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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
(VENICE COMMISSION)

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

**DRAFT CODE ON THE ORGANISATION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE
PARLIAMENT**

AND SUBSTANTIATION NOTE

Draft**CODE ON THE ORGANISATION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE PARLIAMENT**

Pursuant to Art. 64 para. (1) and Art. 72 para. (3) c) of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova,

the Parliament adopts this organic law.

TITLE I**ORGANISATION AND FUNCTIONING
OF THE PARLIAMENT****Chapter I****GENERAL PROVISIONS****Section 1
Common provisions****Article 1.** Scope of regulation

The Code on the organisation and functioning of the Parliament regulates the manner of establishment, organisation and functioning of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, the legal relationships between the Parliament and other authorities, as well as the statute of the Secretariat of the Parliament.

Article 2. Legislative authority

(1) The Parliament of the Republic of Moldova (hereinafter – *the Parliament*) is the people's supreme representative body and the sole legislative authority of the state.

(2) The legislative power in the Republic of Moldova is exercised on the basis of the separation of powers in the state and in cooperation with executive and judicial powers, in compliance with the prerogatives vested therein according to the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova.

Article 3. Legal framework

(1) The activity of the Parliament is regulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, international treaties and this Code.

(2) Any topic, which is related to the activity of the Parliament and is not regulated by this Code or other normative acts, shall be dealt with by the Parliament.

Article 4. Functions of the Parliament

In its activity, the Parliament shall have the following core functions:

- a) law-making;
- b) representation;
- c) oversight;
- d) internal organisation.

Section 2

Activity principles of the Parliament

Article 5. Legality

(1) Respect for the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, its supremacy and the laws is mandatory.

(2) The normative acts adopted by the Parliament must ensure the security of legal relationships for individuals.

Article 6. Democracy and political pluralism

(1) Democracy is based on the pluralism of opinions in the adoption of decisions in the Parliament.

(2) Each Member of the Parliament is guaranteed the right to opinion on any subject debated in Parliament, under the terms of this Code.

(3) In the exercise of their mandate, the MPs cannot be persecuted or held legally liable for their votes or the opinions expressed.

(4) Parties interested in the legislative process are guaranteed the right to opinion on draft normative acts.

Article 7. Parliamentary authority

(1) The parliamentary authority refers to regulatory autonomy and financial autonomy.

(2) The regulatory autonomy represents, in legal terms, the right of the Parliament to establish rules for its organisation and functioning.

(3) The financial autonomy provides for the approval of the necessary financial resources within the framework of its own budget.

Article 8. Protection of human rights and freedoms

(1) Protection of human rights and freedoms is a fundamental principle and priority of the Parliament.

(2) The Parliament ensures the respect for the principle of stability of legal relationships, which constitutes a recognised possibility for any individual to evolve in a secure legal environment, avoiding permanent changes to legal norms, thus ensuring the stability of legally regulated social relationships.

Article 9. Public nature of the activity of the Parliament

(1) The activity of the Parliament is public.

(2) The principle of decisional transparency governs the legislative process and implies ensuring the open and accessible nature of the activities of the Parliament.

(3) The laws and decisions adopted by the Parliament are published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Moldova.

(4) The Parliament ensures the access to the information of public interest under Law no. 148/2013 on the access to information of public interest.

(5) Representatives of the media and interested persons have access to the sittings of the working bodies of the Parliament and the plenary of the Parliament, according to the norms and rules approved by the Standing Bureau of the Parliament, in compliance with security measures.

Article 10. Political configuration of the Parliament and proportional representation

(1) The MPs elected in the Parliament represent the people and express the political will of citizens.

(2) In order to carry out the pre-election programs of the parties and electoral blocs, and prevent parliamentary political shifts, the change of the political configuration of the Parliament during its mandate shall not be allowed.

(3) The organisation and functioning of the Parliament shall be based on the proportional representation according to the vote cast by the electorate, under the terms of this Code and for the purpose of ensuring the functionality of the Parliament.

Article 11. Debate

(1) Debates within the working bodies and in the plenary of the Parliament shall be public, with exceptions provided for by this Code.

(2) The Parliament shall adopt its acts, in the presence of a quorum, with the vote of the majority of MPs, pursuant to constitutional requirements and this Code.

Section 3 **Premises and ceremonial procedures**

Article 12. Premises of the Parliament

(1) The premises of the Parliament are located in the capital city of the Republic of Moldova, Chişinău municipality.

(2) The temporary change of the premises of the Parliament shall be allowed only in the event of war, catastrophe or other exceptional situations and shall be ordered by decision of the Standing Bureau of the Parliament.

(3) The plenary sessions of the Parliament or the working bodies shall be carried out within the premises of the Parliament or other buildings, upon the decision of the Standing Bureau of the Parliament.

(4) In the event of the inauguration of the President of the Republic of Moldova, the special session shall be held in the place determined by the newly elected President of the Republic of Moldova.

Article 13. The Parliament's Day

The Parliament's Day of the Republic of Moldova shall be celebrated on 23 May.

Article 14. Use of state symbols

(1) The State Flag is permanently hoisted at the premises of the Parliament and in the plenary session hall of the Parliament and hoisted at half-mast on mourning days declared in the established manner and during funeral solemnities.

(2) The state coat of arms is placed on the Parliament building and in the plenary session hall.

(3) At the opening and closing of the sessions of the Parliament, the National Anthem of the Republic of Moldova is played.

(4) At the opening of each plenary session, the Flag and the State Coat of Arms is honoured.

(5) The flags of other states and international organisations may be hoisted, together with the State Flag, in compliance with Law no. 217/2010 on the State Flag of the Republic of Moldova.

Article 15. Working language in the Parliament

(1) Romanian is the working language in the Parliament.

(2) The normative acts of the Parliament shall be concluded in the Romanian language and translated into other languages, as appropriate.

**Section 4
Constitution of the Parliament****Article 16. Election to the Parliament**

(1) The Parliament is composed of 101 MPs, elected by universal, equal, direct, secret and freely expressed vote, for a 4-year mandate, which may be extended, by organic law, in case of war or catastrophe.

(2) The mandate of the Parliament shall be extended until the legal assembly of the new Parliament. During this period, the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova cannot be amended, and no organic laws can be adopted, amended or repealed.

(3) The election of the Parliament shall be held in a single national electoral constituency, within a maximum of three months from the date of expiry of the mandate of the previous Parliament or from the dissolution of the previous Parliament.

(4) The date of the parliamentary elections shall be set out pursuant to the Electoral Code No. 325/2022.

Article 17. Special session of the constitution of the Parliament

(1) After the confirmation of the elections and validation of the mandates of MPs, the President of the Republic of Moldova shall convene the Parliament in a special constituent session, no later than 30 days from the elections date.

(2) The constituent session of the newly elected Parliament shall be chaired by the President of the previous Parliament, if they hold an MP mandate, otherwise, the session shall be chaired by the eldest MP.

(3) The impossibility of exercising the powers of the eldest MP shall determine, by law, their replacement with the MP, who is next in descending order of age, from among the validated ones.

(4) No debates can be initiated during the constituent session of the Parliament.

(5) The Chair of the constituent session shall give the floor to the President of the Constitutional Court to present the report on the results of the parliamentary elections and the validation of the mandates of the elected MPs.

(6) The MPs shall take the oath after the presentation of the report of the Constitutional Court.

(7) The Parliament shall be legally constituted after the presentation of the report on the results of the parliamentary elections and the oath-taking ceremony.

(8) The special session shall last until all working bodies of the Parliament are created.

Article 18. Taking the oath

(1) After the presentation of the report of the Constitutional Court, the Chair of the session shall invite the MPs to the central rostrum to take the oath, as follows:

"I swear to justify the trust placed in me by the people, to participate in good faith in the exercise of state power, to respect the Constitution and the laws of the country, to fulfil the duties that fall to me as an MP, and that the actions I will take will only be for the benefit and well-being of the people."

(2) The written oath is solemnly pronounced, signed by each MP and transmitted to the Secretary General of the Parliament to be attached to the personal file.

(3) Refusal to take the oath shall be noted by the Chair of the session and included in the personal file. The information on the refusal to take the oath shall be published on the official website of the Parliament.

(4) Refusal to take the oath shall lead to mandate withdrawal.

(5) The MP who was not present at the constituent sitting, as well as the MP whose mandate is subsequently validated, shall take the oath at the first plenary sitting they attend after the validation of the mandate, according to the same procedure.

Article 19. Creation of the working bodies of the Parliament

After the legal constitution of the Parliament, the parliamentary factions are formed, the President, the Vice Presidents and the Standing Bureau of the Parliament are elected, and the standing committees are created.

Section 5 Parliamentary Factions

Article 20. Constitution of parliamentary factions

(1) The Members of Parliament can form parliamentary factions in order to organise and ensure the functioning of the Parliament, as well as carry out a coordinated activity and express a joint opinion on the issues related to the competence of the Parliament.

(2) A parliamentary faction represents a voluntary association of the Members of Parliament elected on the electoral lists of a political party or an electoral bloc made up of at least 5 MPs.

(3) The independent Members of Parliament can form a single parliamentary faction of at least 5 MPs.

(4) MPs who ran on the lists of an electoral bloc and are part of different political parties may form their own parliamentary factions of the political parties to which they belong.

(5) MPs of a political party shall have the right to form only one parliamentary faction under its name.

(6) The parliamentary factions of political parties, which, according to the decision of their supreme bodies, have reorganised or transformed during a legislature, may make changes in the name of the parliamentary faction accordingly and under the provisions of this Code.

(7) An MP may be part of only one parliamentary faction.

(8) Parliamentary factions are formed, as a rule, within 10 days from the date of the legal constitution of the newly elected Parliament. Within the same term, the faction shall register Rules of procedure on its activity with the Secretary General of the Parliament, which shall be published on the official website of the Parliament.

(9) The declaration of the establishment of the faction shall be submitted to the chair of the sitting and presented from the central rostrum. The declaration shall contain the name and symbols of the faction, the numerical and nominal membership, the names of the leaders and the signatures of its members.

(10) The name and symbols of the parliamentary factions must not coincide with the name and symbols of the parties or socio-political organisations that have not obtained mandates in the Parliament, as well as those banned or declared unconstitutional.

(11) The chair of the sitting shall establish the sequence of speeches depending on the numerical composition of the parliamentary factions.

(12) If the MPs intend to form a parliamentary faction after the expiry of the term provided for in para. (8), they may form such a faction only at the opening of the next ordinary session of the Parliament.

(13) Changes to the proportional representation of the factions in the Parliament, in the Standing Bureau of the Parliament, in the standing committees and in the standing parliamentary delegations shall be operated only at the opening of the next ordinary session of the Parliament.

(14) Parliamentary factions must ensure a balanced representation of women and men in management bodies, working bodies and other structures.

Article 21. Changes in the structure of parliamentary factions

(1) An MP shall lose their membership in a faction in the event of:

- a) submitting a request to leave the faction or announcing this decision in the plenary session of the Parliament;

- b) termination of the quality of an MP;
- c) exclusion from membership based on the faction's decision;
- d) cessation of the parliamentary faction's existence;
- e) declaring unconstitutional or banning the political party they are member of.

(2) An MP who loses their membership in a faction becomes an unaffiliated MP and may act only outside the parliamentary factions.

(3) Transferring from one parliamentary faction to another, as well as the creation of new parliamentary factions by parties that did not obtain seats in the Parliament following the elections, shall be prohibited.

Article 22. Cessation of the parliamentary faction's existence

(1) The faction shall cease its existence if the number of its members falls below 5 or if the faction submits a decision to this effect.

(2) The faction may not cease to exist if the number of its members is less than 5 in the event that the MP whose mandate was validated next after the reduction in the membership of the faction declared their adherence to the respective faction within 10 days from the date of the mandate validation.

(3) The cessation of the existence of a parliamentary faction shall be ascertained by the President of the Parliament and announced in a plenary session.

(4) If a parliamentary faction has ceased to exist, the representation of the factions in the Parliament, in the working bodies and delegations shall be redistributed proportionally.

Article 23. Internal organisation of parliamentary factions

(1) The internal organisation of the parliamentary faction is determined by its own rules of procedure approved at its sitting and adopted in accordance with the Standard Rules of procedure approved by decision of the Standing Bureau of the Parliament, which is published on the official website of the Parliament.

(2) The Rules of procedure of the parliamentary faction shall contain:

- a) the full name and the abbreviated name of the faction;
- b) the organisation of the faction's activity;
- c) the quality of membership of the faction;
- d) the rights and powers of the faction members;
- e) the leadership of the faction (the manner of election, the rights and powers of the faction leadership);
- f) the conditions and procedure for nominating representatives of the faction to the working bodies or other structures of the Parliament, as well as for their dismissal;
- g) the sittings of the faction (quorum, voting procedure, drawing up the minutes, the number of votes required for decision-making, etc.);
- b) the secretariat of the faction;
- c) the method of reorganisation, cessation of the faction's activity, etc.

Article 24. Rights of the parliamentary factions

The parliamentary factions shall be entitled to:

- a) submit proposals for the appointment or dismissal of their representatives in the working bodies of the Parliament and in the standing parliamentary delegations, considering their proportional representation in the Parliament;

- b) propose candidates for their election/appointment to public offices, in accordance with the legislation;
- c) propose items for the agenda of the sittings of the Parliament and the Standing Bureau of the Parliament;
- d) submit proposals regarding the activity program of the Parliament;
- e) propose the creation of special committees and inquiry committees of the Parliament;
- f) submit advisory opinions on draft normative acts, including recommend the submission of the drafts to the author or committee, under the terms of this Code;
- g) initiate draft acts of exclusively political nature of the Parliament;
- h) express their political stance on the issues examined by the Parliament;
- i) associate with other parliamentary factions in alliances/coalitions;
- j) delegate a representative of the faction for speeches, statements, announcements and proposals on behalf of the faction;
- k) be consulted by experts and specialists, invite individuals interested in the subject under discussion to the faction sittings;
- l) propose the formation of working groups and experts in various fields of activity;
- m) initiate parliamentary hearings;
- n) initiate motions under the terms of this Code;
- o) other rights provided for by the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, this Code and other normative acts.

Article 25. Powers of the Chair of the parliamentary faction

(1) The Chair of the parliamentary faction shall have the following powers:

- a) to represent the parliamentary faction and negotiate on its behalf;
- b) to request, if necessary, the plenary session of the Parliament to take a break for consultations, verify the quorum, hold closed plenary sessions, conclude debates in the Parliament;
- c) to inform the members of the faction about the parliamentary activities;
- d) to present the opinion of the faction on the draft normative acts submitted to the plenary debate;
- e) to present the point of view of the faction on various issues of parliamentary activity;
- f) to manage the activity of the faction's cabinet;
- g) other powers provided for by this Code and the rules of procedure of the parliamentary faction.

(2) The Chair of the parliamentary faction may delegate some of their powers to one of the members of the faction.

Article 26. Ensuring the activity of parliamentary factions

(1) The Secretariat of the Parliament shall ensure the activity of parliamentary factions by providing them with rooms, office supplies and other services necessary for the conduct of an efficient activity.

(2) The parliamentary faction shall be assisted in its activity by its own cabinet, depending on its numerical representation in Parliament.

(3) The conclusion and termination of individual employment contracts with the staff of the parliamentary faction's cabinet shall be made by the President of the Parliament, upon the proposal of the Chair of the faction.

(4) In order to ensure parliamentary activity, the factions shall have an annual budget, approved by the Parliament depending on their numerical representation in Parliament.

(5) The manner of using the financial means of the factions shall be established by each faction autonomously.

Section 6

Parliamentary majority and parliamentary opposition

Article 27. Principle of political responsibility

(1) The parliamentary majority and the parliamentary opposition shall be responsible for the public interest of society.

(2) The parliamentary majority shall be obliged to ensure fair and equal treatment of the opposition, without misusing its dominant position.

Article 28. Parliamentary majority

(1) The parliamentary majority shall be considered the faction, alliance/coalition of factions, independent and/or unaffiliated MPs announced by statement, which comprises more than half of the number of elected MPs.

(2) If the parliamentary majority is made up of several parliamentary factions and independent MPs, they shall be entitled to create a majority alliance, upon the conclusion of an agreement on its establishment and functioning.

(3) The agreement on the establishment and functioning of the alliance/coalition shall contain:

- a) the principles of activity;
- b) the nominal membership and leadership;
- c) the procedure for adopting decisions;
- d) the conditions for the termination of the existence of the alliance/coalition.

(4) The alliance ceases to exist from the moment of the announcement made by the faction or parliamentary factions, or the independent MPs regarding the withdrawal from its membership, if the alliance loses its status as a parliamentary majority or in the event of its dissolution.

(5) The agreement on the establishment and operation of the alliance/coalition shall be published on the official website of the Parliament.

Article 29. Parliamentary opposition

(1) The parliamentary opposition shall represent the parliamentary factions, independent or unaffiliated MPs who are not part of the parliamentary majority and who have declared themselves in opposition to it.

(2) The statement on the transition to parliamentary opposition shall contain the reasons for the decision to transition to opposition, the nominal membership and the signatures of the members.

Article 30. Rights of the parliamentary opposition

(1) The parliamentary opposition shall have the right to:

- a) be represented in the working bodies of the Parliament and in the structures in which MP majority are present.

- b) discuss issues and inform the public about the shortcomings in the activity of the parliamentary majority;
- c) address actively, constructively and thoughtfully all the problems faced by citizens and, at the same time, offer alternative solutions acceptable from the point of view of the economic and financial capacities of the state;
- d) officially express, from the rostrum of the Parliament, criticism of the government program, draft normative acts examined by the Parliament and present its own point of view on issues related to the domestic and foreign policy of the state.

(2) For the first plenary session of each sixth week of the parliamentary session, the Standing Bureau of the Parliament shall draw up the draft agenda, including the topics proposed by the opposition parliamentary factions, by the independent or unaffiliated opposition MPs.

Section 7

President and Vice-Presidents of the Parliament

Article 31. Election of the President of the Parliament

(1) The President of the Parliament shall be elected from among the MPs after the legal constitution of the Parliament and formation of parliamentary factions.

(2) The President of the Parliament shall be elected for the duration of the Parliament's term, by secret vote, with the vote of the majority of elected MPs.

(3) If, during the legislature, the position of President of the Parliament becomes vacant, the procedure for electing the President of the Parliament shall be similar to the procedure that takes place after the constitution of the Parliament, with the sitting being chaired by one of the Vice-Presidents of the Parliament.

Article 32. Special Commission for the election of the President of the Parliament

(1) A Special Commission for the election of the President of the Parliament shall be established, by decision of the Parliament, for the organisation and conduct of the election of the President of the Parliament, upon the proposal of parliamentary factions.

(2) The Commission shall operate on the basis of this Code and its own rules of procedure, which shall be approved in accordance with standard rules of procedure approved by the Standing Bureau of the Parliament.

(3) The Commission shall be headed by its Chair, assisted by a Secretary, both elected by the vote of the majority of its members.

(4) The sittings of the Commission shall be deliberative with the presence of the majority of its members.

(5) The decisions of the Commission shall be adopted by open vote of the majority of its members.

(6) The decisions and minutes of the sittings of the Commission shall be signed by the Chair and the Secretary of the Commission.

(7) The Commission for the election of the President of the Parliament shall have the following powers:

- a) approve the rules and voting procedure and bring them to the attention of the MPs in the plenary session;
- b) receive proposals regarding candidacies for the position of President of the Parliament;
- c) establish the sample, number and text of the ballot paper;
- d) ensure the preparation and conduct of the voting procedure;
- e) resolve conflicts that arise during the voting;
- f) aggregate the voting results and submit them to the Parliament for approval.

(8) The Commission for the election of the President of the Parliament shall declare invalid the ballot papers, which:

- a) are left and unused in the voting process;
- b) are not signed and stamped by the Commission;
- c) were cancelled by the Commission during the voting;
- d) have other names added;
- e) do not express the voter's intention.

Article 33. Procedure for the election of the President of the Parliament

(1) Nominations for the position of President of the Parliament may be submitted by parliamentary factions or by at least 1/3 of the elected MPs.

(2) The Commission for the election of the President of the Parliament shall receive the nominations and enter the names and surnames of all candidates on the ballot papers.

(3) Each parliamentary faction shall be entitled to nominate only one candidate. An MP may sign the nomination of only one MP.

(4) The decision of the faction or the proposal of 1/3 of the elected MPs on the nomination of a candidate for the position of President of the Parliament, together with the consent of the candidate, shall be submitted to the Commission for the election of the President of the Parliament.

(5) A candidate for the position of President of the Parliament may withdraw their candidacy at any time before the start of the secret ballot procedure.

(6) The candidate for the position of President of the Parliament shall have 10 minutes to address the MPs with a speech.

(7) The candidate who receives the votes of the majority of the elected MPs shall be declared elected as President of the Parliament.

(8) If more than two candidates participated in the election and none of them received the required number of votes, a second round of voting shall be held between the first two candidates who received the highest number of votes during the first round of voting.

(9) If fewer than three candidates participated in the first round of voting and none of them received the required number of votes, as well as if no candidate received the votes of the majority of MPs in the second round of voting, new elections shall be held.

(10) The same or different candidates may be submitted for the new elections.

(11) After the election, the Chair of the sitting shall invite the President of the Parliament to take their place in the presidium of the Parliament, solemnly handing over to them the Banner of the President of the Parliament.

(12) Before taking the chair of the plenary session of the Parliament, the newly elected President of the Parliament may deliver an inaugural speech to the MPs.

Article 34. Relief from office of the President of the Parliament

(1) If, according to art. 91 of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, the President of the Parliament serves as the acting President of the Republic of Moldova, they shall be relieved of the office of President of the Parliament by law.

(2) During the period of exercising the position of acting President of the Republic of Moldova, the functions of the President of the Parliament shall be performed by one of the Vice-Presidents of the Parliament appointed by the Parliament.

Article 35. Vacancy of the position of President of the Parliament

(1) The office of the President of the Parliament shall become vacant in the event of:

- a) resignation;
- b) dismissal;
- c) permanent inability to exercise their powers for a period of four months;
- d) withdrawal of the mandate of a Member of Parliament;
- e) death.

(2) The vacancy of the office of the President of the Parliament shall be established by Parliament's decision.

(3) In the event of a vacancy of the office of the President of the Parliament, new elections shall be held.

(4) In the event of a vacancy of the office of the President of the Parliament, their powers shall be performed by a Vice-President appointed by the Parliament.

Article 36. Revocation of the President of the Parliament

(1) The President of the Parliament may be revoked before the end of their term at any time, by secret ballot, by the Parliament, with a majority of at least 2/3 of the votes of the elected MPs.

(2) The revocation of the President of the Parliament may be initiated by the faction that nominated them or by at least 1/3 of MPs.

(3) The motion for revocation shall be made in writing, under the signature of the initiators, and submitted to the Standing Bureau of the Parliament, which shall examine it at its first sitting and decide to include it in the draft agenda of the next plenary sitting.

(4) The President of the Parliament who has been requested to resign from office may not chair the sitting of the Standing Bureau of the Parliament or the plenary sitting in which their revocation is being discussed.

(5) During the debate on the motion for revocation, the Chair of the faction that requested the revocation or a representative of 1/3 of MPs who requested the revocation shall take the floor.

(6) The President of the Parliament shall be assigned 10 minutes to address the MPs with a speech before the start of the secret ballot procedure.

