grant him/her leave to speak on the same subject at the same sitting (Art. 66, RoP).

Language

Deputies are not allowed to use unparliamentary language during plenary debates. The Speaker invites a deputy who has used abusive and insulting language to discontinue his/her speech and asks him to leave the rostrum if he/she persists in his/her speech. If the Speaker deems it necessary, he/she may order that the deputy be excluded from the plenary meeting.

Abusive and insulting words cannot be used in the texts and motions addressed to the Office of the Speaker. Otherwise, the Speaker sends the text or the motion back to the sponsor for necessary corrections (Art. 67, RoP).

Special Speeches in the Plenary

Speeches on Matters Not Placed on the Agenda

In cases of extraordinary urgency, if it is deemed necessary to inform the Plenary, the Speaker may permit three deputies to speak on matters not placed on the agenda. The speeches are limited to five minutes.

When the President of the Republic, Vice-Presidents, and ministers request leave to speak in very urgent circumstances, they have the right to speak on matters not on the agenda of the Plenary. At the end of their speech, each political party group may speak for ten minutes and one of the independent deputies for five minutes (Art. 59, RoP).

Speeches on the Procedure

Deputies can request permission to speak about procedural matters. Debates on procedural matters take precedence over other matters. Determining the need for a debate and calling the Speaker to follow the agenda or working procedure of the Assembly are examples of procedural matters set out in the Rules of Procedure.

If a deputy wishes to speak about a matter of procedure, two deputies in favor and two deputies against the subject are given the floor to explain their views. If a vote is required at the end of the debate, it will be conducted by show of hands (Art. 63, RoP).

Right to Make Explanation

The committee, political party groups, or deputies to whom offensive remarks are made and opinions different from the ones they have put forward have been attributed, can make explanations and give answers.

Deputies who want to make an explanation must notify the Speaker about their motives. However, to grant leave to speak to the deputy concerned is at the discretion of the Speaker. The Speaker also determines when to call the deputy to the floor during the same debate. If the deputy insists on making an explanation, the Plenary makes the final decision by show of hands without prior debate (Art. 69, RoP).

Voting in the Plenary

Three types of voting are used in the Assembly to make decisions on bills and resolutions. Voting in the Plenary shall be conducted by show of hands or public ballot (recorded vote) or secret ballot (Art. 139, RoP).

Voting by Show of Hands

Voting by show of hands is carried out either by raising hands or by standing up in case of any hesitation, or by division of the deputies into two groups, those voting for and against. The latter is applied only if five deputies request to do so by standing up from their seats (Art. 139, RoP).

As a general rule, voting in the Plenary is held by a show of hands when voting by public or secret ballot is not required by the Constitution, laws, or the Rules of Procedure. In some cases, the Rules of Procedure requires voting to be conducted by a show of hands (Art. 140, RoP).

After the Speaker announces that the voting is about to take place, those who are in favor and those who are against raise their hands, successively. Votes are counted by the Speaker together with the secretaries, and finally, the secretaries inform the Speaker about their votes. The result is then announced by the Speaker to the Plenary by saying "adopted" or "not adopted." However, if the Speaker and the secretaries cannot reach an agreement about the result of the voting or cannot count the votes, then the Speaker announces that the voting will be repeated by standing.

Right after the voting by standing, if five deputies stand up and request the voting to be repeated on the ground that the result is not clear, then voting must be repeated by division (Art. 141, RoP). In practice, voting by standing or by division is not used.

If there are doubts about the result of the voting between the Speaker and the secretaries, or if five deputies request voting by division, the voting by show of hands is carried out by the electronic device.

Deputies vote by pressing buttons on their desks. In this case, only the total number of "yes" and "no" votes appears on the screen before the Speaker. It is not possible to record the way each deputy voted. The result is announced by the Speaker by saying "adopted" or "not adopted". The result of the voting by a show of hands is not recorded in the minutes of that plenary sitting.

Voting by Public Ballot

Voting by public ballot is conducted by placing the ballot paper that bears the name of the deputy and his/her constituency into ballot boxes or by using the electronic voting system, or by roll-call voting.

The Plenary has the authority to decide on the manner of voting by public ballot.

