



Senato
della Repubblica

Rules of the Senate



march 2010



Senato
della Repubblica

Rules of the Senate

march 2010

Translation supervised by Claudio Olmeda
Senate International Affairs Service

This volume is published by the
Parliamentary Information, Archives and Publications Office of the
Senate Service for Official Reports and Communications

Senate publications may be requested
from the Senate Bookshop

- by mail: via della Maddalena 27, 00186 Roma
- by e-mail: libreria@senato.it
- by telephone: +39 06 6706 2505
- by fax: + 39 06 6706 3398

CONTENTS

TITLE I	– Preliminary Provisions	<i>Page</i> 5
TITLE II	– Installation of the Interim Bureau	» 6
TITLE III	– Powers of the Members of the Bureau	» 7
TITLE IV	– Parliamentary Groups	» 9
TITLE V	– Select Committees on Rules; Select Committee on Elections and Parliamentary Immunity; Select Committee on Library and Historical Archives	» 10
TITLE VI	– Standing, Special and Joint Committees	» 12
TITLE VII	– Convening the Senate - Organisation of the Business and Sittings of the House	» 30
TITLE VIII	– Joint Sittings of Parliament	» 35
TITLE IX	– Orderly Proceedings, Security of the Senate and its Galleries	» 35
TITLE X	– Introduction and Transmittal of Bills	» 38
TITLE XI	– Urgent Matters and Closure of Debate	» 40
TITLE XII	– Debates	» 43
TITLE XIII	– Votes in the Senate and Voting Methods - Final Vote on a Bill	» 54
TITLE XIV	– Constitutional Amendment Bills	» 59
TITLE XV	– Procedure for Budget Consideration and Financial, Economic and Administrative Scrutiny	» 61
TITLE XVI	– Requests to Prosecute a Senator and Verification of Powers	» 68
TITLE XVII	– Special Procedures	» 71
TITLE XVIII	– Liaison Procedures with the European Union and International Organisations	» 74

TITLE XIX – Questions, Interpellations and Motions *Page* 78

TITLE XX – Parliamentary Inquiries » 84

TITLE XXI – Deputations » 85

TITLE XXII – Senate Budget and Financial Accounts » 86

TITLE XXIII – Senate Staff » 86

TITLE XXIV – Adoption of an Amendments to the Senate
Rules of Procedure » 86

RULES OF THE SENATE

TITLE I PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Rule 1

CONFERMENT OF SENATORIAL PRIVILEGES AND RIGHTS – SENATORIAL DUTIES

1. Senatorial privileges and full senatorial rights shall be conferred by the mere fact of being elected or appointed to the Senate, becoming effective as soon as the election result is declared, if elected, or the appointment is notified, if appointed.
2. Senators shall be required to attend the sittings in the Senate, and to take part in the work of committees.

Rule 2

INTERIM ACTING BUREAU

1. The first sitting of the Senate following an election shall be provisionally presided over by the oldest Senator.
2. The six youngest Senators attending the first sitting shall act as Secretaries.

Rule 3

THE INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR THE VERIFICATION OF CREDENTIALS – DECLARATION OF SUCCEEDING SENATORS

1. After installing the Interim Acting Bureau, the President shall announce the names of the candidates succeeding any elected members who have opted to serve in the Chamber of Deputies.
2. The President shall immediately convene the Interim Committee for the Verification of Credentials to verify credentials.
3. The Interim Committee shall comprise the members of the Select Committee on Elections of the previous Parliament attending the first sitting. If there are fewer than seven members, the President shall draw lots to appoint new members to reach the number of seven. The Interim Committee shall be chaired by the oldest member, while the youngest shall act as secretary.

TITLE II INSTALLATION OF THE INTERIM BUREAU

Rule 4

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

Having completed the formalities required by the Rules in Title I, the Senate shall proceed to elect the President by secret ballot. The candidate obtaining an absolute majority of votes of the members of the Senate shall be elected. If no candidate secures an absolute majority after two ballots, a third ballot shall be held the following day, for which the successful candidate must obtain an absolute majority of the votes cast, counting blank ballot papers as votes cast. If no candidate secures such majority in the third ballot, a runoff ballot shall be held on the same day to decide between the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, after which the candidate securing the largest number of votes, even if with a relative majority, shall be declared elected. In the event of a tied vote, the older of the two candidates shall be elected or entered for the runoff ballot.