Article 37. Main powers of the President of the Parliament

(1) The President of the Parliament has the following powers:

- a) to convene the Parliament in ordinary, extraordinary and special sessions;
- b) to convene and chair the plenary sessions of the Parliament and the sessions of the Standing Bureau of the Parliament;
- c) to give the floor, lead the discussions, summarise the issues submitted for debate, explain the significance of the vote and announce the result of the vote;
- d) to ensure the order during the debates and compliance with this Code;
- e) to coordinate the activities of the Parliament and its working bodies under the conditions provided for by this Code;
- f) to represent the Parliament in relations with the President of the Republic of Moldova, the Government of the Republic of Moldova, the Constitutional Court, other public authorities, legal entities in the country or abroad;
- g) to sign the acts adopted by the Parliament and the Standing Bureau of the Parliament;
- h) to nominate, after consulting the parliamentary factions, the membership of parliamentary delegations, with the exception of the standing parliamentary delegations;
- i) to propose candidates to the Parliament for holding public office, under the conditions established by the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova and other laws;
- j) to have other rights provided for by the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, this Code, other normative acts or decisions of the Parliament.

(2) In order to ensure the parliamentary activity, the President of the Parliament has their own fund within the budget of the Parliament. The means of the fund are managed autonomously.

(3) In exercising their powers, the President of the Parliament shall be assisted by their own cabinet of councillors and assistants.

(4) The President of the Parliament coordinates the activity of the Secretariat of the Parliament, approves the staff list of the Secretariat of the Parliament, hires and dismisses the staff of the cabinets of persons holding public office in the Parliament.

(5) In exercising their powers, the President of the Parliament shall issue provisions and orders.

Article 38. Vice-Presidents of the Parliament

(1) The Vice-Presidents of the Parliament shall be elected upon the proposal of the President of the Parliament, after consultation with the parliamentary factions, by the vote of the majority of the elected MPs.

(2) The number of Vice-Presidents of the Parliament shall be determined by the Parliament.

(3) One of the Vice-Presidents shall represent the opposition. If no candidacy is submitted by the opposition, the position shall remain vacant.

(4) The President of the Parliament may propose to the Parliament, at any time, the early revocation of the Vice-President of the Parliament at the request of the parliamentary majority, the parliamentary opposition or the faction that proposed them.

(5) The revocation shall be decided by the majority of the elected MPs.

Article 39. Powers of the Vice-Presidents of the Parliament

(1) The Vice-Presidents of the Parliament shall coordinate the activities of standing committees, ensure cooperation with other public authorities on issues related to the powers of the Parliament, exercise the powers delegated by the President, including signing the laws and resolutions adopted by the Parliament.

(2) The power delimitation of the Vice-Presidents of the Parliament shall be approved by decision of the Standing Bureau of the Parliament, upon the proposal of the President of the Parliament.

(3) In the event of the temporary absence of the President of the Parliament, one of the Vice-Presidents shall perform their powers upon the decision of the President of the Parliament.

Section 8 Standing Bureau of the Parliament

Article 40. Standing Bureau of the Parliament

(1) The Standing Bureau of the Parliament (hereinafter – *the Standing Bureau*) is the working body that contributes to the performance of the functions of the Parliament and to ensuring the organisation of its activity, within the limits of the powers established by this Code and other normative acts.

(2) The Standing Bureau is a collegial, deliberative body, without legal personality, which operates permanently for the exercise of its functions.

(3) The Standing Bureau shall operate on the basis of this Code, its own rules of procedure and shall be guided in its activity by the constitutional provisions and other normative acts.

(4) The Standing Bureau is formed considering the proportional representation of the factions in the Parliament and ensuring its functionality. The Standing Bureau is made up of the President of the Parliament and the Vice-Presidents of the Parliament ex officio.

(5) The numerical and nominal membership of the Standing Bureau shall be established by decision of the Parliament, upon the proposal of parliamentary factions.

(6) The members of the Standing Bureau shall be proposed by decisions of parliamentary factions, within the limits of the number of seats assigned to them.

(7) The Standing Bureau shall be convened in sittings by the President of the Parliament, as well as at the request of at least 1/3 of its members.

(8) The membership of the Standing Bureau shall cease in the event of revocation, resignation or termination of the mandate of an MP.

(9) A member of the Standing Bureau may be revoked by decision of the faction that appointed them, adopted by the vote of the majority of its members.

(10) In the event of termination of the membership of the Standing Bureau, the parliamentary factions shall appoint another member.

(11) The sittings of the Standing Bureau are deliberative if more than half of its members participate in them.

(12) The sittings of the Standing Bureau shall be chaired by the President of the Parliament or one of the Vice-Presidents of the Parliament and recorded in minutes, signed by the President of the sitting and published on the official website of the Parliament.

(13) The minutes shall contain the list of persons present at the sitting of the Standing Bureau, the speakers, the topics examined, the results of voting and the decisions taken.

(14) If the parliamentary factions do not reach an agreement on any issue related to the formation of the working bodies of the Parliament, other collegial structures and parliamentary delegations, the Standing Bureau shall make proposals, and the Parliament shall decide on the issue, by a majority vote of present MPs, taking into account the personal option of the MP.

(15) The acts of the Standing Bureau shall be adopted in the form of resolutions by a majority vote of the present members.

(16) The resolutions of the Standing Bureau shall be published on the official website of the Parliament.

Article 41. Powers of the Standing Bureau

The Standing Bureau shall have the following main powers:

- a) to decide on the activity of the Parliament and its working bodies, as well as propose to the Parliament the duration of the sessions;
- b) to submit to the Parliament for approval the numerical and nominal membership of the standing committees of the Parliament and the standing parliamentary delegations to international organisations;
- c) to prepare and ensure, with the support of the Secretariat of the Parliament, the conduct of the work of the Parliament;
- d) to supervise and coordinate the activity of the parliamentary committees and the Secretariat of the Parliament;
- e) to set out, in agreement with the chairs of the parliamentary factions and the standing committees, the draft agenda, the time of the beginning of the sittings of the Parliament, the time of the vote, as well as the framework of debates for certain topics on the agenda and submit it to the Parliament for approval;
- f) to draw up, at the beginning of the spring session, in agreement with the chairs of the parliamentary factions and standing committees, the annual legislative program and submit it to the Parliament for approval;
- g) to propose holding hearings in the plenary session of the Parliament and establish the manner of public debate of draft normative acts;
- h) to propose the creation of inquiry or special committees;
- i) to approve the methodology for conducting the ex-post evaluation of laws, as well as the annual plans for parliamentary control;
- j) to adopt regulations, instructions, other administrative acts to ensure the organisation and functioning of the Parliament and the Secretariat of the Parliament;
- k) to establish the functions and responsibilities of its members;

- l) to approve the structure and the maximum number of staff of the Secretariat of the Parliament, as well as the specific conditions for remuneration and compensation of expenses related to the performance of duties for civil servants and other staff of the Secretariat;
- m) to approve the draft budget of the Secretariat of the Parliament and present it to the Government for inclusion in the draft state budget to be presented to the Parliament for adoption;
- n) to regulate any other issue related to the proper functioning of the Parliament, the Secretariat of the Parliament and the MPs of the Parliament;
- o) to perform other duties provided for by this Code, other acts or assignments of the Parliament.

Section 9

Standing Committees of the Parliament

Article 42. Formation and membership of the standing committees of the Parliament

(1) Standing committees are working bodies of the Parliament, which contribute to and ensure the performance of the functions of the Parliament.

(2) The numerical and nominal membership of the standing committees, the distribution and appointment of the positions of chair, deputy chair, secretary, member and alternate member shall be established by decision of the Parliament, upon the proposal of the Standing Bureau, taking into account the proposals of the parliamentary factions, according to their proportional representation in the Parliament and the requests of MPs.

(3) The opposition shall lead standing committees in proportion to the number of mandates obtained, but not less than two standing committees.

(4) The chairs, deputy chairs and secretaries of the standing committees may be dismissed before the term of office upon the proposal of the Standing Bureau or the parliamentary faction that submitted the respective candidacy.

(5) A Member of Parliament may be a full member of only one standing committee and a substitute member of at least one other standing committee.

(6) Standing committees shall draw up and adopt their own rules of organisation and operation based on the standard rules approved by the Standing Bureau, which is published on the official website of the Parliament.

(7) Standing committees shall, as a rule, be elected for the entire duration of the legislature.

(7) Standing committees shall have the right to establish subcommittees, designating their powers, membership and leadership. The Chair of the standing committee shall inform the Parliament of the creation of the subcommittee.

(8) Each standing committee shall be assisted by a secretariat.

(9) The areas of activity of the standing committees shall be established by decision of the Parliament, on the proposal of the Standing Bureau.

(10) If the draft normative act falls within the areas of several committees, in accordance with the resolution of the President of the Parliament, the respective committees shall submit joint reports to the Parliament.

Article 43. Powers of the standing committees

(1) Standing committees are established to examine draft normative acts, conduct public consultations, exercise parliamentary control over the activity of public administration, as well as over the organisation of law enforcement. Standing committees also perform other activities provided for by this Code and other normative acts.

(2) Standing committees shall report to and be subordinate to the Parliament.

(3) Standing committees shall approve, at the beginning of the spring session, the annual activity plans of the committees, considering the annual legislative program of the Parliament, which is published on the official website of the Parliament.

(4) Standing committees shall propose, if necessary, holding hearings in the plenary session of the Parliament, including on reports of public authorities submitted to the Parliament.

(5) At the request of the President of the Parliament, the Standing Bureau, the plenary of the Parliament or as a result of the decision of the committee, the standing committees shall be obliged to hold hearings.

(6) The standing committees shall create, if necessary, working groups of experts and specialists in the field, representatives of stakeholders to be consulted by the committees in their activities.

(7) In order to facilitate the process of public consultation on draft normative acts, the standing committees shall draw up a list of associations established in accordance with the law, of other interested parties in their field of activity, to be updated at the request of the interested party.

(8) At the request of 1/3 of the committee members, any standing committee, according to the fields of activity, may start an inquiry into the work carried out by the Government or the public administration, with the consent of the Standing Bureau.

(9) In order to obtain the consent of the Standing Bureau, the standing committee shall submit a substantiated request, adopted by the vote of the majority of the elected members, stating the subject, purpose, necessary means for the inquiry, as well as the deadline for submitting the committee's report.

Article 44. Powers of the Chair of the committee

The Chair of the standing committee shall:

- a) ensure the representation of the committee in relations with the working bodies of the Parliament, with legal entities in the country or abroad;
- b) lead and preside the work of the committee, as well as ensure the order during its sittings, according to the norms established by this Code and the committee's rules of procedure;
- c) receive and distribute the committee's mail, nominate the consultant in charge of organising and preparing draft normative acts for debates in the committee, organising and preparing public hearings, drafting reports and materials of the committee, and other activities within the competence of the committee;
- d) invite, when necessary, on their own initiative or at the request of the committee members, Government members, representatives of the public administration,

- specialists, experts, representatives of civil society organisations and others to participate in the work of the committee;
- e) may nominate another representative of the committee at the sittings of other committees examining topics of importance for the committee they lead;
 - f) sign decisions, reports, memorandums, opinions and other documents of the committee;
 - g) ensure the preparation of the agenda of the committee sittings;
 - h) perform other duties provided for by this code, by the committee's rules of procedure or established by the vote of the majority of its members.

Article 45. Powers of the Deputy chair and Secretary of the standing committee

(1) The Deputy chair of the committee shall perform the duties of the Chair in their absence or at their request.

(2) The Secretary of the committee shall coordinate the preparation of the committee's acts (reports, joint reports, opinions, minutes and other documents), countersign the minutes and other documents of the committee, as appropriate.

Chapter II

FUNCTIONING OF THE PARLIAMENT

Section 1

Legislative program, sessions and sittings of the Parliament

Article 46. Annual legislative program

(1) In order to ensure the regulation of all areas of social relations, the organisation of parliamentary hearings, parliamentary control, as well as other activities, the Parliament shall, at the proposal of the Standing Bureau, adopt the annual legislative program.

(2) The legislative program shall be developed considering the proposals of the Government and other subjects with the right of legislative initiative.

(3) The legislative program may be amended by Parliament, at the proposal of the Standing Bureau.

(4) The legislative program is divided into distinct chapters, which must reflect, but are not limited to, the following aspects:

- a) the list of draft normative acts to be developed and examined (title, responsible authority and deadline for submission to the Parliament, etc.);
- b) the list of draft normative acts developed for the purpose of harmonising national legislation with European Union legislation;
- c) reports of public authorities subject to hearings in the plenary session of the Parliament, as well as other subjects of public interest.

(5) The legislative program shall be published on the official website of the Parliament.

(6) In order to ensure efficient interaction between the Parliament and the Government, joint working sittings of the Secretariat of the Parliament and the State Chancellery shall be organised to coordinate joint activities aimed at the development and implementation of the legislative program.

Article 47. Sessions of the Parliament

(1) The Parliament shall meet in ordinary, extraordinary and special sessions.

(2) The extraordinary or special sessions of the Parliament shall be convened at the request of the President of the Republic of Moldova, the President of the Parliament or at least 1/3 of the number of MPs.

(3) During the opening or closing sittings of the sessions of the Parliament, the President of the Republic of Moldova, the Prime Minister, the President of the Parliament and the chairs of the factions may deliver speeches.

Article 48. Ordinary sessions of the Parliament

(1) The Parliament shall meet in two ordinary sessions per year.

(2) The spring session shall begin in February and shall not extend beyond the end of July.

(3) The autumn session shall begin in September and shall not extend beyond the end of December.

Article 49. Extraordinary sessions of the Parliament

(1) The extraordinary sessions may be convened only outside ordinary sessions and for the purpose of examining extraordinary situations.

(2) The request to convene an extraordinary session shall be addressed to the Parliament under the conditions of Art. 67 of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova and submitted to the President of the Parliament, who shall notify the MPs on the request to convene the parliamentary session.

(3) The request to convene an extraordinary session shall be made in writing and shall include the reason, the proposed agenda and the duration of the session.

(4) If the request to convene an extraordinary session does not meet the requirements set out in paras. (2) and (3), the President of the Parliament shall request the initiators to fix the shortcomings and, only after compliance, shall notify the MPs on the request to convene an extraordinary session and initiate the convening of a sitting of the Standing Bureau.

(5) The convening of the Parliament in extraordinary session shall be made within three working days from the date of registration of the request, upon the proposal of the Standing Bureau, except for the case provided for in Art. 87 para. (3) of the Constitution.

(6) The convening of the extraordinary session shall be announced through the mass media, with each MP being notified individually, in the shortest possible time.

(7) The lack of a quorum or the rejection by the Parliament of the proposed agenda shall prevent the holding of the extraordinary session.

Article 50. Special sessions of the Parliament

(1) Special sessions may be convened throughout the year, both during the ordinary sessions and in the period between sessions.

(2) Special sessions shall be convened for:

- a) the inauguration of the President of the Republic of Moldova;
- b) the appointment of the Government;
- c) the establishment of the Parliament and the formation of its working bodies;
- d) taking the responsibility of the Government before the Parliament;
- e) solemn events or other cases, upon the decision of the Standing Bureau.

(3) The request to convene a special session shall be addressed to the Parliament under the conditions of Art. 67 of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova and submitted to the President of the Parliament, who shall order the notification of MPs on the request to convene a special session.

(4) The request to convene a special session shall indicate the event to be held within the special session, the legal basis on which it is to be held, and other documents required by law.

(5) If the request to convene a special session does not meet the requirements set out in paras. (3) and (4), the President of the Parliament shall request for the shortcomings to be fixed and, only after compliance, shall notify the MPs on the request to convene a special session.

(6) The convening of the Parliament in a special session shall take place within three working days from the date of registration of the request, upon the proposal of the Standing Bureau.

(7) The lack of a quorum or the rejection by the Parliament of the proposed agenda shall prevent the holding of the special session.

Article 51. Sittings of the Parliament

(1) The Parliament shall conduct its activities in the form of plenary sittings and sittings of the working bodies of the Parliament.

(2) The activity of the plenary sitting of the Parliament shall be conducted in the presence of the chair of the sitting.

(3) When opening the sittings, debates on motions and during the voting on decisions of the Parliament, the quorum shall be observed pursuant to constitutional requirements.

Article 52. Public nature of Parliament sittings

(1) The sittings of the Parliament shall be public and broadcast live, at the discretion of the national public radio and television stations and/or via the Internet.

(2) The Secretariat of the Parliament shall ensure the mandatory broadcasting of the plenary sittings on the official website of the Parliament.

(3) The Secretariat of the Parliament shall make public the official press-releases regarding the sittings of the Parliament.

Article 53. Closed sittings of the Parliament

(1) In order to protect information constituting a state secret, if issues related to measures for the protection of individuals and national security are discussed, the Parliament

may decide, upon a reasoned request of the President of the Parliament or a parliamentary faction, that certain sittings or the debate on certain topics be held in camera.

(2) The decision of the Parliament on holding a closed sitting shall be taken, as a rule, at least one hour before the time scheduled for its holding.

(3) At the beginning of the closed sitting, the Chair of the sitting shall notify the MPs and invited persons of the rules for holding the sitting, the degree of secrecy of the information discussed therein and warn of the liability for disclosing information constituting a state secret.

(4) It shall be prohibited to bring and use during the closed sitting of the Parliament any photo, film and video equipment, telephone and radio communication devices, as well as sound recording devices.

(5) Access of mass media representatives to the closed sittings of the Parliament shall be prohibited.

(6) During the closed sitting, the vote shall be expressed by raising hands.

(7) The transcript of the closed sitting, documents relating to the subjects debated in the sitting shall be transmitted to the subdivision responsible for the protection of state secrets within the Secretariat of the Parliament for the application of the secrecy stamp and recording pursuant to the provisions of the legislation.

(8) Access to the transcripts of the closed sittings shall be regulated by the Standing Bureau.

Article 54. Stenography of parliamentary debates

(1) The debates at the sittings of the Parliament shall be recorded electronically and registered in the transcripts of the debates.

(2) The transcripts of plenary public sittings shall be published on the official website of the Parliament within five working days, except for those of closed sittings or those concerning closed agenda items.

Article 55. Individuals who can attend plenary sittings of the Parliament

(1) Representatives of diplomatic missions, ombudsmen, representatives of central and local public administration authorities, representatives of the media and other interested persons may attend the public sittings of the Parliament, within the limits of available seats, under the conditions established by the Standing Bureau.

(2) Members of the Government or their representatives shall have access to the sittings of the Parliament. If their participation is requested, attendance is mandatory.

(3) In the case of debates on draft normative acts initiated by the Government, the minister, secretary of state, secretary general or the deputy secretary general of the responsible ministry or of the State Chancellery shall be required to be present at the sitting. Otherwise, the draft normative act shall be withdrawn from the agenda.

(4) Individuals attending the sitting shall maintain silence and respect the rules of conduct. Otherwise, the chair of the sitting may decide to remove them from the room.

Article 56. Registration of the presence of MPs at the plenary sittings of the Parliament

(1) MPs shall be required to be present at the plenary sittings of the Parliament and register in person through the electronic voting system.

(2) The registration of the presence of MPs shall be ordered by the chair of the sitting, and the result of the registration is displayed on the screen, being additionally announced by the chair of the sitting.

(3) MPs who join the sitting during its course shall be required to register with the Secretariat of the Parliament.

Section 2

Agenda of the Parliament

Article 57. Drawing up the agenda

(1) The sittings of the Parliament shall be held in compliance with the agenda, which shall include draft normative acts, draft exclusively political acts of the Parliament, reports and other items as proposed by the Standing Bureau.

(2) The draft agenda shall be approved, as a rule, for a period of two weeks and shall be drawn up considering the working calendar of the Parliament.

(3) The Standing Bureau shall draw up the draft agenda no later than the day preceding the sitting for which it is approved, with the exceptions provided for in this Code.

(4) The list of items proposed to be included in the draft agenda, as well as the proposals for hearings, shall be sent to the members of the Standing Bureau before the sitting of the Standing Bureau at which the draft agenda is drawn up, within a reasonable period of time to allow the Secretariat of the Parliament to document the subject.

(5) Draft normative acts involving an increase or decrease in budget revenues or loans, as well as an increase or decrease in budget expenditures missing the positive opinion of the Government, may not be included in the draft agenda of the sittings of the Parliament.

(6) Draft normative acts for which reports or, where applicable, joint reports have been issued by the lead standing committees shall be submitted to the Standing Bureau for the purpose of drawing up the waiting list for draft acts.

(7) The Standing Bureau shall decide on the inclusion of draft normative acts from the waiting list in the agenda of the sittings of the Parliament.

(8) Draft normative acts for which reports or, where applicable, joint reports have not been issued by the lead standing committees may not be included in the draft agenda of the sittings of the Parliament, except in cases where the sitting of the lead committee is planned in advance or during the plenary sitting.

(9) Draft normative acts for which the examination deadline has expired and the pertaining report of the standing committee or, as the case may be, the joint report has not been submitted, may be included, if necessary, in the agenda at the proposal of the President of the Parliament.

(10) At the proposal of the Standing Bureau, the Parliament may decide on the debate framework assigned to the items on the agenda. The debate framework shall be established

depending on the complexity of the matter examined and include the procedure and timeframe for the presentation of the matter, its debate by formulating questions and answers, possibly the report of the lead committees and the speeches of the factions and/or MPs. The proposal on the debate framework for a specific topic shall be submitted for voting together with the adoption of the agenda or at the beginning of the examination of the matter on the agenda and shall be adopted by the vote of the majority of the present MPs.

(11) The draft agenda of the sittings of the Parliament, approved by the Standing Bureau, shall be distributed to MPs, published on the official website of the Parliament and contain the items on the agenda, the starting time, the voting time, as well as the general framework for debates on certain items on the agenda.

Article 58. Priorities in drawing up the draft agenda

(1) When drawing up the draft agenda of the Parliament, the following shall have priority:

- a) draft normative acts examined in an urgent procedure;
- b) draft normative acts examined as a priority;
- c) requests from the President of the Republic of Moldova and the Prime Minister to deliver speeches, present reports, and other topics.

(2) The Standing Bureau may propose to the Parliament to accept the priority inclusion, in the agenda of the Parliament, of speeches from the central rostrum of the Parliament.

Article 59. Approval of and changes to the agenda

(1) The draft agenda shall be approved by the Parliament and published on the official website of the Parliament together with the related materials.

(2) The agenda may be amended at the request of the Standing Bureau, a parliamentary faction, a standing committee or the author of an item on the agenda, based on a written request.

(3) Reasoned requests for amendments to the agenda shall be submitted before the beginning of the plenary sitting, within a reasonable period of time to allow the Secretariat of the Parliament to document the item.

(4) Requests shall be submitted through a single floor statement for each item, lasting no more than one minute. In the event of a different opinion, the floor shall be given to only one representative from each parliamentary faction or standing committee, according to the area of competence, after which the proposals shall be put to a vote.

(5) Topics that have not been accepted by the plenary of the Parliament for inclusion in the agenda may be submitted again no earlier than 30 calendar days from the date of rejection.

Article 60. Changes to the agenda at the initiative of the Chair of the sitting

The Chair of the sitting may propose, in any sitting of the Parliament, changes to the agenda on their own initiative, at the request of the Standing Bureau, of a parliamentary faction or a parliamentary committee, in the case of priority or urgent drafts.

Chapter III

LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE

Section 1 Acts of the Parliament

Article 61. Categories of acts adopted by the Parliament

(1) The Parliament shall adopt constitutional laws, organic laws, ordinary laws, decisions, exclusively political acts and motions.

