

Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República¹

Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República No 1/2020 of 31 August 2020
with the amendments introduced by the
Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República No 1/2023 of 9 August 2023
rectified by the Statement of Rectification No 20/2023 of 19 September

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ASSEMBLEIA DA REPÚBLICA

TITLE I

Members of the Assembleia da República and parliamentary groups

CHAPTER I

Members of the Assembleia da República

SECTION I

Mandate of Members of the Assembleia da República

Article 1

Beginning and end of term of office

The term of office of Members of the Assembleia da República shall begin and end, and suspensions, substitutions and resignations shall take place, in accordance with the Statute of Members and other applicable legislation.

Article 2

Verification of credentials

1 - The Assembleia da República shall verify Members' credentials. To this end it shall take note of a prior opinion to be issued by the competent parliamentary committee or, in the absence thereof, by a credential verification committee, whose composition shall comply with the criteria laid down in Article 29.

2 - The verification of credentials shall consist of considering whether mandates are formally in order and considering the eligibility of Members of the Assembleia da República whose mandates have been challenged on the basis of a fact which has not been the object of a judicial decision that has transited in rem judicatam.

3 - The right to challenge pertains to any Member of the Assembleia da República and may be exercised until discussion of the opinion is concluded.

4 - Any Member of the Assembleia da República whose mandate is challenged has the right to defend themselves before the competent parliamentary committee and before the Plenary, and to exercise their functions until the latter has passed a definitive decision by secret ballot.

¹ The Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República were approved by the Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República No 1/2020 of 31 August, amended by the Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República No 1/2023 of 9 August (Statement of Rectification No 20/2023 of 19 September), and the respective preambulatory norms can be consulted at the end of this document.

5 - To exercise their right of defence provided for in the previous paragraph, Members of the Assembleia da República may speak for no longer than 15 minutes in committee and five minutes in Plenary.

6 - In cases in which a challenge has been made, the time limit for preliminary investigation may not exceed thirty days, which may not be extended.

Article 2-A **Taking of office**

1 - The Members of the Assembleia da República whose mandates have been verified as being formally in order take their office, solemnly stating that they will faithfully undertake the duties which they have been invested to defend, comply with and enforce the Constitution.

2 - The taking of office is set for the first plenary sitting of the legislature by the Members of the Assembleia da República present, and this may take place at the moment of the roll-call for the election of the President of the Assembleia da República.

3 - The Members of the Assembleia da República who start their mandates later have their taking of office arranged after the first plenary sitting in which they participate.

4 - The taking of office is set by the President of the Assembleia da República and by two Secretaries of the Bureau indicated by the former.

5 - Members of the Assembleia da República are issued a certificate by the President of the Assembleia da República which identifies the legislature, the date they start their duties, their constituency and the party for which they were elected, in line with the format to be approved by decision of the Plenary, following a proposal by the President of the Assembleia da República.

Article 3 **Loss of seat**

1 - Loss of seat shall occur:

- a) In the cases provided for in the Statute of Members;
- b) When the Member fails to take their seat in the Assembleia da República by the fourth sitting thereof, or fails to attend four plenary sittings in any one legislative session, save for justified reasons.

2 - The justification of failures to attend referred to in subparagraph (1)(b) must be submitted to the President of the Assembleia da República within a time limit of five days counting from the end of the fact that justified the failure.

3 - When it has proven knowledge of any of the facts referred to in paragraph (1), the Bureau shall first take note of the prior opinion issued by the competent parliamentary committee, in accordance with the provisions of the Statute of Members, and shall then declare the loss of seat.

4 - The Bureau shall notify the interested party of its decision, which shall be published in the *Journal of the Assembleia da República*, hereinafter referred to as *Journal*.

5 - The Member of the Assembleia da República whose mandate is questioned has the right to be heard and to appeal to the Plenary at any time within the following ten days, and shall remain in office until the Plenary issues a definitive decision by secret ballot.

6 - Any other Member of the Assembleia da República also has the right to appeal within the same time limit, by means of a written and duly substantiated request, which shall be published in the *Journal*.

7 - The Plenary shall decide without prior debate, but the Member of the Assembleia da República whose mandate is questioned has the right to speak for a period of not more than fifteen minutes.

8 - Any decision by the Plenary to confirm a declaration of the loss of a seat, or to itself declare such a loss, is subject to appeal to the Constitutional Court under the terms of Article 223(2)(g) of the Constitution and the law governing the organisation, operation and procedure of the Constitutional Court.

SECTION II

Powers

Article 4

Powers of Members of the Assembleia da República

1 - Members of the Assembleia da República have the following powers in particular, which they may exercise individually or together, in accordance with these Rules of Procedure:

- a) To submit draft revisions of the Constitution;
- b) To submit Member's bills, draft Rules of Procedure, draft resolutions, particularly with regard to referenda, and draft decisions, and to request that they be scheduled for debate;
- c) To take part and speak in parliamentary debates, in accordance with these Rules of Procedure;
- d) To ask the Government questions about any of its acts or those of the Public Administration, without prejudice to the provisions of the law governing matters regarding state secrets;
- e) To request and obtain the elements, information and official publications they deem useful to the exercise of their mandate from the Government or the organs of any public entity;
- f) To move the formation of parliamentary committees of inquiry;
- g) To submit draft amendments;
- h) To move that decree-laws be considered with a view to their ceasing to be in force or their amendment;
- i) To move the emergency processing of any bill, draft resolution or draft decision, and the emergency consideration of any decree-law with a view to its ceasing to be in force or its amendment;
- j) To make motions of no confidence in the Government;
- k) To take part in discussions and voting;
- l) To propose the formation of ad hoc parliamentary committees;
- m) To propose the holding of parliamentary hearings;
- n) To ask the Constitutional Court to review the constitutionality and legality of norms, in accordance with Articles 278 and 281 of the Constitution;
- o) To appeal to the Constitutional Court against any decision by the Plenary of the Assembleia da República to confirm a declaration of the loss of a seat, or to itself declare such a loss, in accordance with Article 223(2)(g) of the Constitution and the law.

2 - In order to enable them to exercise their mandate properly, Members of the Assembleia da República have the following powers:

- a) To take their seats in the plenary chamber and parliamentary committee rooms and to speak in accordance with these Rules of Procedure;
- b) To perform specific functions in the Assembleia da República;
- c) To propose amendments to these Rules of Procedure.

SECTION III

Rights and duties

Article 5

Rights and duties of Members of the Assembleia da República

The rights and duties of Members of the Assembleia da República are set out in the Constitution, the Statute of Members, the rules of procedure governing the exercise of functions by holders of political office and senior public office, and in other applicable legal provisions, in the provisions of these Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República, the Code of Conduct of the Members of the Assembleia da República, and the regulatory provisions issued under the law.

CHAPTER II

Parliamentary groups

Article 6

Formation of parliamentary groups

1 - The Members of the Assembleia da República who are elected for each party or coalition of parties may form a parliamentary group.

2 - Each parliamentary group shall be formed by means of a notification addressed to the President of the Assembleia da República, which shall be signed by the Members of the Assembleia da República who compose the group and shall state the name of the group, its president, and its vice-presidents if any.

3 - Parliamentary groups shall notify the President of the Assembleia da República of any change in their composition or leadership.

4 - The notifications referred to in paragraphs (2) and (3) shall be published in the *Journal*.

Article 7

Organisation of parliamentary groups

1 - Each parliamentary group is free to decide how it is to be organised.

2 - The functions of President of the Assembleia da República, Vice-President of the Assembleia da República and member of the Bureau are incompatible with that of president of a parliamentary group.

Article 8

Powers of parliamentary groups

Each parliamentary group has the following powers:

- a) To participate in parliamentary committees in proportion to the number of its members, and to nominate its representatives on those committees;

- b) To decide the order of business of a certain number of plenary sittings, in accordance with Article 62;
- c) To cause the holding of emergency debates, which the Government shall attend, in accordance with Article 72;
- d) In each legislative session, to cause the holding of two debates on a matter of general or sectoral policy, by calling upon the Government to attend the Assembleia da República;
- e) To cause the holding of debates on current affairs, in accordance with Article 74;
- f) To exercise legislative initiative;
- g) To make motions rejecting the Government's Programme;
- h) To make motions of no confidence in the Government;
- i) To move the formation of parliamentary committees of inquiry;
- j) To issue oral explanations of vote after each final overall vote, in accordance with Article 155.

Article 9

Rights of parliamentary groups

Each parliamentary group has the following rights:

- a) To elect its officers and decide its internal organisation and regulations;
- b) To choose chairpersons of parliamentary committees and subcommittees, in accordance with Articles 29 and 33;
- c) To be consulted when the order of business is set and to appeal to the Plenary against that order of business;
- d) To ask the Standing Committee to call the Plenary;
- e) To make political statements in Plenary, in accordance with Article 71;
- f) To move the interruption of plenary sittings, in accordance with Article 69;
- g) To be regularly and directly informed by the Government about the situation and progress of the main matters of public interest;
- h) To dispose of places in which to work at the Seat of the Assembleia da República, together with technical and administrative staff of its choice, as laid down by law.

Article 10

Sole party representatives

1- Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political party's sole representative shall be attributed the right to intervene, for implementation in accordance with these Rules of Procedure:

- a) In the debates on matters of absolute priority referred to in Article 60(2);
- b) In other debates of legislative initiatives;
- c) In political statements in the Plenary;
- d) In emergency debates, in debates on current affairs and debates on topics;
- e) In Governmental debates, in accordance with the provisions of the respective chapter;
- f) In accordance with other provisions which expressly provide for their intervention.

2 - Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political party's sole representative shall dispose of places in which to work at the Seat of the Assembleia da República, together with technical and administrative staff of their choice, as laid down by law.

3 - Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political party's sole representative also have the right:

- a) To participate in the Conference of Leaders, be consulted when the order of business is set and to appeal to the Plenary against that order of business;
- b) To be regularly and directly informed by the Government about the situation and progress of the main matters of public interest, as laid down by law.

Article 11

Members of the Assembleia da República who are not registered with a parliamentary group

Members of the Assembleia da República who do not belong to any parliamentary group and are not sole representatives of a party shall notify the President of the Assembleia da República of that fact and shall exercise their mandate as unregistered Members.

TITLE II

Organisation of the Assembleia da República

CHAPTER I

President of the Bureau

SECTION I

President

DIVISION I

Status, role and election

Article 12

President of the Assembleia da República

1 - The President represents the Assembleia da República, directs and coordinates its work and exercises authority over all its staff and agents and over the security forces placed at the service of the Assembleia da República.

2 - The President of the Assembleia da República temporarily substitutes for the President of the Republic under the terms of Article 132 of the Constitution.

Article 13

Election of the President of the Assembleia da República

1 - Nominations for President of the Assembleia da República must be signed by a minimum of one tenth and a maximum of one fifth of all the Members.

2 - Nominations shall be submitted to the serving President of the Assembleia da República at least two hours before the moment at which the election takes place.

3 - The election shall take place during the first plenary sitting of each legislature.

4 - The candidate who obtains an absolute majority of the votes of all the Members of the Assembleia da República in full exercise of their office is elected President of the Assembleia da República.

5 - If none of the candidates obtains that number of votes, a second ballot shall immediately be held solely between the two candidates who received the highest number of votes and have not withdrawn their nomination.

6 - If no candidate is elected, the process shall recommence.

Article 14

Term of office of the President of the Assembleia da República

1 - The President of the Assembleia da República is elected for the legislature.

2 - The President of the Assembleia da República may resign their office by notifying the Assembleia da República accordingly, whereupon the resignation shall take immediate effect, without prejudice to its subsequent publication in the *Journal*.

3 - In cases in which the President of the Assembleia da República resigns their office or the position falls vacant, a new election shall be held within a time limit of fifteen days.

4 - The election of the new President of the Assembleia da República is valid for the remaining duration of the legislature.

Article 15

Substitution of the President of the Assembleia da República

1 - When absent or unable to perform their functions, the President of the Assembleia da República shall be substituted by one of the Vice-Presidents of the Assembleia da República.

2 - In cases in which he is ill, prevented from performing their functions for more than seven days by official duties, or absent abroad, the President of the Assembleia da República shall be substituted either by the Vice-President of the Assembleia da República from the party to which he himself belongs, or by such other Vice-President as he, the President, nominates.

3 - Without prejudice to the provisions of the previous paragraph, each Vice-President of the Assembleia da República shall substitute for the President of the Assembleia da República for a period corresponding to the quotient obtained by dividing the number of months in the legislative session by the number of Vice-Presidents.

4 - For the purposes of the previous paragraph, the Vice-Presidents of the Assembleia da República shall begin to exercise the President's functions by descending order of the proportional share of the seats in the Assembleia da República of the parties that proposed them for office.

DIVISION II

Competences of the President of the Assembleia da República

Article 16

Competences with regard to the work of the Assembleia da República

1 - The President of the Assembleia da República has the following competences with regard to the work of the Assembleia da República:

- a) To represent the Assembleia da República and chair the Bureau;
- b) To schedule plenary sittings and set the order of business, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 59 et sequitur;
- c) To admit or reject bills, draft resolutions, draft decisions, draft votes, motions and requests, after determining their compliance with the rules of procedure, without prejudice to the right of appeal to the Plenary;

- d) To submit the texts of bills and draft treaties or agreements for consideration by the competent parliamentary committees. If the topic concerns more than one parliamentary committee, he shall indicate which one shall be responsible for drawing up the report referred to in Article 129(1), whereupon the other or others shall provide the parliamentary committee so indicated with their contributions;
- e) To arrange the formation of parliamentary committees, supervise and stimulate their work and make every effort to ensure compliance with the time limits which the Assembleia da República sets for them;
- f) To arrange the formation of parliamentary delegations, supervise and stimulate their work and make every effort to ensure that they contribute to the visibility abroad and prestige of the Assembleia da República and the country;
- g) To inspire the formation of parliamentary friendship groups, mixed interparliamentary committees and other bodies that concern themselves with the dialogue between the Assembleia da República and countries that are friends of Portugal, and to supervise and stimulate their work and make every effort to ensure compliance with the regulations governing the matter;
- h) To convene meetings with the chairpersons of the parliamentary committees and subcommittees in order to inform himself about their work;
- i) To receive representations or petitions addressed to the Assembleia da República and forward them to the competent parliamentary committees;
- j) To propose that sessions of the Assembleia da República be suspended;
- k) To chair the Standing Committee;
- l) To chair the Conference of Leaders;
- m) To chair the Conference of Parliamentary Committee Chairpersons;
- n) To ask the competent parliamentary committee for an opinion on conflicts of competence between parliamentary committees;
- o) To have the resolutions of the Assembleia da República published in the *Journal*, in accordance with Article 166(6) of the Constitution;
- p) To maintain order and discipline, and the security of the Assembleia da República, to which end he may requisition and use such means as are necessary and take such measures as he deems fit;
- q) To order corrections in the *Journal*;
- r) To consider whether nominations that Members of the Assembleia da República submit for elected offices are in order, announce the results of the elections and proclaim the successful candidates elected;
- s) To superintend the staff in the service of the Assembleia da República;
- t) In general, to ensure that these Rules of Procedure and the decisions of the Assembleia da República are complied with.

2 - The President of the Assembleia da República has the following competences for exercise after first consulting the Conference of Leaders:

- a) To promote the development of tools aimed at the direct or indirect contact of Members of the Assembleia da República with their voters, including the establishment of ways to serve the electorate in their respective constituencies;
- b) To establish protocol agreements and assistance protocols with higher education institutions;
- c) To superintend the website and social media accounts of the Assembleia da República and the Parliament Channel;
- d) Exceptionally, to invite prominent Portuguese or foreign persons to sit in the plenary chamber and address the Assembleia da República.

3 - The President of the Assembleia da República may delegate the exercise of their powers and competences to the Vice-Presidents of the Assembleia da República by order published in the *Journal*.

Article 17

Competences with regard to plenary sittings

1 - The President of the Assembleia da República has the following competences with regard to plenary sittings:

- a) To chair plenary sittings, declare them open, suspended and closed and direct their work;
- b) To give Members of the Assembleia da República and members of the Government the floor and ensure order during debates;
- c) To acquaint the Assembleia da República in good time with the messages, information, explanations and invitations that are addressed to it;
- d) To put proposals, motions and requests that are admitted to discussion and the vote.

2 - The President of the Assembleia da República may ask for clarifications and take the initiative of giving Members of the Assembleia da República the floor, whenever this becomes necessary for the proper conduct of the work.

3 - The decisions of the President of the Assembleia da República during plenary sittings may always be the object of complaint, as well as of appeal to the Plenary.

Article 18

Competences with regard to Members of the Assembleia da República

1 - The President of the Assembleia da República has the following competences with regard to Members of the Assembleia da República:

- a) To rule on justifications presented by Members of the Assembleia da República who fail to attend plenary sittings, in accordance with Article 3;
- b) To approve requests for temporary substitution, in accordance with the Statute of Members;
- c) To ask the Parliamentary Committee on Transparency and the Statute of Members to examine conflicts of interests or to hold investigations into facts occurring within the scope of the Assembleia da República that compromise the honour or dignity of any Members of the Assembleia da República, as well as any serious irregularities committed in breach of Members' duties;
- d) To receive resignations of seats and have them published;
- e) To arrange for the competent parliamentary committee to take the steps needed to verify the credentials of Members of the Assembleia da República;
- f) To follow up motions, requests and questions submitted by Members of the Assembleia da República in accordance with Article 4;
- g) To authorise official travel.

2 - The President of the Assembleia da República may delegate the exercise of the competences referred to in points (a), (f) and (g) of the preceding paragraph to the Vice-Presidents of the Assembleia da República or other members of the Bureau, via an order published in the *Journal*.

Article 19

Competences with regard to other entities

The President of the Assembleia da República has the following competences with regard to other entities:

- a) To send decrees of the Assembleia da República to the President of the Republic for the purposes of Article 134(b) of the Constitution;
- b) Following their approval, to send international treaties to the President of the Republic for the purposes of Article 135(b) of the Constitution;
- c) For the purposes provided for in Article 195 of the Constitution, to notify the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister of the results of voting on motions rejecting the Government's Programme, and on motions of confidence or no confidence in the Government;
- d) By agreement with the Government, to schedule the plenary sittings at which members of the Government will be present to reply to questions and requests for clarification from Members of the Assembleia da República;
- e) To sign documents sent in the name of the Assembleia da República;
- f) To head delegations of the Assembleia da República to which he himself belongs.

DIVISION III **Conference of Leaders**

Article 20 **Modus operandi of the Conference of Leaders**

- 1 - Whenever he or she deems it necessary for the proper functioning of the Assembleia da República, the President of the Assembleia da República shall meet the parliamentary group chairpersons or their substitutes and the Members of the Assembleia da República who are sole representatives of a political party, if any, in order to consider the matters provided for in Article 16(1)(b) and others provided for in these Rules of Procedure.
- 2 - The Government has the right to be represented at the Conference of Leaders and may intervene in matters that are not exclusively related to the Assembleia da República.
- 3 - Parliamentary group representatives have the same number of votes at the Conference of Leaders as the number of Members of the Assembleia da República they represent.
- 4 - In the absence of a consensus, the Conference of Leaders takes decisions by majority, subject to the presence of representatives of an absolute majority of all the Members of the Assembleia da República in full exercise of their office.

DIVISION IV **Conference of Parliamentary Committee Chairpersons**

Article 21 **Modus operandi and competences of the Conference of Parliamentary Committee Chairpersons**

- 1 - The Conference of Parliamentary Committee Chairpersons shall meet regularly in order to supervise the functional aspects of the activities of the parliamentary committees, as well as to assess the general conditions pertaining to the legislative process and whether laws are being duly implemented.
- 2 - The Conference of Parliamentary Committee Chairpersons is chaired by the President of the Assembleia da República, who may delegate.
- 3 - The Conference of Parliamentary Committee Chairpersons especially has the competences:

- a) To participate in the coordination of the parliamentary committees' functional organisation and technical support;
- b) From the perspective of a proper drafting of laws and the efficiency of parliamentary work, to consider the general conditions pertaining to the legislative process;
- c) At the beginning of each legislative session, to arrange for the drawing up of a progress report on the activity of the Government concerning:
 - i) Passage and entry into force of laws and the consequent regulations, including compliance with the respective time limits;
 - ii) The assessment of the constitutional and procedural duties of the Members of the Assembleia da República as regards questions, motions and requests;
 - iii) The policy follow-up by the Government of resolutions of the Assembleia da República containing recommendations addressed to that body exercising sovereign power;
 - iv) Information to be provided to the Assembleia da República on the scope of the approval of laws and decree-laws;
- d) With regard to laws that have been passed, to determine which shall be the object of a qualitative evaluation of their contents, of the resources allocated to their implementation, and of their practical effects;
- e) To ensure that the functioning of parliamentary standing committees is harmonised, in particular by issuing guidelines on their respective rules of procedure.

4 - Without prejudice to the previous paragraph, parliamentary committees may ask the Member of the Assembleia da República who is acting as the respective rapporteur, or if it is impossible for him to do so, any Member on the parliamentary committee, for a report on the qualitative monitoring of the regulation and implementation of given legislation.

SECTION II

The Bureau of the Assembleia da República

Article 22

Composition of the Bureau of the Assembleia da República

1 - The President of the Assembleia da República and the Vice-Presidents of the Assembleia da República comprise the Presidency of the Assembleia da República.

2 - The Bureau of the Assembleia da República is composed of the President of the Assembleia da República, four Vice-Presidents, four Secretaries and four Vice-Secretaries.

3 - At plenary sittings the Bureau comprises the President of the Assembleia da República and the Secretaries.

4 - In the absence of both the President of the Assembleia da República and their substitute under Article 15, sittings shall be chaired by the other Vice-Presidents on a rotating basis or, in their absence, by the most senior Member of the Assembleia da República and, in the case of identical seniority, by the oldest of these Members.

5 - When absent, the Secretaries are substituted by the Vice-Secretaries.

6 - When absent, the Vice-Secretaries are substituted by the Members of the Assembleia da República designated by the President of the Assembleia da República.

Article 23

Election of the Bureau of the Assembleia da República

1 - The Vice-Presidents, Secretaries and Vice-Secretaries of the Assembleia da República are elected by ballot for complete nominative lists.

2 - Each of the four largest parliamentary groups shall propose one Vice-President and, when it has one tenth or more of all the Members of the Assembleia da República, at least one Secretary and one Vice-Secretary.

3 - Candidates who obtain an absolute majority of the votes of all the Members of the Assembleia da República in full exercise of their office shall be deemed elected.

4 - If any candidate is not elected, a new ballot for their place on the list shall immediately be held at the same sitting, until the situation described in the following paragraph is achieved.

5 - Once the President and half the remaining members of the Bureau have been elected, the quorum needed for the Bureau to function shall be deemed to have been reached.

6 - Once the sitting has ended, even if the vacancies have not all been filled, but provided that it already includes the Vice-Presidents, the President shall notify the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister of the Bureau's composition.

7 - The Bureau shall remain in office until the beginning of the next legislature.

Article 24

Term of office

1 - The Vice-Presidents, Secretaries and Vice-Secretaries of the Assembleia da República are elected per legislature.

2 - Vice-Presidents, Secretaries and Vice-Secretaries may resign their office by making a written statement addressed to the Assembleia da República, whereupon the resignation shall take immediate effect, without prejudice to its subsequent publication in the *Journal*.

3 - In cases in which a member of the Bureau resigns, their office falls vacant, or their mandate as Member of the Assembleia da República is suspended, a new member shall be elected by the fifth sitting of the Assembleia da República immediately thereafter, in accordance with the regime laid down in paragraph (4) of the previous Article.

Article 25

General competences of the Bureau

1 - The Bureau has the competences:

- a) To declare that any Member of the Assembleia da República has lost their seat, in accordance with Article 3;
- b) To ensure that the secretarial services perform their duties in full;
- c) To establish the regulations governing entry to and presence in the public galleries;
- d) In general, to assist the President of the Assembleia da República in the exercise of their functions.

2 - The President of the Assembleia da República may delegate the competences referred to in point (b) of the preceding paragraph to one of the Secretaries, as well as the notification of decisions of the Conference of Leaders.

Article 26

Competences of the Bureau of the Assembleia da República with regard to plenary sittings

- 1 - The Bureau has the following competences with regard to plenary sittings:
 - a) To incorporate oral and written initiatives submitted by Members of the Assembleia da República, parliamentary groups and the Government into the forms provided for in these Rules of Procedure;
 - b) To decide questions regarding the interpretation and completion of these Rules of Procedure;
 - c) To consider and decide complaints regarding the *Journal*.
- 2 - The Bureau's decisions may be the object of complaint and appeal to the Plenary.