Rule 5()*

ELECTION OF THE OTHER SENATE OFFICERS

1. Following the election of the President, at the next sitting the Senators shall elect four Vice Presidents, three Quaestors and eight Secretaries.

2. Each Senator shall write on their ballot papers the names of two candidates as Vice Presidents, two as Quaestors, and four as Secretaries. The nominees obtaining the largest number of votes shall be declared elected.

2-bis. In order to ensure more adequate representativeness of the Bureau, Parliamentary Groups not represented therein may request that more Secretaries be elected. A decision on such request shall be made by the Bureau. No more than two further Secretaries may be elected.

2-ter. The President shall set the date of the ballot to elect the Secretaries under paragraph 2-bis above. Each Senator may only write one name on the ballot paper. One Senator per Group shall be elected, provided that such Senator obtains the largest number of votes and belongs to a Group the request of which was upheld by the Bureau.

(*) See also the Transitional Provision on the election of further members of the Senate Bureau during the 16th Parliament on page 87.

2-quater. A Secretary elected under paragraphs 2-bis and 2-ter above who joins a Parliamentary Group other than the one of which such Senator was a member at the time of his or her election as Secretary shall lose such office.

3. In a by-election to fill up to two vacancies, each Senator shall write one name on the ballot paper; when more than two vacancies are to be filled, each Senator shall write a number of names equal to one-half the number of vacant seats, rounded up to the nearest whole number. The Senators obtaining the most votes shall be declared elected.

4. In the event of a tied vote, the oldest candidate shall be elected.

Rule 6

COUNTING BALLOT PAPERS FOR THE ELECTION OF BUREAU MEMBERS

1. The ballot papers cast for the election of the President shall be counted in public by the Interim Ad-Hoc Bureau.

2. The ballot papers cast in the elections under Rule 5 above shall be counted immediately by eight Senators chosen by lots. Five Senators are needed for the ballot paper count to be deemed valid.

Rule 7

THE BUREAU

As soon as the Bureau has been duly constituted, the President shall notify the President of the Republic and the Chamber of Deputies.

TITLE III POWERS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU

Rule 8

POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT

The President represents the Senate, regulates the work of all its offices, and ensures compliance with the Rules. The President shall therefore chair the debates and maintain order, decide whether or not any texts are admissible, give the floor to Senators wishing to speak, put questions to the vote, decide on the voting order, and announce the results. The President shall oversee the work of the Quaestors and the

Secretaries. The President shall be responsible for issuing instructions to ensure the smooth operation of the Senate Administration.

Rule 9

POWERS OF THE VICE PRESIDENTS

1. The Vice Presidents shall deputise for the President to chair debates and represent the Senate at official ceremonial events.
2. The President of the Senate shall appoint a Vice President to deputise when temporarily prevented from acting.

Rule 10

POWERS OF THE QUAESTORS

The Quaestors shall act on the instructions of the President with joint oversight in the matter of policing, Senate services and protocol; they shall draw up the Senate budget and accounts, and manage Senate funds, even on an individual basis in the cases provided by the Rules of the Administration.

Rule 11

POWERS OF THE SECRETARIES

1. The Secretaries shall oversee the drafting of the minutes of public sittings, and draft the minutes of *in camera* sittings; they shall record the names of Senators registered to speak; read out the minutes and, at the request of the President, any other text or document that has to be announced to the Senate; call the roll; check the voting results; ensure the accuracy of the minutes of sittings, draft the minutes of Bureau meetings, and generally assist the President in ensuring the smooth transaction of business in the Senate.
2. Where necessary, the President may also call upon one or more Senators present on the Senate floor to act as Secretary.

Rule 12

POWERS OF THE BUREAU - EXTENSION OF POWERS

1. The Bureau, chaired by the President of the Senate, shall adopt the draft Senate budget, changes to budgetary item allocations and the accounts; it shall adopt the Library Rules, and the Senate Historical Archives Rules; it shall decide on the penalties provided by Rule 67(3) and

(4) below against Senators; it shall appoint a nominee of the President to serve as Secretary-General of the Senate; it shall adopt the Rules of the Administration, and measures relating to the personnel in all cases where these Rules so provide, and shall examine all other matters referred to it by the President.