(2) Constitutional laws are those revising the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova.

(3) The areas reserved for organic laws are determined by the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova and Law No. 100/2017 on normative acts.

(4) Ordinary laws regulate any area of social relations, except for those reserved for constitutional laws and organic laws.

(5) The Parliament may adopt simple motions or motions of censure.

(6) The decisions shall be adopted as provided for by law or in other areas that do not require the adoption of laws.

Article 62. Exclusively political acts of the Parliament

(1) The Parliament may rule on political matters through acts of an exclusively political nature.

(2) Exclusively political acts of the Parliament constitute expressions of will, which produce political effects and do not have the force of normative acts.

(3) The category of exclusively political acts of the Parliament includes declarations, calls and messages.

(4) Draft exclusively political acts of the Parliament may be initiated by parliamentary factions or by at least 5 MPs.

(5) Exclusively political acts are drawn up as resolutions.

Article 63. Numbering of normative acts

(1) Normative acts adopted by the Parliament shall be entered in the State Register of Acts of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova in the manner established by the Standing Bureau.

(2) The number of the normative act shall correspond to the year in which the normative act was definitively adopted.

(3) The date of the normative act shall be the date of its final adoption.

(4) If the normative act has been submitted to the Parliament for re-examination, the final date shall be the date of its adoption after re-examination.

(5) If a new legislature of the Parliament begins its activity during the calendar year, the numbering of the normative acts of the respective year may not be modified or interrupted.

Article 64. Submission of acts to the archives of the Parliament

The normative acts adopted by the Parliament and their files, as well as the acts and materials of the Standing Bureau, of parliamentary committees, factions, and the Secretariat of the Parliament, shall be submitted annually to the archives of the Parliament in the manner established by the Standing Bureau.

Section 2
Legislative initiative

Article 65. Conditions for exercising the right of legislative initiative and subjects of this right

(1) The right of legislative initiative belongs to MPs, the President of the Republic of Moldova, the Government and the People's Assembly of the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia, who are also considered authors of draft normative acts.

(2) The MP exercises their right of legislative initiative individually or jointly with other MPs.

(3) If the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, international treaties or legislation in force conditions the right of legislative initiative or reserves a certain area for certain subjects, such right cannot be exercised without fulfilling the legal conditions.

(4) The Government has priority in the development and promotion of EU-relevant draft normative acts, having the control mechanism for ensuring compliance with EU legislation.

(5) Draft normative acts submitted by the President of the Republic of Moldova or the Government shall be presented to the plenary sitting of the Parliament by one of the members of the Government, by State Secretaries, or by the authorised representative of the President of the Republic of Moldova or the Government.

(6) The draft normative act shall be presented to the Parliament being drawn up in accordance with the established requirements and rules of legislative technique, together with the letter of transmittal of the legislative initiative and the accompanying file, as provided for by Law No. 100/2027 on normative acts.

Article 66. Substantiation of draft normative acts

(1) The explanatory note of the draft normative act constitutes the author's instrument to present and substantiate the proposed regulations.

(2) The explanatory note shall be written in an explicit, clear style, using the terminology of the draft normative act presented herewith, in strict accordance with the requirements of Law no. 100/2027 on normative acts.

Article 67. Submission of the draft normative act

The draft normative act shall be submitted in Romanian, in original, on paper and in electronic form.

Article 68. Registration of the draft normative act

(1) Draft normative acts submitted to the Parliament shall be received and registered by the Secretariat of the Parliament.

(2) Draft normative acts proposed as legislative initiatives without considering the legal requirements shall be referred, by resolution of the President of the Parliament, to the author for the elimination of shortcomings, with the motivation thereof.

(3) The Standing Bureau shall establish the requirements for draft normative acts to be registered in the Parliament, the manner of their submission to the authors for the elimination of shortcomings, as well as their movement in the legislative procedure.

(4) Draft normative acts not registered in the Parliament in the established manner shall not be accepted for consideration in the standing committees and subdivisions of the Secretariat of the Parliament.

Article 69. Launch of the legislative procedure

(1) The draft normative act, submitted as a legislative initiative, which meets the requirements of this Code, as well as those provided for by Law No. 100/2027 on normative acts, shall be introduced into the legislative procedure, pursuant to the resolution of the President of the Parliament.

(2) The resolution of the President of the Parliament shall:

- a) nominate the lead standing committee, which shall be in charge for examining the draft and presenting the report in the plenary sitting of the Parliament;
- b) nominate, where appropriate, the co-reporting committee;
- c) order the examination and approval of the draft normative act by the standing committees and by the Legal Directorate-General of the Secretariat of the Parliament;
- d) request, where appropriate, the opinion of the Government and other authorities;
- e) indicate, where necessary, the regime for examining the draft normative act.

(3) In the case of submitting an EU-relevant draft normative act, the co-report of the committee responsible for the field of European integration shall be mandatory.

(4) Upon registration of the draft normative act, it shall be assigned a registration number, by which it will be identified throughout its movement in the Parliament and under which it will be cited until the signing stage.

(5) The Secretariat of the Parliament shall ensure the transmission of the draft normative act and the substantiation note to MPs, parliamentary factions and, where appropriate, the Government or other competent authorities, according to the resolution of the President of the Parliament.

(6) The draft normative act with the accompanying file shall be distributed for examination to the lead standing committee, where appropriate, the co-reporting committee and the Legal Directorate-General within the Secretariat of the Parliament.

(7) Within two working days at most from the date of inclusion in the legislative procedure, the draft normative act, as well as the accompanying file, shall be published on the official website of the Parliament.

(8) In the case the draft normative act is examined under an urgency or priority procedure, it shall, together with the accompanying file, be published on the official website of the Parliament within 24 hours.

Article 70. Calculation of deadlines

(1) The terms of this Code shall be calculated in working days, except in cases where it is otherwise provided, according to the law.

(2) The terms of this Code shall be suspended from the end of the ordinary session until the beginning of the next ordinary session, except for the terms that refer to the Government or other public institutions or authorities.

(3) During the extraordinary session of the Parliament, the suspension of the terms shall be interrupted for the subjects included in the agenda.

Section 3

Urgency procedure, priority procedure and simplified procedure

Article 71. Proposal for the examination of drafts in the urgency or priority procedure

(1) In accordance with Art. 74 of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, the Parliament shall, at the request of the Government, examine draft normative acts in a priority or urgency procedure.

(2) Draft normative acts which, at the request of the Government, are to be examined in an urgency procedure, shall be submitted to the plenary session of the Parliament by the Prime Minister, and in their absence – by the First Deputy Prime Minister or the Deputy Prime Minister.

(3) In cases expressly provided for by law, the priority or urgency procedure may also be requested by the President of the Republic of Moldova.

(4) The priority or urgency procedure for the examination of draft normative acts shall be ordered by the President of the Parliament by resolution.

Article 72. Urgency procedure

(1) In the context of the urgency procedure, the President of the Parliament shall set a deadline for the submission by the standing committee responsible of the report on the draft normative act, which may not exceed 10 working days from the date of its inclusion into the legislative process.

(2) MPs may submit amendments to the draft normative act introduced in the urgency procedure within a period not exceeding five working days.

(3) After receiving the report from the lead standing committee, the Standing Bureau shall introduce the draft normative act as a priority in the draft agenda for the next plenary sitting.

(4) The draft normative act examined in the urgency procedure may be examined in the first and second reading in the same sitting.

(5) In the debates on each article for which amendments are proposed, the debate procedure stipulated in this Code shall apply.

Article 73. Examination of draft normative acts in priority procedure

(1) The Parliament shall examine as a matter of priority draft laws which aim to transpose European legal acts into the domestic legal order, or which aim to create the national legal framework necessary for the implementation of the European Union legislation.

(2) The President of the Parliament may propose that legislative initiatives, which cannot be delayed, be examined as a matter of priority, presenting the corresponding arguments to the Standing Bureau or the plenary of the Parliament.

Article 74. Simplified procedure

(1) Draft decisions of an individual nature may be examined in a simplified procedure, without being subject to all the preliminary procedures in the working bodies of the Parliament.

(2) In the simplified procedure, it is mandatory that the lead committee submit the report or, as the case may be, the co-report.

(3) If necessary, certain draft decisions resulting from parliamentary debates or initiated during the plenary sittings of the Parliament shall be adopted in a simplified procedure without presenting the committee report.

(4) In the cases provided for by this Code or in cases decided by the Parliament, certain decisions shall be adopted as a matter of protocol, with a record thereof in the transcript of the sitting.

Section 4

Continuity of draft normative acts in the new Parliament

Article 75. Continuation of the legislative procedure in the new Parliament

(1) Draft normative acts approved in the first reading, as well as those included in the agenda of the previous Parliament, shall continue their legislative procedure in the new Parliament.

(2) Draft normative acts registered in the previous legislature shall continue their procedure in the new Parliament from the stage at which they were left, unless the new standing committees of the Parliament decide to resume the procedure from the beginning.

Article 76. Rejection by the Parliament of certain draft normative acts

(1) Draft normative acts that have lost their relevance, as well as those left without authors, may be rejected by the Parliament based on a common list, according to the report of the lead committee.

(2) Draft normative acts proposed by committees for rejection on the grounds that they have lost their relevance shall be examined according to the general procedure provided for in this Code in the event that the authors of drafts who hold a mandate in the current legislature do not agree with this decision.

Article 77. Nullity of draft normative acts

(1) If, after registration in the Parliament, the draft normative act has not been examined during the legislature in which it was registered, the legislative initiative shall become null and void.

(2) Registered draft normative acts which have not been included in the agenda of the Parliament shall become null and void if more than two years have passed since their registration.

Article 78. Withdrawal of draft normative acts

(1) The author of the draft legislative act may, through a written request, withdraw it from the legislative procedure at any time until its final adoption in the plenary session of the Parliament.

(2) If the draft legislative act has several authors, it may be withdrawn with the consent of all authors.

(3) In the event that one of the authors of the draft legislative act loses their status as a subject of the right of legislative initiative, the draft may be withdrawn by the authors who have this status.

Section 5

Proceedings of the Standing Committees

Article 79. Sitzings of the standing committee

(1) The sittings of the standings committee shall be convened by its chair and, in their absence, by one of their deputy chairs or by 1/3 of the members of the committee.

(2) The notification about the sitting shall include information regarding the subjects on the agenda.

(3) The participation of the MPs in the sittings of the committee is compulsory. In case of absence of a member of the standing committee, the substitute member who is part of the same parliamentary faction shall participate in the sitting, with a voting right.

(4) Any MP from a standing committee has the right to participate/assist in the proceedings of other committees, without a voting right.

(5) The sittings of the committees that are open shall be broadcast live, upon decision of the national public television and radio stations and/or on the internet.

(6) With a view to protecting the information constituting a state secret, when subjects related to measures for the protection of individuals and the national safety are discussed, the standing committee may decide, following the proposal of one of its members, that the sitting of the committee be held in camera. The proceedings of the sittings of the standing committee held in camera shall be pursuant to the provisions of art. 53 paras. (3) - (8).

Article 80. Voting procedure in the standing committees

(1) The sittings of the standing committee are deliberative with the participation of the majority of its members.

(2) The decisions of the standing committee shall be adopted as follows:

- a) decisions on the approval of the report, co-report regarding a draft normative act, for which the committee has been selected as a lead committee, regarding the organisation of parliamentary control, the appointments and revocations from office, the withdrawal of the MP's immunity, the organising of contests and the establishing of sub-committees shall be adopted by the votes of the majority of its members;
- b) decisions on the organising of the public consultations/hearings, the approval of opinions on draft normative acts and of consultative opinions, including on the initiation or conclusion of international treaties, shall be adopted by the vote of the majority of the attending members.

(3) The decisions of the standing committee shall be adopted, as a rule, by open vote.

(4) In case the standing committee does not make a decision on the examined subject, it shall propose that the decision is made by the plenum of the Parliament.

Article 81. Minutes and stenography of the debates during the sittings of the standing committees

(1) Minutes shall be taken during the sittings of the standing committee, containing the information about the character of the sitting, the agenda, the list of the committee members and of the persons attending the sitting of the committee, the persons who have taken the floor, the results of the vote and the decisions taken, as well as information on the live broadcast of the sitting and /or its recording.

(2) The minutes of the sittings of the standing committees shall be published on the official website of the Parliament within 7 working days, except for the minutes of the sittings held in camera.

(3) The chair of the standing committee may decide with respect to the stenography of the debates.

Article 82. Participation in the sittings of the standing committees of the members of the Government and other heads of the bodies of the public administration

(1) The members of the Government, the representative of the Government in the Parliament and other heads of the bodies of the public administration shall have access to the sittings of the standing committee. They shall be notified beforehand of the date and time of the standing committee sitting.

(2) In case the committee decides to invite to its sitting members of the Government and/or heads of other bodies of the public administration, they shall be obliged to attend the sitting.

(3) The members of the Government and the heads of other bodies of the public administration that participate in the proceedings of the committee may take the floor and answer questions.

Article 83. Participation of other persons in the sittings of the standing committees

(1) The committee may invite to its sittings representatives of the civil society, interested persons and specialists from certain authorities of the public administration, as well as functionaries from the Legal Directorate-General of the Secretariat of the Parliament and from the secretariats of the standing committees.

(2) The committee shall organise consultation sittings with the representatives of the civil society, as well as representatives of public associations, trade unions, the representatives of central and/or local public administration, following the proposal put forth by the members of the standing committee or those interested.

(3) In case of legislative initiatives, the public consultation sitting shall be organised compulsorily for draft decisions that could have a significant impact on the public interest, the rights and obligation of the persons or the economic and social environment.

The following decisions are considered to have a significant impact:

- a) introducing new regulations or modifying substantially the existing normative act in a certain field, affecting its stability and predictability;
- b) having important consequences on the economic, social, cultural or environmental development at the local or national level;
- c) referring to the establishment or review of strategic assets, of the development priorities or programmes at the national, sectoral or local level.

(3) The persons invited to participate in the sittings of the standing committee may take the floor and answer questions during the sitting, with the permission of the chair of the committee.

Article 84. Settling competence conflicts among standing committees

(1) In case the standing committee considers that the draft normative act submitted to it for debate pertains to another committee's competence, it may request the President of the Parliament to refer the draft normative act to the respective committee.

(2) In case the request put forth in accordance with para (1) is rejected by the President of the Parliament, the issue shall be solved by the Parliament. In case of disagreements among committees, the same method shall be applied.

Article 85. Joint sittings of the standing committees

(1) At the request of a co-reporting committee, the lead standing committee may allow the rapporteur of the co-reporting committee to participate in its proceedings with a consultative vote.

(2) In case the committees organise joint sittings regarding a draft normative act or another subject, they may decide to prepare a joint report.

(3) In case the reporting committee and the co-reporting committee have drawn up opposing reports, the decision on the draft normative act shall be taken by the Parliament.

Article 86. Deadline for the debate on the draft normative act by the lead standing committee

The lead standing committee debates the draft normative act, as a rule, within 60 working days from the day of its inclusion in the legislative procedure, unless this Code or the President of the Parliament sets another deadline.

Article 87. Submission of amendments to the draft normative acts

(1) The MPs have the right to present, in written, justified amendments to a draft normative act, which shall be referred to the lead standing committee within 30 days from the day of the inclusion of the draft in the legislative procedure. Based on well-founded motives, the lead committee may decide to accept for examination the amendments after the expiry of

the specified deadline. The day of the submission of the amendment shall be the day of its registration with the lead standing committee, which shall keep a special record of the received amendments.

(2) The amendments may be submitted as proposal for the modification of the contents of the points, paragraphs and articles, for the completion of the draft act with new articles or as proposal for the exclusion from the draft act of certain words, points, paragraphs or articles.

(3) The amendments to an EU-relevant draft normative act shall be examined by the lead standing committee and by the committee in charge of the field of European integration.

(4) The withdrawal of the amendments shall be carried out pursuant to art. 78.

Article 88. Opinions on the draft normative acts given by the standing committees

(1) The standing committees that have been requested to give opinion on draft normative acts, in case they are interested, shall subject them to debate and present their opinions to the lead committees.

(2) In the presented opinions, the standing committees, shall express their viewpoint on the concept, the topicality, opportunity, clarity of the regulations, with a proposal to modify, accept entirely or partially or reject the draft normative act.

(3) The failure to present the opinion does not hinder the examination of the subject by the lead standing committee or by the plenum of the Parliament.

(4) In case the draft normative act is supported partially or conditionally by a standing committee, the representatives of the lead standing committee may organise joint sittings for the purpose of identifying sustainable legislative solutions in order to ensure a larger endorsement for the draft normative act.

Article 89. Opinions on draft normative acts given by the Legal Directorate-General of the Secretariat of the Parliament

(1) The draft normative act shall be referred for a complex opinion to the Legal Directorate-General of the Secretariat of the Parliament, which, within 30 working, shall submit to the lead standing committee and to the Directorate-General for Parliamentary Documentation of the Secretariat of the Parliament the opinion regarding:

- a) the conformity of the legislative solutions contained in draft normative act with the provisions and principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova;
- b) the conformity with the jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court;
- c) the conformity with the legislation of the European Union and the treaties to which the Republic of Moldova is party;
- d) the nature of the law and the level of the normative act in relation to the competences established through the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova or other laws;
- e) the compliance with the requirements of legislative procedure and technique provided for in this code and the Law no. 100/2017 on normative acts;
- f) the correlation with the provisions of normative acts of higher level of the same level with which they are connected;
- g) the completeness of the regulation contained in the draft act, in respect to the regulated subject;
- h) the implications of the new regulation on the current legislation and the manner in which these are solved in the text of the draft act by means of abrogation, modifications;

- i) the evaluation of the draft normative act from the point of view of the respect for human rights and gender equality;
- j) the carrying out of the comparative analysis of the international legislation, as the case may be;
- k) the checking of the compliance of the legal norms with the legal quality criteria – accessibility, predictability and clarity.

(2) In case of the EU-relevant draft normative acts, the opinion shall be referred as well to the standing committee in charge of the field of European integration.

(3) In case of the draft normative acts examined through an urgent procedure or as a priority, the opinion shall be submitted within the requested deadline.

Article 90. Opinions on draft normative acts given by the Government and other authorities

(1) The draft normative acts included in the legislative procedure of the Parliament shall be referred for opinion to the Government and to other authorities in accordance with the legislation.

(2) The failure to submit the opinion within 30 days at the most or within a shorter deadline established by the President of the Parliament, shall not hinder the examination of the draft act by the Parliament, unless the law states otherwise.

(3) After the expiry of the deadlines for the submission of the amendments, the lead standing committee shall refer to the Government, for its opinion, the amendments which, based on the decision of the committee, imply the increase or the decrease of budget revenues or loans, as well as the increase or decrease of budget expenditures.

(4) The Government shall submit to the Parliament its opinion on the amendments mentioned in para. (3) within 15 working days at the most from the day of the receipt of the request of the lead standing committee.

(5) In case of examination in an urgent or priority manner of the draft normative acts, the deadline for the submission of the opinion of the Government shall be indicated in the request of the lead standing committee.

(6) The examination in the sittings of the lead standing committee of the draft normative acts in respect to which, amendments that imply the increase or the decrease of budget revenues or loans, as well as the increase or decrease of budget expenditures have been submitted, may not precede the deadlines indicated in paragraphs (4) and (5).

(7) The positive opinion of the Government is obligatory for the draft normative acts or amendments that, in accordance with art. 131 of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, imply the increase or the decrease of budget revenues or loans, as well as the increase or decrease of budget expenditures.

(8) The draft normative acts that imply the increase or the decrease of budget revenues or loans, as well as the increase or decrease of budget expenditures, for which the Government submitted a negative opinion shall be considered rejected by right.

Article 91. Synthesis of the amendments, proposals and objections to the draft normative act

(1) In the process of the drawing up of the report, the responsible adviser from the lead standing committee shall prepare the synthesis of the amendments, proposals and objections submitted and examined in relation to the draft normative act.

(2) The synthesis shall indicate separately the acceptance, partial acceptance or justified rejection by the committee of the admitted and/or rejected amendments coming from the MPs, the parliamentary factions, of the proposals and objections from the Legal Directorate-General, the Government and other competent authorities, as well as of those that have been received during the public consultations.

(3) After the examination and adoption of the report in the committee, it shall be edited taking into account the minutes of the sittings of the standing committee and the transcript of the debates carried out during these sittings and shall be signed by the chair of the committee.

(4) In the case when, after the approval of the report, new circumstances occur in relation to the examination of the draft normative act, the committee may revoke the report in order to present a new one.

Article 92. Report of the standing committee

(1) For the preparation of the report as a result of the debate on the draft normative act, the chair of the committee shall appoint an adviser from the standing committee, who shall draw up the report of the committee.

(2) The report of the standing committee for the first reading shall refer to:

- a) the topicality of the legislative regulation of the issue tackled in the draft law, indicating the requirements that impose the normative intervention, especially specifying the deficiencies and non-conformities of the current regulations; the basic principles and the purpose of the proposed regulations, specifying the new elements;
- b) the completeness of the regulation by means of the draft law of the respective area of social relations;
- c) the socio-economic impact and the effects on the macroeconomic situation, the business sector, the social field and the environment, including the evaluation of the costs and benefits; the financial impact on the general consolidated budget, including the information regarding the income and the expenses; the impact on the legal system and the implications of the new regulation on the legislation; the compatibility with the regulations of the EU in the respective field, the exact identification of the aimed subjects and, if necessary, the future measures for the harmonisation of the legislation; the implications on the domestic legislation, in some cases in connection to international treaties or agreements ratified or approved, as well as the necessary adjustment measures;
- d) the essence of the recommendations received during the public consultations in order to ensure transparency in the decision-making process;
- e) the implementation measures – the institutional and functional changes at the level of central and local public administration.

(3) The report of the committee for the first reading shall contain the following proposals:

- a) to adopt the draft law (in case of debating an ordinary law or a decision), if the draft law is submitted and formulated in its final version;

- b) to approve the draft law in the first reading and prepare it for debate in the second reading;
- c) to refer the draft law to the author for finalisation;
- d) to approve the draft law in the first and second reading, which is also considered the final reading if the draft law is formulated in its final version;
- e) to reject the draft law.

(4) The report of the standing committee for the second reading shall comprise the result of the examination of the amendments and proposals which are included in the synthesis annexed to the report.

(5) The report of the committee for the second reading shall propose to the Parliament to adopt the draft normative act in the second and final reading if the draft normative act is formulated in its final version.

(6) In case the draft normative act is not formulated for the final reading, the committee shall propose its formulation and preparation for the third reading and, as the case may be, the final one.

(7) In case during the debates in the second reading, the committee reached the conclusion that the draft normative act should be referred to the author or rejected, it shall propose to the Parliament the return or rejection of the draft normative act.

(8) If the lead standing committee cannot make a decision on the draft normative act, the chair of the committee shall mention this fact in the report and shall propose that the decision on this subject be taken by the plenum of the Parliament.

Article 93. Main draft normative acts and alternative draft normative acts

(1) If multiple draft normative acts addressing the same issue exist, being based on the same concept, the committee shall examine each draft separately and shall propose to the Parliament their merging for the second reading.

(2) In the situation in which multiple draft normative acts addressing the same issue are submitted for debate to the Parliament, being however based on different concepts, the lead standing committee may propose to the Parliament to decide what draft act will be debated as a main draft act. As a result, the Parliament shall decide on the main draft normative act, and the other draft acts shall be considered as an alternative or shall not be subjected to voting. After the adoption of the main draft act, the alternative draft acts shall be considered exhausted and shall be consigned together with the main draft act to the archives of the Parliament.