Article 27

Vice-Presidents of the Assembleia da República

The Vice-Presidents of the Assembleia da República have the competences:

- a) To advise the President of the Assembleia da República in the performance of their functions;
- b) To substitute for the President of the Assembleia da República, in accordance with Article 15;
- c) To exercise the powers and competences that the President of the Assembleia da República delegates to them;
- d) To act as deputy chairman of the Standing Committee;
- e) To perform the functions involved in representing the Assembleia da República that the President of the Assembleia da República charges them with.

Article 28

Secretaries and Vice-Secretaries

- 1 - The Secretaries have the competences to ensure the Bureau's day-to-day business, particularly:
 - a) To verify who is present at plenary sittings, verify the quorum at any time, and record votes;
 - b) To establish the order of the matters that are to be put to the vote;
 - c) To organise the register of Members of the Assembleia da República and members of the Government who wish to speak;
 - d) To read out indispensable texts during plenary sittings;
 - e) To arrange the publication of the *Journal*;
 - f) When so delegated by the President of the Assembleia da República, to sign correspondence sent in the name of the Assembleia da República.
- 2 - The Vice-Secretaries have the competences:
 - a) To substitute for the Secretaries when they are absent or unable to perform their functions;
 - b) To serve as tellers.

CHAPTER II
Parliamentary committees

SECTION I
General provisions

Article 29
Composition of parliamentary committees

1 - The composition of parliamentary committees must be proportional to each parliamentary group's share of the seats in the Assembleia da República.

2 - Parliamentary committee chairmanships shall be distributed as a whole among the parliamentary groups in proportion to the number of Members of the Assembleia da República in each group.

3 - For the purposes of the previous paragraph and without prejudice to the principle of proportionality, the parliamentary groups shall choose their chairmanships in order of priority, beginning with the parliamentary group with the largest share of the seats in the Assembleia da República.

4 - The Assembleia da República shall decide the number of members of each parliamentary committee and the distribution of seats among the different parliamentary groups upon a proposal from the President of the Assembleia da República, who shall first consult the Conference of Leaders.

5 - The decision referred to in the previous paragraph must mention which unregistered Members of the Assembleia da República and Members who are sole representatives of a political party are to be members of parliamentary committees.

6 - Exceptionally, in the light of their nature, parliamentary committees may possess a mixed composition with permanent and non-permanent members depending on the items on their orders of business. This composition shall comply with the following:

- a) Permanent seats shall be distributed in compliance with the principle of representation in accordance with each parliamentary group's proportional share of the seats in the Assembleia da República;
- b) Each parliamentary standing committee shall appoint and mandate its non-permanent members, who shall enjoy all the rights of the permanent members, save the right to vote.

7 - Without prejudice to the quorum for sitting and making decisions or to the rules applicable to the attendance of Members of the Assembleia da República in committee, each parliamentary group's votes in committee shall correspond to its share of seats in the Assembleia da República, and the number of votes cast individually in a manner different from that of the parliamentary group line shall be specified, as well as their influence on the result, where applicable.

Article 30
Appointment of parliamentary committee members

1 - The appointment of Members of the Assembleia da República to sit on parliamentary committees is a competence of their parliamentary groups, which shall appoint them within the time limit set by the President of the Assembleia da República.

2 - If any parliamentary group does not wish or is unable to appoint representatives, the vacancies shall not be filled by Members of the Assembleia da República from other parliamentary groups.

3 - Each Member of the Assembleia da República may be:

- a) An effective member of up to two parliamentary standing committees and a supplement member of a third; or
- b) An effective member of one parliamentary standing committee and a supplement member of up to two parliamentary standing committees.

4 - Without prejudice to the provisions of the previous paragraph, a Member of the Assembleia da República may be appointed as an effective member or a substitute member of up to four parliamentary standing committees:

- a) If, due to the number of Members of the Assembleia da República who belong to it, their parliamentary group is unable to have representatives on all the parliamentary committees; or
- b) When the Member of the Assembleia da República is a political party's sole representative.

5 - A Member of the Assembleia da República may be appointed as an effective member of up to three parliamentary standing committees:

- a) When this is necessary to ensure the provisions of paragraph (1) of the previous article; or
- b) When this concerns a non-attached Member of the Assembleia da República.

6 - Substitute members enjoy all the rights of effective members, save that they only have the right to vote if they are substituting for an effective member.

7 - Members of the Assembleia da República who are effective or supplement members of a parliamentary committee, when participating as a substitute for an effective member of their parliamentary group, shall enjoy all the rights of effective members, including the right to vote.

8 - Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political party's sole representative shall state their options as to which parliamentary standing committees they wish to join at the start of each legislative session, and the decision mentioned in paragraph (4) of the previous Article should provide for such a choice in determining the number of Members of the Assembleia da República for each committee.

9 - Unregistered Members of the Assembleia da República shall indicate their options as to which parliamentary standing committees they wish to join and, after first consulting the Conference of Leaders and wherever possible in compliance with those options, the President of the Assembleia da República shall designate the parliamentary committee or committees to which each such Member must belong.

Article 31 **Exercise of functions**

1 - Members of the Assembleia da República are appointed to parliamentary standing committees per legislature.

2 - A Member of the Assembleia da República shall cease to be a member of a parliamentary committee:

- a) If he ceases to belong to the parliamentary group that nominated him;
- b) If he so requests;
- c) Whenever their parliamentary group replaces him on the parliamentary committee in question;
- d) If he fails to attend four meetings of the parliamentary committee in a given legislative session, save for duly justified reasons.

3 - Parliamentary committee chairpersons have the competence to justify the failures to attend of their effective members, in accordance with Article 3(2).

4 - On the basis of the information they possess, the parliamentary committee support services shall, on their own initiative, note on the attendance sheets any effective committee members who do not attend a meeting because they are engaged in parliamentary work provided for in Article 53, which absences shall not be deemed failures to attend.

Article 32

Parliamentary committee officers

1 - The officers of each parliamentary committee comprise a chairperson and two or more deputy chairpersons.

2 - The members of the bureau shall be appointed by the parliamentary groups in accordance with the proportional distribution of presidencies and vice-presidencies, at the parliamentary committee's first meeting, which shall be convened or chaired by the President of the Assembleia da República or by one of the Vice-Presidents of the Assembleia da República representing the former.

3 - The President of the Assembleia da República shall arrange for the steps needed to ensure that the provisions of Article 29(2) are complied with.

4 - Each parliamentary committee must notify the President of the Assembleia da República of the composition of its officers, and he shall have it published in the *Journal*.

5 - The bureau shall meet regularly with the parliamentary group coordinators, who may be substituted by another Member sitting in the committee, and with the Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political party's sole representative forming part of the committee in order to prepare the work, the chair may, where they deem it necessary for the smooth running of the committee, convene non-attached Members who are members of the committee.

6 - Committee chairs shall have the following competences:

- a) To represent the committee;
- b) To convene committee meetings after first consulting the other members of the bureau and the coordinators of the parliamentary groups on the committee;
- c) To direct the Committee's work;
- d) To convene and chair meetings of the bureau;
- e) To monitor the work of subcommittees in coordination with their chairs, and to take part therein where the committee chair deems fit;
- f) To participate in the Conference of Parliamentary Committee Chairpersons, and inform it of the progress of the Committee's work;

- g) To justify the committee members' failures to attend;
- h) To discharge the committee's day-to-day business, in accordance with the criterion set by the committee.

7 - The deputy chairs shall deputise for the chair whenever the chair is absent or unable to perform their functions and exercise any competences the latter may delegate to them.

8 - In the absence of both the committee chair and the deputy chairs, meetings shall be chaired by the most senior Member of the Assembleia da República and, in the case of identical seniority, by the oldest among the most senior Members.

9 - The provisions of paragraphs (6) to (8) shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to subcommittee chairs and working group coordinators.

Article 33

Subcommittees

1 - Without prejudice to the competences of the parliamentary standing committees, subcommittees may be set up, subject to prior authorisation by the President of the Assembleia da República, who shall first consult the Conference of Parliamentary Committee Chairpersons.

2 - Parliamentary committees have the competence to define the composition and scope of their subcommittees.

3 - Members of the Assembleia da República who are not members of the respective committee may form part of such subcommittees.

4 - The chairpersonships of subcommittees shall be divided up between the parliamentary groups in accordance with Article 29(2), with the first chairpersonship ensuring alternation regarding the chairpersonship of the parliamentary committee of which it forms part.

5 - Subcommittees shall present their conclusions at the end of their work or each legislative session to their respective committee.

6 - For the purpose of publication in the *Journal*, each parliamentary committee chairman shall notify the President of the Assembleia da República of the name of any subcommittee that the parliamentary committee forms and of the names of the respective chairman and members.

7 - In everything not explicitly regulated, the rules established for parliamentary committees additionally apply to subcommittees.

8 - Subcommittees only have the power to decide on their organisation and functioning or to hold indicative votes, through application of the provisions of Article 29(7).

Article 33-A

Working groups

1 - Without prejudice to their own competence, each parliamentary standing committee may set up working groups:

- a) To undertake preparatory work for discussion and voting on the details of bills and draft resolutions or other matters within the competence of the committee;
- b) To ensure the holding of hearings or the hearing of petitioners;

c) To undertake the thematic monitoring of material within the competence of the committee.

2 - Parliamentary committees have the competence to define the composition and scope of their working groups.

3 - Member of the Assembleia da República who are not members of the respective committee may form part of such working groups.

4 - The coordination of working groups shall be divided up between the parliamentary groups in accordance with Article 29(2).

5 - The working groups shall present a report at the end of their work or each legislative session to their respective committee.

6 - The rules laid down for parliamentary committees shall additionally apply to working groups.

7 - Working groups only have the power to decide on their organisation and functioning or to hold indicative votes, through application of the provisions of Article 29(7).

Article 33-B Rapporteurs

1 - Parliamentary committees may appoint a Member of the Assembleia da República to ensure that a report is drawn up on a subject within the competence of the committee that is not the subject of a legislative initiative.

2 - The decision appointing the rapporteur must state the purpose of this, the deadline for drawing up the report and, optionally, some of the organisations that must be consulted first before drawing up the report.

3 - The activity of any rapporteur may be linked to the activity of a subcommittee or working group in the decision made to appoint them.

4 - The nomination of rapporteurs shall be divided up among the parliamentary groups in accordance with Article 29(2).

5 - If the report is not adopted, the committee may appoint another rapporteur or choose not to draw up a report.

6 - The rapporteur may ask to be replaced by another Member of the Assembleia da República where they consider that the introduction of amendments, or the alteration or deletion of any of the components of the draft report they submitted prevents them from taking responsibility for its authorship.

SECTION II
Standing and ad hoc parliamentary committees

DIVISION I
Parliamentary standing committees

Article 34

List of parliamentary standing committees

1 - At the beginning of each legislature, upon a proposal from the President of the Assembleia da República, who shall first consult the Conference of Leaders, the Plenary shall decide the list of parliamentary standing committees and the specific competences of each one, without prejudice to any attribution of specific competences to parliamentary committees by law.

2 - Exceptionally, when so justified, upon a proposal from the President of the Assembleia da República, who shall first consult the Conference of Leaders, or from a parliamentary group, the Plenary shall decide whether to alter the list of parliamentary standing committees or the division of competences between them.

Article 35

Competences of parliamentary standing committees

Parliamentary standing committees have the competences:

- a) To consider bills, draft amendments, treaties and agreements that are submitted to the Assembleia da República, and to produce the competent reports;
- b) To consider presentations of legislative initiatives, in accordance with Article 132;
- c) To vote on the details of texts that the Plenary has passed on the general principles, in accordance with, and within the limits laid down in, Article 168 of the Constitution and these Rules of Procedure;
- d) In accordance with the Constitution and the law and without prejudice to the competences of the Plenary, to monitor, consider and pronounce on Portugal's participation in the process of constructing the European Union, and to draw up reports on the information referred to in Article 197(1)(i) of the Constitution;
- e) To consider petitions addressed to the Assembleia da República;
- f) To inform themselves about political and administrative problems that fall within their areas of competence and, when the Assembleia da República deems fit, to provide it with the elements needed to consider the acts of the Government and the Public Administration;
- g) To verify whether the Government and the Administration have complied with the laws and resolutions of the Assembleia da República, in which respect parliamentary standing committees may suggest the measures they deem appropriate to the Assembleia da República;
- h) To propose to the President of the Assembleia da República that the Plenary hold debates on topics that fall within the areas of competence of the parliamentary committee in question, so that the Conference of Leaders can judge their timeliness and interest;
- i) To draw up reports on matters that fall within their areas of competence;
- j) To draw up and pass their own regulations;
- k) To approve the committee's Activity Plan and Budget;
- l) To consider questions regarding mandates and these Rules of Procedure;
- m) To present and consider draft votes pursuant to Article 75.

Article 36
Articulation between parliamentary committees, parliamentary delegations and parliamentary friendship groups

The parliamentary committees with competence for the matter in question shall ensure articulation with parliamentary delegations and parliamentary friendship groups, particularly by:

- a) Periodically arranging joint meetings;
- b) Considering the respective orders of business and reports in a timely manner;
- c) Promoting participation in their meetings and specific activities.

DIVISION II
Ad hoc parliamentary committees

Article 37
Formation of ad hoc parliamentary committees

1 - The Assembleia da República may form ad hoc parliamentary committees for any given purpose.

2 - Save for committees of inquiry, the initiative to form ad hoc parliamentary committees may be exercised by at least ten Members of the Assembleia da República or any parliamentary group.

Article 38
Competences of ad hoc parliamentary committees

Ad hoc parliamentary committees have the competence to consider the matters for which they were formed, and shall submit the respective reports within the time limits set by the Assembleia da República.

Article 38-A
Modus operandi of ad hoc parliamentary committees

1 - In everything not explicitly regulated by law or the Rules of Procedure, the rules laid down for parliamentary standing committees additionally apply to ad hoc parliamentary committees.

2 - The Members of the Assembleia da República which make up ad hoc parliamentary committees shall be appointed by the respective parliamentary groups.

3 - The limits set out in Article 30 shall not apply to nominations by parliamentary groups and Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political party's sole representative.

CHAPTER III
The Standing Committee

Article 39
Modus operandi of the Standing Committee

1- The Standing Committee of the Assembleia da República functions during periods when the Assembleia da República is not in full session or is dissolved, and in the other cases provided for in the Constitution.

2 - At the beginning of each legislature, the Assembleia da República shall approve the Standing Committee's Rules of Procedures; the provisions of these Rules of Procedure shall apply additionally to its operation.

Article 40

Composition of the Standing Committee

1 - The Standing Committee is chaired by the President of the Assembleia da República and is also composed of the Vice-Presidents of the Assembleia da República and of Members of the Assembleia da República appointed by all the political parties, in accordance with the latter's proportional share of the seats in the Assembleia da República.

2 - The precepts contained in Articles 29, 30 and 31 apply to the Standing Committee.

Article 41

Competences of the Standing Committee

1 - The Standing Committee has the competences:

- a) To monitor the activities of the Government and the Administration;
- b) Without prejudice to the specific powers of the President of the Assembleia da República and the competent parliamentary committee, to exercise the powers of the Assembleia da República with regard to the mandates of the Members of the Assembleia da República;
- c) To arrange to call the Assembleia da República whenever necessary;
- d) To prepare the opening of the legislative session;
- e) To consent to the President of the Republic's absence from Portuguese territory;
- f) To authorise the President of the Republic to declare a state of siege or a state of emergency, declare war and make peace;
- g) If necessary for the proper pursuit of their work, to authorise the functioning of parliamentary committees during periods when the legislative session is suspended;
- h) To decide complaints regarding inaccuracies in the texts of the final drafts of the decrees and resolutions of the Assembleia da República;
- i) To appoint parliamentary delegations;
- j) To draw up its own regulations.

2 - In the case provided for in subparagraph (f) of the previous paragraph, the Standing Committee shall arrange to call the Assembleia da República in the shortest possible time, using any means of communication that enables the call to be made known and publicised effectively.

CHAPTER IV

Delegations of the Assembleia da República

Article 42

Parliamentary delegations

1 - Parliamentary delegations may be standing or ad hoc in nature.

2 - The delegations of the Assembleia da República must respect the principles laid down in Articles 29 and 30.

3 - When delegations cannot include representatives of all the parliamentary groups, their composition shall be determined by the Conference of Leaders or, in the absence of agreement, by the Plenary.

4 - When their mission is complete or, in the case of standing delegations, at the end of each legislative session, the delegations of the Assembleia da República shall draw up a report containing the information needed to evaluate their purposes, which shall be sent to the President of the Assembleia da República and, if he so decides, shall be presented in Plenary. The reports shall in any case be distributed to the parliamentary committees with competence for the matter in question and published in the *Journal*.

5 - Whenever it is justified to do so, standing delegations must draw up a report addressed to the President of the Assembleia da República.

CHAPTER V

Parliamentary friendship groups

Article 43

Notion and object

1 - Parliamentary friendship groups are bodies of the Assembleia da República whose vocation is to engage in dialogue and cooperation with the Parliaments of the countries that are friends of Portugal.

2 - Parliamentary friendship groups shall promote the actions needed to intensify relations with the Parliament and parliamentarians of other states, particularly:

- a) The general exchange of knowledge and experiences;
- b) The study of bilateral relations and their place within the alliances and institutions in which both states participate;
- c) The publicising and promotion of common interests and objectives in the political, economic, social and cultural fields;
- d) The exchange of information and mutual consultations with a view to the possibility of articulating positions in international bodies of an interparliamentary nature, without prejudice to the full autonomy of each national group;
- e) Joint reflection on problems that involve the two states and their nationals, and the search for solutions that pertain to each state's legislative competence;
- f) The attachment of increased value to the historical and current role of emigrant communities from the two states, if any exist.

Article 44

Composition of parliamentary friendship groups

1 - The composition of parliamentary friendship groups must have a multiparty character and reflect the composition of the Assembleia da República.

2 - Each parliamentary friendship group has a chair and two vice-chairs, and the chairs and vice-chairs as a whole are distributed as a whole among the parliamentary groups in proportion to the number of Members of the Assembleia da República in each group.

3 - For the purposes of the previous paragraph and without prejudice to the principle of proportionality, parliamentary groups shall choose their chairmanships in order of priority, beginning with the largest parliamentary group.

4 - The Assembleia da República shall decide the number of the members of each parliamentary friendship group and the distribution of seats among the different parliamentary groups upon a

proposal from the President of the Assembleia da República, who shall first consult the Conference of Leaders.

5 - The decision referred to in the previous paragraph must mention which unregistered Members of the Assembleia da República and Members who are sole representatives of a political party are to belong to parliamentary friendship groups.

6 - The competence to indicate which Members of the Assembleia da República are to belong to parliamentary friendship groups lies with the respective parliamentary groups and must be exercised within the time limit set by the President of the Assembleia da República.

7 - No Member of the Assembleia da República may belong to more than four parliamentary friendship groups or parliamentary forums.

Article 45

List and composition of parliamentary friendship groups

1 - The Plenary shall decide the list of parliamentary friendship groups at the beginning of each legislature, following a proposal from the President of the Assembleia da República, who shall first consult the Conference of Leaders.

2 - Where justified, and again following a proposal from the President of the Assembleia da República, who shall first consult the Conference of Leaders, the Plenary shall decide whether to create other parliamentary friendship groups, or terminate or suspend the functioning of existing parliamentary friendship groups.

3 - As a rule, each parliamentary friendship group seeks to liaise with counterparts in a single country, without prejudice to a decision to the contrary by the Conference of Leaders, following a reasoned recommendation from the parliamentary committee responsible for foreign affairs.

4 - Parliamentary friendship groups can only be set up with countries with which Portugal maintains diplomatic relations and which have parliamentary institutions, and reciprocity must be ensured through the existence of a similar friendship group.

5 - At the end of each legislative session, the constitution and continuation of a similar parliamentary group or the existence of justifiable reasons for not constituting one shall be assessed.

Article 46

Modus operandi of parliamentary friendship groups

1 - Parliamentary friendship groups may in particular:

- a) Hold meetings with their counterpart groups, on a basis of exchange and reciprocity;
- b) Engage in relations with other entities that seek to bring states and their respective peoples closer together, by supporting initiatives and undertaking joint actions or other forms of cooperation;
- c) Invite members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of international organisations, experts and other entities whose contribution they deem important to the pursuit of their own purposes to participate in their meetings or in the activities that they promote, arrange or support.

2 - Each parliamentary friendship group shall draw up a programme of annual activities, which it shall submit for approval to the President of the Assembleia da República, and of which it informs the parliamentary standing committee responsible for foreign affairs.

3 - Each parliamentary friendship group shall draw up and approve an annual report on its activities, of which it shall inform the President of the Assembleia da República and the parliamentary standing committee responsible for foreign affairs.

4 - Trips undertaken within the scope of parliamentary friendship groups are considered to be of parliamentary interest.

5 - The Assembleia da República may take decisions to regulate other matters relating to parliamentary friendship groups.

Article 46-A

Parliamentary groups linked to international organisations or associations

1 - Groups of Members of the Assembleia da República with a special interest in monitoring the activities of an international organisation or association may be established, provided that the bodies representing that organisation have so requested the President of the Assembleia da República.

2 - The groups referred to in the previous paragraph shall be established by decision of the Plenary, following a proposal from the President of the Assembleia da República, who shall first consult the Conference of Leaders.

3 - For everything that is not defined in the Rules of Procedure and in the regulation establishing each group, the provisions of the previous articles relating to the parliamentary friendship groups shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

4 - The setting up of a group shall not prejudice the activities of the Assembleia da República's standing delegations to international organisations, and forms of coordination should be established whenever justified.

CHAPTER VI

Bilateral parliamentary forums

Article 47

Bilateral parliamentary forums

1 - Parliamentary forums are bodies established by the Assembleia da República and by parliaments of countries with which Portugal maintains diplomatic relations and which have democratically elected parliamentary institutions, aimed at dialogue and strengthened ongoing cooperation.

2 - Each forum shall be established by decision of the Assembleia da República, and shall consist of an equal number of members from each parliament, and must have a multiparty character and reflect the composition of the Assembleia da República.

3 - Each of the parliamentary institutions may set up a standing committee, of a multi-party character including a chair and up to two vice-chairs, as well as set up thematic working or contact groups to monitor specific issues.

4 - Only a bilateral parliamentary forum or a parliamentary friendship group may be set up with each country.

5 - For everything that is not defined in the Rules of Procedure and in the regulation establishing each forum, the provisions of the previous chapter relating to the parliamentary friendship groups shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

TITLE III Modus operandi

CHAPTER I General rules governing the modus operandi

Article 48 Seat of the Assembleia da República

1 - The Seat of the Assembleia da República is in Lisbon, at São Bento Palace.

2 - When so required by operational needs, the work of the Assembleia da República may be conducted at another location.

Article 49 Legislative sessions and normal parliamentary term

1 - The legislative session lasts for one year beginning on 15 September.

2 - Without prejudice to suspensions which the Assembleia da República decides by a two-thirds majority of the Members present, the normal parliamentary term runs from 15 September to 15 June.

3 - Before the end of each legislative session, upon a proposal from the President of the Assembleia da República, who shall first consult the Conference of Leaders, the Plenary shall pass the schedule of parliamentary activities for the following legislative session.

4 - In the case provided for in Article 171(2) of the Constitution, the potestative rights established in these Rules of Procedure increase in proportion to the duration of the period in question, save for the provisions regarding calls upon the Government to attend the Assembleia da República.

Article 50 Extraordinary parliamentary committee meetings

1 - Any parliamentary committee may function outside the normal parliamentary term and while the Assembleia da República is suspended, if this is indispensable to the proper pursuit of its work and, with the consent of the majority of the members of the parliamentary committee, the Assembleia da República so decides.

2 - In order to prepare the work of the forthcoming legislative session, the President of the Assembleia da República may arrange for any parliamentary committee to be convened for the fifteen days before the beginning thereof.

3 - The provisions of paragraph (1) do not apply to the parliamentary committee with the competence to pronounce on matters regarding the verification of the credentials, loss of seat or immunity of Members of the Assembleia da República, as laid down in these Rules of Procedure or the Statute of Members.

Article 51

Calling the Assembleia da República outside the normal parliamentary term

1 - Following a Plenary decision to extend the normal parliamentary term, or on the initiative of the Standing Committee or, if the latter is unable to function and there is a dire emergency, on the initiative of more than half of all the Members, the Assembleia da República may function outside the term laid down in Article 49(2).

2 - In cases in which the Assembleia da República is called on the initiative of more than half the Members, the call must be made public by the appropriate means of communication.

3 - The President of the Republic may also call the Assembleia da República on an extraordinary basis in order to address specific subjects.

Article 52

Suspension of plenary sittings

1 - During a full session, the Assembleia da República may decide to suspend its plenary sittings for the purpose of parliamentary committee work.

2 - Such suspensions may not exceed two weeks, except during the period for discussion and voting on the details of the State Budget.