In the voting by roll call, the deputies are called in alphabetical order of the first constituency and then surnames to reply aloud as "Yes", "No", or "Abstain" by standing from their seats. The replies are recorded by the secretaries (Art. 139, RoP).

Voting by public ballot is obligatory on certain items listed in Article 142 of the Rules of Procedure. The Assembly votes on budget bills, final accounts bills, finance bills, long-term development plans, and approval of the ratification of international treaties by public ballot. The Plenary decides to renew parliamentary election only by public ballot (Art. 95, RoP).

Except for constitutional amendments, all bills that are not subjected to the voting by public ballot shall be voted by show of hands or by public ballot if it is requested by 20 deputies (Art. 81, RoP).

In cases where voting by secret ballot or by show of hands is not required by the Constitution, laws, or the Rules of Procedure, the written request of at least 20 deputies is required to hold voting by public ballot. Such a request must be submitted to the Speaker before the voting begins. In this case, the Plenary votes on the request for voting by public ballot after the Speaker ascertains that the initiators are present in the plenary. If at least 20 deputies who sponsored the request are not present in the plenary or do not take part in the voting, the request for public voting will be considered withdrawn (Art. 143, RoP).

Voting by public ballot is held if the Plenary accepts the request for a public ballot. At the end of the classification of votes, if it is found that at least one of the 20 deputies who signed the request has not placed the ballot paper in the ballot box, the voting will be considered as being conducted by show of hands (Art. 143, RoP).

After the Speaker announces that the voting is completed, the deputies shall not be permitted to vote. The votes are counted by the secretaries and the result is announced by the Speaker in the same meeting (Art. 144, RoP).

In addition to the results of the voting by public ballot, the vote of each deputy shall be recorded in the minutes of the sitting in alphabetical order of the deputies' names.

Voting by Secret Ballot

During voting held by secret ballot, deputies put one of the circular ballot papers with different colors into the ballot box at the rostrum. The white ballot paper means "yes," the red ballot paper means "no," and the green ballot paper means "abstention" (Art. 139, RoP). In practice, deputies take ballot papers and an envelope and then put the ballot paper into the envelope in polling booths designated for this purpose.

Voting cannot be held by secret ballot when the Constitution, laws, or the Rules of Procedure clearly require public voting or voting by show of hands or when public voting is to be conducted upon request. In other cases, voting may be conducted by secret ballot only if it is requested by at least 20 deputies and accepted by the Plenary. The Plenary votes by a show of hands on that request without prior debate (Art. 147, RoP). Before the voting begins, the Speaker may briefly explain the meaning of the vote to be cast (Art. 149, RoP).

Voting must be conducted by secret ballot in the following cases:

- Election of the Ombudsman (Art. 74, Const.),
- Resolutions on the loss of membership due to incompatibility with the parliamentary mandate (Art. 84, Const.),
- Election of the Speaker (Art. 94, Const.),
- Resolutions on the motions of investigation about the President of the Republic, vice-presidents, and ministers and decisions on the referral of the cases to the Supreme Criminal Tribunal (Art. 105, 106, Const.),
- Election of two members of the Constitutional Court (Art. 146, Const.),
- Election of the three members of the Council of Judges and Prosecutors (Art. 159, Const.), and
- Constitutional amendments (Art. 175, Const.).

Elections in the Plenary

All elections in the Plenary and committees are conducted by public ballot unless otherwise is provided by the Constitution, laws, or the Rules of Procedure.

During the elections in the Plenary, deputies are called in alphabetic order to put their ballot into the ballot box. The votes are sorted and counted by a commission of five deputies. The final report of that commission is read out in the Plenary by the Speaker (Art. 150, RoP).

Transparency of the Plenary Meetings

Plenary meetings are open to the public and wholly published in the Journal of Minutes (Art. 97, Const.).

With the exception of meetings in camera, visitors can watch debates from the public gallery inside the Plenary. Attendees must act responsibly and sit silently during debates. They cannot express their opinion through remarks, applause, or actions (Art. 169, RoP).

The TBMM TV broadcasts the plenary meetings on Tuesdays from 15.00 to 21.00 and on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 14.00 to 21.00 via a channel of the state-owned Turkish Radio and Television Corporation. Additionally, the TBMM TV broadcasts full coverage of plenary meetings on the Internet.