2. Meetings of the Bureau held pursuant to Rule 67(3) and (4) below shall be attended by those Leaders of the Parliamentary Groups none of whose members sit on the Bureau.

3. After a general election the Bureau shall remain in office until the first sitting of the new Senate.

Rule 13

DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE BUREAU

Senators appointed to serve in Government shall be disqualified from membership of the Bureau.

TITLE IV PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS

Rule 14

COMPOSITION OF PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS

1. Every Senator shall belong to a Parliamentary Group.

2. Within three days of the first sitting, each Senator shall notify the President of the Senate of the Group which they intend to join.

3. Senators entering the Senate during the course of a Parliament shall notify the President of the Senate of the Group they intend to join within three days of being proclaimed elected in the case of elected Senators, or of the date of their appointment in the case of Life Senators and *ex officio* Senators.

4. Each Group shall comprise at least ten Senators. Senators not wishing to belong to one particular Group shall join the Group of Non-Attached Members.

5. The Bureau may authorise the formation of a Group with fewer than ten members provided that it represents a party or an organised movement in Italy which has submitted its own lists of candidates for the

elections to the Senate in at least fifteen Regions, using the same party symbol, and whose candidates have been elected in at least three Regions, provided that such Group comprises at least five Senators, even if elected under different party symbols.

6. When membership of a duly constituted Group falls to below ten during the course of a Parliament, the Group shall be declared dissolved and any Senators formerly belonging to it who have not joined another Group within three days of the dissolution shall be registered as members of the Group of Non-Attached Members, notwithstanding the right of the Bureau under paragraph 5 above.

Rule 15

CONVENING AND FORMING GROUPS

1. Within seven days following the first sitting of the Senate, the President shall convene the Senators who have declared their intention to join the Groups and the Senators to be registered as Non-Attached Members.

2. Each Group shall be established by submitting to the President of the Senate the list of their members signed by the Leader of the Group, who shall be appointed at the meeting convened pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 1 above. Each Group shall also appoint one or more Deputy Leaders and one or more Secretaries from among their members. These appointees, any changes to these appointments and any changes in the composition of the Parliamentary Group shall be notified to the President of the Senate.

3. During the life of a Parliament, new Parliamentary Groups may be constituted.

Rule 16

PARLIAMENTARY GROUP PREMISES, FACILITIES AND ENDOWMENTS

In order to perform their functions, Parliamentary Groups shall be provided with premises and facilities, and contributions from the Senate budget, varying according to the size of the membership of each Group.

TITLE V

SELECT COMMITTEES ON RULES;

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS AND
PARLIAMENTARY IMMUNITY; SELECT COMMITTEE
ON LIBRARY AND HISTORICAL ARCHIVES**

Rule 17

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON RULES, THE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY IMMUNITY, AND
THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY AND THE HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

As soon as the Parliamentary Groups have been established, the President shall appoint the members of the Select Committee on Rules, the Select Committee on Elections and Parliamentary Immunity and the Select Committee on the Library and the Historical Archives, announcing this to the Senate.

Rule 18

SELECT COMMITTEE ON RULES

1. The Select Committee on Rules shall comprise ten Senators, and be chaired by the President of the Senate.

2. In view of the circumstances and after receiving the opinion of the Select Committee, the President may appoint up to four more members in order to render it more representative.

3. It is the responsibility of the Select Committee on Rules to introduce or consider any proposed amendments to the Rules and express an opinion on matters relating to the interpretation of the Rules, if so requested by the President of the Senate.

Rule 19

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY IMMUNITY

1. The Select Committee on Elections and Parliamentary Immunity shall comprise twenty-three Senators and be chaired by a Senator elected by the Committee from among its members.

2. Senators appointed by the President of the Senate to membership of the Committee may not decline, and may not resign. The President of the Senate may replace any member of the Committee who, for serious reasons, is unable to attend the sittings of the Committee for a long period of time.

3. If the Committee fails to meet for more than one month despite it being repeatedly convened by the President, the President of the Senate shall renew its membership.

4. The Committee shall verify the credentials of Senators and any grounds disqualifying them from membership, pursuant to the provisions of the relevant Rules; if so requested, it shall report to the Senate on any irregularities in the general election that it may identify in the course of verifying credentials.