(3) If multiple draft normative acts intended to modify multiple articles of the same normative act are registered, upon proposal of the lead committee, they may be merged for examination, in the second reading, in one single draft act.

Article 94. Referral of the report of the lead standing committee and of the opinions to the MPs and the authors

(1) The report of the lead standing committee, together with the opinions of the standing committees, the results of the public consultations as well as the opinion of the Legal Directorate-General of the Secretariat of the Parliament shall be referred by the Secretariat of the Parliament for publication.

(2) The draft normative acts along with the established documents shall be submitted to the Standing Bureau for inclusion in the waiting list for the orders of the day of the Parliament.

Section 6

Conduct of the Parliament's sitting

Article 95. The opening of the plenary sitting

(1) The plenary sitting of the Parliament shall be opened by the President of the Parliament or, as the case may be, by one of the Vice Presidents.

(2) During the plenary sitting, the President of the Parliament shall be assisted by the Vice Presidents of the Parliament.

(3) The chair of the sitting shall specify whether the sitting is deliberative, shall request the plenum of the Parliament to honour the national Flag and Coat of Arms, and announce the orders of the day afterwards.

Article 96. Competences of the chair of the plenary sitting

(1) The chair of the plenary sitting has the powers necessary to preside over the Parliament's proceedings and to ensure their carrying out in compliance with the established procedures.

(2) The chair of the plenary sitting shall conduct the parliamentary debates in a fair and impartial manner, shall oversee the respect for the provisions of this code and shall ensure the maintaining of the order during the sitting.

(3) The chair of the plenary sitting shall prohibit the interventions of the MPs leading to the obstruction of the activity of the Parliament or of the exercise of the rights of other MPs.

(4) The chair of the plenary sitting shall establish, in accordance with the provisions of this code, the order in which persons are called to take the floor, considering the need to ensure the efficiency of the debates, respecting the views of the parliamentary factions.

(5) The chair of the sitting shall order the interruption of the speech of an MP by switching off the microphone in the case when the MP exceeds the time allocated for the speech or does not refer exclusively to the subject for which they have registered to take the floor.

Article 97. Procedure for taking the floor during the plenary sittings

(1) The MPs who intend to take the floor in connection to subjects included on the orders of the day shall register on the list of speakers with the chair of the sitting, during the presentation of the draft law by the author. The list of speakers includes the subject and the requested time, which may not exceed 5 minutes for the parliamentary factions and 3 minutes for the MPs.

(2) The MPs shall take the floor in the order in which their name has been registered on the list of speakers with the chair of the plenary sitting. No one may take the floor unless it is given to them by the chair of the sitting.

(3) The MPs may take the floor from the central rostrum or from the microphone at their working seat assigned to them in the plenary sitting hall.

(4) The President and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova shall be given the floor upon request, unless the Parliament decides otherwise. In case of necessity, the above-mentioned persons shall be given additional time by the chair of the sitting.

(5) The MPs who have been given the floor are obliged to refer exclusively to the subject for the discussion of which they have requested to take the floor, except for political declarations, which are made in the time interval allocated thereto, in accordance with the schedule. Otherwise, the chair of the plenary sitting shall warn them through an admonition, and in case of non-compliance, shall withdraw the floor from them by switching off the microphone.

Article 98. Declarations of the MPs

(1) The MPs have the right to make declarations regarding issues that are not included in the orders of the day of the plenary sitting. During the plenary sitting, the MPs shall register on the list for plenary sitting declarations.

(2) The MPs registered for declarations shall be given the floor at the end of the plenary sitting.

(3) Parliamentary factions shall be given up to 7 minutes for each declaration, and the MPs – up to 5 minutes.

(4) If the declaration is aimed at a certain parliamentary faction or an MP, they have the right to reply during the same sitting. The reply may not exceed 3 minutes.

Article 99. Exceptions from the rules for the allocation of the speaking time to the MPs – procedure and privileges

(1) Besides the legislative or political debates held in the plenary sitting hall of the Parliament, in accordance with the orders of the day, the MP may request the permission to speak with respect to the subjects related to the procedure, for a reply or to offer explanations.

(2) An MP may request the floor to discuss with respect to subjects related to the procedure if they consider that during the debates certain provisions of this code have been infringed, indicating expressly the provision to which they refer.

(3) The MP may request the right to a reply or to offering explanations if, at a given moment during the debates, accusations have been brought against them. During the debates, the MP has the right only to one reply. It is forbidden to give a reply to a reply.

(4) The speeches delivered in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (2) and (3) shall not exceed 2 minutes.

Section 7

Procedure for the examination of the draft normative acts per readings

Article 100. Examination of the draft normative act per readings

(1) The draft normative acts registered on the orders of the day of the plenary sitting of the Parliament shall be examined, as a rule, in two readings.

(2) The draft organic laws shall be adopted only after their examination in two readings.

(3) The draft ordinary laws, upon decision of the Parliament, may be adopted in one single reading, with the vote of the majority of the attending MPs.

(4) The draft constitutional laws, the complex draft organic laws, those regarding budget, finance and economy issues, that need considerable financial expenses, as well as draft laws regarding other important issues, upon decision of the Parliament, may be subjected to examination in the third reading as well.

(5) The draft normative act, the synthesis of amendments and connected materials shall be annexed to the report of the lead standing committee and presented before the plenum of the Parliament.

Article 101. Examination of the draft normative act in the first reading

(1) The examination of the draft normative act in the first reading consists in:

- a) presentation by the author of the draft normative act;
- b) debates on the draft act by means of questions and answers;
- c) hearing the report of the lead standing committee, and, as the case may be, of the co-rapporteur;
- d) MPs' interventions, obligatorily respecting the order in which they have been given the floor and the interventions of the representatives of the parliamentary factions.

(2) The report of the lead standing committee shall be presented by its chair or, as the case may be, by its deputy chair or a member thereof.

(3) During the debates, an MP has the right to ask the rapporteurs at the most two questions. The delivery of the question may not exceed two minutes. Each answer may not exceed 2 minutes. No clarifications or comments in relation to the delivered answer are allowed. The provisions of this paragraph shall be applied upon the examination of draft normative acts in any reading.

(4) For the session of questions and answers during the debates, maximum 60 minutes shall be allocated for each draft law. The prolongation of the time allocated for asking questions may be decided with the vote of the majority of the present MPs.

(5) The draft ordinary laws shall be adopted in one single reading only in case the lead standing committee proposes this in its report, which shall contain the results of the examination of the amendments and to which the final version of the draft law shall be annexed.

Article 102. Right of the author of the draft law to take the floor

The author of the draft law has the right to take the floor before the closing of the debates. Their speech shall not exceed 5 minutes. If there are more authors, only one of them shall take the floor, with the consent of the others.

Article 103. Decisions adopted following the debate on the draft normative act in the first reading

(1) Following the debate of the draft normative act in the first reading, the Parliament shall adopt one of the decisions beneath:

- a) to adopt the law (in case of debating an ordinary law) or a decision;
- b) to refer the draft law, upon proposal of the chair of the sitting, for finalisation to the lead standing committee with a view to examination of the amendments, objections and proposals;

- c) to refer the draft law or decision, upon proposal of the chair of the sitting or chair of the lead standing committee, for finalisation to the author;
- d) to approve the draft law in the first reading and prepare it for debate in the second reading;
- e) to reject the draft law.

(2) The decisions of the Parliament regarding the debate of draft laws in the first reading shall be mentioned in the transcript of the sitting, unless the Parliament decides otherwise.

Article 104. Preparing the draft law for the second reading

(1) After the approval of the draft law in the first reading, it shall be referred to the lead standing committee for the examination of the submitted amendments, proposals and objections.

(2) During the preparation of the draft law for debate in the second reading, the MPs may additionally put forth amendments to the lead standing committee within 10 working days from the day of the approval of the draft law in the first reading.

(3) The amendments submitted after the expiry of the deadline set in para. (2) shall not be examined, unless the lead standing committee decides otherwise, with a justification.

(4) After the expiry of the deadlines for the submission of amendments, provided for in this code, the lead standing committee shall refer to the Government for opinion the amendments which, in its view, will lead to the increase or decrease of budget incomes and expenses, as well as of loans.

(5) The Government shall submit to the Parliament its opinion on the amendments mentioned in para. (4) within 15 working days at the most from the receipt of the request of the lead standing committee.

(6) In case of examining urgently or as a priority the draft normative act, the deadline for the submission of the Government's opinion on the amendments shall be indicated in the request of the lead standing committee.

(7) The examination in the sittings of the lead standing committees of the draft normative acts with respect to which amendments have been submitted, implying the increase or decrease of budget revenues or of loans, as well as the increase or decrease of budget expenses, may not exceed the deadlines indicated in paragraphs (5) and (6).

(8) The amendments with budget impact on which the Government gave a negative opinion, shall be considered rejected by right and may not be debated in the plenary sitting of the Parliament.

(9) The debate on the draft law in the second reading occurs as a rule within 60 days at the most from the day of the approval in the first sitting. In case of a complex draft normative acts, this deadline may be extended up to 90 days.

(10) The authors of the amendments may participate in the sitting of the standing committee for the purpose of finalising the draft law. The committee shall notify the author beforehand of the sitting conduct.

(11) In case some of the proposals have to be legally evaluated, the lead standing committee shall request the Legal Directorate-General of the Secretariat of the Parliament to give an opinion on the respective proposal or amendment.

(12) In case of EU-relevant draft normative acts, the synthesis of amendments and the decision of the standing committee thereon shall be referred to the standing committee in charge of the European integration field for examination and the preparation of a co-report.

Article 105. Examination of the draft law in the second reading

(1) The examination of the draft law in the second reading consists in:

- a) hearing the report of the lead standing committee, and as the case may be, the co-rapporteur;
- b) debating the draft law.

(2) For the examination of the draft law in the second reading, maximum 60 minutes shall be allocated. The prolongation of the allocated time may be decided with the vote of the majority of the present MPs.

(3) The debate and the vote on the draft law in the second reading are conducted, as a rule, together, unless the Parliament decides to examine it by articles.

Article 106. Debating the draft law by articles

(1) Debating the draft law by articles shall start with the amendments not accepted by the lead standing committee, if the author of the amendments insists on it. The amendment shall be read a single time and must refer to the contents of a separate article.

(2) During the debate on the draft law by articles, the authors of the amendments may argue the proposals put forth by them and rejected by the committee within 2 minutes at the most.

(3) The chair of the sitting may not propose the debate or vote on an amendment that has not been discussed by the lead standing committee.

(4) In case an amendment has not been upheld and is connected with other amendments in the text of the draft normative act, these shall be considered rejected by right.

Article 107. Time allocated for debating the amendments

(1) The Parliament shall proceed to debating the draft law by articles only if the lead standing committee presents its report with the respective decisions regarding the submitted proposals and amendments.

(2) When articles in respect to which amendments have been submitted, the MPs, the representative of the Government, the author and the rapporteur of the lead standing committee may take the floor in order to express their viewpoints.

(3) The time allocated for the presentation of the amendment is 2 minutes. At the beginning of the debate on the draft law, a different time interval may be established for interventions.

Article 108. Process of voting on the amendments

(1) The texts of the articles for which no amendment has been formulated, as well as the texts of the articles for which amendments have been formulated and have been accepted by the committee shall be considered adopted if the Parliament does not decide otherwise.

(2) The Parliament shall decide by vote on the articles in respect to which the amendments not accepted by the committee have been formulated, upon request of the author of the amendment.

(3) The result of the vote – the number of votes ‘in favour’ or ‘against’ – shall be announced by the chair of the sitting and shall be mentioned in the transcript.

(4) The author of the amendment may withdraw it any time before the vote thereon.

Article 109. Closing the debates

(1) Upon the proposal of the chair of the committee or of a parliamentary faction, the debates on the subject under examination by the Parliament may be closed.

(2) The proposal to close the debates shall be adopted with the vote of the majority of the MPs present.

(3) In case in respect to a certain subject on the orders of the day, the debate framework has been established, its examination shall be concluded automatically upon expiry of the allocated time.

Article 110. Examination of the draft law in the third reading

(1) The examination of the draft law in the third reading shall be carried out in the cases decided by the Parliament.

(2) The third reading consists in:

- a) presenting the report of the lead standing committee;
- b) debating the draft law.

(3) For the examination of the draft law in the third reading maximum 60 minutes shall be allocated. The prolongation of the allocated time may be decided with the vote of the majority of the MPs present.

Article 111. Examination and adoption of the draft normative act in the final reading

(1) The draft normative acts shall be considered approved definitively if they have been voted on in the final reading.

(2) The lead standing committee shall propose to the Parliament the examination of the draft normative act in the final reading, indicating this fact in the report on the respective draft act.

(3) The final reading may coincide with the first, the second or the third ones if the text of the draft normative act is presented and formulated in its final version.

(4) The final reading consists in:

- a) presenting the report of the lead standing committee;
- b) the questions and answers session on the report of the committee.

(5) In the final reading amendments shall not be formulated and debates on the legislative solutions shall not be reopened, but observation may be formulated with respect to possible discrepancies between the text of the draft act examined by the Parliament in the final reading and the text submitted for the final lecture.

(6) In case in the final reading, a need for additional editing of the draft act's text is noted, owed to the acceptance of certain essential amendments or proposals that modify its content and affect the coherence or structure of the text, the Parliament may decide to refer the draft act to the lead standing committee for finalisation and to resume the procedure for the adoption in the final reading.

(7) The adoption normative act in the final reading expresses the will of the legislative authority to enforce the act in the version subjected to voting, as a whole and with its internal coherence.

Article 112. Draft normative acts rejected by the Parliament

(1) The draft normative acts shall be considered rejected if upon voting as a whole, they have not gathered the respective majority of votes in accordance with the requirements of this code.

(2) The draft normative acts rejected by the Parliament may not be put forth and subjected to repeated debates during the same parliamentary session.

Article 113. The signing of the normative acts adopted by the Parliament

The draft normative acts adopted by the Parliament shall be signed by the President of the Parliament or by one of the Vice President of the Parliament within 20 working days from the day of the adoption.

Article 114. Sending the law for promulgation to the President of the Republic of Moldova

(1) The laws shall be sent for promulgation by the President of the Parliament or by one of the Vice Presidents of the Parliament to the President of the Republic of Moldova at the latest on the working day following the day of the signing of the law.

(2) The President of the Republic of Moldova is entitled, in case they have objections to the law, to send it to the Parliament for re-examination within two weeks from its receipt.

(3) The President of the Republic of Moldova may request the Parliament only once to re-examine the law for any reason that makes the law as a whole or partially unacceptable.

Article 115. Re-examination of the law

(1) The re-examination of the law by the Parliament, following the request submitted by the President of the Republic of Moldova, shall be carried out within 3 months. If the law is not examined during this period, it shall be considered rejected by right.

(2) The objections of the President of the Republic of Moldova shall be subjected to examination in accordance with the procedure specified in this code for the examination of amendments, based on the report of the standing committee in charge of the re-examined law and, as the case may be, with the opinion of the Legal Directorate-General of the Secretariat of the Parliament.

(3) Upon re-examination of the law, the objections of the President of the Republic of Moldova may be admitted totally or partially or may be rejected. New amendments may not be submitted.

(4) In case after the re-examination of the law, the Parliament keeps the decision adopted previously, the President of the Republic of Moldova is obliged to promulgate the law within two weeks from the day of sending the law for promulgation.

Section 8

Voting procedure

Article 116. Voting by normative act categories

(1) The laws, the decisions and other acts shall be adopted by the Parliament with the vote of the majority as follows:

- a) constitutional laws – with the vote of 2/3 of the number of the elected MPs;
- b) organic laws – in the final vote, after at least two readings, with the vote of the majority of the elected MPs, constituting the vote of at least 51 MPs, if the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova does not establish another majority;
- c) ordinary laws, rulings and other acts – with the vote of the majority of the MPs present at the sitting, if the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova does not provide for another majority.

(2) In case of normative acts referred to the Parliament for re-examination, by the President of the Republic of Moldova, under the conditions of art. 93 para. (2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, the provisions of para (1) of this article shall be applied correspondingly.

Article 117. Voting method

(1) The MP shall vote personally, by open or secret vote.

(2) The open vote shall be expressed by electronic means, by roll call or by show of hands. Other voting procedures shall be approved by the Parliament upon proposal of the parliamentary factions.

(3) In order to ensure the count of the votes by show of hands, before voting, the chair of the sitting shall appoint a teller for each sector.

(4) The secret vote shall be expressed by means of ballot papers. The vote is secret if the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova stipulates thus or in case it concerns the interests of national security, territorial integrity, economic welfare of the country, public order, in order to prevent popular unrest and crimes, to protect the rights, liberties and dignity of the individual, to impede the divulgation of confidential information to guarantee the authority and impartiality of the justice system.

(5) The result of the final vote on the draft normative act shall be attached to the transcript of the plenary sitting and shall be published on the official website of the Parliament, except for the procedure of the secret voting.

Article 118. Voting time and verification of the quorum during the vote

(1) During plenary sittings in which the voting procedure is followed, the chair of the sitting shall verify the quorum, which must meet the constitutional requirements for voting on

draft normative acts. Voting on the agenda items shall take place during the time allotted for voting.

(2) If the Parliament does not have the quorum required to conduct a vote, the chair of the sitting shall postpone the vote on the draft normative act.

(3) Before the vote is taken, the chair of the sitting may request that the quorum be verified using electronic devices or, if this is not possible, by having the tellers count the members. Members who do not exercise their right to vote but are present in the sitting hall shall be included in the count of members for the purpose of establishing the quorum.

(4) The quorum may be verified periodically at the initiative of the chair of the sitting or at the request of a parliamentary faction.

(5) If, during the voting time, it is determined that the quorum required to initiate the voting procedure has not been met, the chair of the sitting shall postpone the vote and announce the exact date and time at which the draft legislative acts will be put to a vote, which may not be set later than the next plenary sitting.

(6) If the vote does not take place at the next sitting, the debates shall be resumed.

Article 119. Voting procedure in the plenary sitting

(1) Before the vote, the chair of the sitting shall clearly state the issue or the proposal being put to a vote, without commenting on it. Each proposal shall be voted on separately.

(2) When voting on draft normative acts, the chair of the sitting shall exactly state the title of the draft normative act, its number, and the date of its registration in the Parliament, after which the draft act shall be put to a vote.

(3) During the voting procedure, it is not permitted to introduce new amendments or resume the consideration of the draft act as a whole, any of its constituent parts, or amendments.

(4) If an amendment proposed by an MP has not been accepted by the committee and the author requests that the amendment be put to a vote in the plenary sitting of the Parliament, the chair of the sitting shall put the request to vote.

(5) If the committee has accepted certain amendments that have been rejected by the author, the Parliament shall put each amendment to a separate vote at the request of the author or of a parliamentary faction.

(6) The chair of the sitting shall clearly announce the results of the vote so that they can be recorded in the transcript.

Article 120. Vote via the electronic voting system

(1) The exercise of the right to vote via the electronic voting system shall be carried out by means of a card assigned to each MP, which is used at the seat allocated in the plenary sitting hall.

(2) The vote cast by the MP via the electronic voting system is personal. It is prohibited to vote on behalf of another MP.

(3) If, before the conclusion of the voting procedure, any deviations from the provisions of this code or technical deficiencies are identified, the chair of the sitting shall cancel the voting procedure and, after the technical or procedural issues have been resolved, shall order the voting procedure to be repeated.

(4) If, after the voting procedure has been concluded, a parliamentary faction notifies the chair of the sitting of a violation of the voting procedure or of technical errors or malfunctions in the electronic voting system, the chair of the sitting shall propose to the Parliament to cancel the vote and repeat the voting procedure.

(5) The voting procedure shall be repeated during the same sitting once technical or procedural issues have been resolved.

(6) If it is determined that the electronic voting system cannot be used, the chair of the sitting shall propose that the vote be taken by a show of hands.

(7) The results of the vote cast via the electronic voting system shall be displayed on the screen, announced by the chair of the sitting, and recorded in the transcript of the plenary sitting.

(8) The results of the vote cast via the electronic voting system shall be archived in electronic form and attached to the sitting transcript.

Article 121. Access to the information in the electronic voting system

The department responsible for the technical maintenance of the electronic system must provide MPs, upon their written request, with the information it holds regarding Parliament's sittings.

Article 122. Secret ballot

(1) Secret ballots shall be conducted by a special committee appointed by the Parliament. The provisions of Article 33 of this Code shall apply correspondingly to the conduct of secret ballots.

(2) In the case of a secret ballot, the subject of the vote shall be indicated on the ballot.

(3) When voting "in favour," the MP shall apply the "Voted" stamp on the ballot paper within the circle next to the name of the proposed candidate or, as the case may be, the name of the subject; when voting "against," the MP shall leave the circle next to the name of the proposed candidate or, as the case may be, the name of the subject, blank.

(4) The ballot paper shall be placed in a single transparent, sealed ballot box.

Article 123. Roll-call vote

(1) A roll-call vote shall be conducted as follows: the chair of the sitting shall explain the object of the vote and the meaning of the terms "in favour" and "against"; one of the members of the Standing Bureau shall read out the first and last names of the MPs; each MP shall respond "in favour" or "against."

(2) After the roll call is completed, the first and last names of the MPs who have not responded shall be repeated.

Article 124. Challenging the accuracy of the vote count

(1) If a parliamentary faction challenges the accuracy of the vote count, the chair of the sitting shall cancel the vote and order a new vote in case the challenge is upheld.

(2) A challenge to the accuracy of the vote count may be filed by a representative of the faction only after the results of the vote have been announced.

(3) A challenge filed by a parliamentary faction shall be considered only if a majority of the members of that faction are present in the sitting hall.

Article 125. Requirements during the vote

(1) During the vote, MPs are required to remain silent and stay in their assigned seats.

(2) During the vote, MPs are not given the floor.

TITLE II**SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES****Chapter IV****PROCEDURE FOR AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA****Article 126.** Constitutional law

(1) The constitutional law is the law governing the revision of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, adopted through a special procedure.

(2) The revision of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova may be carried out through a constitutional law in accordance with the principles of the supremacy of the Constitution, its stability, the unity of constitutional matters, and the balance of values enshrined in the Constitution.

(3) The revision of the Constitution shall be carried out in compliance with the requirements of Articles 141–143 of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova and the provisions set out in this Code.

Article 127. Limits of constitutional revision

(1) The Constitution may not be revised during a state of emergency, siege, and war, nor during the period of extension of Parliament's term, until the new Parliament convenes as required by law.

(2) The provisions regarding the sovereignty, independence, and unity of the state, as well as those regarding the permanent neutrality of the state may be revised by the Parliament, with their subsequent approval by a constitutional referendum.

(3) No revision shall be performed if it implies the infringement of the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens or their guarantees.

Article 128. Requirements for the special procedure of revising the Constitution

(1) The legislative initiative to revise the Constitution must comply with the requirements of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, Law no. 100/2017 on normative acts and this Code.

(2) The draft constitutional law, together with the opinion of the Constitutional Court, adopted by the vote of at least four judges, shall be submitted to the Parliament along with the accompanying file.

(3) Pursuant to the resolution of the President of the Parliament, the draft constitutional law shall be introduced into the legislative process. If the draft constitutional law does not meet the legal requirements, the provisions of Article 70 of this Code shall apply accordingly.