The official website of the Assembly (www.tbmm.gov.tr) provides information about the business before the Assembly and a database of all legislation has passed since 1920. Minutes of plenary sittings since 1908 are available on the official website of the Assembly.

Closed (Private) Plenary Meetings

As a general rule, plenary sittings are public unless the Assembly decides otherwise. The Assembly may decide to meet behind closed doors at the written request of a political party group or at least 20 deputies.

When the motion for a closed meeting is submitted, the Plenary is cleared of everyone except the deputies, and officials who are under oath. The justification for such a request is read out in the Plenary. A spokesperson of the political party group or the deputy who is the first signatory of the motion may have the floor to explain the motives of the request. The Plenary votes on such a request by show of hands.

Vice-presidents, ministers, deputy ministers, and senior officials are allowed to attend closed meetings in cases specified in Article 62 of the Rules of Procedure.

The secretaries or, if the Plenary decides, stenographers record debates at closed meetings. Anyone present at such a meeting has to respect the confidentiality of the debates. It is forbidden to make any explanation about the debates at a secret meeting. Discussions in a closed meeting are treated and protected as a state secret (Art. 70, RoP).

The minutes of a closed meeting are put into an envelope. The envelope is sealed by the secretaries and sent to the Archive of the Assembly. The minutes cannot be published within ten years following the date of that meeting. However, the Plenary may decide to publish them before or after that period at the request of the Board of Spokespersons (Art. 71, RoP).

Minutes of Plenary Meetings

Minutes of plenary meetings are kept by stenographers or, if required, by secretaries. The verbatim minutes of the plenary sittings are made available on the official website of the Assembly and published in the Journal of Minutes.

Deputies may apply to the Office of the Speaker in writing for necessary corrections to be done in the verbatim minutes of previous plenary sittings within 15 days after the minutes are printed and distributed. The Bureau of the Assembly considers such requests and, if necessary, makes necessary corrections and publishes them. The corrections made are annexed to the associated Journal of Minutes. (Art. 155, RoP).

PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT

The Assembly reviews, monitors, and supervises the activities of the executive and public agencies. Oversight functions of the Assembly are carried out by standing committees or in a variety of traditional mechanisms laid down in the Constitution.

Standing Committees with Oversight Functions

The Committees on Petitions, Human Rights Inquiry, State Economic Enterprises, European Union Harmonization, Equal Opportunity for Women and Men, Security and Intelligence, and Digital Media have been established to conduct oversight of the work, policies, and activities of governmental departments.

- *Committee on Petitions* examines the petitions submitted by citizens to the Assembly about their requests and complaints (Art. 8, Law No.3071).
- *Committee on Human Rights Inquiry* has monitoring and supervisory functions in the field of human rights. The Committee receives and considers individual complaints about the violation of human rights, and monitors the implementations of the obligations that Türkiye has assumed under international treaties, the Constitution, and laws (Art. 4, Law No. 3686).
- *Committee on Public Economic Enterprises* is a supervisory committee that was established to monitor the performance of state-owned enterprises with regard to profitability and efficiency, and compliance with the laws and development plans (Art. 7, Law No.3346).
- *Committee on European Union Harmonization* examines the compliance of bills with EU legislation and presents its opinion to the primary committees. The Committee also presents a report to the Assembly on the developments in Türkiye's accession process to the EU and the activities of the Committee (Art. 3, Law No.4847).
- *Committee on Equal Opportunity for Women and Men* deals with matters about the protection and improvement of women's rights and promoting equality between women and men. The committee considers the applications regarding the violations of equality between men and women and allegations of discrimination based on gender. Besides, the Committee, if requested, submits opinions to the primary committees about bills referred to them (Art. 3, Law No.5840).
- *Committee on Security and Intelligence* deliberates the annual reports of the National Intelligence Organization, General Directorate

of Security, General Command of Gendarmerie, and Financial Crimes Investigation Board and reports to the Assembly once a year. The Committee provides opinions on issues of national security and recommendations to protect personal data obtained during intelligence and security activities, and human rights and freedoms (Additional Art. 12, Law No.2937).