Article 53

Parliamentary work

1 - The following are deemed parliamentary work:

- a) Plenary sittings, and meetings of the Standing Committee;
- b) Meetings of parliamentary committees and subcommittees;
- c) Meetings of the Conference of Leaders and the Conference of Parliamentary Committee Chairpersons;
- d) Meetings of working groups established within the scope of the bodies referred to in the previous points;
- e) Meetings of the bureau and meetings of parliamentary committee coordinators;
- f) Meetings of parliamentary groups and their governing, management and supervisory bodies, including meetings of parliamentary groups in preparation for the legislature held between the elections and the first sitting of the Assembleia da República.

2 - The following are also deemed parliamentary work:

- a) Participation by Members of the Assembleia da República in meetings of international organisations;
- b) Meetings and missions of parliamentary delegations and parliamentary friendship groups, bilateral parliamentary forums and groups connected to international organisations and associations duly authorised by the President of the Assembleia da República;
- c) Representation of the Assembleia da República, parliamentary committees or other parliamentary bodies at protocol events or ceremonies;
- d) Parliamentary seminars arranged by parliamentary groups;

- e) Other meetings convened by the President of the Assembleia da República;
- f) Meetings held by parliamentary groups and Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political party's sole representative to analyse voting lists and prepare for votes on the State Budget, which are notified to the services and which record the physical attendance of the participants in the Assembleia da República;
- g) Work by the Bureau of the Assembleia da República to prepare the Conference of leaders or the Conference of Parliamentary Committee Chairpersons;
- h) Attendance at meetings of bodies to which Members have been elected as representatives of the Assembleia da República or in which they take part by virtue of parliamentary duties.
- i) Youth Parliament sessions.

3 - The work of the parliamentary groups shall be conducted in accordance with each group's own regulations, which shall be published in the *Journal*.

Article 54

Parliamentary days

- 1 - The Assembleia da República shall function on every working day.
- 2 - Exceptionally, the Assembleia da República shall also function on any day required by the Constitution or these Rules of Procedure, or when it so decides itself.
- 3 - When any time limit expires on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday, it shall be transferred to the following parliamentary day.

Article 55

Convening sittings and meetings

- 1 - Save if they are scheduled at the previous sitting, plenary sittings shall be convened by the President of the Assembleia da República at least twenty-four hours in advance.
- 2 - Without prejudice to the previous paragraph, Plenary sittings on days differing from those provided for in the Rules of Procedure, as well as committee meetings, shall obligatorily be convened in writing, namely via email, in such a way as to ensure that Members of the Assembleia da República are effectively made aware of them at least 24 hours in advance.

Article 56

Failures to attend plenary sittings and parliamentary committee meetings

- 1 - Members of the Assembleia da República who fail to attend a plenary sitting or a parliamentary committee meeting shall be notified of that failure on the next working day.
- 2 - Failures to attend plenary sittings shall be published on the website of the Assembleia da República, together with the nature of the respective justification, if any.
- 3 - Failures to attend Plenary sittings and parliamentary committee meetings where the Member is representing the Assembleia da República shall be recorded in the *Journal* of the respective Plenary sitting and included in the computer report made available by the Assembleia da República's website, mentioning the act of representation giving rise to that absence.

Article 57

Organisation and modus operandi of parliamentary work

1 - Parliamentary work shall be organised in such a way as to reserve periods for Plenary sittings, for parliamentary committee and parliamentary group meetings, and for Members of the Assembleia da República to spend on constituency business, prioritising its compatibility with the personal and family life of Members of the Assembleia da República, officials and entities called upon to participate in the work of the Assembleia da República.

2 - At the request of the Conference of Leaders, the President of the Assembleia da República may organise parliamentary work in such a way that Members of the Assembleia da República engage in political work with constituents for periods not exceeding two weeks, particularly during electoral processes, for the publicising and public discussion of matters of special importance.

3 - The President of the Assembleia da República may also suspend the work of the Assembleia da República at the request of any parliamentary group, with at least two weeks' notice, for the purpose of holding parliamentary seminars and the congresses of the respective party.

4 - Without prejudice to the provisions of the previous paragraph, the President of the Assembleia da República may authorise specific parliamentary seminars, with the consent of the parliamentary group promoting the holding of the parliamentary seminars.

5 - Plenary sittings shall take place on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and Friday mornings.

6 - Plenary sittings shall begin at ten a.m. if they take place in the morning, and at three p.m. if they take place in the afternoon.

7 - Parliamentary committee meetings shall take place on Tuesdays and on Wednesday mornings and, when necessary, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons once the plenary sittings have ended.

8 - When convenient for their work and subject to authorisation by the President of the Assembleia da República, parliamentary committees may meet anywhere in Portuguese territory, and on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

9 - As a rule, Members of the Assembleia da República's constituency business shall take place on Mondays.

10 - Thursday mornings are reserved for parliamentary group meetings.

11 - After first consulting the Conference of Leaders, the President of the Assembleia da República may, in exceptional and duly justified cases, decide to organise parliamentary work differently from that referred to in the preceding paragraphs.

12 - Parliamentary seminars cannot be held by two or more parliamentary groups at the same time, unless this has been explicitly agreed between them.

Article 58

Quorum

1 - The Assembleia da República may only function in plenary sitting when at least one fifth of all the Members in full exercise of their office are present.

2 - The Plenary shall only take decisions when more than half of all the Members of the Assembleia da República in full exercise of their office are present.

3 - Once the President of the Assembleia da República has ordered that the quorum for sitting or for taking decisions be verified, the Members of the Assembleia da República shall be summoned to meet in Plenary. In cases in which there is no quorum, absences shall be noted for the purposes provided for in the general regime governing failures to attend, and the sitting shall immediately be declared closed.

4 - In the case provided for in the previous paragraph, unfinished items shall be added to the order of business for the next ordinary sitting, on which they shall take precedence, without prejudice to the priorities referred to in Articles 60 and 61, or to parliamentary groups' rights to set the order of business.

5 - Parliamentary committees, subcommittees, and working groups shall only function in the presence of at least one-fifth of their Members in full exercise of their office and take decisions in the presence of more than half of their members in full exercise of their office. In both cases, Members of the Assembleia da República belonging to one Government party and one opposition party must be present.

6 - The provisions of the previous paragraph are without prejudice to holding meetings with an order of business exclusively consisting of hearings or the granting of hearings, provided that the presence of more than one parliamentary group is ensured.

7 - If there is not a quorum due to the absence of the minimum number of parties referred to in paragraph (5), the meeting with the same agenda may be rescheduled for the following day, which may function and deliberate provided that more than half of its members in full exercise of their office are present.

8 - The remaining rules governing the *modus operandi* of committees shall be laid down in their regulations.

Article 58-A

Modus operandi when using remote communication resources

1 - In exceptional, duly substantiated cases, authorised by the President of the Assembleia da República and under terms to be defined by decision of the Plenary, the *modus operandi* of the Plenary, committees or other parliamentary bodies may be undertaken using remote communication resources.

2 - The President of the Assembleia da República may authorise remote participation in the work of the Plenary, committees or other parliamentary bodies using remote communication resources for Members of the Assembleia da República elected or resident in the constituencies of the autonomous regions or emigration constituencies or those who are part of a parliamentary delegation abroad.

3 - Without prejudice to the provisions of the previous paragraph, the President of the Assembleia da República may also authorise the remote participation of Members of the Assembleia da República in the work of the Plenary, committees or other parliamentary bodies using remote communication resources, in terms to be decided by the Plenary, when this is justified due to transport difficulties, absence on a parliamentary mission or political work in

their constituency, illness, or when it is not possible to be physically present or other justified reason, provided that prior notice is given.

4 - In the cases referred to in the previous paragraphs, the Assembleia shall provide Members of the Assembleia da República and its services with the necessary technological resources.

CHAPTER II

Organisation of work and order of business

Article 59

Setting the order of business

1 - The President of the Assembleia da República shall set the order of business at least fifteen days in advance, in accordance with the priorities defined in these Rules of Procedure.

2 - Before setting the order of business, the President of the Assembleia da República shall consult the Conference of Leaders on an indicative basis. In the absence of a consensus, the Conference shall decide in accordance with Article 20(3) and (4).

3 - The President of the Assembleia da República shall hear the non-attached Members of the Assembleia da República when deeming this useful, in particular with regard to agendas, the definition of tables or depending on the request the latter submit for the scheduling of an initiative.

4 - Non-attached Members of the Assembleia da República may address requests to the President of the Assembleia da República regarding the setting of the order of business and shall be informed immediately of the setting of the order of business by the President following the meeting of the Conference of Leaders in order to exercise their rights under the Rules of Procedure.

5 - The decisions in which the President of the Assembleia da República sets the order of business may be the object of appeal to the Plenary, which shall then take a definitive decision.

6 - Appeals against decisions in which the President of the Assembleia da República sets the order of business are put to the vote without prior debate. However, the appellant may verbally present the grounds for their appeal for a time of no more than two minutes.

7 - The orders of business set shall be circulated within 24 hours by the Secretary of the Bureau to whom the President of the Assembleia da República delegates such competence.

8 - The order of business may not be set aside or interrupted, save in the cases expressly provided for in these Rules of Procedure, or by decision of the Plenary with no votes against.

9 - The Plenary may decide to alter the sequence of the matters set for each sitting.

10 - Unless there are decisions with no dissenting votes, a parliamentary group or a Member of the Assembleia da República who is a political party's sole representative may not exercise more than one potestative right per fortnight.

Article 60

Prioritisation of matters when setting the order of business

1 - When setting the order of business, the President of the Assembleia da República shall respect the share of seats of the political forces and the priorities and precedence laid down in the following paragraphs.

2 - The following matters possess absolute priority:

- a) Authorisation for the President of the Republic to declare war or make peace;
- b) Authorisation or confirmation of a declaration of a state of siege or a state of emergency, in accordance with Article 161(l) of the Constitution, and consideration of the manner in which such a declaration has been applied, pursuant to Article 162(b) of the Constitution;
- c) Consideration of the Government's Programme;
- d) Voting on motions of confidence or no confidence in the Government;
- e) Passage of laws regarding the Major Options or the State Budget;
- f) General policy debates caused by calls upon the Government to attend the Assembleia da República, pursuant to Article 180(2)(d) of the Constitution.

3 - The following matters possess relative priority:

- a) Reconsideration in the event of a veto by the President of the Republic, in the cases provided for in Article 136 of the Constitution;
- b) Passage of laws and approval of treaties on matters that fall within the exclusive legislative competence of the Assembleia da República;
- c) Consideration of Portugal's participation in the process of constructing the European Union;
- d) Authorisation for the Government to contract and grant loans and engage in other lending operations, other than floating debt operations, and to set the upper limit for guarantees to be given by the Government in each year;
- e) Consideration of the General State Accounts;
- f) Consideration of decree-laws passed under legislative authorisation;
- g) Debates and voting on the political and administrative statutes of the Autonomous Regions;
- h) The grant of amnesties and general pardons;
- i) Passage of laws and approval of treaties on matters that fall within the partially exclusive legislative competence of the Assembleia da República;
- j) Consideration of decree-laws;
- k) Consideration of regional legislative decrees;
- l) Passage of laws and approval of international conventions on other matters.

4 - Legislative initiatives and other matters shall be incorporated into the order of business with due regard to the proportional share of seats in the Assembleia da República held by each parliamentary group and the principle of alternation.

5 - Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political party's sole representative are guaranteed four joint agendas per legislative session.

6 - Except for scheduling resulting from the exercise of potestative rights or joint scheduling resulting from the exercise of a potestative right, the inclusion in the order of business of legislative initiatives shall consider the time frame for the competent parliamentary committee to issue an opinion.

7 - The President of the Assembleia da República shall also include consideration of the following matters on the order of business:

- a) Decisions on mandates of Members of the Assembleia da República;
- b) Appeals against their decisions;
- c) Supplemental elections to the Bureau;
- d) The formation of parliamentary committees and delegations;
- e) Communications from parliamentary committees;
- f) Appeals against decisions on complaints, under the terms of Article 157, and against the choice of the competent parliamentary committee, under the terms of Article 130;
- g) Inquiries, under the terms of Articles 233 and 235;
- h) Consent to the President of the Republic's absence from Portuguese territory;
- i) Appointments to offices outside the Assembleia da República.

Article 61

Request for priority

1 - The Government, parliamentary groups and Members of the Assembleia da República who are sole representatives of a political party may request that priority be given to matters of national interest that require urgent resolution.

2 - After first consulting the Conference of Leaders, the President of the Assembleia da República shall decide whether to assign priority. Parliamentary groups and the Government and, in the case of Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political party's sole representative, those who have requested priority, may appeal the decision to the Plenary.

3 - Priority requested by the Government, parliamentary groups or Members of the Assembleia da República who are sole representatives of a political party may not prejudice the provisions of paragraph (2) of the previous Article.

Article 62

Right to set the order of business

1 - In each legislative session, parliamentary groups and Members of the Assembleia da República who are sole representatives of a political party have the right to set the order of business of plenary sittings in accordance with the table of potestative rights contained in Annexe I to these Rules of Procedure.

2 - Each of the sittings provided for in the previous paragraph may entail:

- a) One set of up to seven initiatives on the same topic, without prejudice to the Conference of Leaders, with the agreement of the holder of the right to set the order of business, to schedule other related initiatives from another party, up to a maximum of two per each party; or
- b) A potestative political debate with all the parties, in which the Government may participate, the overall times of which are included in the timetables approved at the beginning of the legislature. The requesting party shall have the same time for the debate as the party with the largest number of seats and additional time for opening and closing.

3 - When an order of business that is set in accordance with the present Article is based on a legislative initiative, the time limit provided for in Article 138 is not applicable and the legislative initiative's proposer may opt to present it to the Plenary.

4 - The exercise of the right provided for in this Article shall be announced to the President of the Assembleia da República at least by the start or during the Conference of Leaders that is scheduling the fortnight for which the order of business is to be set.

5 - Proposers of the schedulings referred to in subparagraph (2)(a) have the right to move that the general principles be put to the vote on the day of the order of business itself.

6 - In the case provided for in the previous paragraph, if the general principles of the initiative are passed, the parliamentary group or the Member of the Assembleia da República that proposed it has the right to secure the voting on the details and the final overall voting within a time limit of at most thirty days.

Article 63 **Regular scheduling**

The date of the scheduling of bills shall respect the prior admission to the Bureau and the time limit for the committee to draw up the opinion, ensuring a period of 30 days or more between the admission of the initiative and the date of its scheduling.

Article 64 **Priority and potestative scheduling**

1 - In priority scheduling, bills must be distributed by the beginning of the Conference of Leaders, which will decide on the setting of the order of business so that the President of the Assembleia da República can, after first consulting the Conference, decide on its priority.

2 - In potestative scheduling:

- a) Proposers must indicate the subject matter and nature of the act at least 15 days in advance, namely whether it concerns the submission of initiatives or a political debate;
- b) Where the proposer wishes to schedule more than one initiative, they must state that explicitly so that the scheduling can be considered by the Conference of Leaders;
- c) If this involves initiatives, these must be submitted or identified by the proposer to the Bureau at least ten days before the day of the scheduling.

Article 65 **Joint scheduling**

1 - In cases of regular scheduling, the joint scheduling of bills shall only be accepted where they are submitted by Friday of the week of the Conference of Leaders in which the initiative was scheduled, provided that the request and the initiatives are submitted by that date, with this being subsequently accepted, announced and following the time limit of 15 days for the competent committee to issue an opinion.

2 - In cases of priority and potestative scheduling, initiatives that are accepted and announced by Friday of the week preceding the date scheduled for discussion may be jointly scheduled provided that they are later admitted, with the request being submitted by the same date.

3 - Recognition by the President of the Assembleia da República of the existence of an actual material connection between the subject matter of the bills to be jointly scheduled and the subject matter of the initial scheduling is a requirement for joint scheduling.

4 - In cases of potestative scheduling, the joint scheduling of bills shall also be subject to authorisation by the holder of the potestative right, who must state at the time of scheduling whether they intend to accept joint scheduling.

5 - Until the end of the day following the day of the notification of the requests for joint scheduling, parliamentary groups and Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political party's sole representative may request the President of the Assembleia da República to verify the existence of the material connection referred to in paragraph (3).

6 - Where petitions which, under the law, must be considered in a Plenary, the joint scheduling of initiatives shall only be admitted where they meet the time requirements set out in paragraph (1).

7 - In addition to immediately making the initiatives available on the Assembleia da República's Internet and Intranet website, the departments and services shall notify the heads of cabinet of parliamentary groups, Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political party's sole representative, and non-attached Members of the requests for joint scheduling by email at the beginning of the week following the request for joint scheduling.

Article 66

Submission and withdrawal of requests for scheduling

1 - Without prejudice to the scheduling made at the Conference of Leaders, requests for scheduling, including requests for joint scheduling stating the initiatives for which applicants want them to be made, shall be sent to the email set up for that purpose.

2 - Where the scheduling requested by a parliamentary group is subsequently removed from the order of business at its request, the scheduling made in conjunction with that initiative at the Conference of Leaders shall remain valid.

CHAPTER III Plenary sittings

SECTION I Holding sittings

Article 67 Holding plenary sittings

1 - No parliamentary committee meetings may take place during Plenary sittings unless where exceptionally authorised by the President of the Assembleia da República or where required to organise the work of committees of inquiry.

2 - Whenever parliamentary committee meetings do take place at the same time as a plenary sitting, the President of the Assembleia da República must publicly announce the fact to the Plenary and must obligatorily have the parliamentary committee work interrupted in order to enable the Members of the Assembleia da República to exercise their right to vote in Plenary.

Article 68

Plenary seating arrangements and attendance by Members

1 - Members of the Assembleia da República shall take their places in the chamber in the manner agreed by the President of the Assembleia da República and the representatives of the parliamentary groups.

2 - In the absence of agreement, the Assembleia da República shall decide.

3 - Seats shall be reserved in the chamber for the members of the Government.

4 - The presence of Members of the Assembleia da República at Plenary sittings must be recorded electronically by the Members in person.

5 - Persons who have no seat in the Assembleia da República or are not in the service of the Assembleia da República, the parliamentary groups or Members of the Assembleia da República shall not be allowed to be present during meetings, without prejudice to persons invited to solemn, commemorative or protocol settings.

Article 69

Continuous sittings

1 - Sittings may only be interrupted in the following cases:

- a) By decision of the Plenary, upon a motion from a parliamentary group;
- b) By decision of the President of the Assembleia da República, in order to obviate a situation in which there is no quorum, whereupon a new count shall be made when the President so orders;
- c) By decision of the President of the Assembleia da República, in order to ensure that work proceeds smoothly.

2 - If decided upon, interruptions of the type referred to in subparagraph (a) of the previous paragraph may not exceed thirty minutes.

Article 70

Day-to-day business and information

Once a sitting has been opened, the Bureau shall:

- a) Mention or read out complaints that Members of the Assembleia da República or members of the Government with an interest in the matter have submitted with regard to omissions or inaccuracies in the *Journal*;
- b) Announce bills, draft resolutions and motions received by the Bureau, with a brief mention of the nature of the initiative, its numbering and author, and the other identifying information must be made available immediately for consultation on its own page on the Internet and Intranet portals of the Assembleia da República, which shall include, namely:
 - i) The date of entry, announcement and admission;
 - ii) A summary of the initiative;
 - iii) The identity of the subscribing Members of the Assembleia da República;
 - iv) The standing committee to which it was decided to refer the initiative;
- c) Notify the Plenary of the President of the Assembleia da República and the Bureau's decisions, as well as of any fact or situation that these Rules of Procedure require to be announced or is of interest to the Assembleia da República.

Article 71

Political statements

1 - Each week, each parliamentary group shall have the right to make one political statement with a maximum duration of six minutes, in the point of the orders of business established for this purpose.

2 - Each legislative session, each Member of the Assembleia da República who is a political party's sole representative has the right to make five political statements, and each unregistered

Member has the right to make two political statements, with a maximum duration of six minutes.

3 - Parliamentary groups, Members of the Assembleia da República who are political parties' sole representatives and unregistered Members who wish to exercise the right laid down in the previous paragraphs must notify the Bureau accordingly by the beginning of the sitting in question.

4 - In cases in which there is a conflict in the order of such registrations, the Bureau shall ensure a weekly balance between the times for which the various parliamentary groups are given the floor.

5 - Political statements are made immediately after the day-to-day business, save in the cases provided for in Article 72(2).

6 - Each parliamentary group shall have two minutes in which to request clarifications from the speaker, and the latter the same amount of time in which to give explanations.

7 - For each session involving political statements, Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political party's sole representative shall, up to three times, be given a one-minute duration to request clarifications from the speakers, and the latter shall have the same amount of time to provide explanations.

Article 72

Emergency debates

1 - Upon a potestative motion by a parliamentary group, once every fifteen days there may be an emergency debate.

2 - Emergency debates shall take place immediately after the day-to-day business, without prejudice to political statements by parties that wish to exercise that right.

3 - In each legislative session, each parliamentary group may potestatively move the holding of emergency debates in accordance with the table of potestative rights contained in Annexe I to these Rules of Procedure.

4 - Each Member of the Assembleia da República who is a political party's sole representative may, per legislature, potestatively request the holding of an urgent debate.

5 - The debate shall be requested to the President of the Assembleia da República, through indicating its topic:

- a) From Friday of the previous week until 11 a.m. on the same day for debates to be scheduled for the Plenary sitting on Wednesday and Thursday;
- b) From Monday of the same week until 6 p.m. on the day before for debates to be scheduled for the Plenary sitting on Friday;

6 - The President of the Assembleia da República shall immediately have the remaining parliamentary groups and the Government, which must be represented by one of its members, notified of the topic.

7 - The debate shall be opened by the party that set the topic, by means of a speech with a maximum duration of six minutes.

8 - There shall then follow a period of requests for clarification and of debate, in which any Member of the Assembleia da República and the Government may speak.

9 - The times for emergency debates are set out in the timetables adopted at the beginning of the legislature, considering the number of seats each party holds, and at least six minutes shall be assigned to the Government and one minute to each Member of the Assembleia da República who is a political party's sole representative.

10 - In addition to the potestative right referred to in paragraph (1), emergency debates may also be held on the joint initiative of three parliamentary groups in exchange for their weekly political statements, whereupon the presence of the Government is not obligatory.

11 - In the format referred to in the previous paragraph, the debate shall begin with speeches from the parliamentary groups that moved it, in the order indicated by them, to be followed by the debate itself.

Article 73 **Thematic debates**

1 - The President of the Assembleia da República, parliamentary committees, parliamentary groups, Members of the Assembleia da República who are sole representatives of a political party or the Government may propose the holding of a debate on a specific topic to the Conference of Leaders.

2 - The dates on which such debates take place must be set at least fifteen days in advance.

3 - When such a debate takes place as the result of a legal provision, within a time limit of at most ten days the Assembleia da República shall decide to hold or schedule it.

4 - The Government has the option to participate in such debates or not.

5 - Before each debate, its proposer shall supply the Members of the Assembleia da República, the parliamentary groups, the Members of the Assembleia da República who are sole representatives of a political party and the Government with a document that provides a framework for the debate, as well as other pertinent documentation with regard to it.

6 - When the initiative is exercised by the parliamentary committee with competence for the matter in question, the committee shall consider the subject for debate and draw up a report which, where appropriate, shall contain the following elements:

- a) A justification of the reasons for the debate and its timeliness;
- b) The facts and situations that concern it;
- c) The legal and legal-doctrinal framework for the topic of the debate;
- d) Conclusions.

7 - Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political party's sole representative shall have an overall time of one minute for the debate.

Article 74 **Debates on current affairs**

1 - Parliamentary groups and the Government may submit duly substantiated requests for the holding of debates on current affairs to the President of the Assembleia da República.

2 - Requests for debates on current affairs shall be subject to consideration and approval by the first meeting of the Conference of Leaders following the submission of the request.

3 - In the absence of a consensus on the scheduling of the date on which to hold it, the debate on current affairs shall take place at a plenary sitting during the week in which the Conference of Leaders approves it.

4 - The debate is opened by a speech by the applicant, followed by a speech by the Government, which must be represented, with the debate then organised into two rounds in which the Government and the parties that have registered to do so speak.

5 - During each legislative session, each parliamentary group has the right to schedule debates on current affairs in accordance with the table of potestative rights contained in Annexe I to these Rules of Procedure.

6 - During the legislature, each Member of the Assembleia da República who is a political party's sole representative has the right to arrange a debate on current affairs.

7 - Where a debate results from the exercise of the right referred to in the previous paragraphs, the parliamentary group that proposed the debate shall also close it, after the final speech of the Government.

8 - The times for debate on current affairs are set out in the timetables adopted at the beginning of the legislature, considering the share of seats each party holds.

9 - Each Member of the Assembleia da República who is a political party's sole representative is given one minute to speak, except where it has potestatively requested the debate, as provided for in paragraph (6), in which case he or she has the same amount of time as the smallest parliamentary group.