5. It is also the responsibility of the Committee to examine any court requests to prosecute a Senator pursuant to Article 68 of the Constitution, and to report to the Senate on any documents served by the judicial authorities seeking authorisation to prosecute a Senator for the crimes under Article 96 of the Constitution, and any requests for authorisation to prosecute a Senator under section 10(1) of the Constitution Amendment Act no. 1 of 16 January 1989.

6. The Rules for verifying credentials referred to in paragraph 4 above shall be proposed by the Select Committee on Rules, after consultation with the Select Committee on Elections and Parliamentary Immunity, and shall be adopted by the Senate with an absolute majority vote of its members.

Rule 20

THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY AND THE HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

The Select Committee on the Library and the Historical Archives shall comprise three Senators. This committee shall be responsible for overseeing the Senate Library and Historical Archives and shall submit to the Bureau the Rules of these and any amendments thereto.

TITLE VI STANDING, SPECIAL AND JOINT COMMITTEES

Rule 21

FORMATION AND RENEWAL OF STANDING COMMITTEES: APPOINTMENTS BY THE GROUPS

1. Within five days of its establishment, each Group shall appoint one representative for every thirteen members, notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 4-*bis* below, to each of the standing committees listed in Rule 22 below.

2. Groups having fewer Senators than the number of standing committees may appoint a Senator to sit on up to three committees to ensure representation on the largest number of standing committees.

3. Senators who have not been appointed to a standing committee following the distribution of seats provided by paragraph (1) above shall be distributed among the standing committees by the President of the Senate, acting on the proposals of the Groups to which they belong to ensure that, as far as possible, each committee may reflect the proportions between all the Groups in the Senate.

4. Any Senator appointed to Government office or to serve as the Chairperson of the 14th Standing Committee shall be replaced on the Committee by his Group with another Senator, who shall continue to serve as a member of his/her original committee.

4-bis. Senators appointed to the 14th Standing Committee shall be members also of another standing committee. Each Parliamentary Group may therefore appoint their representatives to the 14th Standing Committee only after the appointment of the members of all other committees. The President of the Senate shall promote the necessary agreements to ensure that the composition of the 14th Standing Committee complies as far as possible with the proportionality criterion, and comprises three Senators belonging to the 1st, 3rd and 5th Standing Committees and two Senators belonging to each of the other standing committees.

5. Save in the cases provided by paragraphs 2, 4 and *4-bis* below, no Senator shall belong to more than one standing committee.

6. The President shall announce to the Senate the names of the members of the standing committees.

7. The standing committees shall be renewed after the first two-year period of each Parliament, and their membership may be reconfirmed.

Rule 22

STANDING COMMITTEES – POWERS

1. Each standing committee has powers by subject matter, as follows:

1 - Constitutional Affairs, Prime Ministerial and Home Affairs, General Organisation of the State and the Civil Service;

2 - Judiciary;

- 3 - Foreign Affairs, Emigration;
- 4 - Defence;
- 5 - Economic Planning, the Budget;
- 6 - Finance and Treasury;
- 7 - Education, Cultural Property, Scientific Research, Entertainment and Sport;
- 8 - Public Works, Communications;
- 9 - Agriculture and Agrifood Production;
- 10 - Industry, Trade, Tourism;
- 11 - Labour and Social Security;
- 12 - Health;
- 13 - Environment, Environmental Property and Land.
- 14 - European Union Policies.

Rule 23

COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION POLICIES

1. The Committee on European Union Policies shall have overall responsibility on domestic legislation emanating from activities and measures of the European Union and the EU institutions, and the implementation of Community agreements. The Committee shall also have responsibility in respect of compliance with obligations following European law. The Committee, in so far as it lies within its powers, shall also be responsible for relations with the European Parliament and with the Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union.

2. The Committee shall consider the European Union Bill and report to the Senate thereon.

3. The Committee shall issue an opinion – or, in the cases provided by Rule 144(3) below, submit comments and proposals – on Government bills and draft measures regarding the implementation of the treaties of the European Union, and any later amendments thereto, or on the transposition of Community legislation and, in general, on all bills that may give rise to major problems of compliance with Community law, and examine the business and reports provided by Rule 142 below. In particular, the Committee shall express its opinion or submit comments and proposals on these measures with regard to relations between the Regions and the European Union, pursuant to Article 117(3) of the Italian Constitution;

participation of the Regions and the Autonomous Provinces in the framing and implementation of EU legislation, pursuant to Article 117(5) of the Constitution; the management of cases and procedures under which Regions may conclude agreements with States or local authorities of other Member States of the European Union, pursuant to Article 117(9) of the Constitution; and compliance with the principle of subsidiarity in relations between the European Union and Central and Regional Governments, pursuant to Article 120(2) of the Constitution. The Committee shall also exercise the powers specifically vested in it by these Rules.