- *Committee on Digital Media* is tasked with providing opinions and recommendations to ensure that internet use does not violate laws, personal rights, privacy, other fundamental rights, and damage children's physical or psychological developments. The Committee also provides advice for an effective combating of crimes committed through the internet (Art. 1, Law No.7252).

Traditional Methods of Parliamentary Oversight

The Assembly may utilize several oversight tools stipulated in the Constitution. These are the following:

- Deputies may simply request information from the government (parliamentary questions).
- The Assembly may conduct inquiries on important issues of the day for detailed information (parliamentary inquiry).

- The Assembly may open a general debate in the Plenary about subjects concerning society or the activities of the state (general debate).
- The Assembly may send the criminal cases of the President of the Republic, vice-presidents, and ministers to the Supreme Criminal Tribunal after a parliamentary investigation (parliamentary investigation).

Finally, the budgetary process provides an opportunity for a detailed examination of the budgetary performance of the government.

Written Questions

Every deputy has the right to ask questions of vice-presidents or ministers on certain matters, excluding personal and private life.

Questions submitted to the Office of the Speaker must be brief and must not include any justification and personal opinion (Art. 96, RoP). Questions demanding information that is readily available from other sources and questions aimed at consultation only are inadmissible (Art. 97, RoP). Questions that are related to the exercise of judicial power concerning a case under trial cannot be tabled (Art. 138, Const.).

Moreover, the Speaker might send questions that include abusive and insulting words back to the sponsors for necessary corrections (Art. 67, RoP).

The Speaker publishes the questions in the Order Paper and sends them to the vice-presidents or ministers concerned if the questions comply with the Rules of Procedure (Art. 96, RoP).

Vice-presidents and ministers are obliged to answer questions within 15 days in a written form. The Speaker immediately forwards the answers to the deputies concerned. Answers together with the questions are published in the minutes of the sitting in which the answer is received and in the minutes of the next sitting (as an annex).

If written questions are not answered within 15 days, the questions are to be announced on the Order Paper under the heading of "unanswered questions" (Art. 99, RoP).

Deputies may also table questions to the Office of the Speaker regarding the duties of the Speaker, Board of Spokespersons, the Bureau and its members. The Speaker or one of the vice-speakers designated by the Speaker must reply these questions (Art. 100, RoP).

General Debate

The Assembly may deliberate certain issues concerning the society or the functions of the State in the Plenary (Art. 98, Const.).

Political party groups or at least 20 deputies may propose a motion to launch a general debate. This motion must be included on the Order Paper. Deputies are informed of the motion immediately.

During debates over the motion of general debate, political party group(s), and the deputy who is the first signatory of the motion may speak upon request. A general debate may only take place if the Assembly approves the motion of general debate.

If the Assembly decides to launch a general debate, the Board of Spokespersons determines the day of the general debate. The general debate in the Plenary begins no sooner than 48 hours and no later than seven days have passed following the decision of the Assembly (Art. 102, RoP).

During a general debate, the floor is granted first to party group(s) that is/are the sponsor of motion(s) or to the deputy who has signed motion first (Art. 103, RoP).

No voting over the issue under discussion takes place at the end of the general debate. A general debate only provides an opportunity for deputies or political party groups to bring particular issues of national interest to the attention of the people and express their opinions.

Parliamentary Inquiry

The Assembly may establish a committee of inquiry to study any particular subject for obtaining detailed information (Art. 98, Const.). However, it is not possible to initiate or conduct a parliamentary inquiry about:

- State and commercial secrets (Art. 105, RoP), and
- Issues pertaining to the use of judicial power (Art. 138, Const.).

A committee of inquiry is established by a resolution of the Assembly, which fixes the number of committee members, duration of the committee, and specifies the content of the inquiry (Art. 105, RoP).

Committee of Inquiry

Political party groups or at least 20 deputies may submit a motion to establish a committee of inquiry.

During the debates over the motion of inquiry, political party groups, and one of the sponsors of the motion may take the floor to explain their opinions. The Plenary shall vote by show of hands on the motion of inquiry.

If the Assembly decides to set up a committee of inquiry, it also determines the size of the committee and duration of its mandate upon the proposal of the Speaker (Art. 105, RoP). The composition of this committee must reflect the strength of the political party groups in the Assembly.