Article 75 **Special votes**

1 - The President of the Assembleia da República, Members of the Assembleia da República, parliamentary groups, the parliamentary standing committees, the parliamentary friendship group and the bilateral parliamentary forums may submit votes of congratulation, protest, condemnation, greeting, solidarity, concern or condolence, and each draft vote must be of one kind only.

2 - As a rule, the discussion or reading and voting of draft votes submitted by the President of the Assembleia da República and by the standing parliamentary committees shall take place at the beginning of each voting period defined in these rules of procedure. Each parliamentary group shall have two minutes and each Member of the Assembleia da República who is a political party's sole representative shall have one minute to speak, if they request to do so.

3 - Where no parliamentary group requests a debate, it may be replaced by reading the draft vote or simply putting it to the vote.

4 - Draft condolence votes on the grounds of death and limited to that subject shall be discussed and voted on in accordance with the preceding paragraphs, except if more than one draft vote is submitted for the same individual, in which case:

- a) They are all referred back to the committee responsible, and the provisions of paragraph 8 are applied; or
- b) The applicants inform the Bureau that they have reached a consensus to vote on a single text and hand it in by the start of the plenary sitting at which the vote is to take place, their votes being removed from the voting list.

5 - The draft condolence votes mentioned in the previous paragraph may be submitted to the Bureau until the end of the day prior to the holding of the votes following the rules of procedure.

6 - The President of the Assembleia da República may also decide to schedule the discussion and voting on the draft votes submitted by Members of the Assembleia da República, parliamentary groups and parliamentary committees, in which case the provisions of paragraphs (2) and (3) are applied.

7 - Other draft votes submitted by Members of the Assembleia da República or parliamentary groups shall be referred back to the committee responsible for the matter for discussion and voting.

8 - In the case provided for in the preceding paragraph, in addition to holding a discussion and vote on the submitted voting, the committee may:

- a) Submit and vote on an alternative draft vote by the committee on the same subject, without prejudice to the right of its author to also submit the initial text to the committee for a vote if they expressly request this;
- b) Submit the alternative draft vote to a vote in a Plenary.

9 - Without prejudice to the provisions of the preceding paragraphs, parliamentary committees may decide to table draft votes, which shall be discussed and voted on in a plenary sitting in accordance with paragraphs (2), (3) and (5).

10 - The votes shall relate only to the deliberative part of each draft vote, and the votes adopted shall be published in the *Journal* with their own numbering, without the corresponding initial recitals.

11 - Draft votes shall be submitted to the Bureau by sending them to the email set up for that purpose, and the President of the Assembleia da República may, via an order to be published in the *Journal*, set a maximum length for reading out the draft votes in the Plenary.

12 - A draft vote that has already been voted on in committee cannot be substituted so as to be submitted for a new vote in the Plenary.

13 - In exceptional cases, the President of the Assembleia da República may decide to include draft votes authored by them in the voting list on the actual day of the vote.

Article 76

Solemn sessions

1 - Every year, a Solemn Commemorative Session is held to commemorate the Anniversary of the Revolution of 25 April 1974, during which the President of the Republic may address a message to the Assembleia da República in person.

2 - It shall also be possible to hold solemn sessions in remembrance of other events or persons, on the initiative of the President of the Assembleia da República, as well as solemn sessions

welcoming foreign Heads of State or leaders of international organisations of which Portugal is a member, with these guests being able to take the floor.

3 - The format, protocol organisation and terms for taking the floor during the sessions referred to in the preceding paragraphs shall be established by the President of the Assembleia da República after first consulting the Conference of Leaders.

SECTION II Speaking

Article 77

Speeches by Members of the Assembleia da República

1 - Members of the Assembleia da República shall be given the floor in order:

- a) To make political statements;
- b) To present Members' bills, draft resolutions and draft decisions;
- c) To exercise the right of defence in the cases provided for in Articles 2 and 3;
- d) To participate in debates;
- e) To question the Government about any of its acts or those of the Public Administration;
- f) To make points of order or call upon the Bureau to answer questions;
- g) To make motions or requests;
- h) To make or reply to requests for clarification;
- i) To react to offences to honour or due consideration or offer explanations in accordance with Article 84;
- j) To lodge appeals;
- k) To make protests or counter-protests;
- l) To give explanations of vote.

2 - Without prejudice to the provisions of the previous paragraph, in each legislative session each Member of the Assembleia da República has the right to speak once for a maximum of six minutes, which shall not be included in the time allotted to their parliamentary group.

3 - The speeches referred to in the previous paragraph shall be made immediately following the last political statement, by order of registration, with alternation between Members of the Assembleia da República from different parliamentary groups, without excluding Members who are sole party representatives or unregistered Members.

4 - As regards the speeches referred to in paragraph (2), each parliamentary group shall have two minutes to request clarifications from the speaker, and each Member of the Assembleia da República who is a political party's sole representative shall have one minute, with the speaker having the same amount of time to provide explanations.

Article 78

Order in which speakers are given the floor and purposes of speaking

1 - Speakers shall be given the floor in the order in which they registered, but the President of the Assembleia da República shall arrange it in such a way that when others have also registered, Members of the Assembleia da República from the same parliamentary group, or members of the Government, are not called upon to speak one after the other.

2 - Registered speakers are authorised to swap their positions on the list of speakers at any time.

3 - The order of speakers must be visible to the hemicycle.

4 - In the absence of registrations by the end of the presentation of the item under discussion, the floor shall be given successively to each time holder in ascending order.

5 - Anyone who asks for the floor must declare the proposed purpose.

6 - When a speaker strays from the purpose for which he has been called to speak, the President of the Assembleia da República shall warn him, and may withdraw the floor if he persists with the attitude in question.

Article 79

Speeches by members of the Government

1 - Members of the Government shall be given the floor in order:

- a) To present government bills and draft resolutions, draft amendments and motions;
- b) To participate in debates;
- c) To reply to questions from Members of the Assembleia da República about any of the acts of the Government or the Public Administration;
- d) To make points of order or call upon the Bureau to answer questions;
- e) To make or reply to requests for clarification;
- f) To react to offences to honour or due consideration or offer explanations in accordance with Article 84;
- g) To make protests or counter-protests.

2 - At its own request, the Government may speak to make a statement once a week, in the order of business concerning political statements, provided it gives the parliamentary groups prior notice of the topic via the President of the Assembleia da República.

3 - The speech referred to in the previous paragraph shall take place after the parliamentary groups' political statements and the speeches referred to in Article 77(3) if any, may not exceed six minutes, and shall be followed by a period of debate with a duration of no more than thirty minutes.

Article 80

Points of order and questions to the Bureau

1 - Any Member of the Assembleia da República who asks for the floor in order to make a point of order shall indicate the norm that has been infringed and shall restrict himself to such comments as are indispensable for the purpose.

2 - Members of the Assembleia da República may call upon the Bureau to answer questions when they have doubts regarding the latter's decisions or the way in which work is being conducted.

3 - There shall be no justification or discussion of questions to the Bureau.

4 - Speakers who are given the floor in order to make points of order or call upon the Bureau to answer questions may not speak for more than one minute.

Article 81

Motions to the Bureau

- 1 - Only those requests to the Bureau that concern the procedure for presenting, discussing and voting on any subject, or on the modus operandi of the sitting, are deemed to be motions to the Bureau.
- 2 - Motions to the Bureau may be made in writing or orally.
- 3 - The Bureau shall immediately announce written motions and circulate them to the parliamentary groups, Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political party's sole representative and non-attached Members.
- 4 - Neither oral motions to the Bureau, nor the reading out of written motions to the Bureau if requested, may exceed one minute.
- 5 - When any motion to the Bureau is admitted under the terms of Article 16(1)(c), it shall be put to the vote immediately, without discussion.
- 6 - Motions to the Bureau shall be put to the vote in the order in which they are made.
- 7 - Oral explanations of vote are not permitted.

Article 82

Complaints and appeals

- 1 - Any Member of the Assembleia da República may complain against decisions by the President of the Assembleia da República or the Bureau, and may appeal them to the Plenary.
- 2 - A Member of the Assembleia da República who so appeals may speak for a period of no more than two minutes in order to substantiate their appeal.
- 3 - In the case of an appeal submitted by more than one Member of the Assembleia da República, only one of them may speak in order to substantiate it, regardless of whether or not they belong to the same parliamentary group.
- 4 - When there is more than one appeal with the same object, only one Member of the Assembleia da República from each of the parliamentary groups to which the appellants belong may speak in order to substantiate them.
- 5 - One Member of the Assembleia da República from each parliamentary group that has not pronounced itself under the terms of the previous paragraphs may also speak for a period of two minutes.
- 6 - There shall be no oral explanations of vote.

Article 83

Requests for clarification

- 1 - Members of the Assembleia da República who wish to ask for clarifications about matters which have been touched on by the speaker who is speaking and about which they are in doubt, must register before the end of the speech to which the request relates, and questions shall then actually be formulated and answered in the order in which the requests were registered.

2 - Questioners and the respondent shall each be given the floor for two minutes for each question. However, if he does not wish to speak after every individual questioner, the respondent may not accumulate more than three minutes in response times.

Article 84

Reactions to offences to honour or due consideration

1 - Whenever a Member of the Assembleia da República or a member of the Government deems that expressions have been used which offend their honour or the consideration due to him, he may speak for a period of no more than two minutes in order to defend himself.

2 - The speaker who proffered the expressions that are deemed to be offensive may give explanations for a period of no more than two minutes.

3 - The President of the Assembleia da República shall note requests to speak in self-defence pursuant to paragraph (1), and shall grant the floor and the opportunity to give the respective explanations at the end of the debate in progress, without prejudice to the ability to grant them immediately if he deems that the situations in question especially warrant it.

4 - When a member of the leadership of a parliamentary group invokes the right to defend the consideration due to the whole group, or the Government invokes the right to defend itself, and the President of the Assembleia da República deems that such an offence may indeed have been proffered, then the President shall immediately concede the floor.

Article 85

Protests and counter-protests

1 - Each parliamentary group is only permitted one protest against any given speech.

2 - The time permitted for each such protest is one minute.

3 - Protests against requests for clarification or the respective replies, or with regard to explanations of vote, are not permitted.

4 - Counter-protests shall be made immediately after the protest to which they refer and may not exceed one minute.

Article 86

Prohibition on speaking during voting

Once a vote has been called, no Member of the Assembleia da República may speak until the result has been proclaimed, except in order to make motions and requests with regard to the voting procedure.

Article 87

Explanations of vote

1 - At the end of each vote, each individual Member of the Assembleia da República and each parliamentary group has the right to make a written statement explaining their or its vote.

2 - Oral explanations of vote with regard to motions rejecting the Government's Programme, to motions of confidence or no confidence, and to final votes on the Major Options and the State Budget may not exceed five minutes.

3 - Explanations of vote under the regular legislative procedure shall be issued in accordance with Articles 149-A and 155.

4 - Written explanations of vote must without fail be delivered to the Bureau by the third working day following the voting that gave rise to them, without needing to be announced by the applicants.

5 - Explanations of vote delivered after the deadline referred to in the previous paragraph may, if so requested, be published in the *Journal*, in a different place from the minutes of the sitting at which they were announced or to which they correspond.

Article 88

Speeches by members of the Bureau

If members of the Bureau wish to speak at the debate on an item on the order of business during a plenary sitting at which they are exercising their functions, they may not then return to those functions until the end of the debate or of any voting with regard thereto, without prejudice to debates held in several phases.

Article 89

Form of speeches

1 - Speakers shall address themselves to the President and the Assembleia da República and must, as a rule, stand.

2 - Speakers may not be interrupted without their consent, although oral expressions of agreement, disagreement or the like are not deemed interruptions.

3 - The President of the Assembleia da República shall caution any speaker who strays from the subject under discussion or whose speech becomes insulting or offensive, and may withdraw the floor from him.

4 - The President of the Assembleia da República may call upon a speaker to sum up their subject when the time allotted in these Rules of Procedure is coming to an end.

Article 90

Organisation of debates

1 - Where not stipulated by these Rules of Procedure, the Conference of Leaders shall decide the total time allotted to each debate and how it is to be distributed, respecting the political forces' share of seats.

2 - The time spent on requests for clarification and replies, and on protests and counter-protests, shall be included in the time allotted to the parliamentary group to which the Member of the Assembleia da República in question belongs.

SECTION III

Decisions and voting

Article 91

Decisions

All decisions shall be taken during the voting period defined in these Rules of Procedure, save when they are on the draft votes provided for in Article 75 when, due to their nature, urgency

or timeliness, they must be considered and put to the vote at another time and there is a consensus to that effect, or when they concern prior opinions regarding the substitution of Members of the Assembleia da República or urgent judicial business.

Article 92

Requisites and conditions for voting

1 - Decisions shall be taken using the plurality system and, save in cases especially provided for in the Constitution or these Rules of Procedure, require the presence of the majority, as laid down by law, of all the Members of the Assembleia da República in full exercise of their office, which must have been verified in advance using the electronic voting mechanism and must have been announced by the Bureau.

2 - Abstentions do not count for the purpose of calculating a majority.

3 - The Bureau shall immediately announce the result of each vote, and shall expressly state whether the applicable requisites laid down in the Constitution and these Rules of Procedure have been fulfilled.

4 - Decisions that have no effect outside the Assembleia da República and solely concern its proceedings or the coordination of its work are valid on condition that the quorum required for the Assembleia da República to sit exists.

Article 93

Votes

1 - Each Member of the Assembleia da República has one vote.

2 - Save in the cases provided for in Article 8(3) of the Statute of Members, no Member of the Assembleia da República in attendance may refrain from voting, without prejudice to the right to abstain.

3 - Neither proxy nor postal votes are permitted.

4 - The President of the Assembleia da República shall only exercise their right to vote when he sees fit to do so.

Article 94

Forms of voting

1 - Voting shall take one of the following forms:

- a) Standing and sitting, which constitutes the usual form of voting;
- b) Electronic voting;
- c) Roll call;
- d) Secret ballot.

2 - Voting for alternatives is not permitted.

3 - In voting by standing and sitting, the Bureau shall calculate the results in accordance with each parliamentary group's share of the seats in the Assembleia da República and shall specify both the number of individual votes that were made against a parliamentary group line and their influence on the result, if any.

4 - In the cases in which the Constitution requires a qualified majority, voting shall also take place using electronic voting.

5 - Electronic voting must be organised in such a way as to make it possible to know the quantified overall result and to record the way in which each individual vote is cast.

Article 94-A

Remote voting and early voting

1 - In exceptional cases, due to Member of the Assembleia da República's impossibility to be physically present in the Chamber, namely because they are on a parliamentary mission abroad, and provided that they apply in advance, the President of the Assembleia da República may authorise their vote to be cast remotely, using remote communication resources that allow the vote made to be visualised and recorded, whenever the form of voting is by standing and sitting or by roll call.

2 - Where there is an electronic vote, Members of the Assembleia da República who are not present in the Chamber shall be called by name by the Bureau to indicate their vote, which shall be counted among those cast using the electronic system.

3 - When voting for elections, if the first part of paragraph (1) is met, provided that a request has been made in advance and the candidate lists have already been submitted, the President of the Assembleia da República may authorise the holding of early voting by secret ballot.

4 - In the case referred to in the previous paragraph, on the day designated by the President of the Assembleia da República, Members of the Assembleia da República go to the place indicated and receive the ballot paper and two envelopes, one white, where the filled-in ballot paper is placed in order to guarantee the secrecy of the vote, and one blue, where the white envelope is placed and which is identified with their name, then securely sealed and kept by the Bureau until election day, when it is downloaded into the register and placed in the ballot box, thereby preserving the secrecy of the vote.

Article 95

Voting times

1 - Voting shall take place during the last plenary sitting of each week at which the order of business includes the discussion of matters that require the Members of the Assembleia da República to make decisions.

2 - If the sitting occurs in the morning, voting shall take place at midday; if it occurs in the afternoon, voting shall take place at six p.m.

3 - After first consulting the Conference of Leaders, the President of the Assembleia da República may set another voting time, which must be publicised at least a week in advance.

4 - Before voting, the President of the Assembleia da República shall have the call bell rung and shall have parliamentary committees that are in session notified.

Article 96

List of forthcoming votes

1 - The Bureau of the Assembleia da República is responsible for drawing up the list of forthcoming votes, which must be distributed to all the Members of the Assembleia da República:

- a) By six p.m. on Wednesday, when voting takes place on a Friday;
- b) Twenty-four hours in advance, when voting takes place on other days.

2 - After the expiry of the time limits referred to in the previous paragraph, the list may only be amended if no parliamentary group is opposed.

3 - The list of forthcoming votes must contain a detailed breakdown of all the votes that are to take place, including those relating to prior opinions of the Parliamentary Committee on Transparency and the Statute of Members, with a hyperlink to the relevant text, except where there is restricted information that can only be consulted in person.

4 - Requests to break down items for vote in draft resolutions, as well as call-back requests by the Plenary, must enter the Bureau by being sent to the relevant electronic mailbox by no later than 6 p.m. on the day before the voting is to take place.

5 - The Plenary having submitted a call-back request in accordance with the previous paragraph, any draft amendments concerning call-back rights as regards the text details voted on in the committee, including the amendment of new provisions, must be submitted by the beginning of the plenary sitting in which the voting takes place.

6 - The final version of the list of forthcoming votes shall be distributed at the beginning of the Plenary sitting on the day of voting, without prejudice to the issuance of additional lists required for holding votes on the details.

7 - The Bureau may decide to suspend its work before voting and for such time as is necessary for drafting the lists referred to in the previous paragraph.

8 - The list of forthcoming votes may include the vote by the Plenary for:

- a) Indicative votes taken in parliamentary committees, where it is compulsory to vote on the specific details in the Plenary; or
- b) The votes taken in parliamentary committees when the initiative has been re-examined by the committee, pursuant to Article 146, and has given rise to a replacement text.

Article 97

Secret ballots

Secret ballots shall be held for:

- a) Elections and appointments;
- b) Decisions that these Rules of Procedure or the Statute of Members require to be made in this form.

Article 98

Voting by roll call and voting subject to count

1 - At the request of one tenth of all the Members of the Assembleia da República, voting on the following matters shall be held by roll call:

- a) Authorisation to declare war or make peace;

- b) Authorisation and confirmation of a declaration of a state of siege or a state of emergency;
- c) Charges against the President of the Republic;
- d) The grant of amnesties and general pardons;
- e) Reconsideration of decrees or resolutions that have been the object of a presidential veto.

2 - Any other matter may be put to the vote by roll call if the Assembleia da República or the Conference of Leaders so decides.

3 - In voting by roll call, Members of the Assembleia da República shall be called to vote in alphabetical order and their votes shall also be recorded electronically.

4 - In addition to the situations that require a qualified majority, voting may be subject to a count, whereupon it shall be recorded electronically:

- a) In cases in which the Conference of Leaders has so stipulated in advance;
- b) When the Assembleia da República so decides upon a motion by at least one tenth of all the Members of the Assembleia da República.

5 - The decisions provided for in paragraphs (2) and (4) shall be taken under the terms of the provisions of Article 94(3).

6 - The motions and requests provided for in paragraphs (1), (2) and (4) must be submitted to the Conference of Leaders or at least 24 hours in advance.

7 - When it is decided to hold a roll-call vote or an electronic vote pursuant to paragraphs (1), (2) and (4), parliamentary groups may potestatively request that it be postponed to the next voting day under the rules of procedure.

Article 99

Tied votes

1 - Where voting results in a tie, the voting shall be repeated.

2 - Where the tie has occurred in voting not preceded by a discussion because no one asked to speak, the matter in question shall be resubmitted for discussion before repeating the vote.

3 - A tied second vote is equivalent to rejection.

CHAPTER IV

Parliamentary committee meetings

Article 100

Convening meetings and order of business

1 - The meetings of each parliamentary committee shall be convened by the committee itself or by its chairman.

2 - The order of business shall be set by the parliamentary committee or, after first consulting the parliamentary group representatives on the committee, by its chairman.

3 - The orders of business can only be altered, particularly for the consideration of requests classified by the authors as urgent, if there is no opposition from any of the parties that make up the committee.

4 - The rules of procedure of the committee establish the deadline for the distribution of the orders of business, after which it is considered to have been stabilised for the purposes of the previous paragraph.

Article 100-A Postponements

1 - An item for discussion or vote on the committee's orders of business may be:

- a) Postponed potestatively at the request of any parliamentary group or Member of the Assembleia da República who is a political party's sole representative, once only, to the next sitting;
- b) Postponed by decision of the committee, if proposed by the Chair or requested by any parliamentary group or Member of the Assembleia da República who is a political party's sole representative, and with the consent of the proposing party when this corresponds to the second or subsequent postponements.

2 - The provisions of the previous paragraph must not result in more than three postponements in total, unless the committee decides otherwise with no dissenting votes.

Article 100-B Interruption of proceedings

Any parliamentary group may request that the proceedings be suspended once during each sitting, for a period not exceeding 15 minutes.

Article 101 Collaboration or presence of other Members of the Assembleia da República

1 - When a parliamentary committee is considering an initiative or request, the Members of the Assembleia da República who proposed it may take part in the committee's meetings, without the right to vote.

2 - Any other Member of the Assembleia da República may attend meetings and, if the parliamentary committee authorises it, take part in its work, without the right to vote, without prejudice to the provisions of Article 30(6).²

3 - Members of the Assembleia da República may send written observations to parliamentary committees on matters that fall within the committee's areas of competence.

Article 102 Participation by members of the Government and other entities

1 - Members of the Government may take part in the work of parliamentary committees at the request of the committee in question, or on their own initiative.

² The reference to Article 30(6) should be considered to be to Article 30(7) (in accordance with the amendment introduced by the Rules of Procedure No 1/2023 of 9 August, which by mistake was not indicated in this republication).

2 - Parliamentary committees may ask any citizen to take part in their work, particularly including:

- a) Staff and senior officials of the State's direct administration;
- b) Staff and senior officials of the State's indirect administration and the State-owned business sector, and persons engaged under contract thereto;
- c) Members of bodies of independent administrative entities.

3 - Parliamentary committees may allow the entities referred to in subparagraph (a) of the previous paragraph to take part in their work, subject to authorisation by the respective ministers.

4 - Members of local government bodies may be invited to take part in meetings of parliamentary committees on matters that do not correspond to the exercise of their competences, on which they only report at the municipal level.

5 - The steps provided for in the previous paragraphs shall be undertaken via the chairman of the parliamentary committee.

Article 103

Parliamentary committee powers

1 - Parliamentary committees may request the taking of, or may themselves take, any steps needed for the proper exercise of their functions, particularly as regards:

- a) Conducting studies;
- b) Requesting information or opinions;
- c) Asking any citizens to give evidence;
- d) Holding parliamentary hearings;
- e) Requisitioning and contracting specialists to assist them in their work;
- f) Undertaking information or study missions.

2 - All documents that are under analysis or have already been analysed by parliamentary committees and do not contain classified material shall be made available on the website of the Assembleia da República.

3 - Journalists have the right of access to all the documents distributed for each parliamentary committee meeting, except if they contain classified material.

Article 104

Parliamentary hearings

1 - The Assembleia da República may hold individual or collective parliamentary hearings, which shall take place in parliamentary committee by decision of the committee in question.

2 - Any of the entities referred to in Article 102 may be heard at parliamentary hearings.

3 - In each legislative session, each parliamentary group may potestatively require the presence of members of the Government and the entities referred to in Article 102(2)(b)&(c), in accordance with the table of potestative rights contained in Annexe I, with the requesting party taking the floor first.

4 - The potestative rights referred to in the previous paragraph may not be used on more than two consecutive occasions in relation to the same member of the Government.

5 - Ministers must be heard at hearings of the respective parliamentary standing committees at least four times in each legislative session, including the hearing on the details in connection with the discussion of the State Budget, which is governed by the provisions in Article 211, and according to a schedule to be set at a Conference of Leaders by the first week of the legislative session in question.

6 - For the purposes of the preceding paragraph, where a member of the Government is to be heard by more than one parliamentary committee depending on its governance sector, the hearing shall take place at a joint meeting of the respective committees, chaired alternately by each chairperson.

7 - The hearings shall begin with a speech by the Minister, for a period not exceeding 15 minutes, followed by two rounds of questions from Members of the Assembleia da República, as follows:

- a) The first round is for parliamentary groups and Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political party's sole representative to intervene, in descending order of their share of seats, with priority being given to the largest parliamentary group in the opposition, and each question shall be immediately followed by the Minister's reply;
- b) In the second round, Members of the Assembleia da República may register individually for up to two minutes, and non-attached Members shall have the floor first, where they have registered to speak, with the Minister replying at the end of the round.

8 - The second round of the procedural hearing also includes questions relating to knowledge about and consideration of European affairs, as provided for in the law on the monitoring, assessment and pronouncement by the Assembleia da República as part of the process of building the European Union.