(4) For the examination of the draft constitutional law, the President of the Parliament shall refer it to the lead standing committee. If the lead standing committee considers that, during the examination of the draft constitutional law, it is necessary to involve MPs from other standing committees, it shall propose to the Parliament the creation of a special committee which shall be the lead standing committee.

(5) The draft constitutional law shall be distributed for review to the parliamentary factions, the Legal Directorate-General of the Secretariat of the Parliament and to the Government, if the initiative does not belong thereto.

(6) Within 90 days of the date of registration of the legislative initiative, MPs may submit amendments to the draft constitutional law. On the expiry of this deadline, no further amendments shall be accepted.

(7) Amendments to the draft constitutional law may be submitted by at least 15 MPs. Amendments to the draft constitutional law must respect the principles of unity of subject matter and balance of values enshrined in the Constitution.

(8) After 90 days, the amendments received by the lead committee shall be submitted to the Constitutional Court for review. Amendments endorsed by the Constitutional Court shall be included in the parliamentary debates.

Article 129. Debate on the draft constitutional law

(1) The draft constitutional law shall be submitted to the plenum of the Parliament for debate after the expiration of a six-month period from the date of registration of the relevant legislative initiative.

(2) The draft constitutional law shall be debated in at least two readings.

Article 130. Debate on the draft constitutional law in its first reading

(1) The first reading of the draft constitutional law consists of:

- a) the author's presentation of the draft constitutional law;
- b) the hearing of the report by the lead committee;
- c) speeches of the representatives of parliamentary factions.

(2) During the first-reading debate on the draft constitutional law, amendments may not be debated. At the conclusion of the debates, the Parliament shall adopt one of the following decisions:

- a) approve the draft constitutional law in first reading;

b) reject the draft law.

(3) The decision on the draft constitutional law debated in the first reading shall be adopted by the Parliament in the form of a resolution, by a majority vote of the MPs present.

Article 131. Referral of the draft constitutional law to the lead committee

(1) After the draft constitutional law is approved in first reading, it is referred to the lead committee to prepare it for debates in second reading.

(2) If no amendments have been submitted and the lead committee proposes that the draft constitutional law be debated in second reading, the chair of the sitting shall put the committee's proposal to a vote.

Article 132. Preparation of the draft constitutional law for debate in second reading

(1) If the draft constitutional law is referred to the lead committee, that committee shall prepare a report presenting the draft constitutional law for debate in second reading, reflecting the results of the debates within the committee.

(2) During the second reading, only amendments that have been endorsed by the Constitutional Court may be debated and put to a vote. Amendments that have received a negative opinion from the Constitutional Court are deemed to have been rejected by right.

(3) The lead committee shall debate and put each amendment to a vote separately.

(4) The committee's report and summary on the draft constitutional law shall be submitted to the Parliament for debate during the second reading.

Article 133. Debate on the draft constitutional law in second reading

(1) The second reading of the draft constitutional law in the plenary sitting of the Parliament consists of:

- a) the presentation of the report by the lead standing committee;
- b) hearing the views of parliamentary factions.

(2) If an amendment has not been accepted by the lead committee, the author of the amendment may request that the Parliament vote on the amendment.

(3) Amendments to the draft constitutional law shall be approved by a majority vote of the MPs present.

(4) If the amendment does not receive the required number of votes, the draft provision as voted in first reading shall be deemed adopted.

(5) At the request of a parliamentary faction, each amendment accepted by the committee may be put to a separate vote.

Article 134. Procedure for the final vote on the draft constitutional law

(1) After the amendments have been considered and voted on, the draft constitutional law shall be put to a vote in its entirety.

(2) The edited draft constitutional law submitted for a vote in its entirety shall be adopted with the vote of two thirds of the elected MPs and shall be deemed adopted in final reading unless the Parliament decides to examine it separately in final reading.

(3) If the draft constitutional law does not obtain the required number of votes, it shall be considered rejected.

(4) If the Parliament has not adopted the respective constitutional law within one year of the date on which the initiative to revise the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova was registered with the Parliament, the proposal shall be deemed null.

(5) The same legislative initiative to revise the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova may be resubmitted to the Parliament only after one year has elapsed from the date of its rejection or declaration of nullity.

Article 135. Submission of the constitutional law to the President of the Republic of Moldova for promulgation

(1) The constitutional law adopted by the Parliament shall be submitted to the President of the Republic of Moldova for promulgation.

(2) If the President of the Republic of Moldova does not promulgate the constitutional law, the provisions of Articles 113 and 114 of this Code shall be applied accordingly.

Article 136. Referendum on revising the Constitution

(1) If the provisions set forth in Article 142(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova are subjected to revision, the Parliament, following the adoption of the draft constitutional law, shall call a national constitutional referendum to approve the new provisions.

(2) The date of the constitutional referendum shall be set by a resolution of the Parliament.

(3) The national constitutional referendum shall be held in accordance with the provisions of Electoral Code no. 325/2022.

(4) If a constitutional law is subject to approval by a constitutional referendum, the law must be enacted if it has been approved by the referendum.

Article 137. Proposals to revise the Constitution by a constitutional referendum

(1) The subjects with the right of legislative initiative, as set forth in Article 141 of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, may request that the Parliament submit the constitutional review to direct approval by referendum.

(2) The legislative initiative to revise the Constitution shall be drafted in strict accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, this Code, Law no. 100/2017 on normative acts, and the Electoral Code.

(3) The legislative initiative to revise the Constitution, together with the positive opinion of the Constitutional Court, approved by at least four judges, and the draft law file shall be submitted to the Parliament.

(4) Upon the expiration of the six-month period from the date of receipt of the proposals to initiate a referendum on the revision of the Constitution, the Parliament shall adopt one of the following decisions:

- a) approve the decision on the organisation and conduct of the constitutional referendum;
- b) reject the initiative to conduct a constitutional referendum, directing that the issues be resolved by parliamentary procedure;
- c) reject the initiative to conduct a constitutional referendum if the revision of the Constitution is not a popular initiative.

(5) If the revision of the same provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova is initiated simultaneously both by parliamentary procedure and by citizens, the examination of the proposals to revise the Constitution by parliamentary procedure shall cease.

Chapter V

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PARLIAMENT AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Section 1

Election and Investiture of the President of the Republic of Moldova

Article 138. Election of the President of the Republic of Moldova

(1) The date of the election of the President of the Republic of Moldova shall be set by the Parliament in accordance with the provisions of Electoral Code no. 325/2022.

(2) Once the results of the presidential election in the Republic of Moldova have been confirmed and the mandate validated, the President shall be invested.

Article 139. Investiture of the President of the Republic of Moldova

(1) The investiture of the President of the Republic of Moldova shall take place during a special session convened by the President of the Parliament at the request of the newly elected President, within thirty days of the election date.

(2) The venue for the investiture ceremony of the President of the Republic of Moldova shall be established by the Parliament, taking into account the request of the newly elected President of the Republic of Moldova.

(3) The solemn sitting of the Parliament during which the President of the Republic of Moldova is invested shall be conducted in accordance with Law no. 1073/1996 on the investiture of the President of the Republic of Moldova.

(4) The sitting shall be presided over by the President of the Parliament, in the presence of the newly elected President and the members of the Constitutional Court, and attended by dignitaries and other personalities, in accordance with Law no. 1073/1996 on the investiture of the President of the Republic of Moldova.

(5) The President of the Constitutional Court shall read the Constitutional Court's decision confirming the results of the election of the President of the Republic of Moldova and validating the President's mandate and shall declare the newly elected President of the Republic of Moldova.

(6) During the investiture ceremony, the newly elected President shall take the oath of office before the Parliament and the Constitutional Court in accordance with Article 79(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova.

Section 2

Termination of the term of office of the President of the Republic of Moldova

Article 140. Resignation of the President of the Republic of Moldova

(1) The President of the Republic of Moldova may resign from their position by submitting the resignation to the Parliament.

(2) The Parliament shall take note of the resignation submitted by the President of the Republic of Moldova, declare the position of the President of the Republic of Moldova vacant, set the date of election for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova and request the Constitutional Court to ascertain the circumstances justifying the interim position of the President of the Republic of Moldova.

Article 141. Termination of the term of office of the President of the Republic of Moldova by reason of death

In case of death of the President of the Republic of Moldova, the Parliament shall ascertain the termination of the term of office, declare the position vacant, set the date of election for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova and request the Constitutional Court to ascertain the circumstances justifying the interim position of President of the Republic of Moldova.

Article 142. Termination of the term of office of the President of the Republic of Moldova in case of definitive impossibility of performing the duties

(1) In case of definitive impossibility of performing the duties of the President of the Republic of Moldova, the Parliament shall request the Constitutional Court to ascertain the circumstances justifying the impossibility of the President of the Republic of Moldova to perform their duties for more than 60 days.

(2) The Parliament shall take note of the opinion of the Constitutional Court ascertaining the impossibility of the President of the Republic of Moldova to perform their duties for more than 60 days, as well as the acting capacity of the office, declare the position vacant and set the date of election for the position of President of the Republic of Moldova.

Chapter VI

RELATIONS OF THE PARLIAMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT

Section 1

Investiture of the Government

Article 143. Nomination of the candidate for the position of Prime Minister

(1) After the consultation of parliamentary factions, the President of the Republic of Moldova shall nominate a candidate for the position of Prime Minister.

(2) The parliamentary majority shall take the responsibility to propose in the consultations with the President of the Republic of Moldova the nomination of the candidate for the position of Prime Minister.

(3) Upon nomination of a candidate for the position of Prime Minister, the condition of the formalisation of the absolute parliamentary majority shall be met if:

- a) the act certifying the formalisation of the parliamentary majority contains data regarding the number and names of the MPs constituting the absolute parliamentary majority;
- b) the act reflects the willingness of the MPs to support a certain candidacy for the position of Prime Minister;
- c) the act shall be officially remitted to the President of the Republic of Moldova.

(4) If a parliamentary majority is not formed and the governance can be ensured without the formation of an alliance/a coalition, the President of the Republic of Moldova has the obligation, after the consultation of the parliamentary factions, to nominate a candidate for the position of Prime Minister.

(5) The candidate for the position of Prime Minister shall request, within 30 days of the date of the nomination, the vote of confidence of the Parliament on the activity programme of the Government, on the list of ministries and on the list of candidates for the positions of members of the Government.

(6) The President of the Republic of Moldova may not nominate a candidate for the position of Prime Minister in the absence of the governing bodies of the Parliament.

(7) The impossibility of the Parliament to convene due to the absence of the body responsible for convening it prevents the President of the Republic of Moldova from nominating a candidate for the position of Prime Minister.

(8) The failure of Parliament to convene in plenary sitting to consider the matter of appointing the Government, when it has governing bodies, shall be equivalent to rejecting the request for investiture.

Article 144. Registration of the request and setting the date of its examination in the plenary sitting

(1) The request of the nominated candidate for the office of Prime Minister shall be submitted to the Parliament together with the activity programme, the list of ministries and the list of candidates for the positions of Government members.

(2) The President of the Parliament shall order that the documents mentioned in paragraph (1) be distributed to MPs, parliamentary factions, and the standing committees, and shall designate the lead standing committee.

(3) The President of the Parliament shall, within three days, convene the sitting of the Standing committee to set the date of the special session during which the activity programme, the list of ministries and the list of candidates for the positions of members of the Government will be debated.

(4) The date of the plenary sitting in which the vote of confidence to the Government will be debated may not exceed ten days from the date on which the request for a vote of confidence to the Government was registered with the Parliament.

Article 145. Examination of the activity programme of the Government, the list of ministries and the list of candidates for the positions of Government members

(1) The activity programme of the Government, the list of ministries and the list of candidates for the positions of Government members shall be examined by the parliamentary factions and the standing committees of the Parliament.

(2) The parliamentary factions may invite candidates for the positions of Government members to hearings.

(3) The standing committee whose area of responsibility corresponds to the area of competence of a future minister may invite the candidate for this position to hearings.

(4) The specialised standing committee shall review the activity programme of the Government, the list of ministries, and the list of candidates for the positions of Government members, as well as the opinions of the parliamentary factions and standing committees and prepare a report thereon.

(5) In the sitting of the specialised standing committee, the presence of the new Government members is compulsory if requested by the committee.

Article 146. Government investiture sitting

(1) The investiture of the Government shall take place during a special public session of the Parliament.

(2) In the Government investiture sitting, the President of the Republic of Moldova shall present the nominee for the office of Prime Minister.

(3) No debate shall be held on the presentation of the nominee for the office of Prime Minister.

(4) Following the speech of the President of the Republic of Moldova, the floor shall be given to the nominee for the office of Prime Minister to present the activity programme of the Government, the list of ministries, and the list of candidates for the positions of Government members. The presentation may not exceed 45 minutes.

(5) Plenary debates on the activity programme of the Government, the list of ministries, and the list of candidates for the positions of Government members may not exceed two hours, unless the Parliament decides otherwise.

(6) During the debates, the members of the Parliament may address two questions, each lasting one minute, to both the nominee for the office of Prime Minister and the nominees for positions of ministers. Their responses may not exceed 3 minutes.

(7) Following the question-and-answer session, the Legal Committee on Appointments and Immunities shall submit to the Parliament its report on the examination of the activity programme of the Government, the list of ministries, and the list of candidates for the positions of Government members.

(8) After the conclusion of the debates, the parliamentary factions are entitled to speak from the main rostrum for 7 minutes to express their position on the activity programme of the Government, the list of ministries, and the list of candidates for the positions of Government members.

(9) Before putting the activity programme of the Government, the list of ministries, and the list of candidates for the positions of Government members to a vote, the chair of the sitting shall offer the floor, for up to 10 minutes, to the Prime Minister-designate to deliver closing remarks.

(10) The Parliament's decision to approve the Government's activity programme, and the list of ministries, and to grant a vote of confidence to the candidates for the positions of Government members shall be adopted by a majority vote of the elected MPs.

Article 147. Repeated request for the investiture of the Government

(1) If the Parliament does not grant a vote of confidence to the new Government, the President of the Republic of Moldova shall repeat the procedure of consulting on and nominating a candidate for the office of Prime Minister.

(2) The same person or a different person may be nominated to the office of Prime Minister more than once.

(3) The procedure for the Parliament's examination of the granting of a vote of confidence to the Government shall be repeated in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(4) In the event that the Parliament repeatedly fails to grant a vote of confidence to the activity programme of the Government, the list of ministries, and the list of candidates for the positions of Government members, after the expiration of 45 days from the date of the first request and until the expiration of the three-month period from the date of the occurrence of circumstances that determined the need to form a new Government, the President of the Republic of Moldova shall request the Constitutional Court to ascertain the circumstances justifying the dissolution of the Parliament.

(5) Once the Constitutional Court has ascertained the circumstances justifying the dissolution of the Parliament, the President of the Republic of Moldova shall, within 10 days, dissolve the Parliament and set the date for new parliamentary elections.

Section 2 Responsibility assumption by the Government

Article 148. Mechanism of responsibility assumption by the Government

(1) Pursuant to Article 106¹ of the Constitution, the Government may assume its responsibility before the Parliament, in plenary sitting, with respect to a programme, a statement of general policy or draft laws.

(2) The Government may assume its responsibility before the Parliament only for draft organic or ordinary laws.

(3) The Government may assume its responsibility for a draft law or for multiple draft laws at the same time.

(4) The draft law for which the Government assumes its responsibility before the Parliament shall not follow the stages of legislative procedure provided for in this Code.

Article 149. Conditions under which the Government assumes its responsibility for draft laws

The procedure for the Government to assume its responsibility for a draft law or multiple draft laws must be based on the following cumulative conditions:

- a) the existence of an urgent need to adopt the measures contained in the law for which the Government has assumed its responsibility;
- b) the need for the legislation to be adopted as expeditiously as possible;
- c) the importance of the regulated field;
- d) the immediate application of the law;
- e) the limitation of the laws to a single regulatory field.

Article 150. Presentation of the responsibility assumption by the Government before the Parliament

(1) The Government's decision on assuming its responsibility before the Parliament and the full text of the programme, policy statement, or draft law constituting the subject of this procedure shall be published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Moldova.

(2) The Government's decision on assuming responsibility before the Parliament and the letter of transmittal accompanying the Government's decision shall be sent to the Parliament together with the text of the programme, the policy statement, or the draft law, along with its accompanying file.

(3) The additional explanatory note to the draft law submitted to the Parliament following the responsibility assumption by the Government shall include detailed information regarding the emergency conditions that form the basis for the responsibility assumption by the Government.

Article 151. Plenary sitting convening

(1) The President of the Parliament shall immediately order the circulation of the Government's decision and additional materials to the MPs and shall convene the sitting of the Standing Bureau in which:

- a) the Government's letter of transmittal and materials regarding the assumption of responsibility are presented;
- b) the date of the plenary sitting in which the Government assumes its responsibility for the programme, the general policy statement, or the draft law is set.

(2) The plenary sitting shall be convened not later than 3 days from the date on which the request regarding the responsibility assumption by the Government is submitted to the Parliament.

(3) If the Parliament is not in a regular session, the Parliament shall be convened in a special session, under the terms of this Code.

(4) Failure to convene the Parliament in a plenary sitting to examine the responsibility assumption by the Government shall equal the rejection of the request.

(5) The special session shall conclude by right following the debate on the motion of no confidence, if such a motion has been submitted.

Article 152. Presentation of the responsibility assumption by the Government in the plenary sitting

(1) During the plenary sitting, the Prime Minister shall declare the responsibility assumption by the Government, present the programme, the general policy statement, or the draft law, expressly justifying the need to resort to this special parliamentary procedure.

(2) If the Government assumes its responsibility before the Parliament for multiple draft laws at the same time, each draft law shall be presented separately.

Article 153. Special legislative procedure for the responsibility assumption by the Government

(1) No amendments may be submitted regarding the draft law for which the Government is assuming its responsibility before the Parliament.

(2) No debates shall be held during the plenary sitting in which the Government assumes its responsibility.

(3) Under the Constitution, the Parliament has the right to dismiss the Government by introducing and debating a motion of censure.

Article 154. Motion of censure following the responsibility assumption by the Government

(1) The three-day period provided for in Article 106¹(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova for the submission of a motion of censure shall begin on the date of the plenary sitting at which the Government's responsibility assumption was presented.

(2) A motion of censure initiated by at least one-fourth of the total number of MPs shall be submitted during a plenary sitting to the chair of the sitting and immediately communicated to the Government and distributed to MPs.

(3) If the Parliament does not hold a sitting, the motion shall be submitted to the President of the Parliament.

(4) The President of the Parliament shall convene the sitting of the Standing Bureau to set the date for the debate of the motion, which shall take place three days after the motion has been submitted.

Article 155. Effects of a motion of censure following the responsibility assumption by the Government

(1) If the motion of censure is adopted, the provisions of Article 224 shall apply accordingly.

(2) If a motion of censure is not filed, or if it is rejected, the programme or the general policy statement becomes binding on the Government, and the draft law is deemed to have been adopted.

Article 156. Promulgation of laws adopted following the responsibility assumption by the Government

(1) Laws adopted as a result of the responsibility assumption by the Government before the Parliament shall be subject to promulgation and enter into force on the date of their publication.

(2) The President of the Republic of Moldova is required to promulgate the adopted law by which the Government has assumed its responsibility, without the right to refer it back to the Parliament for reconsideration.

(3) If the President of the Republic of Moldova considers that the law adopted through the responsibility assumption by the Government is unconstitutional, they may refer the matter to the Constitutional Court.

Section 3 **Legislative delegation**

Article 157. General provisions

(1) The legislative delegation is the institution through which the Parliament, during the period between sittings, can empower the Government with the right to issue ordinances with legal force.

(2) With a view to implementing the Government's activity programme, the Parliament may adopt, upon its proposal, a special organic law empowering the Government to issue ordinances in areas not subject to organic laws.

(3) The ordinances can be issued for a specific period of time and in a specific field, expressly established in the enabling law.

(4) The enabling law shall establish, in a mandatory manner, the scope and the date by which ordinances may be issued.

(5) By means of the enabling law, the Parliament may condition the issuance of ordinances, with their subsequent approval by the Parliament, establishing the deadline for their submission.

(6) Failure to submit the draft law for the approval of the ordinance within the deadline established by law shall bring about the ceasing of the effects of the ordinance.

(7) If the Parliament does not examine the draft law for the approval of the ordinance submitted by the Government, within the deadline established in the enabling law, the effects of the ordinance shall not cease.

(8) If the Parliament rejects the draft law on the approval of the ordinances, they shall be deemed repealed.

(9) The approval or the rejection of the ordinances shall be made through ordinary law.

Article 158. Special sitting for the approval of the ordinance

(1) If the enabling law establishes a deadline for the approval of the ordinance that coincides with the period between sittings of the Parliament, the President of the Parliament

shall, upon the proposal of the Government, convene the Parliament in a special sitting to examine the draft law on the approval of the ordinance.

(2) The special sitting shall be concluded by right after the approval or rejection of ordinances.

Article 159. Entry into force of ordinances

(1) The ordinances shall enter into force on the date of their publication, without being promulgated.

(2) After the expiry of the term established for the issuance of ordinances, they may be amended or repealed only through the law.

Section 4
Relations of the Parliament with the Government
in the European integration process of the Republic of Moldova

Article 160. Cooperation between the Parliament and the Government in the European integration process of the Republic of Moldova

(1) The Parliament and the Government shall cooperate in the European integration process of the Republic of Moldova.

(2) In order to ensure an efficient mechanism of interaction between the Parliament and the Government regarding the European integration, the Secretariat of the Parliament and the State Chancellery of the Government shall provide the authorities with the informational and logistical support necessary to facilitate the promotion of draft laws in the field of the European integration.

Article 161. Presentation of the Government's programme in the field of legislative harmonisation

(1) At the end of each calendar year, the Government shall submit to the Parliament its activity programme regarding the harmonisation of the legislation of the Republic of Moldova with the legislation of the European Union for the following year, which shall be included in the legislative programme of the Parliament.

(2) The draft laws transposing the legislation of the European Union into the national legislation shall be submitted to the Parliament in compliance with the provisions of Chapter III, Sections 1 and 2 of this Code.

Article 162. Informing the Parliament in the field of the European integration

The Government shall, through the Office for European Integration or the relevant ministries, regularly inform the standing committee responsible for the field of the European integration and/or the Parliament on:

- a) essential issues for the Republic of Moldova on the European agenda;
- b) topics to be discussed or negotiated with the European Union, information on the activity and results of visits, participations, meetings between members of the Government and representatives of the European Union or its institutions;
- e) semi-annual reports on the fulfilment of commitments to transpose the European Union legislation into the national legislation.

Section 5

Reports of the Government

Article 163. Annual report of the Government

(1) Every year, in April, but not earlier than 10 months from the date of its investiture, the Government shall, in the plenary sitting of the Parliament, present its annual activity report.

(2) In the annual activity report of the Government, a separate chapter shall be dedicated to the European integration process of the Republic of Moldova, the progress made and the priorities set.

(3) The chapter must include the following aspects:

- a) information that allows the Parliament to monitor and evaluate the European integration process, including negotiations and agreements with the European Union and its institutions;
- b) details regarding the draft laws submitted to the Parliament during the previous calendar year, in order to ensure the implementation of the results of the negotiations with the European Union;
- c) data regarding the draft laws that the Government intends to present to the Parliament in the current calendar year, in order to boost the negotiations or the agreements with the European Union;
- d) information on issues and decisions of impact for the Republic of Moldova taken during the previous year, as well as the measures that were implemented by the Government as a result of these decisions;
- e) information on loans, credits or funds received from the European Union during the previous year or agreements regarding such loans, credits or funds, as well as on the way in which these were used by the Government.