Powers of a Committee of Inquiry

A committee of inquiry is equipped with more powers than standing committees. A committee of inquiry may request information from ministries, public institutions, local governments, universities, banks established by special laws, public professional institutions, and non-profit associations.

A committee of inquiry may visit and conduct inquiries in the institutions mentioned above. The committee may work in the capital city or elsewhere if the Assembly decides so. It may hear officials concerned and may invite experts if deemed necessary (Art. 105, RoP).

Report of a Committee of Inquiry

A committee of inquiry must conclude its work within three months, or if extended, within four months. If the committee fails to conclude its inquiry in due time, the Plenary holds a debate within 15 days following the deadline. The Plenary debates on reasons for failure to conclude the inquiry or the conclusions drawn up until that time. The Assembly may establish a new inquiry committee if it does not find the discussions satisfactory (Art. 105, RoP).

The committee of inquiry produces a report that summarizes the study it has carried out and expresses its conclusions. This report is printed and distributed to deputies (Art. 42, RoP) and debated in the Plenary (Art.104, RoP). However, the Plenary does not vote on the report, meaning that it does not have the power to reject or approve the report.

Parliamentary Investigation

The parliamentary investigation is a way of parliamentary oversight by which the Assembly can open the way for vice-presidents and ministers concerned to be tried by the Constitutional Court. The Constitutional Court tries the vice-presidents, and ministers in the capacity of the Supreme Criminal Tribunal.

Motion of Parliamentary Investigation

A motion of parliamentary investigation can only be submitted by at least an absolute majority of the total number of deputies (currently 301) (Art. 106, Const.). A motion of parliamentary investigation must indicate which acts of the vice-president or minister were interpreted as a breach of particular laws (articles also), with justifications (Art. 107, RoP).

The motion submitted to the Office of the Speaker is placed on the Order Paper and read out in the Plenary. A copy of the motion is sent to the vice-president or minister concerned.

Upon the proposal of the Board of Spokespersons, the Plenary determines a day for a debate on whether to launch a parliamentary investigation or not. This debate cannot be later than one month following the submission of the motion.

During a debate on a motion of parliamentary investigation, the deputy who is the first signatory of the motion, three deputies on behalf of their names, and the vice-president or minister concerned have the right to speak (Art. 108, RoP).

Finally, the Assembly may decide to launch an investigation with a three-fifths majority of the total number of its members by secret ballot (Art. 106, Const.).

Committee of Investigation

The parliamentary investigation is carried out by a special committee, which is composed of 15 members. Committee members are chosen by lot among the candidates nominated by political parties represented in the Assembly.

Each political party is entitled to present three candidates for each seat reserved for them (Art. 106, Const.).

The committee of investigation elects its chair, a vice-chair, a secretary, and a spokesperson from among its members. The committee of investigation works behind closed doors. Only the members of the committee may attend meetings. The committee meets with an absolute majority of the total membership and decides by votes of the absolute majority of deputies who are present.

The Committee must present its report within two months. An additional period of one month may be granted upon the request of the Committee. At the end of this period, the committee has to submit its report to the Office of the Speaker (Art. 110, RoP).

Powers of the Committee of Investigation

A committee of investigation has the following powers (Art. 111, RoP):

- The committee may request necessary information and documents from government departments as well as private institutions and, if it deems necessary, may seize them.
- The committee can use all the means possessed by the executive organ.
- The committee may hear the vice-presidents, ministers, persons concerned, witnesses, and experts.
- The committee may ask judicial organs to provide legal assistance regarding taking evidence (witness, seizure, search, etc.) within the limits of general provisions of the Law on Criminal Procedure. Such a request must be in writing and include justifications.
- The committee receives the plea of the vice-president or minister concerned and obtains related documents that the defendant intends to rely on.
- The committee may set up sub-committees to carry out investigations outside Ankara.

Completion of Investigation

The committee of investigation prepares a report and submits it to the Office of the Speaker. The report is printed and distributed to the deputies and is immediately sent to the vice-president or minister(s) against whom an investigation is conducted.