9 - Members can use the time they have all at once or on several occasions, and the Minister shall have an overall time to answer equal to that of each parliamentary group or Member of the Assembleia da República who is a political party's sole representative questioning them.

10 - The overall times of procedural hearings and other hearings of members of the Government under these Rules of Procedure are set out in the timetables adopted at the beginning of the legislature by the Conference of Leaders, considering the share of seats each party holds.

11 - If potestative rights are exercised or requests to hear members of the Government are approved in the fortnight preceding the holding of one of the hearings referred to in paragraph (5), the hearing shall be held by adding an additional round to the respective timetable, in which the requesting party shall speak first.

Article 105

Collaboration between parliamentary committees

1 - Two or more parliamentary committees may meet together in order to consider subjects of common interest but may not take decisions, except with regard to the provisions of the following paragraphs.

2 - Discussion and voting on the details of legislative initiatives that are connected by more than one parliamentary standing committee may take place at a joint meeting of the committees,

subject to authorisation by the President of the Assembleia da República, after hearing the Conference of Leaders.

3 - The authorising order referred to in the previous paragraph determines the composition of the bureau and identifies the terms under which technical support is provided by the services of the Assembleia da República, with each parliamentary group appointing its own coordinator.

Article 106

Parliamentary committee regulations

1 - Each parliamentary committee shall draw up its own regulations, which shall contain its powers, procedures for setting up working groups, internal operating rules and the criteria for nominating Members of the Assembleia da República to be rapporteurs.

2 - At the beginning of each legislature, the Conference of Parliamentary Committee Chairpersons shall promote the adoption of uniform criteria for drawing up committee regulations.

3 - At the beginning of each legislature and until the rules of procedure of each committee are approved, the rules of procedure of the committee corresponding to its competences in the previous legislature shall apply.

4 - Where such committee regulations prove inadequate, the provisions of these Rules of Procedure shall additionally apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Article 107

Parliamentary committee minutes

1 - Every parliamentary committee meeting shall have minutes that must state who was in attendance and who was absent due to failure to attend or parliamentary representation, provide a summary of the subjects discussed, the position taken by Members of the Assembleia da República and parliamentary groups, the result of voting, and any individual or collective explanations of vote.

2 - All committee meetings shall be recorded, without prejudice to their classified nature where the law, these Rules of Procedure or the committee regulation so determine.

3 - The minutes of public parliamentary committee meetings shall be published in full on the website of the Assembleia da República.

4 - If any member of the parliamentary committee so requests, Members of the Assembleia da República who vote shall be referred to by name and their votes recorded in the minutes.

5 - Minutes of classified meetings shall be drawn up, containing, where possible, a summary of the classified subjects dealt with, the positions of Members of the Assembleia da República and parliamentary groups, and the result of votes on matters that must produce external effects, with a breakdown of the votes and the individual or collective explanations of vote.

Article 108

Parliamentary committee activity plans and reports

1 - At the beginning of each legislative session, each parliamentary committee shall draw up and approve its draft activity plan, together with the respective draft budget, and submit them for

consideration by the President of the Assembleia da República, who shall first consult the Conference of Parliamentary Committee Chairpersons.

2 - The chairman of each parliamentary committee must draw up the committee's activity plan for the first legislative session and the respective draft budget within a time limit of fifteen days after taking office.

3 - At the end of each legislative session, each parliamentary committee shall inform the Assembleia da República about the situation and progress of its work by means of a report, the competence for which shall lie with its chairperson; such reports shall be published in the *Journal*, and the Conference of Parliamentary Committee Chairpersons shall be responsible for proposing the manner in which they are to be considered.

Article 109

Parliamentary committee facilities and support

1 - Parliamentary committees shall dispose of their own facilities at the Seat of the Assembleia da República.

2 - The work of each parliamentary committee shall be supported by the appropriate administrative staff and assistants, as laid down by law.

CHAPTER V

Publicising the proceedings and acts of the Assembleia da República

SECTION I

Publicising the work of the Assembleia da República

Article 110

Publicising sittings and meetings

1 - Plenary sittings and parliamentary committee meetings shall be public and, as a rule, broadcast by the Parliament Channel as well as being made available on the website of the Assembleia da República.

2 - Exceptionally, parliamentary committees may meet *in camera*, where justified by the classified nature of the matters under consideration, subject to a decision to that effect or where these Rules of Procedure or their regulations so provide.

Article 111

Cooperation with the media

1 - Seats in the plenary chamber shall be reserved for duly accredited representatives of the media, for the exercise of their functions.

2 - If the seats reserved for representatives of the media are all taken, the departments and services of the Assembleia da República shall arrange for them to attend plenary sittings in other available places.

3 - The Bureau shall arrange for the texts of the subjects under discussion and speeches to be distributed to the representatives of the media.

Article 112

Journal of the Assembleia da República

1 - The official journal of the Assembleia da República is the *Journal of the Assembleia da República (Diário da Assembleia da República)*.

2 - By passing a resolution, the Assembleia da República shall in particular lay down the *Journal's* organisation, content, the way in which it is drawn up and its table of contents.

3 - All the series of the *Journal* shall be published in full on the website of the Assembleia da República.

Article 113

Electronic dissemination

All acts and documents whose publication in the *Journal* is obligatory, as well as all documents whose production is required and the procedures for which are laid down in these Rules of Procedure, must be made available on the website and Intranet of the Assembleia da República on a real-time basis.

Article 114

Information

For the information of the Members of the Assembleia da República, the media and the general public, and acting in articulation with the Secretary-General, the Bureau shall arrange for:

- a) The distribution before each plenary sitting of a bulletin containing the order of business and other information regarding parliamentary activities;
- b) After first consulting the respective committee officers, the annual publication in special editions of reports drawn up under the aegis of the various parliamentary committees;
- c) Other initiatives intended to expand knowledge of the wide range of activities of the Assembleia da República.

SECTION II

Publicising the acts of the Assembleia da República

Article 115

Publication in Series 1 of the *Diário da República*

1 - The President of the Assembleia da República shall send the acts of the Assembleia da República whose publication in Series 1 of the *Journal* is required by law to the National Press as soon as possible.

2 - Any Member of the Assembleia da República or parliamentary group may request that the text of acts published in the *Journal* be corrected. The President of the Assembleia da República shall consider such requests and, after first consulting the relevant parliamentary committee following information from the services, shall send the corrections to the National Press within a time limit compatible with that legally provided for the publication of corrections.

Article 116

Publication of decisions in the *Journal of the Assembleia da República*

1 - The decisions of the Assembleia da República, the Standing Committee, the Bureau of the Assembleia da República and the Conference of Leaders shall be committed to writing, shall

comply with an initial format and shall be signed by the President of the Assembleia da República.

2 - Decisions that are not required to take any of the forms provided for in Article 166 of the Constitution shall be identified, numbered as part of a common sequence relating to calendar years and the entities from which they emanate, and published in Series 2 of the *Journal*.

CHAPTER VI

Report on the activities of the Assembleia da República

Article 117

Frequency and content

1 - The Bureau is responsible for the publication at the beginning of each legislative session of a report on the activities of the Assembleia da República during the previous legislative session.

2 - The report shall particularly contain a summary description of the legislative and supervisory or monitoring initiatives that were submitted or presented and the respective procedural details, and shall list all the other acts in which the Assembleia da República engaged in the exercise of its competences.

TITLE IV

Forms of procedure

CHAPTER I

Amendments to the Constitution

Article 118

Amendments to the Constitution

1 The Assembleia da República shall revise the Constitution in accordance with Articles 284 to 289 thereof; the initiative for revision shall be the exclusive competence of Members of the Assembleia da República.

2 - Following the submission of a draft amendment to the Constitution, any others must be submitted within 30 days and, once this time limit has expired, an Ad Hoc Committee for Constitutional Revision shall be set up, which shall have the following responsibilities:

- a) To consider draft amendments to the Constitution and submit any such amendments or replacement texts to the Plenary;
- b) To systematise the draft amendments to the Constitution contained in the draft revisions submitted, with a view to the discussion and voting on the details thereof in the Plenary;
- c) To draw up the final draft of the amendments to the Constitution approved by the Plenary of the Assembleia da República;
- d) To combine the approved amendments in a single revision law and insert them in the proper place within the Constitution by means of the necessary replacements, eliminations and additions.

CHAPTER II
Legislative procedure

SECTION I
Common legislative procedure

DIVISION I
Initiative

Article 119
Initiative

1 - The competence to exercise the initiative that gives rise to law lies with Members of the Assembleia da República, parliamentary groups and the Government, as well as, where the Autonomous Regions are concerned, with the respective Legislative Assemblies, and also, subject to the terms and conditions laid down by law, with groups of registered electors.

2 - The initiative that gives rise to law shall take the form of a Member's bill when exercised by Members of the Assembleia da República, parliamentary groups or groups of registered electors, and a government bill when exercised by the Government or by Legislative Assemblies of the Autonomous Regions.

3 - Supervening initiatives shall take the form of draft amendments.

Article 120
Limits on initiative

1 - No bill or draft amendment shall be admitted if:

- a) It is in breach of the Constitution or the principles enshrined therein;
- b) It does not concretely define the sense of any changes to be made to the legislative order.

2 - No Member of the Assembleia da República, parliamentary group, Legislative Assembly of an autonomous region or group of registered electors may submit bills or draft amendments that involve increasing the state's expenses or reducing its revenues for the current financial year, as provided for in the Budget.

3 - Bills that are definitively rejected may not be resubmitted in the same legislative session.

Article 121
Resubmission of initiatives

1 - Bills that are not put to the vote in the legislative session in which they are submitted need not be resubmitted in the following legislative sessions, save if the legislature itself ends.

2 - Government bills lapse upon the resignation or removal of the Government or, when the initiative was exercised by the Legislative Assembly of an autonomous region, when the respective legislature ends.

Article 122
Cancellation of initiatives

1 - Once any bill or any draft amendment has been admitted, its proposers may withdraw it at any time until it is put to a vote on the general principles.

2 - If another Member of the Assembleia da República, or the Government, adopts as their or its own the bill or draft amendment that the proposers wish to withdraw, the initiative shall follow the terms of these Rules of Procedure applicable to a bill submitted by the adopting entity.

Article 123

Exercise of initiative

1 - Members' bills may be signed by:

- a) The proponent Members of the Assembleia da República;
- b) Parliamentary groups;
- c) Groups of registered electors, under the provisions of the law governing legislative initiatives by citizens.

2 - Government bills shall be signed by the Prime Minister and the ministers with competence for the matter in question and must mention that they have been passed by the Council of Ministers.

3 - Government bills with regard to which the initiative was exercised by the Legislative Assemblies of the Autonomous Regions shall be signed by the respective presidents.

Article 124

Formal requisites for bills

1 - Bills must:

- a) Be drafted in the form of Articles, which may be divided into paragraphs and subparagraphs;
- b) Be named in a way that briefly reflects their main purpose;
- c) Be preceded by a short justification or exposé of reasons.

2 - The requisite referred to in subparagraph (c) of the previous paragraph means that, with regard to government bills and as far as possible, the following items shall be presented in brief:

- a) A descriptive memorandum on the social, economic, financial and political situations to which the bill applies;
- b) Information on the benefits and consequences of its implementation;
- c) A digest of the current legislation on the subject.

3 - Government bills must be accompanied by the studies, documents and opinions that have substantiated them, as well as the statements of position of the authorities consulted by the Government in the course of the procedure for their adoption.

4 - Legislative initiatives transposing European directives must be accompanied by a correlation table with the rules of the directive they are intended to transpose into national law.

5 - Bills that do not fulfil the provisions of subparagraph (1)(a) shall not be admitted.

6 - Failure to fulfil the requisites laid down in subparagraphs (1)(b) and (c) shall entail the need for the failure to be made good within a time limit of five days or, in the case of a government bill submitted by a Legislative Assembly of an autonomous region, within a time limit to be set by the President of the Assembleia da República.

7 - The Assembleia da República shall approve, by decision and following a proposal by the President of the Assembleia da República, a standard form for acts falling within its competence

which are not provided for in the Law on the publication, identification and form of legislative acts.

8 - The Assembleia da República may authorise the President of the Assembleia da República to lay down common rules governing the drafting of legislative acts, through an interinstitutional agreement with the other bodies with legislative competence.

Article 125 Procedure

1 - Bills shall be delivered to the Bureau by sending them to the email set up for that purpose, so as to be admitted by the President of the Assembleia da República and published in the *Journal*, in accordance with the Constitution and these Rules of Procedure.

2 - Within two working days of the initiative's entry, an admissibility note shall be drawn up on whether the bills fulfil the formal admissibility requirements laid down in the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure.

3 - Within two working days after receiving the admissibility note, the President of the Assembleia da República must notify the author or first signatory of any rejection.

4 - Bills and draft amendments shall be registered and numbered by order of delivery to the Bureau.

5 - Bills shall be identified at the top by number, legislature and legislative session.

6 - If their signatories so indicate, Member's bills may also state at the top the name of the parliamentary group that is proposing them or of the first Member of the Assembleia da República to sign them, whereupon they must be called by that name in all the applicable procedures.

7 - The bills which have entered the Bureau shall be made available immediately on the Internet and Intranet portal of the Assembleia da República.

Article 126 Appeals

1 - Once a bill has either been admitted and distributed to the competent parliamentary committee or rejected, the President of the Assembleia da República shall notify the Assembleia da República of that fact.

2 - Any Member of the Assembleia da República may lodge a written and duly substantiated appeal against the decision of the President of the Assembleia da República up until the end of the following sitting.

3 - Where an appeal is lodged, the President of the Assembleia da República shall submit it for consideration by the parliamentary committee for a period of 48 hours.

4 - The parliamentary committee responsible for constitutional affairs and interpretation of the Rules of Procedure shall draw up a reasoned opinion, which it shall send to the President of the Assembleia da República, after which the appeal shall be scheduled for discussion and voting at the plenary sitting following the expiry of the deadline referred to in the previous paragraph.

5 - The conclusions of the prior opinion are read out in the Plenary, and each parliamentary group may make a speech lasting no more than four minutes, unless the Conference of Leaders decides to increase the debate time, after which the appeal is voted on.

Article 127

Nature of draft amendments

1 - Draft amendments may take the form of replacements, additions or eliminations.

2 - Replacement proposals are those which, while retaining all or part of the text under discussion, restrict, extend or modify its meaning or which contain a different provision from the one originally submitted.

3 - *(Repealed.)*

4 - Those which, whilst maintaining the original text and its meaning, contain added new material are deemed draft additions.

5 - Those which are intended to eliminate the provision under discussion are deemed draft eliminations.

Article 128

Draft resolutions

1 - Once any draft resolution has been admitted, the President of the Assembleia da República shall refer its text to the parliamentary committee with competence for the matter in question.

2 - The authors of the draft resolution must indicate by the second meeting of the committee to which it is referred whether they wish to have it discussed in Plenary or in committee, and may replace the original text up to 48 hours before its discussion in Plenary or in committee, as the case may be, failing which the draft can only be voted on, if it is still replaced before the discussion is finalised, during the votes of the rules of procedure in the following week.

3 - The inclusion of the discussion of a draft resolution in the order of business of the relevant parliamentary committee requires the consent of its author.

4 - After the discussion in the Plenary or in a committee, draft resolutions shall be included in the list of forthcoming votes under the Rules of Procedure and submitted to a final vote at a Plenary sitting.

5 - Any parliamentary group or Member who is a political party's sole representative may request itemised voting of the draft resolution if it is the only one included in the voting list on the subject, and therefore no detailed vote will be held.

6 - Where more than one bill on a related subject is scheduled in the list of forthcoming votes, these shall be submitted to a vote on the general principles in the Plenary and then referred to the committee responsible for debate and voting on the details, with the option of submitting draft amendments.

7 - In the cases referred to in the preceding paragraph, after the discussion and voting on the details, the final text approved in committee shall be included in the list of forthcoming votes under the Rules of Procedure and submitted to a final overall vote in a Plenary sitting.

8 - Without prejudice to the provisions of this Article, the rules governing the common legislative procedure shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the procedure, discussion and voting on draft resolutions.

9 - The provisions of this Article shall not apply to resolutions on the approval of international conventions or those regulated by specific legal provision or rules of procedure.

Article 128-A **Emergency procedure**

1 - Any bill or draft resolution may be the object of an emergency procedure.

2 - Such an initiative may be undertaken by any Member of the Assembleia da República or parliamentary group and the Government and with regard to any bill of their initiative, by the Legislative Assemblies of the Autonomous Regions, which must contain a proposal for the organisation of the legislative process.

3 - The President of the Assembleia da República shall submit a draft resolution on the granting of such emergency to the vote at the first subsequent plenary sitting, which may include the identification of the procedure to be applied, namely:

- a) Exemption from examination in parliamentary committee or reduction of its time limit;
- b) Determining the timetables to be used in the debate;
- c) The setting of deadlines for the submission of draft amendments and the deadline for discussion and voting on the details;
- d) The shortening of other deadlines for consideration within the Rules of Procedure that do not conflict with compliance with constitutional obligations to hold hearings or public consultations;
- e) The waiving of the referral to the parliamentary committee for final drafting or a reduction in its deadline;
- f) The waiving of deadlines for complaints against inaccuracies.

4 - If requested by a parliamentary group or the Government, the vote may be preceded by a debate, to be organised under the terms of Article 90.

5 - Once an emergency procedure has been declared, and if nothing is decided pursuant to paragraph (2):

- a) The time limit for scrutiny in parliamentary committee shall be at most four days;
- b) The deadline for the final draft is two days, and this may be reduced to one day in cases of special urgency.

DIVISION II **Consideration of bills in parliamentary committee**

Article 129 **Referral of bills**

1 - Once any bill has been admitted, the President of the Assembleia da República shall refer its text to the competent parliamentary committee for consideration and issue of a report.

2 - In cases in which the President of the Assembleia da República refers the text referred to in the previous paragraph to more than one parliamentary committee, he must indicate which one is to be the parliamentary committee with responsibility for drawing up and passing the report.

3 - When the bill's importance and specialist subject matter so warrant, the Assembleia da República may form an ad hoc parliamentary committee to consider it.

Article 130

Determination of the competent parliamentary committee

Where a parliamentary committee disagrees with the decision taken by the President of the Assembleia da República as to the distribution of an initiative, it must inform them of this, stating their reasoning, so that the latter can review the corresponding order, within a period of:

- a) Five working days, from the notification of the decision, in the case of the parliamentary committee to which the initiative was referred, either as the main committee or as a related committee;
- b) Ten working days from the communication of the decision, in the case of a parliamentary committee to which an initiative has not been referred.

Article 131

Technical note

1 - The departments and services of the Assembleia da República shall draw up a technical note for each bill.

2 - Whenever possible, the technical note shall particularly contain:

- a) An analysis of the bill's compliance with the applicable formal and constitutional requisites and those provided for in these Rules of Procedure;
- b) A legal and legal-doctrinal framework for the bill's topic, including at the European and international levels;
- c) A list of other pending Portuguese and Community initiatives on the same matters;
- d) Verification of compliance with the law governing the form of bills;
- e) A succinct analysis of the facts, situations and realities concerned;
- f) A historical overview of any problems raised;
- g) Consideration of the consequences of the bill's passage and the likely costs of its implementation;
- h) Elements relating to impact assessment, particularly gender impact assessment;
- i) References to contributions from entities with an interest in the matters concerned, particularly any opinions they have issued on the topic.

3 - The services of the Assembleia da República shall send the technical note to the relevant parliamentary committee within 15 days after referring the respective bill to the committee.

4 - The technical note must be attached as an annexe to the report that is to be drawn up by the parliamentary committee and shall accompany the legislative initiative throughout the legislative process.

Article 131-A

Prior impact assessment

Without prejudice to the prior impact assessment regimes arising from the law, the Plenary shall approve by resolution, following a proposal from the President of the Assembleia da República and after first consulting the Conference of Leaders, the rules and procedures for assessing the impact of the legislation.

Article 132
Labour legislation

1 - In the case of labour legislation, the parliamentary committee shall arrange for the bill to be considered for the purposes of Articles 54(5)(d) and 56(2)(a) of the Constitution.

2 - Within a time limit set by the parliamentary committee, as laid down by law, workers' committees, trade unions and employers' associations may send it such suggestions as they deem fit and may request that their representatives be heard.

3 - For the purposes of the provisions of the previous paragraphs, such bills shall be published in advance in separate electronic issues of the *Journal*.

4 - The date of each separate issue shall be that of its publication, which shall be the same as that on which it is announced, which date shall be deemed to be the day on which it becomes available on the website of the Assembleia da República.

Article 133
Consultation of ANMP and ANAFRE

Whenever bills concern local authorities, or in the case of other initiatives that warrant doing so, the competent parliamentary committee must arrange to consult the National Association of Portuguese Municipalities (ANMP) and the National Association of Parishes (ANAFRE).

Article 134
Public consultations

1 - Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 132, all legislative initiatives shall be subject to public consultation via the Assembleia da República's website.

2 - For the purposes of the previous paragraph, after being distributed to the parliamentary committee responsible for the matter, the initiatives are uploaded to the tab on the Assembleia da República's website dedicated to public consultations, which must provide a hyperlink to the page of the website corresponding to the initiative, its procedure and supporting documents.

3 - The public consultation will remain open for the entire duration of the procedural initiative until the start of the voting on the details, and it should be noted on the respective page if it has already been the subject of a discussion and vote on its general principles.

4 - The report referred to in article 137 contains an item for consideration of the contributions received up to the conclusion of its preparation.

5 - The parliamentary committee responsible must also promote consultation with the federations and confederations representing the sector when this involves bills on matters where there is a constitutional or legal right to be heard, namely in the areas of disability, consumer rights, the family or education policy.

6 - Without prejudice to the provisions of the previous paragraphs, the parliamentary committees responsible for the matter may collect contributions from interested parties, namely through parliamentary hearings and written requests for contributions.

Article 135

Presentation in parliamentary committee

1 - Once a bill has been admitted, its proposer or one of its proposers has the right to present it before the competent parliamentary committee.

2 - The presentation shall be followed by a period in which the proposer or one of the proposers provides the Members of the Assembleia da República who are present at the parliamentary committee meeting with clarifications.

Article 136

Referral of draft amendments

The President of the Assembleia da República may also refer any draft amendment that affects the principles and logic of the text to which it refers to the parliamentary committee that has pronounced itself on the bill in question.

Article 137

Drawing up reports

1 - The officers of each parliamentary committee have the competence to appoint the Member of the Assembleia da República who is to be responsible for drafting each report.

2 - Where so justified, the bureau of the parliamentary committee may appoint more than one Member of the Assembleia da República as rapporteur to be responsible for parts of a bill or decide on the drawing up of a joint report for more than one initiative.

3 - In appointing the Members of the Assembleia da República as rapporteurs responsible for drawing up the opinion, the relevant parliamentary committee shall use the distribution table drawn up on the share of seats of each party, according to the Hondt method.

4 - As regards government bills and draft resolutions, the non-distribution to the Members of the Assembleia da República who are the authors of the initiative, who belong to the party of the initiative's author or who are from the party supporting the Government shall be ensured, except in cases involving committee decisions in the drawing up of a joint report concerning various initiatives.

5 - The parliamentary groups should appoint the rapporteurs considering a balanced distribution between the members of the parliamentary committee and also considering, whenever possible, the will expressed by a Member of the Assembleia da República.

6 - Distribution should not take place to Members of the Assembleia da República who have invoked potential conflicts of interest, under the terms of the Statute of Members.

Article 138

Time limit for consideration and issue of reports

1 - The parliamentary committee shall pass the duly substantiated report and send it to the President of the Assembleia da República within a time limit of 30 days counting from the date of communicating the referral to the Committee.

2 - At the request of the competent parliamentary committee, the time limit referred to in the previous paragraph may be extended by thirty days by decision of the President of the Assembleia da República.

3 - Failure to pass a report shall not prejudice the course of the respective initiative's legislative process.

4 - The reports shall be published in the *Journal*.

5 - If it is compatible with the scheduling date, the committee may appoint a new rapporteur if the report is not approved.

Article 139 **Content of reports**

1 - The report issued by the parliamentary committee with the competence to consider a bill shall comprise four parts:

a) Part I, intended for a summarised presentation of the bill, the complementary legal analysis to the technical note that the rapporteur considers relevant to the assessment of the initiative and the evaluation of the prior opinions requested or the contributions resulting from public consultation;

b) Part II, intended for the opinion of the rapporteur and the position of each Member of the Assembleia da República or parliamentary group wishing to express these in writing;

c) Part III, aimed at the conclusions, namely whether or not the initiative fulfils the constitutional and regimetal conditions to be scheduled for debate on the general principles in a Plenary sitting;

d) Part IV, containing the technical note, the content of which does not need to be reproduced in other parts of the report, and other Annexes relevant to assessing the initiative.