(4) The report shall be distributed to the MPs at least 10 days before the date of the plenary sitting at which it will be heard.

(5) As necessary, once during a sitting, the Parliament shall hear the Government on issues related to its activity.

(6) The participation of the members of the Government in the plenary sittings during which the Government reports are heard shall be compulsory.

(7) In the plenary sitting of the Parliament, the Government report shall be presented by the Prime Minister.

Article 164. Other reports of the Government

The Government shall also submit other reports on the areas of the domestic or foreign policy of the State, at the request of the Parliament or in cases provided for by the law.

Chapter VII

RELATIONS OF THE PARLIAMENT WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT AND PUBLIC AUTHORITIES IN THE FIELD OF JUSTICE

Article 165. Selection of candidates for the position of judge at the Constitutional Court

(1) According to Article 136 of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, the Parliament appoints two judges at the Constitutional Court.

(2) The procedures for organising and conducting the competition to select candidates for the position of judge at the Constitutional Court shall be governed by the provisions of this Code.

Article 166. Performance of duties of judge of the Constitutional Court

(1) The person appointed to the position of judge at the Constitutional Court takes the oath before the plenary session of the Parliament, in accordance with the requirements set forth in Law No. 74/2025 on the Constitutional Court.

(2) The date on which the oath is taken shall be the date on which the judge begins to perform his/her duties.

Article 167. Filing a complaint with the Constitutional Court regarding violations committed by a judge of the Constitutional Court

(1) Individuals eligible to nominate candidates for the position of judge at the Constitutional Court may file a complaint with the Constitutional Court regarding a conflict of interest, a breach of the oath of office, or a violation of official duties by a judge of the Constitutional Court.

(2) The President of the Constitutional Court shall order a review of the referral and notify the Parliament.

Article 168. Enforcement of the Constitutional Court's judgments and addresses

(1) The Parliament shall give priority to reviewing draft laws submitted by the Government to implement the judgments of the Constitutional Court.

(2) The duty for overseeing the enforcement of the Constitutional Court's judgments and addresses shall be exercised by the relevant Vice President of the Parliament, in accordance with the decision of the Standing Bureau.

(3) The Standing Committees responsible for the areas covered by the challenged legislative act shall, within two months, examine and address the legislative gaps and omissions identified in the Constitutional Court's addresses; where necessary, the standing committees shall request that the Government draws up the relevant drafts.

(4) The relevant committees shall inform the Constitutional Court regarding the implementation of its addresses.

Article 169. Review of the constitutionality of international treaties

(1) The review of the constitutionality of an international treaty may take place between the time the Republic of Moldova expresses its consent to be bound by the treaty at the international level and the time the treaty enters into force following the completion of the procedures prescribed by law.

(2) MPs and parliamentary factions may exercise their right to refer matters to the Constitutional Court for a review of the constitutionality of international treaties from the moment the draft law for the ratification of the international treaty is registered in the Parliament until its adoption by the Parliament.

(3) If the Constitutional Court rules that an international treaty is incompatible with constitutional provisions, the Parliament – if unable to remedy the situation by approving reservations – shall refer the treaty to the Government to adjust it to constitutional norms or to initiate a revision of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova.

Article 170. Annual report of the Constitutional Court

(1) Each year, the Constitutional Court shall submit to the Parliament a report on the exercise of its constitutional jurisdiction.

(2) The relevant committee shall take note of the Constitutional Court's report and undertake measures to ensure constitutionality, remedy situations, and enforce the judgments or addresses of the Constitutional Court.

Article 171. Cooperation between the Parliament and public authorities in the field of justice

(1) In order to uphold the principles of the rule of law and the supremacy of the law, the Parliament shall cooperate with the Superior Council of Magistracy and the Superior Council of Prosecutors in the exercise of its constitutional powers.

(2) The Parliament shall seek the opinion of the public authority in the field of justice if a draft legislative act admitted for examination in the Parliament directly concerns it.

(3) The Parliament may not interfere in the operational activities of the administration of justice and/or investigations conducted by public authorities in the field of justice.

(4) Public authorities in the field of justice shall submit an annual report to Parliament, in accordance with the legislation in force, on the functioning of the justice system and the assurance of the supremacy of the law.

(5) The Parliament, under the terms of this Code, may request other reports and information pertaining to the field of justice.

(6) The Parliament shall, upon the proposal of the relevant committee, take note of the reports of public authorities in the field of justice and propose remedial measures, as appropriate, to improve the legislation in force.

Chapter VIII

COOPERATION OF THE PARLIAMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

Article 172. Cooperation between the Parliament and civil society

(1) Cooperation between the Parliament and civil society shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Code and the relevant legal framework governing transparency and public participation in the decision-making process.

(2) In the cooperation process, the Parliament and representatives of civil society shall be guided by the principles of participation and engagement, transparency and efficiency, equal treatment and opportunity, and independence, trust, and partnership.

(3) To ensure the cooperation process between the Parliament and civil society, the Secretariat of the Parliament shall maintain a registry of civil society organisations registered in the Republic of Moldova and interested in cooperating with the Parliament.

Article 173. Activities and forms of cooperation

(1) At the initiative of the President of the Parliament, the working bodies of the Parliament, and/or at the request of interested parties, hearings, roundtables, seminars, conferences, and other events related to legislative activity may be held on the premises of the Parliament.

(2) Cooperation between the Parliament and civil society shall be carried out by informing interested parties, ongoing consultation, and public consultations, as well as active participation.

Article 174. Contribution of civil society

(1) Civil society organisations interested in the legislative process may submit proposals or recommendations, both verbally and in writing, regarding the drawn up draft decisions, and may present expert opinions, impact analyses, evaluations, and other materials, in accordance with the cooperation requirements established by law.

(2) The contributions of civil society organisations are of an advisory and recommendatory nature.

Article 175. Receipt and review of proposals from civil society

(1) Any interested party may submit proposals or recommendations as part of the decision-making process:

a) in writing – via the Parliament's official website, by mail, by email, or at the authority's headquarters;

b) verbally – during public consultation meetings or other official working formats organised for public consultation in the decision-making process.

(2) Written recommendations, submitted individually or collectively, shall be transmitted with an indication of the date of submission and the sender's contact information and shall be registered in accordance with the law.

(3) The submission of recommendations in verbal form shall be recorded in the minutes of the respective meetings.

(4) Recommendations received during the drafting stage or the public consultation stage of the draft decision shall be included in the summary of recommendations.

(5) The lead standing committee shall examine the recommendations received and decide whether to accept or reject them, in whole or in part. The outcome of the examination of the recommendation shall be indicated in the summary, and in the event of partial acceptance or rejection of the recommendation, the reasoning for this decision shall also be indicated.

(6) In the process of examining the recommendations received, the lead standing committee shall seek to balance individual, sectoral, and general interests.

(7) The lead standing committee shall have the right to reject recommendations that are vague or irrelevant to the subject under consultation.

(8) The deadline for submitting recommendations shall be 10 working days from the date of publication of the draft legislative act on the Parliament's official website, unless the

standing committee sets another reasonable deadline. If it is necessary to expedite or prioritize the procedure for examining draft legislative acts, a different deadline, but not less than 3 working days, shall be set for the submission of recommendations by interested parties.

(9) At the discretion of the lead standing committee, including at the request of interested parties, the deadline for submitting recommendations may be extended.

Article 176. Transparency in cooperation between the Parliament and civil society

In order to fully and proactively inform civil society about the Parliament's activities, the Secretariat of the Parliament shall ensure the publication on the Parliament's official website of public information regarding the Parliament's activities, including proposals or draft legislative acts and related documents, the organisation of public consultations, the parliamentary agenda, acts adopted by the Parliament's working bodies, and other relevant information.

Chapter IX

APPOINTMENT TO AND REMOVAL FROM PUBLIC OFFICE

Article 177. Appointment and removal by the Parliament of persons to/from public office

(1) The Parliament shall have the authority, as the legislative power, to appoint or remove persons to/from public office.

(2) "Appointment by Parliament to public office" shall mean the appointment, election, confirmation, or designation of persons.

(3) Removal from public office by the Parliament shall mean the dismissal, removal, or revocation of persons.

(4) The appointment or removal of persons to or from public office shall be ordered by the Parliament by resolution.

Article 178. Selection of candidates for appointment to public office

(1) The selection of candidates for public office shall be generally conducted through a public competition, based on the following principles:

- a) open competition, by ensuring free access to the competition for individuals who meet the established requirements and submit an application;
- b) selection based on merit, by choosing the candidate based on criteria that ensure guarantees regarding their professionalism and integrity;
- c) ensuring transparency, by making the competition-related information available to all interested parties;
- d) equal and non-discriminatory treatment, so that all candidates have equal opportunities.

(2) The competition to fill vacant public positions shall be conducted by the relevant standing committee and, as appropriate, by another parliamentary committee.

Article 179. Exceptions to the competitive selection of candidates for appointment to public office

Exceptions to the competitive selection process shall apply to public offices within the Parliament that follow a special procedure, as well as to public offices for which a special law provides for a different procedure.

Article 180. Public competition for appointment to public office

(1) The procedures for organising and conducting the competition to select candidates for appointment to public office shall be established by the relevant standing committee, unless otherwise provided by special law.

(2) The competition to select candidates for appointment to public office shall consist of:

- a) the submission of a complete application by the person who meets the conditions established for participation in the competition;
- b) an interview before the committee.

(3) The selection of candidates for public office shall be carried out by the relevant standing committee, which proposes the selected candidates to Parliament for appointment.

Article 181. Nominations for appointment to public office

(1) Based on the results of the competition, the entities authorised to submit nominations (the President of the Parliament, parliamentary factions, standing committees) shall propose to Parliament the appointment of the candidate to public office.

(2) The law may designate another person or authority to propose to Parliament the candidacy for appointment to public office.

(3) Authorities whose members are appointed by Parliament shall be required to inform the Parliament of the need to initiate the procedure for appointing such persons three months prior to the expiration of their term of office, unless the law provides for a different timeframe. If the vacancy occurs before the expiration of the term of office, the aforementioned authorities shall inform the Parliament to this effect within 15 days from the date the vacancy occurred.

(4) The procedure of the removal from office of persons appointed by the Parliament shall be conducted in accordance with the procedure established by law. If the law does not provide for a clear procedure for removal from office, procedures similar to those for appointment to office shall apply.

Article 182. Report of the relevant parliamentary committee on proposals for appointment to public office

(1) Matters concerning appointments to public office shall be examined by the relevant standing committee or, where appropriate, by other committees of the Parliament. The person in respect of whom the item on the agenda is being examined shall be required to be present at the committee sitting.

(2) The relevant standing committee shall examine the proposals for the appointment of the person to public office and shall prepare a report confirming the compliance of the proposals with the requirements of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova or the laws, as well as propose to Parliament the adoption of a resolution. The draft resolution shall be prepared by the relevant standing committee and submitted as an attachment to the report.

(3) Where provided by law, the standing committees shall submit joint reports or opinions on the proposals.

(4) In the event of a competition for appointment to public office, the results thereof shall be submitted to the Parliament.

Article 183. Parliamentary review of proposals for appointment to or removal from public office

(1) Parliamentary review of a matter concerning the appointment to or removal from office of individuals shall begin with the presentation of the relevant proposal by the individual or the representative of the collegial body. In the case of the appointment of a collegial body, its presence at the parliamentary session is mandatory.

(2) Following the presentation of the proposal, the MPs may address questions to the rapporteur or the invited person in respect of whom the matter is under consideration.

(3) The procedure continues with the presentation of the report of the relevant standing committee or, as the case may be, the co-report of another standing committee.

(4) Parliamentary factions may express their position on the proposals within a time limit of up to 7 minutes.

(5) The Parliament shall appoint or remove persons to or from public office by a resolution adopted by a majority vote of the present MPs, unless the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova provides for a different majority.

Article 184. Taking the oath before the Parliament

(1) In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova or other laws, persons appointed to office shall take the oath before Parliament.

(2) The procedure for taking the oath shall be reviewed by the relevant standing committee, which verifies compliance with the legal requirements for appointment to the respective office, concurrently with the preparation of the appointment materials.

(3) The text of the oath, printed on the Parliament's letterhead, shall be submitted and officially signed before Parliament by the person appointed to the office.

Article 185. Deadlines for filling vacant positions

(1) In the event of a vacancy arising due to resignation or other circumstances, the person or collegial body responsible for nominating candidates shall be required, within 30 days or within another timeframe established by law, to submit proposals to Parliament regarding the filling of the vacant position.

(2) In cases where the Parliament's working bodies are responsible for nominating candidates, the relevant standing committee shall, within 30 days, organise a public competition to select the person to be appointed to the vacant public office.

(3) The Parliament shall decide on the proposal regarding the filling of the vacant position within 30 days of the date of submission.

Chapter X

BUDGETARY AUTONOMY OF THE PARLIAMENT AND OTHER AUTHORITIES

Article 186. Budget of the Secretariat of the Parliament

(1) In accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, the Parliament enjoys budgetary autonomy. Parliament's financial resources are provided for in the budget of the Secretariat of the Parliament.

(2) The budget of the Secretariat of the Parliament shall be approved by the Parliament and comprise all revenues and expenditures intended for the performance of the Parliament's functions.

(3) The budget of the Secretariat of the Parliament is an integral part of the state budget.

(4) The financial activities of the Secretariat of the Parliament shall be established in its regulations.

(5) The Secretary General of the Parliament shall be responsible for organising the Parliament's budgetary process and ensure the management of public finances and the administration of public assets in accordance with the principles of good governance, while keeping the Standing Bureau informed.

Article 187. Budgets of independent/autonomous budgetary authorities

(1) Independent/autonomous public authorities/institutions shall prepare draft budgets in accordance with Law No. 181/2014 on Public Finance and Fiscal Responsibility.

(2) The independent/autonomous budgetary authority shall submit to Parliament, as appropriate, any objections to the draft budget approved by the Government, for the resolution of discrepancies.

(3) Their budgets for the coming year shall be submitted for information to the relevant parliamentary committee, which shall express its opinion on compliance with legal provisions regarding their preparation and approval in accordance with its duties.

(4) The lead parliamentary committee is entitled to request any information relevant to the examination of the budgets of the public authorities/institutions referred to in para. (1) and decide on the need to inform the Parliament on the results of their examination, prior to the second reading of the draft annual state budget law. Any objections and proposals regarding the draft annual state budget law shall be submitted to the Government for its opinion, in the stipulated manner.

TITLE III

PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT

Chapter XI

GENERAL PROVISIONS ON PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT

Article 188. Parliamentary oversight

(1) Parliamentary oversight is a fundamental function of the Parliament, through which the legislature supervises the activities of the Government and the public administration regarding the implementation of the state's domestic and foreign policies, as well as the enforcement of laws, to ensure the security and development of the public values of the rule of law.

(2) The main objectives of the parliamentary oversight are based on the principle of the separation and balance of powers within the state and consist of:

- a) ensuring compliance with the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova and the enforcement of laws;
- b) ensuring the promotion and protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms;
- c) strengthening the rule of law, national security, defence, and public order in the state;
- d) identifying problems and drawing attention to them in the activities of state authorities and institutions;
- e) improving the efficiency of the interaction within the system of state bodies;
- f) combating corruption;
- g) studying the practice of implementing the legislation of the Republic of Moldova, developing recommendations and priority directions for its improvement and effectiveness.

(3) The exercise of the parliamentary oversight shall not replace criminal prosecution and the administration of justice, the activities of public authorities and institutions, the specialised central bodies of the state, or the activities of local public authorities carried out within the limits of their constitutional and legal powers.

Article 189. Types of the parliamentary oversight

(1) Parliamentary oversight is exercised by Parliament, the Standing Bureau, parliamentary factions, parliamentary committees, and MPs.

(2) Parliamentary oversight may be exercised both prior to and after the adoption of laws, or in response to the actions or inactions of state bodies.

Article 190. Forms of the parliamentary oversight

Parliamentary oversight shall be exercised through:

- a) notification of the Parliament, questions, interpellations, and petitions;
- b) monitoring the enforcement of laws;
- c) hearings and reports;
- d) committees of inquiry and special committees;
- e) simple motions and motions of censure.

Chapter XII

NOTIFICATION OF THE PARLIAMENT, QUESTIONS, INTERPELLATIONS, AND PETITIONS

Article 191. Procedure for notification of the Parliament and Members of Parliament

(1) The Parliament, its working bodies, and MPs may request from the Government, central public administration authorities, autonomous authorities, and local public administration authorities – including those in the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Găgăuzia – information or documents necessary for the performance of their duties.

(2) Authorities referred to in para. (1) shall be required to provide the requested information and documents within 30 days.

(3) If the requested information or documents pertain to state secrets, access to such information shall be provided in accordance with the law.

Article 192. Subjects of questions and interpellations

(1) An MP may submit questions and interpellations to the Government, ministers, or other heads of public administration bodies, requesting an oral response, a written response, or both an oral and written response.

(2) Questions may be submitted either in writing or orally at the end of a plenary sitting of the Parliament.

(3) Interpellations shall be submitted only in writing.

(4) The Government, ministers, or other heads of public administration bodies shall be required to respond to questions or interpellations submitted by MPs, under the conditions provided for in this Code.

Article 193. Submitting questions

(1) A question consists of a request to determine whether a fact is true, whether information is accurate, or whether the Government, public authorities, or an autonomous authority intends to make a decision on a specific matter.

(2) Two separate questions may be addressed during the plenary sitting.

(3) Questions asked orally shall be recorded by the Parliament's Secretariat, which sends the recipients an excerpt from the sitting's transcript containing the MPs' questions.

Article 194. Responses to questions

(1) When submitting a question, the MP shall specify who is to provide the response and the form of the response – written or oral.

(2) A written response shall be submitted within 15 working days.

(3) An oral response shall be provided at the next plenary sitting or during the Government's question period.

(4) The hearing of the response in the plenary sitting of the Parliament may be postponed only in duly justified cases, when the person concerned under the law or the relevant public authority cannot be present, a fact of which the President of the Parliament is notified in writing one day prior to the plenary sitting.

(5) The postponement of the hearing of the response shall extend until the next plenary sitting dedicated to the Government Hour.

(6) The MP who asked the question shall be informed about the postponement of the hearing of the answer.

(7) If the questions are addressed to those present in the room, they may answer immediately or, as the case may be, within the time limit indicated in para. (2).

(8) Only the author of the question has the right to reply, clarify or comment following the presentation of the oral answer.

Article 195. Time allotted for questions

(1) The time allotted for asking a question may not exceed two minutes.

(2) The time allotted for each oral response may not exceed three minutes.

(3) The time allotted for a reply, clarification, or comment by the questioner may not exceed one minute.

Article 196. Submission and consideration of interpellations

(1) An interpellation consists of a request addressed to the Government by MPs or parliamentary factions, seeking explanations regarding the Government's policy on matters of domestic or foreign affairs.

(2) Interpellations shall be formulated by specifying their subject matter and, where appropriate, the necessary supporting materials shall be attached.

Article 197. Government hour

(1) During regular sessions, generally once a month, the Standing Bureau shall designate a day for political debates on specific domestic or foreign policy issues of major public interest, with the participation of the Prime Minister or certain ministers.

(2) Political debates shall be organised at the request of opposition parliamentary factions or the parliamentary majority.

(3) The request shall be submitted to the Standing Bureau in writing by one or more parliamentary factions, specifying the proposed topic of debate.

(4) The Prime Minister and invited ministers shall be required to participate in person in the requested debate.

(5) For the conduct of the political debates referred to in para. (1), the Parliament shall approve the debate framework, upon the proposal of the Standing Bureau.

Article 198. Petitions addressed to the Parliament

(1) Natural and legal persons have the right to submit petitions to Parliament, its working bodies, and MPs regarding issues of national security, the legitimate rights and interests of large groups of citizens, the enforcement and application of laws, or containing proposals for legislative amendments.

(2) Petitions addressing any issues other than those mentioned in para. (1) shall be addressed to the bodies or officials directly responsible for resolving them.

(3) Petitions must contain the mandatory elements provided for in Administrative Code No. 116/2018.

(4) Anonymous petitions and those submitted without a mailing address, as well as those that are nonsensical, confusing, illegible, or contain uncensored or offensive language, shall not be considered.

Chapter XIII**ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS****Article 199.** Establishing the manner of enforcement of the law

(1) The manner in which the provisions of legislative acts adopted by the Parliament enter into force and are enforced shall be established, in accordance with Law No. 100/2017 on Legislative Acts, in the final and transitional provisions.

(2) The final and transitional provisions must establish and ensure, for a specified period, the coordination of new and old regulations, so that the implementation of the new legislative act proceeds smoothly and avoids its retroactive application or a conflict between successive provisions.

(3) The law must establish a realistic timeframe for organising its implementation, so as to ensure that the public administration authorities responsible for implementing the law have the opportunity to adopt/issue secondary legislation, establish procedures and mechanisms that clarify how the law is to be applied, and make them known to the public.

(4) The final and transitional provisions include the obligation and deadline for submitting reports on the enforcement of laws. If the deadline for submitting reports on the enforcement of laws is not established, the deadline shall be deemed to be one year.

(5) To ensure the proper implementation of the law and respect for the principle of legal certainty, adopted laws may not be amended prior to their entry into force, as a general rule, nor earlier than six months after the date of their entry into force.

(6) If a need arises due to changes in the social conditions that led to the adoption of the legislative act, or if the Government submits a reasoned proposal to make such amendments, the Parliament shall amend the laws adopted by way of derogation from para (5).

Article 200. Conducting inspections and submitting reports on the enforcement of laws

(1) Parliamentary committees, within their respective areas of competence and with the assistance of the Legal Directorate-General of the Secretariat of the Parliament, shall

periodically inspect the enforcement of laws by the competent bodies and persons, as well as assess the effectiveness of laws.

(2) Following the inspection, the relevant standing committee shall, as appropriate, submit a report to the Parliament and/or recommendations to the Government and/or other public authorities.

Article 201. Explanation of legislation

(1) In order to ensure the uniformity of legislative regulations throughout the country, pursuant to Article 66 of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, the standing committees of the Parliament, assisted by the Legal Directorate-General, shall cooperate with public administration authorities to establish a uniform practice for the application of laws.

(2) The standing committees may be consulted, on matters within their realm, by public administration authorities regarding the uniformity of regulations and the uniform application of laws. Following the examination of such requests, the standing committees shall issue advisory opinions.

(3) The request must be submitted in writing and clearly state the article, paragraph, provision, phrase, or word in the text of the legislative act that reflects ambiguities in application and requires clarification. The author must describe in the request the factual situation that has created ambiguity in the application of the legal provisions.

(4) Depending on the nature of the specified issue or its complexity, the request may be examined by several standing committees. In this case, one of the committees shall be responsible for drafting the advisory opinion, and the others shall present the position of the responsible committee.

(5) The deadline for reviewing the request is 30 working days from the date of its registration with the Secretariat of the Parliament.

(6) The lead standing committee shall mandatorily request the opinion of the authority responsible for the application of the law, unless the request originated from that very authority. At the discretion of the chair of the lead standing committee, the opinions of other public authorities may also be requested.

(7) If, during the debate, the committee concludes that the provisions of the law set forth in the request are unclear and that an advisory opinion cannot resolve future issues, it shall initiate the procedure for the official interpretation of the law or for its amendment.