The plenary debate over the report takes place within ten days following the distribution of the report. During the debate, the committee, six deputies on behalf of themselves, and the vice-president or the minister concerned have the right to speak. The vice-president or minister concerned has the last word without any time limit.

Once the debate is completed, the Assembly decides on the report by secret ballot. A decision by two-thirds of the total number of deputies (400) is required to send the vice-president or minister concerned for trial before the Supreme Criminal Tribunal.

The committee report and the resolution of the Assembly demanding the case to be sent before the Supreme Criminal Tribunal must specify the criminal provisions on which the decision is based (Art. 112, RoP).

Right to Petition

Every Turkish citizen or foreign residents based on the principle of reciprocity have the right to present a petition to the Assembly about their requests and complaints (Art. 74, Const.).

Individuals present their petitions to the Assembly in a written form or via an online system called e-petition. A petition must meet the following requirements:

- A petition must include the signature, name, surname, and address of the petitioner (Art. 4, Law No. 3071).
- A petition must contain a subject matter (Art. 6, Law No. 3071).
- A petition cannot necessitate the introduction of a new law or an amendment to the law (Art. 116, RoP).
- A petition must not be related to matters within the jurisdiction of the judicial organs (Art. 6, Law No. 3071).
- A petition must include a copy of the final reply provided by the competent authorities (Art. 116, RoP).

The Bureau of the Committee on Petitions, or if any objection arises, the full committee checks whether a petition complies with the aforementioned rules and reaches a conclusion within 60 days (Art. 8, Law No.3071). The committee decision will be final if no objection is made by any deputy within 30 days. When an objection is raised, the Plenary examines the issue and makes the final decision.

The Committee refers the petition that complies with the rules to the vice-president or minister responsible for the administration of the matter raised in the petition.

Vice-president or ministers are under obligation to reply to the petitions forwarded to them within 30 days.

If deemed necessary, the Committee may request the ministerial responses to be debated and decided in the Plenary (Art. 120, RoP).

COMMITTEES

There are three different types of committees in the Assembly: Standing, ad hoc, and joint. Standing committees are set up at the beginning of each legislative term and continue to exist until the end of legislative term. Ad-hoc committees are created by a resolution of the Assembly to conduct parliamentary inquiries or investigations. These committees cease to exist when they complete their task. Joint committees hold meetings on specific topics when required by the Constitution and laws.

Standing Committees

There are 19 standing committees in the Assembly:

1) The Committee on the Constitution
2) The Committee on Justice
3) The Committee on National Defense

4) The Committee on Internal Affairs
5) The Committee on Foreign Affairs
6) The Committee on National Education, Culture, Youth, and Sport
7) The Committee on Public Works, Reconstruction, Transportation, and Tourism
8) The Committee on Environment
9) The Committee on Health, Family, Labour, and Social Affairs
10) The Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Affairs
11) The Committee on Industry, Trade, Energy, Natural Resources, Information and Technology
12) The Committee on Equal Opportunity for Women and Men
13) The Committee on Petitions
14) The Committee on Plan and Budget
15) The Committee on State Economic Enterprises
16) The Committee on Human Rights Inquiry
17) The Committee on Security and Intelligence
18) The Committee on European Union Harmonization
19) The Committee on Digital Media

A Committee Room

Jurisdiction and Mandate

The Rules of Procedure does not expressly define the areas of jurisdiction and mandates for each standing committee. As a rule, standing committees cannot examine matters that are not referred to them (Art. 35, RoP). Therefore, most standing committees are created solely to examine bills referred to them and report to the Assembly.

Some standing committees have supervisory functions. The Committees on Petitions, Public Economic Enterprises, and Security and Intelligence do not review bills. They are only responsible for carrying out specific inquiries, studies, and tasks. Besides, the Committees on Human Rights Inquiry, Equal Opportunity for Women and Men, European Union Harmonization, and Digital Media not only study bills referred to them but also perform other supervisory tasks set out by relevant laws.

Powers of Committees

According to Article 35 of the Rules of Procedure, standing committees can only deal with matters referred to them. As a rule, the committees cannot discuss any matter on their initiative. Committees cannot introduce bills. They can only work on the bills referred to them. Committees may accept or reject bills with or without amendments. They are not allowed to divide a bill into separate texts and submit them to the Plenary.