2 - Without prejudice to the provisions of the following paragraph, the report must obligatorily contain parts I and III, which shall be the object of decision by the parliamentary committee, and must also include the technical note referred to in Article 131 in part IV.

3 - If no prior opinions have been issued or contributions submitted during the public consultation, the rapporteur may propose that the committee adhere to the content of the technical note, dispensing with the drafting of Part I.

4 - Part II shall be optional, shall be the sole responsibility of its author and may not be the object of voting, modification or elimination.

5 - Any Member of the Assembleia da República or any parliamentary group may request that their political positions be annexed to the opinion in Part II, and these must not be subject to voting, deletion or modification.

6 - With regard to Parts I and III, Members of the Assembleia da República or parliamentary groups may request that they be subject to a separate vote, as well as draw up draft alterations, additions or deletions of elements, and those amendments on the details, when occurring, shall be subject to a first vote by the committee.

7 - Where a separate vote or a vote on the details regarding draft alterations, additions or deletions takes place in accordance with the preceding paragraph, the holding of a final vote on the whole of the report is mandatory.

8 - The rapporteur may ask to be replaced by another Member of the Assembleia da República where they consider that the introduction of amendments, or the alteration or deletion of any of the components of the draft report they submitted prevents them from taking responsibility for its authorship.

9 - If the report concludes that the initiative does not fulfil the constitutional and regimental conditions to be scheduled for debate on the general principles in a Plenary sitting, the President of the Assembleia da República shall be notified of this for the purposes of Article 120, and Article 126 shall apply, with the necessary adaptations.

Article 140

Bills regarding the same subject matters

1 - If by half of the deadline set for issuing a report, other bills on the same subject are sent to the parliamentary committee, the parliamentary committee shall consider them jointly, without prejudice to issuing a separate report.

2 - In circumstances other than that provided for in the previous paragraph, precedence shall be given to the issue of a report or reports on the text or texts that were received first.

Article 141

Replacement texts

1 - The parliamentary committee may submit replacement texts before the voting on the general principles and a new general consideration, without prejudice to the bills to which they refer, when the latter are not withdrawn.

2 - The general principles of a replacement text and of the text of the bill shall be discussed together and, when the discussion ends, the texts shall be successively put to the vote in the order in which they were submitted.

DIVISION III

Consultation of self-government organs of the Autonomous Regions

Article 142

Consultation of self-government organs of the Autonomous Regions

In the case of an initiative that addresses subject matter regarding the Autonomous Regions, the President of the Assembleia da República shall arrange for the self-government organs of the Autonomous Regions to consider it for the purposes of the provisions of Article 229(2) of the Constitution.

DIVISION IV

Discussion and voting on bills

SUBDIVISION I

General provisions

Article 143

The rule

1 - Bills that are admitted by the Bureau shall obligatorily be discussed and put to the vote on the general principles in accordance with the time limits set and provided for in these Rules of Procedure.

2 - Bills whose author informs the President of the Assembleia da República in writing by the end of the meeting at which the opinion is passed in the general principles phase by the relevant parliamentary committee that they do not wish to see the initiative discussed and put to the vote on the general principles in accordance with the time limits set in these Rules of Procedure shall be exempted from the previous paragraph.

3 - The effect provided for in the previous paragraph may be revoked at any time at the proposer's request.

4 - When more than one bill addresses the same matters, they may be discussed and put to the vote together pursuant to Article 65.

Article 144

Prior knowledge of bills

1 - No bill may be considered in parliamentary committee or scheduled for discussion at a plenary sitting without first being distributed to the Members of the Assembleia da República and the parliamentary groups.

2 - No bill may be discussed at a plenary sitting without first being published in the *Journal* at least five days in advance.

3 - However, in emergency cases the Conference of Leaders may, by a two-thirds majority weighted in accordance with the number of Members of the Assembleia da República represented at the Conference, reduce the requirement for prior publication to no less than forty-eight hours.

4 - The provisions of the previous paragraphs shall not prejudice any consensus at the Conference of Leaders that the discussion in parliamentary committee or in plenary sitting can take place with dispensation of the established time limits.

5 - Discussion with regard to authorisation to declare war or to make peace or to declare a state of siege or a state of emergency may take place regardless of compliance with any time limit.

Article 145

Beginning and times of debates in Plenary

1 - Debates in plenary sitting on bills that have been considered in parliamentary committee shall begin with speeches by their proposers.

2 - The standard table of debate times shall be set by the Conference of Leaders at the beginning of the legislature in accordance with the following criteria:

- a) The times allotted to each parliamentary group shall consider the share of seats of the parties;
- b) The Government shall have the same time as that allotted to the largest parliamentary group;
- c) Members of the Assembleia da República who are sole representatives of a political party shall each be ensured the floor for one minute;
- d) The proposers of bills shall each dispose of one more minute;
- e) The party that promoted the scheduling shall have an additional period of two minutes for closure;
- f) In the case of potestative scheduling, the respective proposers shall have the same time as that allotted to the largest parliamentary group.

3 - The Conference of Leaders shall also set extended tables of overall time for the debate at the beginning of the legislature, to be used in the following situations:

- a) In the cases provided for in Articles 62 and 169;
- b) Upon a proposal from the President of the Assembleia da República, on condition that no parliamentary group opposes it;
- c) When the debate concerns matters for which the Assembleia da República has exclusive or partially exclusive legislative competence and a parliamentary group requests it;
- d) At the request of the Government.

4 - Non-attached Members may ask the President of the Assembleia da República to take the floor at a maximum of five Plenary sitting debates per legislative session for the same time as Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political party's sole representative.

5 - Floor time taken up by points of order, questions to the Bureau, motions and requests, appeals and reactions to offences to honour shall not be counted in the times allotted to each parliamentary group or the Government.

Article 146

Motions for reconsideration in parliamentary committee

1 - Until the voting is announced and subject to the consent of the proposer, the proposer, any parliamentary group or at least ten Members of the Assembleia da República may move that the text of a bill be reconsidered by any parliamentary committee within a time limit which shall be set, in which case the provisions of Article 144 do not apply.

2 - The motions and requests referred to in the previous paragraph shall be submitted to the Bureau by sending them to the electronic mailbox allocated for that purpose.

3 - If the request is approved, the initiative is referred to the committee responsible for the matter, without voting on the general principles.

4 - If the committee draws up a replacement text for the initiative or initiatives that have been referred without a vote, the text is referred to the committee for inclusion in the voting list for the general, detailed and final overall votes, following the author's consent.

5 - If the initiatives to be reconsidered are in the form of a bill and are not yet accompanied by the respective technical note or report, these may still be drawn up if the relevant committee so decides.

SUBDIVISION II

Discussion and voting on the general principles of bills

Article 147

Object of discussion and voting on the general principles

1 - Discussion on the general principles shall address the principles and logic of each bill.

2 - When a division of a bill is autonomous enough to warrant it, the Assembleia da República may decide to put the division to a separate discussion and vote.

3 - Votes on the general principles shall be put in relation to each bill.

Article 148

Replacement of the text of the initiative

1 - Proposers may replace the text of the initiative up to 48 hours before its discussion on the general principles, and the replacement must be notified immediately to parliamentary groups and other Members of the Assembleia da República.

2 - Where the replacement occurs after the time limit set out in the previous paragraph, and as long as taking place before the discussion on the general principles has been concluded, the voting on the bill cannot be included in the list of forthcoming votes under these Rules of Procedure initially foreseen, thus being automatically entered into the following week's voting time.

3 - All replacements of the text which occur after the scheduling or the approval of the report by the relevant parliamentary committee must be made available on the webpage of that initiative.

4 - Where the replacement occurs after the report has been referred by the Member of the Assembleia da República acting as rapporteur to the relevant committee, a reference to this replacement shall be included in Part IV thereof, which is reserved for any Annexes.

Article 149

Time limits for discussion and voting on the general principles

Bills shall be debated and put to the vote on the general principles in a Plenary sitting, following the resulting setting of the orders of business, pursuant to Articles 59 *et seq.*

Article 149-A

Explanation of voting in the event of rejection

1 - If a legislative initiative is rejected in the voting on the general principles, each parliamentary group may give an oral explanation of the vote for no more than two minutes, without prejudice to the right of any Member of the Assembleia da República or parliamentary group to present a written explanation of voting under the terms of Article 87.

2 - The limit provided for in Article 155(4) is applied to the cases referred to in the previous paragraph.

SUBDIVISION III

Discussion and voting on the details of bills

Article 150

The rule in discussion and voting on the details

1 - Save for the provisions of Article 168(4) and (5) of the Constitution and of these Rules of Procedure, the parliamentary committee with competence for the matter in question shall be responsible for the discussion and voting on the details.

2 - The discussion and voting on the details shall take place within 90 days of the order for referral to the relevant parliamentary committee, without prejudice to the provisions of the following paragraphs.

3 - The chairperson of the committee can only place on the orders of business the start of the discussion and voting on the details of a bill submitted by Members of the Assembleia da República or parliamentary groups with the agreement of the author of the initiative or 45 days after it has been referred to the committee.

4 - In cases where the initiative is being discussed in a working group, the chairperson of the committee shall schedule the respective discussion and voting or the ratification of the indicative votes already taken under the terms defined in the decision that set up the working group.

5 - In cases of greater complexity, or where requested by the relevant parliamentary committee, the President of the Assembleia da República shall set another specific deadline for discussion and voting on the details.

6 - The time limits referred to in paragraphs (2) and (5) may be extended by the President of the Assembleia da República at the request of the relevant parliamentary committee.

Article 151

Mandate by the Plenary

1 - The Plenary of the Assembleia da República may at any time decide to mandate itself to put all or part of a text to the vote on the details.

2 - The decision provided for in the previous paragraph shall be dependent on the existence of a motion made by at least ten Members of the Assembleia da República or a parliamentary group.

3 - The call-back request for voting on the details in a Plenary sitting must be received no later than 6 p.m. on the day before the voting, in accordance with the provisions of Article 96.

4 - In the event the bill is rejected in its entirety during the voting on the details, the call-back request by the Plenary must be submitted no later than eight days after the vote taken in committee, and it shall be included in the first subsequent voting list. The initiative will be deemed to have been definitively rejected if no call-back request is made.

Article 152

Object of discussion and voting on the details

1 - The discussion on the details shall address each Article. The Assembleia da República may decide that more than one Article be discussed simultaneously or, on the grounds of the complexity of the subject matter or of any draft amendments, that the text be discussed paragraph by paragraph.

2 - Voting on the details shall be made separately for each article, paragraph, point or subpoint.

Article 153

Draft amendments

1 - At the beginning of the discussion on the details, the chairman of the competent parliamentary committee shall set the time limits for the submission of draft amendments and for the distribution of the list of votes and the date thereof.

2 - Any Member of the Assembleia da República may submit draft amendments and defend them, even if he is not a member of the competent parliamentary committee.

3 - In the course of discussion and voting, draft amendments that result from the direction the debate takes may be formulated orally or in writing, except in the process of discussion and voting on the draft State Budget law.

4 - Proposals may be submitted in the form of texts merging two or more legislative initiatives, with the consent of the proposers.

Article 154
Voting order

1 - Voting shall be conducted in the following order:

- a) Draft eliminations;
- b) Draft replacements;
- c) (*Repealed.*)
- d) Draft additions to a text that has already been put to the vote;
- e) Remaining body of text, which was not the subject of draft amendments.

2 - When there are two or more draft amendments of the same nature, they shall be put to the vote in the order in which they were submitted.

Article 154-A
Merging and splitting legislative initiatives

1 - When the general principles of two or more bills have been approved, in the course of the discussion and voting on the details, these may be merged into a single final text for final overall voting, with the author's consent.

2 - When the general principles of a bill have been approved, in the course of the discussion and voting on the details, it may be split into more than one final text for final overall voting, with the author's consent.

SUBDIVISION IV
Final overall voting

Article 155
Final overall voting and oral explanations of vote

1 - Once discussion and voting on the details have ended, final overall voting shall take place.

2 - Once the details have been approved, the final text submitted by the committee is sent to the Plenary for a final overall vote.

3 - In cases assigned an emergency status, the text may be included in the first list of forthcoming votes following the rules of procedure, provided that assurance is given that it will be made available to all Members of the Assembleia da República on a physical or digital medium.

4 - Where several final overall votes are put one after the other or voting on the general principles leads to the initiative being rejected, as mentioned in Article 149-A, oral explanations of vote may be given by parliamentary groups as follows:

- a) One explanation of vote, for two minutes each, up to a maximum of two explanations;
- b) One four-minute explanation of vote for the remaining votes.

5 - Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political party's sole representative may produce five oral explanations of vote per legislative session.

DIVISION V
Final text of bills

Article 156
Final text

1 - Once a bill has been passed, the competent parliamentary committee shall be responsible for drafting its final text.

2 - The parliamentary committee may not change the thinking behind the legislation and must restrict itself to perfecting the systematisation of the text and ensuring the uniform application of the legal style guide in use at the Assembleia da República, following a decision without any dissenting votes.

3 - The final text shall be drafted within the time limit set by the Assembleia da República or its President or, if no such limit is set, within a time limit of five days.

4 - Once the text has been finalised, it is signed by the President of the Assembleia da República and takes the form of a decree of the Assembleia da República, and shall be published in the *Journal*.

5 - The final drafting stage may be dispensed with through a resolution approved by the Plenary without any dissenting votes.

Article 157
Complaints against inaccuracies

1 - Any Member of the Assembleia da República may submit complaints against inaccuracies in the decree of the Assembleia da República by the third working day following the date of its publication in the *Journal*.

2 - The President of the Assembleia da República shall decide complaints within a time limit of twenty-four hours, whereupon the Members of the Assembleia da República who made them may appeal to the Plenary or the Standing Committee at any time until the sitting or meeting immediately following the announcement of the decision.

3 - The deadline for complaints against inaccuracies may be waived or shortened by a resolution approved by the Plenary without any dissenting votes.

Article 158
Definitive text

A text shall be deemed definitive when no complaints about it have been made or when any complaints have been decided.

DIVISION VI
Enactment and reconsideration of decrees of the Assembleia da República

Article 159

Decrees of the Assembleia da República

Bills that have been passed are called decrees of the Assembleia da República and shall be sent to the President of the Republic for enactment.

Article 160

Reconsideration of decrees that are the object of a political veto

1 - In cases in which the President of the Republic exercises their veto pursuant to Article 136 of the Constitution, the bill shall be reconsidered as from the fifteenth day following that on which the message containing the duly substantiated veto is received, at a sitting which the President of the Assembleia da República shall convene on their own initiative, or on that of one tenth of all the Members of the Assembleia da República.

2 - The only speakers in the discussion shall be one of the proposers of the bill and one Member of the Assembleia da República from each parliamentary group, each of whom shall speak only once.

3 - Voting may be on confirmation of the decree of the Assembleia da República, or on draft amendments thereto.

4 - In cases in which draft amendments are submitted, voting shall only be on the articles that are the object thereof.

5 - The text of decrees that are not amended shall not require referral to the competent parliamentary committee for the purpose of drafting a final text.

Article 161

Effects of decision

1 - If the Assembleia da República confirms the original vote in accordance with Article 136(2) and (3) of the Constitution, the decree shall be sent to the President of the Republic for enactment, which shall then take place within a time limit of eight days counting from its reception.

2 - If the Assembleia da República makes amendments, the new decree shall be sent to the President of the Republic for enactment.

3 - If the Assembleia da República does not confirm the original decree, the legislative initiative may not be resubmitted in the same legislative session.

Article 162

Reconsideration of decrees that are the object of a veto due to unconstitutionality

1 - In cases in which the President of the Republic vetoes a decree pursuant to Article 279 of the Constitution, the provisions of Article 160 shall apply, with the exceptions contained in the present Article.

2 - The vote may be put in relation to the expunction of the norm or norms that the Constitutional Court has pronounced unconstitutional, to the reformulation of the decree, or to its confirmation.

3 - If the Assembleia da República so decides, a decree that is the object of reformulation or the expunction of the unconstitutional norms may be referred to the competent parliamentary committee for the purpose of drawing up a final draft.

Article 163

Sending for enactment

1 - If the Assembleia da República expunges the unconstitutional norms, or confirms the decree by a two-thirds majority of the Members of the Assembleia da República who are present and the said majority is greater than an absolute majority of all the Members in full exercise of their office, the decree shall be sent to the President of the Republic for enactment.

2 - If the Assembleia da República makes amendments, the new decree shall be sent to the President of the Republic for enactment.

SECTION II

Special legislative procedures

DIVISION I

Political and administrative statutes and electoral laws

Article 164

Initiative in matters regarding political and administrative statutes and electoral laws

1 - Legislative initiative in matters regarding the political and administrative statutes of the Autonomous Regions and electoral laws for the Legislative Assemblies of the Autonomous Regions is the exclusive competence of the respective Legislative Assemblies, pursuant to Article 226 of the Constitution.

2 - The Legislative Assemblies of the Autonomous Regions, Members of the Assembleia da República and the Government may submit draft amendments.

Article 165

Consideration in parliamentary committee, discussion and voting

Consideration in parliamentary committee, discussion and voting shall be conducted in accordance with the general provisions governing legislative procedure.

Article 166

Passage without amendments

If a draft statute is passed without amendment, the decree of the Assembleia da República shall be sent to the President of the Republic for enactment.

Article 167

Passage with amendments or rejection

1 - Where a draft statute or electoral law is passed with amendments or is rejected, it shall be returned to the relevant Legislative Assembly for consideration and the issuance of an opinion.

2 - Once the Legislative Assembly of the Autonomous Region's opinion has been received, it shall be submitted to the competent parliamentary committee of the Assembleia da República.

3 - Any amendments suggested in the Legislative Assembly's opinion may be included in a final text, the details of which will be voted on in committee or be the object of draft amendments to be submitted in a call-back to the Plenary.

Article 168

Supervening amendments

The regime provided for in the preceding Articles is also applicable to amendments to statutes and electoral laws.

DIVISION II

Consideration of bills initiated by the Legislative Assemblies of the Autonomous Regions

Article 169

Right of the Legislative Assemblies of the Autonomous Regions to set the order of business

1 - The Legislative Assemblies of the Azores and Madeira Autonomous Regions have the right to the inclusion of two government bills proposed by them on the order of business in each legislative session.

2 - The President of the Assembleia da República shall be notified of the exercise of the right provided for in the previous paragraph by the fifteenth day of the month, so that it may take effect the following month, in accordance with Article 59.

3 - The proposing Legislative Assembly of an autonomous region may also request that government bills scheduled under the terms of the present Article be put to the vote on the general principles on the same day as the bills are discussed.

4 - The President of the Legislative Assembly of the Autonomous Region must send the request referred to in the previous paragraph to the President of the Assembleia da República. Such requests shall preclude exercise of the right enshrined in Article 146.

5 - In the cases provided for in the present Article, if the government bill is passed on the general principles, the details shall be put to the vote and the bill to a final overall vote within a time limit of thirty days.

Article 170

Consideration of legislative proposals from the Autonomous Regions in parliamentary committees

1 - Representatives of the proposing Legislative Assembly of an autonomous region may participate in the parliamentary committee meetings at which the details of legislative proposals from the Autonomous Region are discussed.

2 - For the purpose provided for in the previous paragraph, the competent parliamentary committee must notify the President of the Assembleia da República that discussion of the details of a legislative proposal from an autonomous region has been included on its order of business, at least eight days before the date of the meeting.

3 - Once he has received the notification referred to in the previous paragraph, the President of the Assembleia da República shall inform the Legislative Assembly of the Autonomous Region of the date and time of the meeting.

DIVISION III
Authorisations to legislate

Article 171

Object, purpose, extent and duration

1 - The Assembleia da República may authorise the Government and the Legislative Assemblies of the Autonomous Regions to issue decree-laws and regional legislative decrees on matters that fall within the sphere of its reserved competence, in accordance with Articles 165 and 227 of the Constitution, respectively.

2 - The law granting authorisation must define the object, purpose, extent and duration thereof.

3 - The duration of an authorisation to legislate may only be extended for a given period, by means of a new law.

4 - Government bills seeking an authorisation must be accompanied by the preliminary draft decree-law or the regional legislative decree to be authorised.

Article 172

Initiative with regard to authorisations to legislate

The original initiative with regard to authorisations to legislate is the exclusive competence of the Government and the Legislative Assemblies of the Autonomous Regions.

Article 173

Prior consultations

Where the authors have conducted public consultations with regard to the preliminary draft of a decree-law or regional legislative decree, they must, for information purposes, attach the preliminary draft to the government bill seeking authorisation to legislate, together with statements of position from the different entities with interest in the matter.

CHAPTER III

Authorisation and confirmation of declarations of a state of siege or a state of emergency

SECTION I

Sitting of the Assembleia da República to authorise declaration of a state of siege or a state of emergency

Article 174

Sitting of the Assembleia da República

1 - If the President of the Republic asks the Assembleia da República for authorisation to declare a state of siege or a state of emergency pursuant to Articles 19, 134(d) and 138 of the Constitution, the President of the Assembleia da República shall arrange for the request to be immediately considered by the Plenary or, in cases in which the Assembleia da República is not sitting and it is impossible for it to sit immediately, by the Standing Committee.

2 - Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 41(2), consideration of a request for authorisation to declare a state of siege or a state of emergency shall be included on the order of business, and the plenary sitting shall be scheduled or the Standing Committee convened, regardless of any time limit or formalities provided for in these Rules of Procedure.

Article 175

Debate on authorisation to declare a state of siege or a state of emergency

1 - The debate shall be based on the message from the President of the Republic which, in accordance with Article 19 of the Constitution, shall constitute the request for authorisation to declare a state of siege or a state of emergency.

2 - The Conference of Leaders shall determine the timetables applicable to the debate on authorisation, ensuring that all parties take the floor and that their share of seats is observed.

3 - Upon a motion from the Government or any parliamentary group, the debate may be closed as soon as one Member of the Assembleia da República from each party has spoken.

4 - The provisions of the previous paragraphs apply, mutatis mutandis, to debates in the Standing Committee.

Article 176

Voting on authorisation

Voting shall be on the grant of authorisation.

Article 177

Form of authorisation

Authorisation shall take the form of a resolution.

SECTION II

Confirmation of declarations of a state of siege or a state of emergency

Article 178

Confirmation of authorisation granted by the Standing Committee

Whenever the Standing Committee grants authorisation to declare a state of siege or a state of emergency, it shall immediately call the Assembleia da República to sit as soon as possible, for the purpose of confirmation of the authorisation.

Article 179

Duration of debate on confirmation

The debate may not exceed one day, and the provisions of Article 175 apply, mutatis mutandis.

Article 180

Voting on confirmation

Voting shall be on confirmation.

Article 181

Form

Confirmation or refusal thereof shall take the form of a resolution.

Article 182

Renewal of authorisation

In cases in which the President of the Republic asks for renewal of the authorisation of the Assembleia da República for a declaration of a state of siege or a state of emergency, the provisions contained in the previous Articles apply, mutatis mutandis.

SECTION III

Consideration of the implementation of a declaration of a state of siege or a state of emergency

Article 183

Consideration of implementation

1 - Within fifteen days of the end of a state of siege or a state of emergency the President of the Assembleia da República shall, in accordance with the Constitution, arrange for the Plenary to consider the manner in which the declaration was implemented.

2 - The provisions contained in Article 175 apply to the debate, mutatis mutandis.

CHAPTER IV

Authorisation to declare war or make peace

Article 184

Sitting of the Assembleia da República to consider a request for authorisation to declare war or make peace

1 - When the President of the Republic asks the Assembleia da República for authorisation to declare war or make peace pursuant to Article 135(c) of the Constitution, the President of the Assembleia da República shall arrange for the request to be immediately considered by the Plenary or, in cases in which the Assembleia da República is not sitting and it is impossible for it to sit immediately, by the Standing Committee.

2 - Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 41(2), consideration of the request for authorisation to declare war or make peace shall be included on the order of business, and the plenary sitting shall be scheduled or the Standing Committee convened, regardless of any time limit or formalities provided for in these Rules of Procedure.

Article 185

Debate on authorisation to declare war or make peace

1 - The debate may not exceed one day and shall be opened and closed by speeches by the Prime Minister with a maximum duration of one hour each.

2 - One Member of the Assembleia da República from each parliamentary group has the right to speak in the debate.

3 - Upon a motion from the Government or any parliamentary group, the debate may be closed as soon as one Member of the Assembleia da República from each party has spoken.

4 - The provisions of the previous paragraphs apply, mutatis mutandis, to debates in the Standing Committee.

Article 186

Voting on and form of the authorisation to declare war or make peace

1 - Voting shall be on the grant of authorisation.

2 - Authorisation shall take the form of a resolution.

Article 187

Immediate calling of the Assembleia da República

Whenever the Standing Committee grants authorisation for the declaration of war or the making of peace, it shall immediately call the Assembleia da República to sit as soon as possible, for the purpose of confirmation of the authorisation.