(8) After examining the request, the committee shall adopt the advisory opinion by a majority vote of its members.

(9) The advisory opinion shall be published on the official website of the Parliament.

(10) The advisory opinion may not be used as evidence in court proceedings.

Article 202. Ex-post evaluation of the implementation of laws

(1) The ex-post evaluation of the implementation of legislative acts shall include a legal ex-post analysis and an ex-post impact analysis. The ex-post analysis of legislative acts shall be conducted by the standing committees and the Legal Directorate-General of the Secretariat of the Parliament, in accordance with the ex-post evaluation methodology approved by the Standing Bureau.

(2) The ex-post evaluation shall be conducted based on the list of legislative acts subject to ex-post analysis, approved by the Standing Bureau.

Article 203. Legal ex-post evaluation of the organisation of law enforcement

(1) The ex-post legal evaluation shall be conducted by the Legal Directorate-General of the Secretariat of the Parliament, which verifies whether all legislative acts necessary for the enforcement and implementation of the legislative acts have been approved, identifies any legal obstacles to the practical application of the legislative acts, and reviews relevant cases in which the provisions of the legislative acts have been the subject of complaints filed with the Constitutional Court.

(2) The ex-post legal evaluation shall be generally conducted upon the expiration of one year from the date of entry into force of the relevant legislative act, unless the Parliament has established a different deadline in the text of the legislative act for the submission of the report on the organisation of its enforcement.

(3) The Legal Directorate-General of the Secretariat of the Parliament has the right to request all information and documents necessary for conducting the ex-post legal analysis, and public authorities are required to provide them.

(4) As a result of the ex-post legal analysis, the Legal Directorate-General of the Secretariat of the Parliament prepares a legal report on the organisation of the law's implementation, which is submitted to the relevant standing committee.

(5) Based on the report of the Legal Directorate-General of the Secretariat of the Parliament, the relevant standing committee may hold public hearings regarding the activities carried out by public administration bodies to organise the enforcement and implementation of legislative acts.

(6) Based on the findings of the public hearings, the relevant standing committee may adopt recommendations for the Government and/or the competent public authorities.

Article 204. Ex-post impact evaluation of the implementation of laws

(1) The ex-post impact evaluation shall be conducted by the relevant standing committee, which evaluates the effectiveness of legislative acts and the extent to which the purpose and objectives of such acts have been achieved.

(2) The chair of the relevant standing committee shall appoint the consultant responsible for conducting the ex-post impact analysis and preparing the report.

(3) The ex-post impact evaluation shall generally be conducted after the expiration of a three-year period from the date of entry into force of the relevant legislative act, based on the Ex-post Evaluation Plan approved by the Standing Bureau. In the case of legislative acts adopted under an urgency or priority procedure, which are intended to have an immediate effect but have generated unforeseen negative effects, the ex-post impact analysis may be conducted after the expiration of a one-year period from the entry into force of the respective legislative act.

(4) The relevant standing committee shall have the right to request all information and documents necessary to conduct the ex-post impact analysis, including reports on the monitoring of legislative acts prepared by ministries, and public authorities shall be required to provide them.

(5) Following the ex-post impact evaluation, the relevant standing committee shall draft and adopt a report containing the committee's findings and recommendations regarding the evaluated legislative acts, which shall be submitted to the Government and/or the competent public authorities, requesting that their response in writing, within two months, to the recommendations in the ex-post impact evaluation report and, where appropriate, submit the necessary draft law.

(6) The report of the relevant standing committee and the response of the Government and/or public authorities shall be transmitted to the MPs and, where appropriate, presented at a plenary session of the Parliament.

(7) Upon the decision of the relevant standing committee, the ex-post impact evaluation report may be proposed for consideration by the plenary of the Parliament.

(8) The report of the relevant standing committee and the response of the Government and/or public authorities shall be published on the official website of the Parliament. The relevant standing committee shall monitor the implementation of the recommendations.

(9) The relevant standing committee may engage the services of independent experts to conduct the ex-post impact analysis and prepare the reports. Independent experts shall be remunerated from the Parliament's budget, which includes the financial resources necessary to conduct the ex-post evaluation.

Chapter XIV

HEARINGS AND REPORTS

Section 1

Parliamentary Hearings

Article 205. Legislative, oversight, and inquiry hearings

(1) A parliamentary hearing is a form of parliamentary activity in which MPs, in plenary sittings or in parliamentary committee sittings, hear and debate current issues of importance to the interests of society, with the participation of official representatives of public authorities and institutions, experts, specialists, civil society, and other interested parties.

(2) Parliamentary hearings may take the form of legislative hearings, oversight hearings, and inquiry hearings.

(3) Legislative hearings are procedures for consulting the opinions of citizens, associations established in accordance with the law, and other interested parties regarding draft legislative acts under consideration in Parliament.

(4) Oversight hearings are organised with regard to the activities of the Government, ministries, and other public authorities, particularly concerning how they enforce laws, as well as the performance of public officials in carrying out their professional duties.

(5) Inquiry hearings examine suspicions regarding violations of the law, offensive actions, or inappropriate conduct by public authorities in the exercise of their official duties.

Article 206. Hearings in the plenary session of the Parliament

(1) Pursuant to Article 66 (n) of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, the Parliament may initiate investigations and hearings on any matters pertaining to the interests of society.

(2) Parliamentary hearings in the plenary session of the Parliament shall be organised and conducted at the proposal of the Standing Bureau, standing committees, or parliamentary factions.

(3) the Parliament shall establish and notify the Government on the date and agenda of the hearings.

(4) The Parliament may adopt resolutions regarding the issues discussed during parliamentary hearings in plenary session.

Article 207. Hearings in Standing Committees

(1) In order to carry out their duties, standing committees may conduct legislative, oversight, and inquiry hearings within their specific areas of activity.

(2) The rules governing the conduct of hearings by standing committees may be set forth in standard operating procedures approved by the Standing Bureau.

(3) The provisions of this Code shall apply accordingly to the conduct of inquiry hearings.

Article 208. Organisation of hearings in Standing Committees

(1) The chair of the standing committee may designate an MP and a consultant responsible for preparing and organising hearings.

(2) A public announcement regarding the location, date, time, and subject of the hearing shall be made public and published on the official website of the Parliament at least 7 days prior to the date of the hearing. In exceptional circumstances, public oversight hearings and inquiry hearings may take place with less than 7 days' notice if the committee so decides.

(3) The members of the parliamentary committee shall be required to attend the hearings organised by the committee. In the absence of a quorum, the committee chair shall suspend the hearings and announce the date and time of their resumption.

(4) The Secretariat of the Parliament shall provide the necessary logistical support to ensure the smooth conduct of the hearings.

Article 209. Hearing of persons invited to Standing Committees

(1) Committee members shall decide on the persons to be heard, including those from interest groups affected by the subject under debate.

(2) Once the list of persons to be heard has been finalised, the committee sends them official invitations. The invitations shall be sent at least 3 days prior to the sitting date, unless the committee decides otherwise, and shall include basic information regarding the hearings, including the purpose, subject, date, time, and location. The invited persons shall be required to appear before the committee and provide any requested information and documents.

(3) The relevant standing committee may request any participant to submit in writing their views or opinions on the subject under debate. The written information must be submitted in advance so that all committee members have the opportunity to review it before the hearing begins.

(4) The provisions of this Code regarding the public nature of sittings, the conduct of committee sittings, the drafting of minutes, and the stenographic recording of the parliamentary committees' sittings shall apply accordingly.

Article 210. Committee reports on hearings

(1) Following the hearings, parliamentary committees adopt reports. These reports include a summary of the issues debated, the proposals accepted and rejected by the committee, final conclusions, and, where applicable, committee's recommendations.

(2) The report on the legislative and oversight hearing shall be made public within 10 days of the conclusion of the hearings and published on the official website of the Parliament. If recommendations are made, the committee shall send the report, within 10 days, to the persons or authorities concerned.

(3) Within 6 months from the conclusion of the oversight hearings, the relevant standing committee shall review the implementation of the recommendations made in the committee's report and, where appropriate, inform the plenary of the Parliament. The responsible MP and the committee's consultant shall prepare a monitoring table regarding the implementation of the recommendations, which shall be published on the official website of the Parliament.

Section 2 Reports submitted to the Parliament

Article 211. Annual reports of public authorities

(1) Public authorities shall, in accordance with the requirements and deadlines set forth in applicable law and the provisions of this Code, submit to Parliament annual progress reports and reports on other specific areas of activity.

(2) Public authorities shall submit reports to Parliament as follows:

- a) General Prosecutor's Office – the annual report on the General Prosecutor's Office activities in the previous year, by 31 March;
- b) Ombudsman – the annual report on the respect for human rights in the Republic of Moldova during the previous year, by 15 March;
- c) Court of Accounts – submits reports to Parliament as follows:
 - annual activity report – by 1 May;
 - the auditor's reports on the Government's annual reports regarding the execution of the state budget, the state social insurance budget, and the mandatory health insurance funds – by 1 June;
 - the annual report on the management and use of public financial resources and public assets – by 15 September.
- d) Audiovisual Council – the annual report on its activities, by 1 March;
- e) National Anti-Corruption Centre – the annual report on its activities, by 31 March;
- f) Competition Council – annual report on its activities, by 1 June;
- g) National Energy Regulatory Agency – annual report on the Agency's activities in the previous year, by June 30;
- h) Service of Intelligence and Security – annual report on its activities, by 1 June;
- i) Central Electoral Commission – report on the financing of political parties and election campaigns, by 1 June;

- k) Superior Council of Magistracy – annual report on its activities and those of the judicial system, by 1 February;
- l) National Centre for Personal Data Protection – annual activity report, by 15 March;
- m) Deposit Insurance Fund – the Fund's activity report, within 120 days of the end of the preceding calendar year;
- n) National Integrity Authority – the Authority's annual activity report, by 31 March;
- o) Council for the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and the Ensuring of Equality – the general report on the situation in the field of preventing and combating discrimination, by 15 March;
- p) Government Agent – the annual report, by 15 April;
- r) National Agency for the Settlement of Appeals – annual performance report, by 15 March.

(3) Reports from public authorities submitted to Parliament shall be reviewed by the relevant standing committee.

(4) The relevant standing committee may propose that the report be heard in a plenary session of the Parliament. The standing committee's report on the activities of the public authority in question shall be considered concurrently with the plenary hearing of that authority's report.

(5) Based on the reports submitted, the Parliament may adopt a resolution providing for the necessary measures to be taken.

Article 212. Requirements for reports submitted to the Parliament

Reports submitted to the Parliament by public authorities must include:

- a) the title, date, and place of approval;
- b) the legal framework underlying their drafting;
- c) information regarding the authority's activities in fulfilling the duties established by relevant legislation;
- d) information regarding the authority's priority areas of activity for the coming year;
- e) an analysis of the materials examined;
- f) the circumstances clarified during the examination of the materials;
- g) other information, as appropriate;
- h) conclusions and recommendations;
- i) the signature of the public office holder representing the respective authority.

Chapter XV

SPECIAL AND INQUIRY COMMITTEES

Article 213. Special committees

(1) Special committees shall be established by a resolution of the Parliament, upon the proposal of parliamentary factions or the Standing Bureau, for the following purposes:

- a) drafting complex legislative acts;
- b) investigating and assessing specific social and political situations;
- c) conducting parliamentary oversight in specific areas;
- d) other purposes specified in the resolution establishing the respective committee.

(2) Upon the establishment of a special committee, the Parliament shall designate the committee's membership, chair, deputy chair, and secretary, as well as the deadline by which the committee's report is due for submission.

(3) The special committee shall be established and operate in accordance with the provisions of this Code regarding the establishment and activities of standing committees, applied accordingly. The committee's decisions shall be taken by a majority vote of the present MPs.

(4) The advisory and secretarial work of the special committee shall be provided by the Secretariat of the Parliament, at the request of the chair of the special committee. The assignment of civil servants or other employees to the special committee shall be decided by the President of the Parliament.

(5) Draft legislative acts prepared by the special committee shall be introduced into the legislative procedure in accordance with the requirements established by this Code. The special committee shall be the lead standing committee.

(6) The special committee shall submit a report to the Parliament.

(7) Based on the special committee's report, the Parliament shall adopt a resolution ordering certain measures to be taken.

(8) If the Parliament adopts a resolution, it shall designate the relevant standing committee to be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Parliament's provisions and the recommendations contained in the special committee's report.

Article 214. Inquiry committees

(1) Inquiry committees shall be established by the Parliament when it is necessary to investigate events or actions that have negative effects on society.

(2) The subject of an inquiry may also be an extraordinary situation involving abuses and violations of the law in which public officials or high-ranking state officials are involved, as well as cases in which damage has been caused to the state.

(3) The purpose of a parliamentary inquiry is to establish the existence or non-existence of the facts, without determining the administrative, material, disciplinary, or criminal liability of any person.

(4) Based on the results of the inquiry, the Parliament may hold public officials and dignitaries accountable and may request that the competent authorities take measures in accordance with the law.

(5) If, following the examination of the inquiry committee's report, the Parliament finds violations of the law committed by certain public officials elected or appointed by the Parliament, it may, in accordance with the law, decide/propose to remove/revoke them from office.

Article 215. Establishment and activities of inquiry committees

(1) Upon the proposal of parliamentary factions or the Standing Bureau, the Parliament may decide to establish an inquiry committee, taking into account the proportional representation of the factions in the Parliament.

(2) The decision to establish the inquiry committee shall specify the objective of the inquiry, the committee's numerical and nominal membership, and the deadline for submitting the committee's report, indicating the relevant standing committee responsible for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations in the inquiry committee's report after the

committee ceases its activities. The chair, deputy chair, and secretary of the committee shall be appointed by the Parliament upon the proposal of the Standing Bureau or the parliamentary factions.

(3) Prior to the approval of the committee's membership, the persons proposed as members shall make a statement regarding the absence of any conflict between the exercise of their duties within the committee and their personal interests. If a conflict of interest arises or is discovered after the adoption of the decision appointing the MP as a member of the inquiry committee, their membership shall cease by law.

(4) The proceedings of the inquiry committee shall be deliberative in the presence of a majority of its members. No evidence may be requested, and no witness or other person may be summoned or heard, without a decision of the inquiry committee. The decisions of the inquiry committee shall be adopted by a majority vote of the present members.

(5) The advisory and secretarial work of the inquiry committee shall be provided by the Secretariat of the Parliament, at the request of the chair of the inquiry committee.

Article 216. Powers of the inquiry committees

(1) The inquiry committee shall summon as witness any person who possesses information regarding any act or circumstance relevant to the investigation of the case.

(2) Persons who have been summoned shall be required to appear before the inquiry committee. Hearings before the committee of summoned persons shall take place only in the presence of a majority of the committee's members.

(3) At the request of the inquiry committee, any natural or legal person who is aware of any evidence or possesses any means of evidence shall be required to present them to the committee.

(4) The unjustified failure of a summoned person to appear, as well as the failure to provide the requested information or documents, or the submission of false information or documents, shall be punished in accordance with the law.

(5) If, in order to clarify certain facts or circumstances and establish the truth, it is necessary to engage experts, the inquiry committee shall order the conduct of expert examinations.

(6) The chair of the committee conducting an inquiry shall inform the persons being heard that they are required by law to tell the truth, not to withhold any information they know, and that they may be held liable for false statements.

(7) During the committee sitting, the persons being heard shall make a statement regarding their obligation to tell the truth and that they will not withhold anything they know, which shall be recorded in the minutes of the inquiry committee sitting.

(8) During the course of its inquiries, the committee may request access to classified information, in accordance with the enforced legislation.

(9) The costs for conducting expert assessments and undertaking other procedural activities related to the committee's work shall be approved by the Standing Bureau, at the request of the chair of the inquiry committee.

(10) The inquiry committee may not investigate actions or activities that are the subject of a criminal investigation under the law or are listed among the cases currently pending the courts. If the inquiry committee identifies elements of a crime as a result of its investigations, the relevant materials shall be immediately forwarded to the competent authorities for the initiation of a criminal investigation.

Article 217. Limitations on the activities of inquiry committees

(1) Judges, prosecutors, investigation and criminal pursuit officers, lawyers and trainee lawyers cannot be summoned to provide information that could prejudice the fairness of court proceedings and/or the confidentiality of the criminal investigation.

(2) The inquiry committee may not issue directives to the prosecutor's office regarding the necessity of conducting certain procedural actions.

(3) The conclusions of the inquiry committee do not affect the principle of the presumption of innocence.

Article 218. Duration of an inquiry and the report of the inquiry committee

(1) The work of an inquiry committee shall be concluded within the time limits specified in the resolution establishing it or upon the completion of the report on the inquiry and its presentation to the plenary session of the Parliament. If, upon the expiration of the established term, the committee failed to submit a report to the Parliament and request the extension of the term, the case shall be considered closed.

(2) The inquiry committee shall approve the report by a majority vote of its members. Any dissenting opinions shall be annexed to the committee's report.

(3) The report of the inquiry committee shall contain the findings of the inquiry, the committee's conclusions, and its recommendations for preventing situations similar to those that were the subject of the inquiry. The findings, conclusions, and recommendations contained in the report of the inquiry committee are not legal norms.

(4) The report of the inquiry committee shall be debated by the Parliament within 15 days of its submission.

(5) The Parliament shall take note of the committee's report by adopting a resolution, which may also contain proposals for taking necessary measures as a result of the investigated case.

(6) The resolution of the Parliament and the committee's report shall be published on the official website of the Parliament and sent to the persons or authorities concerned within 3 days of the adoption of the resolution.

(7) The authorities concerned by the Parliament in connection with the inquiry shall be required to identify substantiated solutions and take the necessary measures to cease the violations, remedy the consequences, and recover damages, and shall inform the Parliament accordingly within 30 days of the date the solution is adopted. The information shall be published on the Parliament's official website.

Chapter XVI

SIMPLE MOTIONS AND MOTIONS OF CENSURE

Article 219. Common provisions on motions

(1) The motion expresses the position of the Parliament on a specific issue of the Government's domestic or foreign policy.

(2) The motion may be simple or of censure.

(3) The simple and censure motions must include the motivation and the operative part.

(4) The motion shall be submitted to the chair of the session, in the plenary session of the Parliament, except in the case where the motion of censure is submitted as a result of the Government's liability.

(5) A Member of Parliament may not simultaneously sign several motions referring to the same subject.

(6) The Member of Parliament may withdraw their signature from the motion until the start of the debates. The MP shall inform the chair of the session of the withdrawal of their signature.

(7) After the debate on a motion has been launched, the MPs who initiated the motion may no longer withdraw it, and the debates end with the motion being put to the vote by the chair of the sitting.

Article 220. Simple motion

(1) A simple motion shall express the position of the Parliament on a specific domestic or foreign policy issue or, as the case may be, on an issue that has been the subject of an interpellation.

(2) A simple motion may be initiated by at least 15 MPs.

(3) A simple motion shall be submitted to the Government, shall not be personal in nature and may not be submitted against a minister.

(4) A simple motion the subject matter of which pertains to a motion of censure may not be submitted.

Article 221. Motion of censure

(1) The motion of censure shall express the withdrawal of confidence granted to the Government at the investiture.

(2) The motion of censure may be initiated by at least 26 MPs.

Article 222. Admissibility of the motion

(1) The President of the Parliament, consulted by the Legal Directorate-General of the Secretariat of the Parliament, shall verify whether the motion meets all the conditions established by this Code, after which they shall order its submission to the Government and

distribution to the MPs, and subsequently submit it to the Standing Bureau to establish the date of the debates.

(2) If the motion does not meet all the conditions established by this Code, the President of the Parliament shall return it to the authors without examination.

Article 223. Debate on the motion

(1) The debate on the motion shall be held on the date set by the Standing Bureau, within 15 working days from the date of submission, unless the Parliament decides otherwise.

(2) The debate on the motion shall be held in the presence of the majority of the elected MPs. The absence of a quorum at the sitting intended to debate the motion shall result in its rejection.

(3) When debating the motion, the Parliament shall establish the framework for the debate, according to the proposal submitted by the Standing Bureau.

(4) The committee responsible for approving the simple motion shall present its opinion on it to the plenary of the Parliament.

(5) After the committee's opinion has been presented, the parliamentary factions shall decide on the motion.

(6) The Government shall have the right to the closing statement during the debates on the motion.

(7) The simple motion shall be adopted by the vote of the majority of the MPs present.

(8) The motion of censure shall be adopted by the vote of the majority of the elected MPs.

Article 224. Effects of the decision on the motion

(1) If the motion on the activity of the Government is rejected, the MPs who signed it may not initiate, during the same session, a new motion on the same subject.

(2) During a session, the Parliament may not examine more than one motion of censure, except in the case where the Government assumes its responsibility according to Art. 106 of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova.

(3) In the case of adoption of the motion of censure, the Prime Minister shall submit, within 3 days, the resignation of the Government to the President of the Republic of Moldova.

(4) The motions adopted by the Parliament shall be published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Moldova, Part I, and shall be binding on the Government and other relevant authorities.

TITLE IV**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA****Chapter XVII****INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA****Article 225.** International relations of the Parliament

(1) In order to carry out its representative function, the Parliament may establish interparliamentary structures, become a member of international and regional organisations, conclude interparliamentary treaties of the Parliament with international and regional organisations, sign bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements and memoranda.

(2) The initiation, negotiation and conclusion of interparliamentary treaties of the Parliament shall be carried out *ex officio* by the President of the Parliament or by a parliamentary delegation proposed by the President of the Parliament or by the Standing Bureau, approved by the Parliament.

(3) The denunciation of interparliamentary treaties to which the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova is a party shall be initiated *ex officio* by the President of the Parliament or by the Standing Bureau, by approval of the decision of the Parliament.

Article 226. Interparliamentary relations

(1) The Parliament shall be represented in interparliamentary relations by parliamentary delegations.

(2) Parliament delegations shall include permanent parliamentary delegations, ad hoc parliamentary delegations, delegations formed by members of parliamentary friendship groups and delegations of the Secretariat of the Parliament.

(3) Parliamentary delegations are led by the President of Parliament or, upon their proposal, by one of the Vice-Presidents, the Chair/Head of the standing parliamentary delegation, the Chair of the parliamentary friendship group.

(4) The subdivisions of the Secretariat of the Parliament shall provide the necessary assistance for the performance of the activities of parliamentary delegations according to their areas of competence.

Article 227. Parliament's relations with the European Union

(1) The Parliament has an important role in cooperating and ensuring relations with the European Parliament and its institutions, as well as with the parliaments of European states in the field of European integration.

(2) Draft resolutions and declarations in the field of European integration to be adopted at interparliamentary meetings, high-level visits and other significant events shall be discussed in advance in the relevant standing committee of the Parliament, which shall subsequently be informed of the results of these meetings and the adopted documents.

Article 228. Parliament's duties in the European integration process

(1) The Parliament, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova and this Code, shall have the following duties in the European integration process:

- a) approve the main directions of the state's domestic and foreign policy regarding the European integration of the Republic of Moldova;
- b) adopt the legislative framework necessary to meet the criteria for accession to the European Union;
- c) monitors negotiations between the Government and the European Union, as well as with its institutions through the relevant standing committee;
- d) contributes to the country's European integration process by exercising the duties assigned to it by virtue of its capacity as the supreme representative body of the people of the Republic of Moldova and the sole legislative authority of the state.