Rule 24

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Whenever the Senate resolves to establish a Special Committee, the President shall determine its composition and proceed to establish such Committee based on appointments by Parliamentary Groups and in compliance with the proportionality criterion.

Rule 25

ESTABLISHMENT OF COLLEGIATE BODIES

1. Unless otherwise provided by law or by these Rules, for the election of members to the Collegiate Bodies, each Senator shall vote for two thirds of the members to be appointed not counting any fractions less than one-half of a whole number; when fewer than three members are to be elected, each Senator shall vote for one person only. The successful candidates shall be those obtaining the largest number of votes. In the event of a tied vote, the final paragraph of Rule 5 shall apply.

2. Ballots shall be counted by three Secretaries appointed by the President. Rule 11(2) above shall apply.

3. When electing members to the Collegiate Bodies which, by law or under these Rules are required to reflect the proportions of the Parliamentary Groups, the Bureau shall notify the Groups of the number of places reserved for each one of them according to this criterion, requesting them to submit a list of nominations matching that number. On the basis of such nominations, the President shall compile a list for submission to the Senate to be put to a secret vote.

4. The provisions of the paragraphs above shall also apply, as far as possible, to by-elections.

5. The Senate may vest the President with powers to appoint all or any of the members to serve on the Collegiate Bodies.

Rule 26

JOINT COLLEGIATE BODIES

1. When establishing joint collegiate bodies, the President of the Senate shall conclude an agreement with the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies to ensure representation of the largest number of Parliamentary Groups in each House of Parliament, in compliance with the principle of proportionality.

2. When a joint collegiate body is established in the Senate, its proceedings shall be governed by the Senate Rules.

Rule 27

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE BUREAUS

1. At its first sitting, a committee shall elect a Chairperson, two Deputy Chairpersons and two Secretaries.

2. The provisions of Rule 4 above shall also apply to the election of the Chairperson.

3. For the election of the two Deputy Chairpersons and the two Secretaries, each member of the committee shall write the name of only one candidate on the ballot paper. The successful candidate shall be the one obtaining the largest number of votes. In the event of a tie, the oldest candidate shall be elected. The same provisions apply to by-elections.

Rule 28

COMMITTEE REMITS

A committee may sit in a legislative capacity to consider and pass bills, in a drafting capacity to consider and pass individual articles of bills to be referred to the Senate for the final vote, in a reporting capacity to consider bills or other business to be reported to the Senate, or in an advisory capacity to issue opinions on bills or other business referred to other committees. A committee may also meet to consider or make decisions on business which is not to be reported to the Senate, question government officials, receive or debate Government communications, gather information or conduct fact-finding inquiries.

Rule 29

CONVENING COMMITTEES

1. Committees shall be convened for the first time by the President of the Senate for their formal establishment. They shall subsequently be

convened by their Chairpersons, who shall enclose the agenda for the meeting with the notice.

2. A Committee's Bureau, which shall comprise the Group Leaders, shall draft the programme and calendar of business for each committee sufficiently in advance to ensure prior consideration of bills and other measures included in the Senate programme and calendar. The Committee Bureau may, at the request of at least one-fifth of the members of the committee, place a particular item on the agenda of the meeting, without prior notice, even if such item was not included in the programme of business.

2-bis. The programme and calendar of business of each committee shall also be drafted to ensure that preparatory documents for European Union legislation published in the Official Journal or notified by the Government may be scrutinised in a timely manner.

3. At the end of each sitting, the Chairperson of the committee shall normally announce the date, time and agenda for the following sitting. The agenda shall be printed and published.

4. If the notice convening the following meeting is not announced at the end of the sitting according to the provisions of paragraph 3 above, the agenda shall be printed, published and served on each member of the committee by no later than 24 hours before the next sitting. When the committee is sitting in a legislative or drafting capacity, the agenda must be served 48 hours beforehand.