Article 188

Debate on confirmation of a declaration of war or the making of peace

The debate may not exceed one day, and the provisions of Article 185 apply, *mutatis mutandis*.

CHAPTER V

Consideration of decree-laws and regional legislative decrees

Article 189

Motions to consider decree-laws

1 - Motions to consider decree-laws with a view to causing them to cease to be in force or amending them must be signed by ten Members of the Assembleia da República and be submitted to the Bureau in writing within the thirty days following the publication of the decree-law in question, not counting periods in which the proceedings of the Assembleia da República are suspended.

2 - The motion must indicate the decree-law and the date of its publication and, in the case of a decree-law issued under the terms of an authorisation to legislate, the respective law. It must also contain a succinct statement of the grounds for the motion.

3 - The rules contained in Articles 125 and 126 apply to the motion's admission, *mutatis mutandis*.

Article 190

Time limit for consideration of decree-laws

If the decree-law that is to be the object of consideration was issued under the terms of an authorisation to legislate, the President of the Assembleia da República must schedule its debate by the sixth sitting following submission of the motion to subject it to consideration.

Article 191

Suspension of force

1 - Once a motion to consider a decree-law issued under the terms of an authorisation to legislate has been submitted and if one or more draft amendments are proposed, the Assembleia da República may pass a resolution suspending the force of all or part of the decree-law until either the law that amends it is published, or all the draft amendments are rejected.

2 - The suspension shall expire after ten plenary sittings, if the Assembleia da República has not issued its final pronouncement by then.

Article 192

Consideration of the general principles of decree-laws

1 - Decree-laws shall be considered in plenary sitting.

2 - The debate shall be opened by one of the proposers of the motion, and the Government has the right to speak.

3 - The Conference of Leaders shall set the overall time for the debate, to which end it shall opt for one of the timetables approved at the start of the legislature.

4 - Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph (2), consideration of the decree-law may be conducted in the parliamentary committee with competence for the matter in question, on condition that no parliamentary group opposes it.

Article 193
Voting and form

1 - Voting on the general principles shall be on the cessation of force.

2 - Cessation of force shall take the form of a resolution.

Article 194
Cessation of force and revalidation

1 - In cases of cessation of force, the decree-law shall cease to be in force on the day on which the resolution is published in the *Diário da República*, and may not be published again during the same legislative session.

2 - The resolution shall specify whether the cessation of force means that any rules that were repealed by the legislative act in question are revalidated.

Article 195
Amendment of the decree-law

1 - If the cessation of the decree-law's force is not passed and one or more draft amendments have been submitted, the decree-law and the respective draft amendments shall be referred to the competent parliamentary committee for discussion and voting on the details, save if the Assembleia da República decides that they be analysed in Plenary.

2 - Draft amendments, as well as draft resolutions for cessation of force, may be submitted until the end of the discussion on the general principles, without prejudice to the submission of new draft amendments regarding Articles that are to be the object of discussion and voting on the details.

3 - If amendments are passed in parliamentary committee, the Assembleia da República shall put them to a final overall vote at the next plenary sitting, and the decree-law shall be amended as laid down in the law containing the amendments.

4 - If all the draft amendments are rejected and the force of the decree-law is suspended at the time, for the purposes of Article 169(2) of the Constitution the President of the Assembleia da República shall send a declaration of termination of suspension for publication in the *Journal*.

5 - Where the parliamentary committee rejects all the draft amendments, the consideration process shall be deemed to have concluded, and the Plenary shall immediately be informed of that fact, and the respective declaration concerning the conclusion of parliamentary consideration shall be sent for publication in the *Jornal da República*.

6 - If, once a motion to consider has been made, the Assembleia da República does not pronounce or, if a decision to make amendments has been made, the Assembleia da República

has not passed the applicable law by the end of the current legislative session and fifteen plenary sittings have taken place, the process shall be deemed to have lapsed.

Article 196

Repeal of the decree-law

1 - If at any time the Government repeals the decree-law that is under consideration, the respective process shall automatically be terminated.

2 - If the repeal occurs during the debate on the details, any Member of the Assembleia da República may adopt the decree-law as a Member's bill, in accordance with Article 122(2).

Article 197

Parliamentary consideration of regional legislative decrees

In accordance with and for the purposes of Article 227(4) of the Constitution, the provisions of this Chapter shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to parliamentary considerations of regional legislative decrees.

CHAPTER VI

Approval of treaties and agreements

Article 198

Initiative with respect to matters regarding treaties and agreements

1 - The Government shall send treaties and agreements that are subject to approval by the Assembleia da República under the terms of Article 161(i) of the Constitution, to the Assembleia da República.

2 - The President of the Assembleia da República shall have the respective texts published in the *Journal*, and shall refer them for consideration to the parliamentary committee with competence for the matter in question and, where appropriate, to one or more other parliamentary committees.

3 - When the treaty or agreement concerns the Autonomous Regions, under the terms of Article 227(1)(t) of the Constitution, its text shall be referred to the respective self-government organs so that the latter can pronounce themselves on them.

Article 199

Scrutiny of treaties and agreements in parliamentary committee

1 - If no other time limit is requested by the Government or set by the President of the Assembleia da República, the parliamentary committee shall issue its opinion within thirty days.

2 - Exceptionally, for important reasons regarding the national interest, the Government may request that the parliamentary committee meeting be held in camera.

Article 200

Discussion and voting on treaties and agreements

1 - Discussion on the general principles and the details of treaties and agreements shall take place in the competent parliamentary committee, unless any parliamentary group moves that it take place in Plenary.

2 - The overall voting shall take place in Plenary.

Article 201

Effects of voting on treaties and agreements

1 - If a treaty or an agreement is approved, it shall be sent to the President of the Republic for ratification or for signature of the resolution approving it, respectively.

2 - The President of the Assembleia da República shall have the resolution approving or rejecting the treaty or agreement published in the *Journal*.

Article 202

Resolutions approving treaties or agreements

The resolution approving a treaty or agreement shall contain the respective text.

Article 203

Reconsideration of norms contained in treaties

1 - In cases in which the Constitutional Court pronounces any of the norms contained in a treaty unconstitutional, the resolution approving the treaty shall require confirmation by a two-thirds majority of the Members of the Assembleia da República present and the said majority must be greater than an absolute majority of all the Members in full exercise of their office.

2 - When the norm in the treaty that has been submitted for reconsideration concerns the Autonomous Regions, under the terms of Article 227(1)(t) of the Constitution, the President of the Assembleia da República shall ask the respective self-government organs to pronounce themselves on the matter as a matter of urgency.

3 - The new consideration shall take place at a sitting which the President of the Assembleia da República shall schedule on their own initiative or on that of one tenth of all the Members of the Assembleia da República in full exercise of their office, and which shall take place as from the fifteenth day following reception of the duly substantiated message from the President of the Republic.

4 - Save if the Conference of Leaders decides otherwise, only one member of the Government and one Member of the Assembleia da República from each parliamentary group shall speak in the discussion, and only once each.

5 - The discussion and voting shall be solely on confirmation of approval of the treaty.

6 - If the Assembleia da República confirms the original vote, the treaty shall be sent back to the President of the Republic for the purposes of Article 279(4) of the Constitution.

Article 204

Resolutions with amendments

1 - If the treaty admits reservations, a second resolution by the Assembleia da República confirming it may amend the first resolution that originally approved the treaty, in such a way as to formulate new reservations or modify those that had already been formulated.

2 - In the case provided for in the previous paragraph, the President of the Republic may request a prior assessment of the constitutionality of any the norms contained in the treaty.

CHAPTER VII
Procedures regarding public finances

SECTION I
Major Options, State Budget, General State Accounts and other public accounts

DIVISION I
General provisions with respect to matters regarding public finances

Article 205
Presentation and distribution

1 - The government bills regarding the Major Options of Plans and the State Budget for each financial year, the General State Accounts and other public accounts shall be submitted to the Assembleia da República within the time limits set by the Budget Framework Law.

2 - Where government bills on the Major Options of Plans and the State Budget or the General State Accounts are admitted, the President of the Assembleia da República shall order their publication in the *Journal* and their immediate distribution to the Members of the Assembleia da República and the parliamentary groups.

3 - Government bills, General State Accounts or other public accounts shall be referred to the parliamentary committee with competence for the matter in question, for it to draw up an opinion, and to the remaining parliamentary standing committees for the purposes of drawing up a sectoral opinion within their spheres of competence.

4 - The opinions that the Court of Auditors, the Economic and Social Council or the Public Finance Council sends to the Assembleia da República shall also be published in the *Journal* and referred to the parliamentary committee with competence for these prior opinions.

Article 206
Scrutiny

1 - Parliamentary standing committees shall each draw up their sectoral opinion and send it to the parliamentary committee with competence for the matter in question within the following time limits:

- a) Eight days, with respect to government bills regarding the Major Options;
- b) Eight days, with respect to the government bill regarding the State Budget;
- c) Fifteen days, with respect to the General State Accounts.

2 - The aforementioned parliamentary committee with competence for the matter in question shall draw up the final opinion, which shall contain, in its Annexe IV, the sectoral opinions issued by the other parliamentary standing committees, and send it to the President of the Assembleia da República within the following time limits:

- a) Ten days, with respect to government bills regarding the Major Options;
- b) Ten days, with respect to the government bill regarding the State Budget;
- c) Twenty days, with respect to the General State Accounts.

3 - The departments and services of the Assembleia da República shall conduct a technical analysis of the government bill regarding the State Budget and of the General State Accounts, to be broken down by areas of governance, and shall send it to the parliamentary committee with competence for the matter in question within the following time limits:

- a) Ten days, with respect to the government bill regarding the State Budget;

b) Ninety days, with respect to the General State Accounts.

4 - The time limits laid down in the present Article shall be counted from the date on which the government bill regarding the Major Options and the government bill regarding the State Budget, the General State Accounts and other public accounts are delivered, except with respect to subparagraphs (1)(c) and (2)(c), when the time limits shall be counted from the date of the delivery of the competent opinion of the Court of Auditors.

5 - For the purposes of subparagraph (1)(b), the members of the Government must send the competent parliamentary standing committees a written memorandum about the draft budgets for the areas they oversee, preferably before the meeting provided for in the following paragraph.

6 - For the purposes of consideration of the government bill regarding the State Budget, the parliamentary committees with competence for the matter in question shall meet together within the time limits provided for in paragraphs (1) and (3). The attendance of the ministers with responsibility for the Finance and Social Security areas shall be mandatory, and the meeting shall be open to participation by all Members of the Assembleia da República.

Article 207

Terms of the plenary debate

1 - The overall time for the Plenary debate on the government bill regarding the Major Options of the Plan, the government bill regarding the State Budget for each financial year is set out in the timetables approved at the start of the legislature, with times longer than those resulting from the standard timetable.

2 - The debate shall open and close with a speech from the Prime Minister or one of the Government ministers.

3 - Each parliamentary group has the right to make a statement before the debate is closed.

4 - The debate referred to in paragraph (2) shall take place under the terms set by the Conference of Leaders, which shall comply with the provisions of Article 90.

DIVISION II

Accounts of other public entities

Article 208

Consideration of accounts of other public entities

Those provisions of the previous Articles that refer to the procedure for considering the General State Accounts are applicable, *mutatis mutandis*, to the consideration of the accounts of the other public entities that are required by law to submit their accounts to the Assembleia da República.

DIVISION III
National plans

Article 209
Presentation and consideration

- 1 - The Government shall present the Major Options to the Assembleia da República within the time limits laid down by law.
- 2 - The President of the Assembleia da República shall refer the text of the report on the Major Options of the Plan to the Economic and Social Council for the purposes of the provisions of the respective law.
- 3 - The provisions of the previous Articles are applicable, mutatis mutandis, to the consideration of the Major Options.

DIVISION IV
State Budget

Article 210
Discussion and voting on the general principles of the State Budget

- 1 - Once the time limit for consideration by parliamentary standing committees has expired, the government bill shall be debated and put to the vote on the general principles at a plenary sitting convened exclusively for the purpose.
- 2 - After first consulting the Conference of Leaders, the President of the Assembleia da República shall set the number of plenary sittings, the overall time for the debate, and the distribution of that time.
- 3 - The debate on the general principles of the State Budget shall last for a minimum of two and a maximum of three days.
- 4 - The debate shall open and close with a speech from the Government.
- 5 - Each parliamentary group has the right to make a statement on the bill before the debate is closed.
- 6 - At the end of the debate, the government bill regarding the State Budget shall be put to the vote on the general principles.

Article 211
Discussion on the details of the State Budget

- 1 - Consideration of the details of the State Budget shall last for a maximum of thirty days and shall, following consultation of the Conference of Parliamentary Committee Chairpersons, be organised and undertaken by the parliamentary committee with competence for the matter in question, in such a way as to successively discuss the budget of each ministry, and the respective members of the Government shall speak therein.
- 2 - The budget for each government area is discussed at a joint meeting of the committee referred to in the previous paragraph with the parliamentary standing committee or committees responsible for the matter.

3 - The hearing held at the meeting referred to in the previous paragraph shall be organised in the following stages:

- a) The minister's opening speech, lasting a maximum of 15 minutes;
- b) First round of speeches by each party, with a response to each party;
- c) Second round of speeches by each party, with a final response from the minister;
- d) Third round of speeches lasting a maximum of 160 minutes, subject to individual registration by the Members of the Assembleia da República.

4 - The timetable referred to in the previous paragraph is approved by the Conference of Leaders at the beginning of the legislature, considering the share of seats of each party.

5 - The first round begins with the largest opposition party, proceeding in descending order, with each question immediately followed by the minister's reply, and Members of the Assembleia da República may speak once or several times.

6 - In the second round, each parliamentary group has three minutes and each Member of the Assembleia da República who is a political party's sole representative has one minute to ask questions, with the minister responding jointly to these at the end of the round.

7 - In the third round, Members of the Assembleia da República have an overall period of 80 minutes for speeches, with the time limit allocated to each Member of the Assembleia da República by the Bureau according to the number of registrations, with a maximum of two minutes per speech.

8 - In the third round, the minister may respond at the end of the speeches or by grouping together sets of questions, when the number of participants justifies this.

9 - The minister has an overall time for replies equal to that utilised by the Members of the Assembleia da República.

Article 211-A

Debate and voting on the details of the State Budget

1 - The debate on the details of the articles in the government bill and of the respective draft amendments shall take place in the Plenary, and shall last for a maximum of five days.

2 - The voting on the details of the articles in the government bill, of the budget charts and of the respective draft amendments shall take place in the parliamentary committee with competence for the matter in question.

3 - Voting on the details in the committee may take place using an electronic platform that allows votes to be submitted and counted, under terms to be regulated by Plenary decision, following a proposal from the President of the Assembleia da República, after first consulting the relevant standing committee.

4 - The committee shall divide its specialised work into articles and budget charts.

5 - Parties may move that the Plenary mandate articles in the State Budget and draft amendments to itself, in which respect application of the provisions of Article 151 shall be dispensed with up to the limit defined in the table contained in Annexe II.

Article 211-B

Closing statements

1 - Once the debate and the voting on the details have been concluded, each parliamentary group, by ascending order of their proportional shares of the seats in the Assembleia da República, and the Government, which shall speak last, have the right to make statements before the final overall voting.

2 - After first consulting the Conference of Leaders, the President of the Assembleia da República shall set the times allotted to each parliamentary group, to which end he shall take account of their proportional shares of the seats in the Assembleia da República, and to the Government.

Article 212

Final overall voting on and final text of the State Budget

1 - The government bill shall be the object of final overall voting.

2 - The parliamentary committee with competence for the matter in question shall be responsible for drafting the final text, to which end it shall dispose of a time limit of fifteen days.

SECTION II

Other debates on public finances

Article 213

Debates on public finance policies

1 - Debates on public finance policies shall take place at meetings of the parliamentary committee with competence for the matter in question, save when the law provides or, after first consulting the Conference of Leaders, the President of the Assembleia da República decides, otherwise.

2 - Each debate shall open and close with a speech from the Government.

3 - The Government shall submit the supporting documents for each debate to the Assembleia da República within the time limits set therefore.

Article 213-A

General State Accounts

1 - The General State Accounts are submitted by the Government to the Assembleia da República, under the terms provided for in the Budget Framework Law.

2 - The Plenary debate is opened and closed by the Government, represented by the relevant Minister for the sector, and the overall time for debate and its organisation is set by the Conference of Leaders, in accordance with Article 90.

CHAPTER VIII
Procedures for guidelines and political monitoring

SECTION I
Consideration of the Government's Programme

Article 214

Sitting for presentation of the Government's Programme

1 - In agreement with the Prime Minister, the President of the Assembleia da República shall schedule the sitting of the Assembleia da República at which the Government presents its Programme pursuant to Article 192 of the Constitution.

2 - If the Assembleia da República is not in full session, the President of the Assembleia da República shall obligatorily call it.

3 - The debate may not exceed three days of consecutive sittings.

Article 215

Consideration of the Government's Programme

1 - The Government shall submit its Programme to the Assembleia da República for consideration by means of a statement by the Prime Minister.

2 - Once the presentation has ended, there shall be a period in which Members of the Assembleia da República may submit requests for clarification.

Article 216

Debate on the Government's Programme

1 - The debate on the Government's Programme shall begin when the clarifications provided for in the previous Article have ended or, at the request of any Member of the Assembleia da República, within a maximum time limit of forty-eight hours following distribution of the text of the Programme.

2 - The Conference of Leaders shall organise the debate, in accordance with Article 90.

3 - The debate shall end with speeches by Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political party's sole representative, by one Member of the Assembleia da República from each parliamentary group, and by the Government, which shall close it.

4 - The sole item on the order of business shall be the debate on the Government's Programme.

Article 217

Rejection of the Government's Programme and confidence motion

1 - Until the debate is closed, and without prejudice to the debate itself, any parliamentary group may move that the Programme be rejected, or the Government may ask for passage of a motion of confidence.

2 - Once the debate has been closed, at the same sitting and following an interval of no more than one hour if requested by any parliamentary group, motions to reject the Programme and of confidence in the Government shall be put to the vote.

3 - Motions of rejection or confidence may be withdrawn at any time before they are put to the vote.

4 - If more than one motion to reject the Programme is made, they shall be put to the vote in the order in which they are made, without prejudice to the possibility of each one's individual failure.

5 - Rejection of the Government's Programme requires an absolute majority of all the Members of the Assembleia da República in full exercise of their office.

6 - For the purposes of Article 195 of the Constitution, the President of the Assembleia da República shall notify the President of the Republic of the passage of any motion to reject or of the failure of any confidence motion.

SECTION II

Confidence motions

Article 218

Sitting of the Assembleia da República for consideration of a confidence motion

1 - If, in accordance with Article 193 of the Constitution, the Government asks the Assembleia da República to pass a confidence motion with regard to a statement of general policy or any important matter of national interest, discussion shall begin on the third parliamentary day following submission of the request for a confidence motion to the President of the Assembleia da República.

2 - If the Assembleia da República is not in full session, such a request by the Government shall merely determine that the Plenary be called by prior decision of the Standing Committee pursuant to Article 41.

Article 219

Debate on a confidence motion

1 - The debate may not exceed three days, and the sole item on the order of business shall be the debate on the confidence motion.

2 - The rules contained in Article 90 are applicable to the discussion of confidence motions.

3 - The rules contained in Article 215 and Article 216(2) also apply.

4 - The Government may withdraw the confidence motion at any time before the end of the debate.

Article 220

Voting on a confidence motion

1 - Once the debate has been closed and, if any parliamentary group so requests, after an interval of one hour, the confidence motion shall be put to the vote at the same sitting.

2 - If the confidence motion is not passed, the President of the Assembleia da República shall notify the President of the Republic of the fact for the purposes of the provisions of Article 195 of the Constitution.

SECTION III
Motions of no confidence

Article 221

Initiative with regard to a motion of no confidence

One quarter of all the Members of the Assembleia da República in full exercise of their office or any parliamentary group may, in accordance with Article 194 of the Constitution, make motions of no confidence in the Government with regard to the execution of its Programme or to any important matter of national interest.

Article 222

Debate on a motion of no confidence

1 - The debate shall begin on the third parliamentary day following the submission of the motion of no confidence and may not exceed three days, and the sole item on the order of business shall be the debate on the motion of no confidence.

2 - The debate shall be opened and closed by the first signatory of the motion.

3 - The Prime Minister has the right to speak immediately after and before the speeches provided for in the previous paragraph.

4 - The Conference of Leaders shall organise the debate, in accordance with Article 90.

5 - The motion of no confidence may be withdrawn at any time before the end of the debate, but in this case the debate shall count for the purpose provided for in Article 180(2)(d) of the Constitution.

Article 223

Voting on a motion of no confidence

1 - Once the debate has been closed and, if any parliamentary group so requests, after an interval of one hour, the motion of no confidence shall be put to the vote.

2 - The motion of no confidence shall only be deemed passed if it receives an absolute majority of all the Members of the Assembleia da República in full exercise of their office.

3 - If the motion of no confidence is not passed, its signatories may not make another such motion during the same legislative session.

4 - In cases in which a motion of no confidence is passed, the President of the Assembleia da República shall notify the President of the Republic of the fact for the purposes of the provisions of Article 195 of the Constitution and shall send the motion for publication in the *Jornal da República*.

SECTION IV
Governmental debates

Article 224

Plenary Governmental Debates

1 - The Government regularly attends Plenary sittings with Members of the Assembleia da República to monitor government activity and the process of constructing the European Union.

2 - Debates are scheduled by the President of the Assembleia da República, after first consulting the Conference of Leaders and the Government.

3 - The overall times for each party in the debates, as well as the order in which questions are asked, are set out in the timetables approved at the beginning of each legislature, considering their respective share of seats.

Article 224-A
Prime-ministerial debates

1 - The Prime Minister shall attend the Plenary for a session of questions from Members of the Assembleia da República once a fortnight.

2 - The question session shall adopt one of two alternative formats:

- a) In the first, the debate shall be opened by an initial speech by the Prime Minister, which shall last for a period of no more than ten minutes and shall be followed by a phase of a single round of questions from Members of the Assembleia da República;
- b) In the second, the debate shall begin with a phase of a single round of questions from Members of the Assembleia da República.

3 - Each party has an overall debating time for its round of questions, which may be divided as follows by one or more Members of the Assembleia da República:

- a) Parliamentary groups that have 10 or more minutes of overall debate time may divide their time into seven speeches;
- b) Parliamentary groups that have less than 10 minutes of overall debate time may divide their time into five speeches;
- c) Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political party's sole representative may divide their time into two speeches.

4 - Each speech is immediately followed by the Prime Minister's response.

5 - The Prime Minister has an overall time for replies equal to that of each of the parliamentary groups or the Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political party's sole representative who question him.

6 - In the format referred to in paragraph 2(a), the parties not represented in the Government shall intervene in descending order in terms of their share of seats, followed by those represented in the Government in ascending order of their share of seats.

7 - In the format referred to in paragraph 2(b), parties shall intervene in descending order in terms of their share of seats, but priority shall be given alternately to different parties according to the table approved under the terms of paragraph 3 of the previous Article.

8 - The Prime Minister may ask one of the ministers present to complete their own response, or to respond, to any given question.

9 - The Government, in the format referred to in paragraph 2(a), and the parties, in the format referred to in paragraph 2(b), shall notify the Assembleia da República and the Government, respectively, at least 24 hours in advance of the topics of their speeches.

10 - The debate with the Prime Minister is not held:

- a) In the month in which the Government Programme is presented;
- b) In the month in which the debate on the state of the Nation takes place;
- c) During the discussion of the State Budget bill;
- d) In the fortnight following the discussion of motions of confidence or motions of no confidence.

Article 224-B

Sector debate with ministers

1 - The Government shall appear before the Plenary at least once a month, through a minister, for a session of questions from Members of the Assembleia da República, under the terms set out in paragraph (9).

2 - The debate shall cover all matters relating to the areas under the minister's supervision, who shall be accompanied for this purpose by the secretaries and undersecretaries of state who assist them in the performance of their duties.

3 - The debate will open with an initial speech by the minister, lasting no more than 10 minutes, followed by the questioning phase undertaken by Members of the Assembleia da República, which will be undertaken in a single round.

4 - Each party shall have an overall debate time for its round of questions, and may allocate this in accordance with paragraph (3) of the previous Article, utilising one or more Members of the Assembleia da República.

5 - Each speech is immediately followed by the minister's reply.

6 - The minister has an overall time for replies equal to that of each of the parliamentary groups or the Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political party's sole representative who question them.

7 - Parties shall intervene in descending order in terms of their share of seats, but priority shall be given alternately to different parties according to the table approved under the terms of Article 224(3).

8 - The minister may ask one of the secretaries or undersecretaries of state present to complete or answer a particular question.