(2) The relevant standing committee may issue advisory opinions for the finalisation of national positions in the field of foreign policy. If the Government supports a position other than that expressed in the opinions, it shall justify its position, informing the relevant standing committee.

(3) The assessment of the conformity of national legislation with European Union legislation is carried out by the standing committees and the Legal Directorate-General of the Secretariat of the Parliament within the framework of the legislative activity, in accordance with the provisions of this code and other laws.

Article 229. Duties of the standing committee in the field of European integration

The standing committee has the following duties in the field of European integration:

- a) submits proposals for the development of the legislative program in the field of European integration;
- b) examines draft normative acts of EU relevance in order to issue reports or co-reports;
- c) monitor the presentation and examination in the Parliament of draft normative acts intended to ensure the harmonisation of national legislation with that of the European Union, in accordance with the commitments assumed and action plans regarding European integration;
- d) play an important role in representing the Parliament abroad, in cooperating and ensuring relations with the European Parliament, with the parliaments of European states and with interparliamentary bodies on issues of European integration;
- e) may issue an opinion on the advisability of initiating negotiations and signing treaties and other acts with the European Union, prepare and present to the plenary of the Parliament reports on draft laws regarding the ratification, acceptance, approval or accession of the Republic of Moldova to these treaties;
- f) have the right to monitor negotiations between the Government, on the one hand, and the European Union and its institutions, on the other hand;
- g) ensure, both through direct involvement and by facilitating the involvement of other standing committees, appropriate parliamentary control over the foreign and European integration policy promoted by the Government and over the implementation of legislation with European relevance;
- h) facilitate the process of public consultation of EU-relevant draft normative acts and order the placement of the summary of recommendations received during the public consultation on the official website of the Parliament;
- k) have the right to monitor the activity of parliamentary delegations within European parliamentary forums;

- l) ensure compliance with the national interest in relations between the Government and the institutions and member states of the European Union by exercising parliamentary control;
- m) ensure coordination, within the Parliament, of guidelines on regional and international issues, harmonised with the position of the European Union.

Article 230. Relations of the standing committee on European integration with other parliamentary committees

(1) If the standing committee on European integration is not the lead committee to rule on an EU-relevant draft normative act, it shall be designated as co-rapporteur. The lead committee shall take into account the opinion formulated in the report of the standing committee on European integration.

(2) In order to exercise parliamentary control, the standing committee on European integration may initiate, independently or together with any other parliamentary committee, inquiries and hearings regarding the activities carried out by public administration bodies related to the European integration process of the Republic of Moldova.

Chapter XVIII

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

Article 231. Standing parliamentary delegations

(1) Standing parliamentary delegations shall be established at the beginning of each legislature. The manner of establishment and the requirements regarding the activity of standing parliamentary delegations shall be established by the Standing Bureau, taking into account the constituent acts of international and regional parliamentary organisations of which the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova is a member.

(2) Standing parliamentary delegations shall be established following consultation with parliamentary factions, considering the principle of proportional representation and ensuring their functionality and, where appropriate, gender equality.

(3) The name and membership of standing parliamentary delegations shall be approved by decision of the Standing Bureau.

(4) The agenda of activities regarding the external cooperation of the Parliament shall be developed by the Secretariat of the Parliament, taking into account the proposals of parliamentary factions, standing committees, MPs and the agendas of international and regional parliamentary organisations of which the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova is a member.

Article 232. Ad-hoc parliamentary delegations

(1) In the case of initiatives to establish, maintain and strengthen cooperation relations with other parliaments, as well as in the case of study visits and internships with a view to taking over good practices and exchanging experience, including at international and regional parliamentary organisations, ad-hoc parliamentary delegations shall be established.

(2) The membership of ad-hoc parliamentary delegations shall be approved by the President of the Parliament after consulting the parliamentary factions.

(3) Delegations established at the level of the Secretariat of the Parliament shall be approved by the President of the Parliament or the Secretary General of the Parliament.

Article 233. Parliamentary friendship groups

(1) In order to maintain and develop interparliamentary relations, the Parliament may form parliamentary friendship groups.

(2) A Member of Parliament may be part of one or more parliamentary friendship groups, depending on personal preferences and the decision of the faction they represent.

(3) Upon the proposal of the parliamentary faction, the Standing Bureau shall propose to the Parliament the approval of the numerical and nominal membership and leadership of the parliamentary friendship groups.

(4) The delegation of representatives of parliamentary friendship groups on visits abroad shall be ordered by the President of Parliament after consulting the chairs of the parliamentary friendship groups.

Article 234. External activity of parliamentary committees

(1) In the framework of the implementation of interparliamentary treaties, the establishment of cooperation relations with lead committees of other parliaments or for other purposes, the Parliament shall, upon the proposal of the Standing Bureau, approve the external activities of parliamentary committees.

(2) The activity of parliamentary committees in the external dimension shall be ensured by the secretariats of the committees.

(3) Parliamentary committees shall inform the Parliament about the results of their external activities.

Article 235. Foreign delegations to the Parliament

(1) The Parliament shall be notified at least 3 weeks prior to the visit of a delegation from another state or from an international or regional organisation to the Republic of Moldova.

(2) The Secretariat of the Parliament shall ensure that the leadership of the Parliament and the MPs are informed about the purpose of the visit of the foreign delegation.

Article 236. Participation of foreign delegations in plenary sessions

(1) In the event of the participation of foreign delegations in plenary sessions, the chair of the session shall introduce the members of the delegation and inform the plenary session of the Parliament of the purpose of their visit to the Republic of Moldova.

(2) Speakers of foreign parliaments, heads of state and government, presidents of international and regional parliamentary organisations or other high-ranking foreign officials may deliver a speech at the central rostrum during the plenary session of the Parliament.

(3) At the initiative of the President of the Parliament, the relevant standing committee, a parliamentary faction or a group of at least 5 MPs, the Parliament may adopt a resolution on the results of the visit of the foreign delegation.

TITLE V

SECRETARIAT OF THE PARLIAMENT

Article 237. Secretariat of the Parliament

(1) The Secretariat of the Parliament shall provide organisational, documentary, legal, informational and technical assistance for the activity of the Parliament, the working bodies of the Parliament, the MPs in order to exercise the prerogatives established by the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, this Code and other normative acts.

(2) The Secretariat of the Parliament shall carry out its activity in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, this Code, other normative acts, decisions of the Standing Bureau and the Rules of procedure on the organisation and functioning of the Secretariat of the Parliament.

(3) The Secretariat of the Parliament is a legal entity under public law, has a stamp with the image of the State Coat of Arms of the Republic of Moldova and its name, as well as a treasury account.

(4) The Secretariat of the Parliament shall be headquartered in the Parliament building.

Article 238. Structure of the Secretariat of Parliament

(1) The Secretariat of Parliament is made up of the management of the Secretariat, the offices of public officials, the secretariats of standing committees, general directorates, directorates, sections and services.

(2) The Rules of procedure on the organisation and functioning of the Secretariat of the Parliament, the organisational structure and the staff limit of the Secretariat of the Parliament, as well as the conditions of social and material insurance of its employees shall be approved by the Standing Bureau of the Parliament, upon the proposal of the Secretary General of the Parliament, after prior consultation with the President of the Parliament.

(3) The staff list of the Secretariat of the Parliament shall be approved by the President of the Parliament, upon the proposal of the Secretary General of the Parliament.

Article 239. Management of the Secretariat of the Parliament

(1) The Secretariat is managed by the Secretary General of the Parliament. The Secretary General holds a public office and is appointed to office by the President of the Parliament, with prior consultation of the Standing Bureau and with the opinion of the Legal Committee on Appointments and Immunities.

(2) In their work, the Secretary General is assisted by the Deputy Secretary General, who has the status of a senior management civil servant. The conclusion, modification, suspension and termination of their service relationships shall be carried out by the Secretary General in accordance with the law.

Article 240. Basic duties of the Secretariat of the Parliament

In order for the Parliament to exercise its prerogatives, the Secretariat of the Parliament shall perform the following basic duties:

- a) provide specialised and legal assistance in the process of examining draft normative acts;
- b) organise and document plenary sessions and working bodies of the Parliament;
- c) ensure the process of adopting and post-adopting normative acts;
- d) organise and document forms of parliamentary control;
- e) provide specialised and documentary assistance in carrying out control over the execution of laws;
- f) provide specialised assistance in developing parliamentary friendly relations and external cooperation;
- g) ensure the representation of the Parliament and the Secretariat in relations with other public authorities and state institutions;
- h) coordinate external assistance provided to the Parliament and the Secretariat by development partners;
- i) ensure the transparency of the legislative process and organise the communication process between the Parliament and civil society;
- j) inform the public opinion about the activity of the Parliament, its working bodies and the Secretariat;
- k) ensure the achievement of citizens' right to petition;
- l) manage documents and provide secretarial work;
- m) manage human resources and implement staff policies;
- n) manage budgetary resources and carry out financial and accounting activities;
- o) ensure the transparency and efficiency of public procurement;
- p) ensure parliamentary ceremonial and linguistic assistance in parliamentary activity;
- q) manage information resources and information technology;
- r) manage the patrimony and goods, providing transport, logistics, food service and auxiliary services necessary for the activity of the Parliament and the Secretariat;
- s) exercise audit and internal managerial control;
- t) exercise other duties established by the Parliament and the Standing Bureau.

TITLE VI

FINAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 241. Entry into force

(1) This Code shall enter into force on 1 September 2026, with the exception of Article 18 which shall enter into force on the date of the legal establishment of the new legislature of Parliament.

(2) On the date of entry into force of this Code, Law No. 797/1996 on the adoption of the Rules of procedure of Parliament shall be repealed.

Article 242. Continuation of the examination of draft normative acts

Draft normative acts examined according to the procedure provided for by the repealed Rules of procedure of the Parliament shall continue to be examined in the Parliament according to the requirements of this Code, from their current procedural stage.

Article 243. Bringing legislation into conformity with this law

(1) The Government shall, within 2 months from the date of publication of this Code, submit to the Parliament proposals regarding bringing the legislation in force into conformity with this law.

(2) The Secretary General of the Parliament shall ensure the development and/or amendment of administrative acts related to the activity of the Parliament.

PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT

SUBSTANTIATION NOTE
on the draft Code on the organisation and functioning of the Parliament

1. Title or name of the author and, where appropriate, co-authors of the draft normative act
The draft Code on the organisation and functioning of the Parliament was developed in the course of several legislatures, beginning with 2016. The Decision of the President of the Parliament DGDP/C-1 no. 4 of 14.03.2022 established the Working group for the development of the draft Code on the organisation and functioning of the Parliament, made up of the members of standing committees, consultants from the Legal Directorate-General and other units of the Secretariat of the Parliament, being tasked to conduct an analysis of the legislation and good international practices in the field of parliamentary law. The current version of the Code on the organisation and functioning of the Parliament was finalised by a group of the Members of Parliament, signatories of this draft.
2. Pre-requisites for the development of the draft normative act
2.1. Legal basis or, as appropriate, the source of the normative act
The draft was developed pursuant to Art. 73 of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova and Art. 47 of the Rules of procedure of the Parliament, approved by Law no. 797/1996. The development of the draft Code on the organisation and functioning of the Parliament was determined by the need to secure the predictability and transparency of the legislative process, implementation of European standards in legislation substantiation and exercising the parliamentary oversight, strengthening the legislative procedure, eliminating drawbacks and gaps in the legislative practice, as well as the need to regulate the legal relationships between the Parliament and other legal subjects. At the same time, the draft has been developed to fulfil the recommendations of the European Commission stated in the Enlargement Reports. The adoption of the Code represents a normative action of alignment to the EU acquis provided for under p. 1 of Chapter I of the 2025-2029 National Programme for the Accession of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union and the 2026 Legislative Programme of the Parliament, approved by Decision of the Parliament no. 23/2026.
2.2. Current situation and matters requiring intervention, including the applicable regulatory framework and regulatory deficiencies/gaps
Currently, the legislative process of the Republic of Moldova is regulated by the provisions of the Rules of procedure of the Parliament, adopted by Law no. 797 of 2 April 1996. Over time, this act has been amended repeatedly, and certain of the legal provisions regulated by the Rules of procedure of the Parliament were subject to constitutionality review. In this context, based on the relevant rulings and addresses of the Constitutional Court, the enforced provisions, which led, in practice, to confusions in their application, have been analysed. Furthermore, international best practices were considered along with the timeliness of transposing them into the legislation of the Republic of Moldova, particularly regarding the legislative procedure and the organisation and functioning of the Parliament. The draft proposes, in relation to the current Rules of procedure, to outline more explicitly the basic functions of the Parliament, as the supreme representative body of the people and the sole legislative authority of the state, namely the functions of law-making, representation, parliamentary oversight and internal organisation. At the same time, the draft enshrines the institution of parliamentary autonomy, which aims at both regulatory autonomy and financial autonomy.

Another aspect regulated by the draft Code aims to deter political defection, not allowing changes to the political configuration of the Parliament during the legislature, and prohibiting the establishment of parliamentary factions of political parties that did not access to Parliament as a result of elections, as well as those banned or declared unconstitutional.

The draft also proposes to regulate more clearly the functional balance between the working bodies of the Parliament, by establishing a balanced distribution of responsibilities between the Standing Bureau, the standing committees and the plenary session of the Parliament. In this regard, the organisational activities will mainly fall on the Standing Bureau, and the functional activities – on the standing committees and the plenary session. Therefore, it is intended that the examination of draft normative acts be directed towards professional and thematic debates, while strictly political statements, which are not related to the subject of the drafts and contradict the regulatory provisions, will be made in the press conference room of the Parliament, ensuring direct interaction with mass media representatives.

The draft Code regulates more thoroughly the role of the Parliament in the European integration process of the Republic of Moldova. In this sense, in order to provide an efficient cooperation mechanism between the Parliament and the Government, it is envisaged that the annual programme for harmonising the legislation of the Republic of Moldova with the legislation of the European Union will be included in the legislative programme of the Parliament for the following year.

Concomitantly, in the context of delegating certain organisational functions to the Standing Bureau, the new rules establish guidelines for conducting debates in an organised and predictable framework, taking into account the complex parliamentary agenda planned for 2026. Thus, the 2026 Legislative programme of the Parliament, approved by Parliament Decision no. 23/2026, stipulates the examination of a number of 313 draft normative acts related to the 2025-2029 National Programme for the Accession of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union, as well as other draft normative acts, during the current year. The legislative programme also provides for the ratification of 18 international treaties, the development and examination of 12 draft normative acts for the execution of the decisions and addresses of the Constitutional Court, as well as the hearing in Parliament of 46 reports of public authorities and institutions.

Under these conditions, the implementation of the planned program would be difficult to be achieved without establishing a clear, coherent and efficient procedural framework for organising debates in plenary, so as to ensure the full exercise of the rights of MPs, in compliance with international parliamentary practice.

Furthermore, although the provisions of the current Rules of procedure have been amended several times, a number of important institutions lack an adequate regulation. The draft Code systematises the legal norms regarding parliamentary rules and procedures in a unitary system, to facilitate their even use and application. These regulations mainly concern the relations of the Parliament with the Government and the autonomous authorities established by the Parliament, the exercise of the parliamentary oversight function over the execution of laws, the role of the parliamentary opposition, the institution of the responsibility assumption by the Government before the Parliament, as well as other mechanisms aimed at modernising and consolidating the legislative process.

Ultimately, the draft aims to ensure a more efficient organisation of the Parliament's work, strengthen the pluralism of opinions, the stability of legal relations, and contribute to increasing the level of citizens' trust in Parliament.

3. Pursued objectives and proposed solutions

This draft regulates a wide range of new elements, briefly systematised as shown below.

Premises and ceremonial procedures

The draft expressly establishes provisions relating to the premises of the Parliament, as well as the cases of their temporary change, the venue for conducting the Parliament's sittings, the working language used in the Parliament and the manner of using the state symbols. A new element is the express establishment of the "Parliament's Day" holiday on 23 May.

Constitution of the Parliament

Pursuant to the draft, the constituent sitting of the new Parliament is organised within a special session convened by the President of the Republic that ends with the creation of the working bodies of the Parliament.

The draft also introduces the institution of oath taking, as an element of legitimising the moment of the effective beginning of the mandate of the Member of Parliament, as well as of their accountability to the people they represent.

The refusal to take the oath is noted by the chair of the sitting and is made public. Also, the situations regarding the taking of the oath by the MP who was not present at the constituent sitting, as well as by the MP whose mandate is validated later, are regulated, providing for them to take the oath at the first plenary sitting they attend, after the validation of the mandate, according to the same procedure.

Parliamentary majority and opposition

The draft defines a parliamentary majority as a faction or coalition of factions, announced by declaration, comprising more than half of the elected MPs. If the parliamentary majority is formed by a coalition of factions, they have the right to form a majority alliance and conclude an agreement on the establishment and functioning, which will set the principles of the alliance's activity, its nominal structure and leadership, the procedure for adopting decisions, as well as the conditions for the termination of the alliance's existence. In order to ensure transparency, the agreement on the establishment and functioning is published on the website of the Parliament. If a majority alliance is not formed and governance can be ensured without such an alliance, a declaration to that effect shall be made.

The promotion and consolidation of pluralist democracy are essential objectives of the Council of Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly, and member states are encouraged to develop common standards and practices with a view to ensuring a free and pluralist parliamentary democracy. In this regard, the democratic quality of a parliament is assessed, inter alia, by the means made available to the opposition or parliamentary minority to exercise its role (paragraph 2 of Resolution 1601 (2008)). At the same time, Resolution 1154 (1998) recommends granting a status to the opposition that would allow it to exercise a responsible and constructive role, and Resolution 1547 (2007) underlines that the right to form a political opposition is an essential element of a genuine democracy. At the same time, the parliamentary practice of the European Union Member States reveals the need to ensure a balance between the efficiency of the decision-making process and the guarantee of debate, control and representation, including by protecting the rights of parliamentary minorities. In this context, the decisions of the Constitutional Court in recent years also highlight the role and importance of the parliamentary opposition and oblige the Parliament to regulate the institution of the opposition.

Legislative programme and work calendar per sessions of the Parliament

In order to ensure the planning of legislative activity, the organisation of hearings and the exercise of parliamentary control, the Parliament adopts, at the proposal of the Standing Bureau, the annual legislative programme, which is developed taking into account the activity programme of the Government, as well as the proposals of the subjects with the right of legislative initiative. The work calendar of the Parliament serves as a reference for the development of the agenda of Parliament's sessions, ensuring compliance with the deadlines for examining draft normative acts/subjects included in the legislative programme.

Sessions of the Parliament

The draft establishes norms regarding the legal regime of ordinary, extraordinary and special sessions, including their convening and carrying out.

Status of the President of the Parliament

The Parliament's current Rules contain procedural norms regarding the election and powers of the President of the Parliament and do not cover the institutions of incompatibility established in art. 70 of the Constitution. This fact requires the institutionalisation of the suspension of the mandate for the period of the interim exercise of the office of President of the Republic of Moldova under art. 91 of the Constitution.

The provisions of the draft Code propose the solution of the legal suspension from office of the President of the Parliament for the period of the interim exercise of the office of head of state. During this period, the functions of the President of the Parliament are performed by one of the Vice Presidents of the Parliament, appointed by the Parliament.

Urgent procedure and priority mode

Currently, the Parliament's Rules of Procedure refer to two extraordinary procedures for examining draft normative acts – priority examination and urgent examination. While the Rules regulate expressly the urgent examination, the procedure for priority examination is not regulated. In this context, the draft act proposes that the Parliament should examine as a priority, draft laws that aim to transpose the legal acts of the European Union into the domestic legal order or that aim to create the national legal framework necessary for their implementation. Also, the President of the Parliament may propose to examine as a priority, legislative initiatives that cannot be postponed, with the presentation of the corresponding arguments to the Standing Bureau or the plenum of the Parliament.

Number and date of the normative act

The number and date of the normative act are important elements for its identification; therefore, their correct assignment is imperative. Analysis of the practice of assigning numbers and the date of adoption of normative acts shows its uneven and sometimes controversial nature. Thus, there were cases in which the numbering of acts adopted by the Parliament began with number 1 at the beginning of the year, and after the election of the legislature in the same year the numbering was unjustifiably resumed, which led to the existence of multiple normative acts with the same number in the same year. For example, in 2010, the Parliament adopted several decisions with duplicate numbering (decisions 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6). Another problem concerns the assignment of numbers and the date of adoption of laws after their re-examination in the Parliament. Currently, laws submitted for promulgation remain with the number and date of initial adoption, although they are adopted repeatedly later, following re-examination.

In this context, the draft Code proposes solutions to standardise practice and ensure correct recording of normative acts.

Parliament's relations with other public authorities

In order to establish, concretise and develop Parliament's relations with other authorities, the draft Code reflects a series of parliamentary procedures related to:

- relations of the Parliament with the President of the Republic of Moldova;
- relations of the Parliament with the Government;
- relations of the Parliament with the Constitutional Court;
- relations of the Parliament with public authorities in the field of justice;
- cooperation between the Parliament and civil society;
- parliamentary control;
- international relations of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova.

The draft also establishes the status of the Secretariat of the Parliament, an institution that performs the basic functions and tasks provided for in the Code and in the Rules of the Secretariat of the Parliament, through the activity carried out by its staff. The draft provides for express primary norms relating to the structure and powers of the Secretariat.

4. Regulatory impact analysis

4.1. Impact on the public sector

The development of the draft Code on the organisation and functioning of Parliament is determined by the need to ensure the predictability and transparency of the legislative process, the implementation of European standards with respect to the substantiation of legislation and the exercise of parliamentary control, the consolidation of the legislative procedure, the removal of gaps and inconsistencies in legislative practice, as well as the need to regulate legal relations between Parliament and other legal subjects.

4.2. Financial impact and justification of estimated costs

Not applicable.

5. Compatibility of the draft normative act with EU legislation

The development of the draft Code on the organisation and functioning of Parliament is determined by the need to fulfil the recommendations of the European Commission, formulated in the Enlargement Reports. The adoption of the Code constitutes a normative action of alignment with the acquis of the European Union, provided for in point 1 of Chapter I of the 2025–2029 National Programme for the Accession of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union, as well as in the 2026 Legislative Programme of the Parliament, approved by Parliament Decision no. 23/2026.

6. Opinions and public consultation on the draft normative act

In order to ensure the participation of civil society, the draft Code on the organisation and functioning of the Parliament was previously published on the Parliament website, on 19 July 2023, and the first public consultations on the draft were organised on 26 September 2023.

Also, the draft Code, as a legislative proposal, was subject to consultations in its initial version, until registration, during the period of 23–27 March of this year, on the platform of the parliamentary factions and with the participation of civil society, with several objections and proposals being submitted. Some of these were accepted, and others are to be further examined after the registration of the draft act. The main objection, formulated by both the parliamentary factions and civil society, concerned the chapter on the relations of the Parliament with the local public administration authorities (in the initial version, Chapter X, Art. 169–171). This chapter has been excluded, with the appropriate renumbering of the articles, and the respective aspects will be consulted additionally, including on the platform of the relevant committee.

Given the public importance of the draft act, after its registration, additional public consultations will be organised, separately by chapters, including on the examination of the opportunity to merge it, in second reading, with draft Law no. 448 of 6 December 2023 on the status, conduct and ethics of the MP.

7. Measures necessary for the implementation of the provisions of the draft normative act

On the date of entry into force of the Code on the organisation and functioning of Parliament, Law no. 797/1996 on the adoption of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament shall be abrogated.