Each standing committee is authorized to request necessary information directly from the ministries (Art. 41, RoP) but does not have the power to compel them for co-operation. Committees may also invite experts to the meetings (Art. 30, RoP).

Composition

At the beginning of each legislative term, the Assembly elects committee members to serve for two years. After two years, new members are elected for three years (Art. 20, RoP).

With some exceptions, the size of committees is determined by the Plenary on the proposal of the Board of Spokespersons (Art. 20, RoP). However, the Committees on Public Economic Enterprises (35), Security and Intelligence (17), and Digital Media (17) have a specific number of members as set out in the laws.

The composition of each committee must reflect the proportional strengths of the political party groups in the Assembly. The Speaker identifies the number of seats allocated to each political party group

in committees (Art. 21, RoP) in proportion to its percentage within the total membership of all party groups (Art. 11, RoP). In practice, starting from the smallest political party group to be represented by at least one member, other seats are distributed among party groups in proportion to their sizes. Political party groups nominate candidates for seats allocated to them within a specified period. The Plenary votes on the lists of all candidates for each committee by show of hands.

The members of the Bureau of the Assembly cannot serve in committees (Art. 21, RoP). A deputy can simultaneously be a member of more than one committee

As a rule, any deputy who is not a member of a political party group cannot serve as a committee member with the exception of four committees. Independent deputies and deputies who do not belong to any political party group are represented in the Committees on Human Rights Inquiry, European Union Harmonization, Public Economic Enterprises, and Equal Opportunity for Women and Men in proportion to their total number.

Vacancy

A committee retains the same powers and duties even if a vacancy arises. The vacant seat must be filled immediately.

Any member ceasing to be a member of a political party automatically loses his/her membership in any committee. Moreover, the mandate of any committee member ceases spontaneously when the political party he/she belongs to loses its right to form a political party group.

If the composition of a committee does not reflect the proportional strengths of the political party groups due to changes therein, the Speaker takes the necessary actions to ensure that seats are distributed among party groups in proportion to their sizes (Art. 22, RoP).

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

When committee members are elected, the Speaker calls the committees for meeting. At this meeting, each committee elects its chair, vice-chair, spokespersons, and secretaries by secret ballot.

The quorum for this election is the absolute majority of the total number of committee members. Deputy who receives the votes of an absolute majority of the members who are present is elected as chair, vice-chair, spokespersons, and secretaries (Art. 24, RoP).

A Committee Meeting

Committee Meetings

A committee meeting may be called by the committee chair, as he/she considers necessary or at the request of one-third of the committee members.

Committee chair can call such a meeting at least two days in advance unless it is not a matter of urgency. The meeting notice must specify the agenda of that meeting (Art. 26, RoP).

Committee members, the Presidency of the Republic, political party groups, relevant committees, and the first signatory deputy whose proposed bill is on the agenda are informed about the meeting notice and agenda of that meeting. The meeting notice and agenda are made available on the website of the Assembly and placed on the electronic notice board (Art. 26, RoP).

Time and Place of Committee Meetings

A committee cannot meet during sitting hours of the Plenary unless the Bureau of the Assembly decides otherwise (Art. 35, RoP). Moreover, committee meetings cannot be held during adjournment or recess, unless the Plenary determines otherwise upon the proposal of the Speaker (Art. 25, RoP).

Standing committees can only meet inside the Assembly and in rooms allotted to them by the Office of the Speaker (Art. 35, RoP). However, some committees that have supervisory functions (Committees on Human Rights Inquiry, European Union Harmonization, Equal Opportunity for Women and Men) can work and meet outside Ankara. Besides, inquiry committees can work outside Ankara if the Plenary decides so at the proposal of the Speaker (Art. 105, RoP). Investigation committees may decide to work outside Ankara when necessary (Art. 111, RoP).

Agenda of Committee Meetings

In principle, the chair determines the agenda for committee meetings. However, the committee itself is authorized to decide on its own agenda. The committee members may propose new items to be placed on the agenda for the meetings. The committee may decide to place proposed items on the agenda (Art. 26, RoP).