9 - The calendar for debates with ministers shall be established at the beginning of each legislative session at the meeting referred to in Article 49(3), and the President of the Assembleia da República shall ensure that the thematic areas of the debates with ministers alternate and are not repeated in the same legislative session, and that the same minister is not nominated to appear in the same legislative session, or in two consecutive debates.

10 - There are no debates with ministers:

- a) In the month in which the Government Programme is presented;
- b) In the month in which the debate on the state of the Nation takes place;
- c) During the discussion of the State Budget bill.

Article 225

European debates

1 - The Government shall also attend debates in Plenary in the context of monitoring the process of constructing the European Union, under the terms laid down in the respective legal regime.

2 - European debates where the attendance of the Prime Minister is mandatory, under the terms of the respective legal regime, shall be held, whenever the agenda of the European Council so permits, on the same day as the debate referred to in Article 224-A.

3 - Debates shall open with an initial speech by the Government, for a period of no more than 10 minutes, followed by a phase of questions from parliamentary groups and Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political party's sole representative, in descending order of share of seats, in a single round, without prejudice to the possibility of dividing the time among more than one Member of the Assembleia da República.

4 - The Government shall respond at the end of each party's speech.

Article 226

Debate on the progress report concerning the scrutiny of Government activity

1 - At the beginning of each legislative session, a debate with the Government shall take place to discuss the progress report referred to in Article 21(3)(c).

2 - The Conference of Leaders shall organise the debate, in accordance with Article 90.

SECTION V

Calls upon the Government to attend the Assembleia da República

Article 227

Calls upon the Government to attend the Assembleia da República

1 - Where the right provided for in Article 180(2)(d) of the Constitution is exercised, the general policy debate shall begin by the tenth day following publication in the *Journal* of the call upon the Government or its notification in writing to the Members of the Assembleia da República, through electronic mail.

2 - The debate shall be opened by a speech by a Member of the Assembleia da República from the parliamentary group that made the call and by a speech by a member of the Government.

3 - The Conference of Leaders shall organise the debate, in accordance with Article 90.

SECTION VI

Debates on the state of the Nation

Article 228

Sittings for debates on the state of the Nation

1 - Annually, there shall be a general policy debate on a date to be set by agreement between the President of the Assembleia da República and the Government, which shall take place in one of the last ten sittings of the legislature in the Assembleia da República. This general debate shall begin with a speech on the state of the Nation by the Prime Minister, subject to questions from the parliamentary groups and the Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political

party's sole representative which shall then be followed by the general debate and closed by the Government.

2 - The Conference of Leaders shall organise the debate, in accordance with Article 90.

SECTION VII

Questions and requests

Article 229

Submission and treatment of questions and requests

1 - Questions and requests submitted under the terms of Article 156(d) and (e) of the Constitution shall be numbered and published, and the President of the Assembleia da República shall send them to the competent entity.

2 - The questions and requests must clearly identify the entity to which they are addressed and which has the competence to provide clarifications.

3 - The Government and the Public Administration must respond with the urgency warranted by the question, and response times must not exceed thirty days.

4 - Whenever the Government or the Public Administration are unable to respond within the time limit so set, they must inform the President of the Assembleia da República of this fact and also submit the respective substantiation in writing.

5 - The questions, requests and responses, together with the respective dates and the time limits laid down in these Rules of Procedure, must appear on the website of the Assembleia da República.

Article 230

Unanswered questions and requests

1 - The questions and requests that have not been answered within the time limit provided for in paragraph (3) of the previous Article shall be published in chronological order in the *Journal* and on the website of the Assembleia da República, in the first week of each month.

2 - Such publication must set apart cases covered by paragraph (4) of the previous Article, which shall be accompanied by the respective substantiation, as well as cases in which the response has been given after the applicable time limit.

SECTION VIII

Hearings of persons designated for appointment to senior state offices

Article 231

Conduct of hearings of persons designated for appointment to senior state offices

In cases in which the law grants the Assembleia da República the competence to hear persons who are designated for appointment as the heads of independent Regulatory Authorities or the holders of senior state offices, the hearing shall take place in the parliamentary committee with competence for the matter in question.

SECTION IX
Petitions

Article 232

Exercise of the right to petition

1 - The right to petition provided for in Article 52 of the Constitution shall be exercised before the Assembleia da República, as laid down by law.

2 - Without prejudice to the provisions of the following paragraph, the Assembleia da República shall consider petitions and draw up final reports thereon as described in the relevant legal scheme, and Article 139 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

3 - Where, under the terms of the law, a rapporteur is not nominated, the process considering the petition is concluded with the approval of the admissibility note.

4 - Where the law requires that a petition be considered in a Plenary sitting, the representatives of each party shall take the floor according to the standard timetable for debates set by the Conference of Leaders at the beginning of the legislature, pursuant to Article 145.

SECTION X
Parliamentary inquiries

Article 233

Holding parliamentary inquiries

1 - The purpose of parliamentary inquiries is to assess compliance with the Constitution and the laws and consider the acts of the Government and the Administration.

2 - Parliamentary committees of inquiry shall be formed, the initiative leading to the inquiry itself shall be processed, and the inquiry shall be conducted, as laid down by law.

3 - Any motion or project that would tend to lead to the holding of an inquiry must indicate the latter's grounds and delimit its scope, failing which the President of the Assembleia da República may summarily dismiss the request or project.

4 - The non-admission of a project can always be appealed to the Plenary, under the terms of article 82

Article 234

Consideration of parliamentary inquiries

1 - The Assembleia da República shall pronounce on any motion or project by the 15th day following its publication in the *Journal* or its notification in writing to the Members of the Assembleia da República, through electronic mail.

2 - One of the motion or proposal's signatories, the Prime Minister or another member of the Government, and a representative of each parliamentary group shall speak in the debate, under the terms of the respective timetables set by the President of the Assembleia da República, after first consulting the Conference of Leaders, under the terms of Article 90.

Article 235

Decisions to hold an inquiry and reports

1 - When the Assembleia da República is required to decide on the holding of an inquiry, once the decision has been made an ad hoc parliamentary committee shall be formed for the purpose, as laid down by law.

2 - The Plenary shall set the date by which the parliamentary committee must submit the report, in accordance with, and within, the limits laid down by law.

3 - If the report is not submitted within the time limit that is set, the parliamentary committee must substantiate the failure to comply and ask the Plenary to extend the time limit in accordance with, and within, the limits laid down by law.

Article 236

Powers of parliamentary committees of inquiry

1 - Parliamentary committees of inquiry enjoy the investigative powers pertaining to the judicial authorities and any other powers and rights provided for by law.

2 - Testimony before parliamentary committees of inquiry takes place in the Assembleia da República, in rooms duly prepared for this purpose, where the deponent and any accompanying persons are placed before the Members of the Assembleia da República, at a table of their own.

Article 237

Debate on the report

1 - Up to 30 days after the publication of the report and explanations of vote, the President of the Assembleia da República shall include its consideration on the order of business.

2 - The parliamentary inquiry committee may submit a draft resolution along with its report.

3 - Once the report has been submitted to the Plenary, the debate shall be opened by a brief presentation by the chair of the committee and the rapporteur, or the representative of the panel of rapporteurs appointed, and shall follow its own timetable set by the President of the Assembleia da República, after first consulting the Conference of Leaders, under the terms of Rule 90

4 - Without prejudice to the overall discussion times, each parliamentary group has three minutes to provide explanations of vote, and the Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political party's sole representative have one minute.

5 - Together with the report, the Plenary shall consider the draft resolution submitted to it.

6 - The report is not subject to a vote in the Plenary.

SECTION XI

Ombudsman's reports and recommendations

Article 238

Ombudsman's annual report

1 - Following its receipt, the Ombudsman's annual report shall be referred to the parliamentary committee with competence for the matter in question.

2 - The parliamentary committee shall examine the report within sixty days of receiving it, and must request the complementary information and clarifications it deems necessary.

3 - For the purposes of the previous paragraph, the parliamentary committee may ask the Ombudsman to attend it.

Article 239

Consideration of the Ombudsman's annual report in Plenary

1 - The parliamentary committee shall issue a duly substantiated opinion, which it shall send to the President of the Assembleia da República for publication in the *Journal*.

2 - The President of the Assembleia da República shall include consideration of the Ombudsman's report on the order of business for no later than the thirtieth day following receipt of the opinion.

3 - The debate shall be a general one, in accordance with Article 145(2).

Article 240

Special Ombudsman's reports

When the Ombudsman approaches the Assembleia da República because the Public Administration is failing to act in accordance with their recommendations or is refusing to cooperate as requested, the President of the Assembleia da República shall send the respective communication and any accompanying documents to the parliamentary committee with competence for the matter in question and to the parliamentary groups, and shall order their publication in the *Journal*.

Article 241

Ombudsman's recommendations

When the Ombudsman addresses recommendations for legislation to the Assembleia da República, the said recommendations and any accompanying documents shall be sent to the parliamentary groups for the purposes they deem fit, and shall be published in the *Journal*.

SECTION XII

Reports from other entities

Article 242

Consideration of other reports

1 - Where the law provides for the submission of a report to the Assembleia da República, the parliamentary committee with competence for the matter in question shall arrange for its author to be heard in the cases explicitly provided for by law, without prejudice to any decision to that effect where the committee deems it essential to gather evidence for its opinion.

2 - The relevant parliamentary committee shall deliver a prior opinion on the report in cases where the law explicitly so provides, and the provisions of Article 139 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

3 - Where the law so provides, the report shall be scheduled for consideration in a Plenary sitting, and the debate shall be organised according to one of the timetables set in accordance with Article 145.

4 -In other cases, the competent committee may hold a debate on the content of the report, which must take place as part of the discussion of the relevant opinion in the cases where it is issued.

CHAPTER IX

Procedures with regard to other entities

SECTION I

Procedures with regard to the President of the Republic

DIVISION I

Installation of the President of the Republic

Article 243

Sitting of the Assembleia da República for installation of the President of the Republic

1 - The Assembleia da República shall sit especially for the installation of the President of the Republic, in accordance with Article 127 of the Constitution.

2 - If the Assembleia da República is not in full session, the Standing Committee or, if it is impossible for the latter to do so and there is a dire emergency, more than half of all the Members of the Assembleia da República, shall exercise the initiative to call it.

Article 244

Formalities regarding installation of the President of the Republic

1 - Once the sitting has been opened, the President of the Assembleia da República shall suspend it in order to receive the President of the Republic elect and the guests.

2 - Once the sitting has resumed, the President of the Assembleia da República shall have the minutes of the calculation of the general result of the election read out by one of the Secretaries of the Bureau.

3 - The President of the Republic elect shall swear the pledge laid down in Article 127(3) of the Constitution, and the national anthem shall then be sung.

4 - The President of the Republic and the President of the Assembleia da República shall sign the record of the installation.

Article 245

Acts following installation of the President of the Republic

1 - Once the record of the installation has been signed, the President of the Assembleia da República shall deliver a speech welcoming the new President of the Republic.

2 - If he so wishes and in accordance with Article 133(d) of the Constitution, the President of the Republic shall reply in the form of a message to the Assembleia da República.

3 - Once the President of the Republic has spoken, the President of the Assembleia da República shall declare the meeting closed and the national anthem shall again be sung.

DIVISION II

Consent to the President of the Republic's absence from Portuguese territory

Article 246

Consent to absence

1 - The President of the Republic shall ask the Assembleia da República for consent before absents himself from Portuguese territory by addressing a message to the Assembleia da República, in accordance with Articles 129 and 133(d) of the Constitution.

2 - If the Assembleia da República is not in full session, consent is granted by the Standing Committee pursuant to Article 179(3)(e) of the Constitution.

3 - The message shall be published in the *Journal*.

Article 247

Scrutiny of consent to absence in parliamentary committee

Immediately upon receipt of the message from the President of the Republic and if the Assembleia da República is in full session, the President of the Assembleia da República shall arrange to convene the parliamentary committee with competence for the matter in question, and shall set it a time limit for the issue of an opinion.

Article 248

Discussion of consent to absence

Where a parliamentary group or ten Members of the Assembleia da República request the holding of a debate, the discussion in a Plenary sitting shall be based on the message of the President of the Republic, and one Member of the Assembleia da República from each parliamentary group and the Government shall have the right to speak.

Article 249

Form of the act of consent to absence

The decision of the Assembleia da República shall take the form of a resolution.

DIVISION III

Resignation of the President of the Republic

Article 250

Sitting of the Assembleia da República in cases of resignation of the President of the Republic

1 - In cases in which the President of the Republic resigns, the Assembleia da República shall sit within a time limit of forty-eight hours of receipt of the message provided for in Article 131 of the Constitution, in order to take note thereof.

2 - There shall be no debate.

DIVISION IV
Charges against the President of the Republic

Article 251

Sitting of the Assembleia da República for charges against the President of the Republic

For the purposes of the provisions of Article 130(2) of the Constitution, the Assembleia da República shall sit within forty-eight hours of the making of any motion signed by one fifth of all the Members of the Assembleia da República in full exercise of their office.

Article 252

Formation of special parliamentary committee

The Assembleia da República must form a special parliamentary committee for the purpose of drawing draw up a report within the time limit set for it.

Article 253

Discussion and voting

1 - Once he has received the parliamentary committee's report, the President of the Assembleia da República shall schedule a plenary sitting within the following forty-eight hours in order to address it.

2 - At the end of the debate, the President of the Assembleia da República shall put the question of whether to instigate proceedings to the vote, passage of which shall require a decision taken by a two-thirds majority of all the Members of the Assembleia da República in full exercise of their office.

SECTION II

Proceedings concerning members of the Government

Article 254

Discussion and voting on suspension of members of the Government

1 - If criminal proceedings are brought against any member of the Government and an indictment order or equivalent is definitively issued against him, the Assembleia da República shall decide whether or not the member of the Government in question must be suspended so that the proceedings may go ahead, save in cases in which the crime is punishable by a maximum of more than three years' imprisonment.

2 - The decision provided for in the present Article shall be preceded by an opinion from a parliamentary committee formed especially for the purpose, shall be taken by secret ballot, and its passage shall require an absolute majority of the Members of the Assembleia da República present.

SECTION III

Appointment of holders of offices outside the Assembleia da República

Article 255

Election of holders of offices outside the Assembleia da República

The Assembleia da República shall elect the holders of those offices outside the Assembleia da República whose appointment falls within its areas of competence, as laid down in the Constitution or by law.

Article 256

Submission of nominations

1 - Nominations shall be submitted by a minimum of ten Members of the Assembleia da República and a maximum of thirty Members of the Assembleia da República.

2 - Except for provisions contrary to the law, nominations shall be submitted to the President of the Assembleia da República at least seven days before the date of the election, together with each candidate's curriculum vitae and a declaration of acceptance of the nomination.

3 - During the period between the submission of nominations referred to in the previous paragraph and the date of the election, the Assembleia da República, acting via the competent parliamentary committee, shall hear each of the candidates.

Article 257

Hearings of candidates for offices outside the Assembleia da República

The Assembleia da República shall arrange to hear all candidates for the offices outside the Assembleia da República, whose holders it has the competence to appoint.

Article 258

Voting on the election of holders of offices outside the Assembleia da República

1 - When electing holders of offices outside the Assembleia da República, the electoral system provided for in the Constitution or the law for the respective election shall be utilised.

2 - In the absence of such legal provision:

- a) Whenever the proportional representation system is applied, the election shall be for complete lists, using d'Hondt's highest-average method;
- b) Where this involves an individual election, the candidate who obtains more than half of the validly cast votes shall be deemed elected. Where none of the candidates obtains this number of votes, there shall be a second round of voting, solely with regard to the two candidates who received the most votes and whose nominations have not been withdrawn.
- c) The lists should include at least two supplement members.

Article 259

Interim election

Except for provisions contrary to this, the filling of vacancies which occur during any mandate is undertaken through an interim election, to conclude the mandate in progress.

Article 260

Re-opening of process

Where no candidates are elected, the proceedings in relation to unfilled vacancies shall be re-opened as soon as possible.

CHAPTER X

Procedure regarding monitoring, consideration and pronouncement within the scope of the process of constructing Europe

Article 261

Participation of Portugal in the process of European integration

1 - The law defines the competences of the Assembleia da República to monitor, consider and make pronouncements on Portugal's participation in the process of constructing the European

Union and to exercise the powers of national parliaments as set out in the treaties governing the European Union.

2 - To perform their duties, the Assembleia da República and the Government shall engage in regular consultation.

Article 262

Pronouncement on European matters

1 - The Assembleia da República shall, pursuant to the law, issue opinions on matters that fall within the sphere of its reserved legislative competence and are pending decision at European Union bodies as well as on other initiatives of European institutions, ensuring that their content is analysed and, where applicable, compliant with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

2 - Article 139 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to opinions on European matters.

Article 263

Transposing directives

1 - In the first quarter of each year, the Government shall submit to the Assembleia da República a brief report to enable Portugal's participation in the process of constructing the European Union to be monitored. That is, it should provide information on the decisions with the greatest impact for Portugal which have been taken the previous year by European institutions and the measures put into practice by the Government as a result of these, with particular focus on the transposition of directives.

2 - The legislative process of transposing directives falling under the competence of the Assembleia da República may be subject to an emergency decision, in cases where it is duly substantiated that there is a need to ensure compliance with the respective transposition periods.

TITLE V

Final provisions

Article 264

Interpretation and completion of these Rules of Procedure

1 -The Bureau shall have the competence to interpret and complete these Rules of Procedure, subject to appeal to the Plenary, after hearing the competent parliamentary committee for matters relating to constitutional affairs whenever it deems this necessary.

2 - When given in writing, the Bureau's decisions on the interpretation and completion of these Rules of Procedure shall be published in the *Journal*.

Article 265

Amendments to these Rules of Procedure

1 - On the initiative of any Member or parliamentary group, the Assembleia da República may amend these Rules of Procedure.

2 - Draft Rules of Procedure must comply with the rules laid down in Article 120(1) and Articles 124 et sequitur.

3 - Once any draft Rules of Procedure have been admitted, the President of the Assembleia da República shall refer the text to the relevant parliamentary committee for discussion and voting, which shall then set a reasonable time limit for the submission of other draft rules of procedure or draft amendments to be considered under the same revision procedure.

4 - The final text approved in a parliamentary committee shall be subject to final overall voting in a Plenary sitting.

ANNEXE I

Tables of potestative rights per legislative session:

Calls upon the Government to attend the Assembleia da República:

Each parliamentary group - two calls;

Debates on current affairs:

Up to fifteen Members of the Assembleia da República - one debate;

Up to one tenth of all the Members of the Assembleia da República - two debates;

For each additional tenth of all the Members of the Assembleia da República - two more debates;

Right to set the order of business:

Parliamentary groups represented in the Government:

For each tenth of all the Members of the Assembleia da República - one sitting;

Parliamentary groups not represented in the Government:

Up to ten Members of the Assembleia da República - one sitting;

Up to fifteen Members of the Assembleia da República - two sittings;

Up to one fifth of all the Members of the Assembleia da República - four sittings;

For each additional tenth of all the Members of the Assembleia da República - two more sittings;

Members of the Assembleia da República who are a political party's sole representative – 2 sittings per legislature;

Emergency debates:

Up to five Members of the Assembleia da República - one debate;

Up to ten Members of the Assembleia da República - two debates;

Up to fifteen Members of the Assembleia da República - three debates;

Up to one fifth of all the Members of the Assembleia da República - four debates;

More than one fifth of all the Members of the Assembleia da República – 5 debates;

Potestative rights in parliamentary committees:

Up to five Members of the Assembleia da República - two;

Up to ten Members of the Assembleia da República - three;

Up to fifteen Members of the Assembleia da República - four;

Up to one fifth of all the Members of the Assembleia da República - six;

More than one fifth of all the Members of the Assembleia da República – eight;

Note. - This distribution of potestative rights corresponds to a series that repeats itself throughout the legislature.

ANNEXE II

(as referred to in Article 211-A(5) of the Rules of Procedure)

Mandates in matters regarding the State Budget:

Up to five Members of the Assembleia da República - two mandates;

Up to ten Members of the Assembleia da República - five mandates;

Up to fifteen Members of the Assembleia da República - seven mandates;

Up to one fifth of all the Members of the Assembleia da República - ten mandates;

More than one fifth of all the Members of the Assembleia da República - twelve call-backs;

Preambulatory rules of the
Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República No 1/2020 of 31 August 2020

Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República

In accordance with Article 175(a) of the Constitution, the Assembleia da República hereby passes the following:

Article 1

Approval of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República

1 - The Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República are approved in the Annexe hereto.
2 – In addition to the amendments approved in the final overall vote of 23 July 2020, the new Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República include the amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República no. 1/2007 of 20 August 2007, approved in the final overall vote of 20 December 2019 and 14 February 2020, and which reported the production of effects to the days following their approval, with the necessary re-systematisation and renumbering of precepts.

Article 2

Annexes to the Rules of Procedure

The following shall form an integral part of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República:

- a) The tables of potestative rights, as Annexe I;
- b) The table of call-back rights by the Plenary in matters regarding voting on the details of the State Budget, as Annexe II.

Article 3

Transitional provision

The Conference of Leaders shall approve the timetables provided for in the Rules of Procedure by 14 September 2020.

Article 4

Repeal

The Rules of Procedure no. 1/2007 of 20 August 2007, as amended by the Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República nos. 1/2010 of 14 October 2010, 1/2017 of 21 April 2017, and 1/2018 of 22 January 2018, are hereby repealed.

Article 5

Entry into force

These Rules of Procedure shall enter into force on 1 September 2020.

Passed on 23 July 2020.

The President of the Assembleia da República, *Eduardo Ferro Rodrigues*.

Preambulatory rules of the
[Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República No 1/2023 of 9 August 2023](#)
rectified by the [Statement of Rectification No 20/2023 of 19 September](#)

Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República

In accordance with Article 175(a) of the Constitution, the Assembleia da República hereby passes the following:

Article 1

Purpose

This initiative hereby implements the first amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República, approved by the Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República No 1/2020 of 31 August.

Article 2

Alterations to the Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República

Consult the [original document](#)

Article 3

Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República

Consult the [original document](#)

Article 4

Systematic alteration and renumbering

1 - In the Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República:

- a) Chapter VI of Title II, entitled “Bilateral parliamentary forums”, is established, including Article 47;
- b) Article 263 is included in Chapter X of Title IV;
- c) Chapter XI of Title IV is deleted;
- d) A Title V is created, entitled “Final provisions”, which includes Articles 264 and 265.

2 — Articles 134, 141, 132, 133, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 267 and 268 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República shall be renumbered as, respectively, Articles 132, 133, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 134, 264 and 265 and the references to these articles shall be deemed to have also been renumbered.

Article 5

Terminological harmonisation

1 — References to “Major Options of the Plan” or “major options of the national plans” in Article 60(2)(e), Article 87(2), the heading of Section I of Chapter VII of Title IV, Article 205(1) and (2), Article 206(1), (2)(a) and (4), Article 207(1) and Article 209(1), (2) and (3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República shall be deemed to refer to “Major Options”.

2 — The reference to “exterior offices” in the heading of Section III of Chapter IX of Title IV of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República shall be deemed to refer to “external offices”.

3 — References to “laps” and “lap” in the introductory sentence and in Article 104(7)(a) and (b) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República shall be deemed to refer to “rounds” and “round”, respectively.

Article 6

Transitional provisions

1 — The Conference of Leaders shall approve by 14 September 2023 the norms necessary to implement the amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República, namely the timetables which require revision.

2 — Parliamentary committees shall review their rules of procedures, to adapt them to the amendments contained in these Rules of Procedure, within 45 days of their entry into force, by immediately applying the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República that do not need to be adapted through their committee rules of procedures.

3 — Until the approval of the procedures for the overall impact assessment of legislative acts, the requirements to fill in the impact assessment of the type provided for in the Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República No 1/2020 of 31 August are maintained.

4 — The provisions of Article 140(2) are to be applied by the end of the 2nd legislative session of the 15th Legislature.³

Article 7

Repealing rule

1 — Article 127(3), Article 154(1)(c) and Articles 264 to 266 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República are hereby repealed.

2 — Assembleia da República Resolutions Nos 6/2003 of 24 January, and 56/2004 of 23 July are hereby repealed.

Article 8

Republication

The Rules of Procedure of the Assembleia da República No 1/2020 of 31 August, in its current wording, is republished as an Annexe.

Article 9

Entry into force

These Rules of Procedure shall enter into force on the first day of the 2nd legislative session of the 15th Legislature, without prejudice to the entry into force of the norms providing for the issuing of regulations and decisions necessary for the execution of the Rules of Procedure, which enter into force on the day following their publication.

Passed on 19 July 2023.

The President of the Assembleia da República, *Augusto Santos Silva*.

³ The reference to Article 140(2) should be considered to be to Article 134(2) (in accordance with the renumbering carried out by preambulatory Article 4(2) of the Rules of Procedure No 1/2023 of 9 August, which by mistake was not stated in this norm).