Presiding Committee Meetings

The chair, or when the chair is absent, the vice-chair presides over committee meetings. If the chair and the vice-chair of a committee are not present, the committee spokesperson presides over that meeting (Art. 27, RoP).

The chair maintains order if someone interrupts the speaker(s) or engages in personalities and acts disorderly. If necessary, the chair may suspend or adjourn the meeting and informs the Speaker about the situation to take necessary actions (Art. 46, RoP).

Quorum and Majority for Decision

At least one-third of the total number of members constitutes a quorum for committee meetings.

As a rule, committees take decisions by an absolute majority of members who are present (Art. 27, RoP). However, the majority for

A Committee Room

a decision in the Committees on Human Rights Inquiry, European Harmonization, Public Economic Enterprises, and Equal Opportunity for Women and Men cannot be less than a quarter plus one of the committee members.

Attendance

Committee members must attend committee meetings regularly. Committees keep the attendance register and present it to the Office of the Speaker and political party groups.

A committee member who fails to attend three successive meetings or at least one-third of the meetings in a year without excuse or leave of absence may be removed from membership by the political party group he/she belongs to. The vacancy is filled by another member of the political party group immediately (Art. 28, RoP).

Committee meetings are not open to the public. Only the deputies, vice-presidents, ministers, deputy ministers, and senior public officials may attend committee meetings. However, only committee members may initiate amendments and have the right to vote. Committees may also invite experts to present their views (Art. 30, 31, RoP).

Speeches

Committee members are entitled to speak in the order of request. However, the committee chair, vice-presidents, ministers, deputy ministers, and senior public officials who are present at a committee meeting may have the floor whenever they wish.

Experts invited to committee meetings can only speak when the chairperson deems it necessary (Art. 29, RoP).

Closed (Private) Meetings

One-third of the members of a standing committee may request to hold a private meeting. If the committee approves the request, no person other than committee members, vice-presidents, ministers, and if authorized by the committee chair, deputy ministers and senior public officials may attend that meeting.

Deliberations at a closed meeting must be kept confidential. Participants in a closed meeting are not allowed to disclose information about the debate (Art. 32, RoP).

The Committee on Security and Intelligence always meets behind closed doors (Additional Art. 2, Law No.2937),

Minutes of Committee Meetings

Debates in committee meetings are not fully recorded unless the committee decides otherwise. The secretary of the committee prepares the summary of the minutes and signs it together with the chairperson.

Committee members who are present at the meeting may annex their objections to the summary of the minutes (Art. 33, RoP).

Joint Committees

When required by the Constitution or laws, members of two different standing committees meet and work together to perform very specific duties. There are two types of joint committees in the Assembly:

- The Joint Committee composed of members of the Committee on the Constitution and the Committee on Justice;
    - examines the requests for lifting parliamentary immunity, the cases of incompatibilities, and non-attendance (Art. 131, 137, 138, RoP), and

A meeting of Joint Committte (Committee on the Constitution and Committee on Justice)

- considers nominees for the membership of the Council of Judges and Prosecutors and elects three candidates for each membership. The Assembly elects three members of the Council from among the candidates identified by the Joint Committee (Art. 159, Const.).

- The Joint Committee composed of members of the Committee on Petitions and the Committee on Human Rights Inquiry;
  - determines a list of three candidates for the post of Chief Ombudsman and informs the Office of the Speaker of the list. The Speaker submits the list to the Plenary,
  - elects Ombudsmen from among the candidates (Art. 11, Law No. 6328), and
  - discusses annual reports of the Ombudsman Institution (Art. 22, Law No.6328).

Sub-Committees

Except for the Committees on Human Rights Inquiry (Art. 6/2, Law No. 3686) and Public Economic Enterprises (Art. 5, Law No.3346), standing committees are not formally empowered to establish sub-committees. According to the provisions of the Rules of Procedure, only an investigation committee may create sub-committees to perform a particular task outside Ankara (Art. 111, RoP). However, in practice, standing and ad-hoc committees find it convenient to set up sub-committees to carry out specific and more detailed studies.

Sub-committees cease to exist once they submit their final report to the full committees. The main committees are not bound by the report or findings of sub-committees.

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GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TÜRKİYE

THE SOVEREIGNTY UNCONDITIONALLY BELONGS TO THE NATION