5. Meetings of committees in a legislative and drafting capacity held when the Senate is in recess shall be announced by the President of the Senate at the last session of the Senate before parliament is adjourned, indicating the date and the agenda of the committee meetings, and serving the agenda for the meeting on all the Senators, normally at least three days before the date of the sitting.

6. Committees may also be convened in special session to consider specific matters at the request of the President of the Senate, also following a request of the Government. The President of the Senate may also request the cancellation of convened meetings when this is deemed necessary in relation to the business of the whole Senate.

7. When the Senate is in recess, at the request of one-third of its members, a committee may be convened to discuss specific issues. Such sitting shall be held within 10 days of the date of the request.

8. When the Senate is sitting, any committee acting in a legislative capacity or in a drafting capacity shall adjourn whenever requested to do so

by the President of the Senate or by one-third of the Senators present on the committee.

Rule 30

COMMITTEE QUORUMS – QUORUM CALLS

1. The quorum required for a committee sitting in a legislative capacity or in a drafting capacity, when convened to debate and resolve on matters which do not need to be reported back to the Senate, and in the cases provided by Rule 27 above, shall be the majority of the members of the committee, as per quorum call ordered by the Chairperson at the beginning of the sitting. In other instances, a quorum call shall not be necessary.

2. A quorum is always assumed to be present when decisions are made. However, the Chairperson shall order a quorum call when the first vote by show of hands after the closure of the general debate is held, and before any such subsequent vote if a Senator requests a quorum call.

3. When a quorum call is ordered, a majority of the members of the committee shall be required to be present for any decisions made at sittings under paragraph 1 above to be valid. In all other cases it is sufficient for one third of the members to be present.

4. The Chairperson may order a quorum call, before putting to the vote a proposal for the passage of which a majority of committee members is required to be in favour.

5. In default of a quorum, the Chairperson shall order a 20-minute adjournment. On reconvening, the committee shall be governed by the rules applying to sittings of the whole Senate.

Rule 31

ATTENDANCE BY SENATORS AT COMMITTEES OTHER THAN THEIR OWN – DUTY OF CONFIDENTIALITY

1. All senators may attend sittings of Committees other than their own, without voting rights.

2. Each Group may, for a particular bill or for a specific sitting, replace its representatives on a committee, giving the Chairperson of the committee prior written notice to this effect.

3. The committees may decide that for certain documents, intelligence, information or discussions involving the State, members be sworn to confidentiality. In such case, Senators who are not members of such committee shall not be permitted to attend such sittings notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 above.

Rule 32

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Minutes shall be drafted of all the meetings of committees pursuant to Rule 1 above. Senators Secretaries shall oversee the drafting of the minutes.

Rule 33

PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE DEBATES

1. A summary of proceedings shall be compiled for all committee sittings; a verbatim report shall be drafted when a committee sits in a legislative or drafting capacity, and in all the other cases provided by these Rules.

2. The summary of proceedings and the verbatim report shall make no mention of the discussions held or the resolutions adopted relating to the matters referred to in the final paragraph of Rule 31 above.

3. The public shall not be admitted to meetings of a committee sitting in a reporting or advisory capacity.

4. Save for the cases referred to in paragraph 3 above, the President of the Senate may, at the request of a committee to be submitted no later than 24 hours in advance, permit the press or the general public to attend sittings in separate rooms using audiovisual equipment.

5. When sitting in a legislative or drafting capacity, the deliberations of the committees shall be rendered public through audiovisual facilities installed in separate rooms for the benefit of the public and the press.

Rule 34

REFERRAL OF BILLS AND OTHER BUSINESS TO A COMMITTEE –

JOINT SITTINGS – CONCURRENT JURISDICTION

1. The President of the Senate shall refer bills and any business of a general nature on which a committee is required to resolve pursuant to these Rules to the committees having jurisdiction over the subject matter, or to a special committee, and shall duly inform the Senate thereof. The President of the Senate may also refer any texts, papers, measures and documents received by the Senate to a committee having jurisdiction over such matters.

2. Bills and other business may be referred to several committees for joint consideration and decision. A joint committee sitting shall normally be chaired by the oldest of the Chairpersons of the committees involved.

3. The President of the Senate shall refer the documents and other papers under Rules 23, 125-*bis*, 142, 143 and 144 to the 14th Standing Committee and to the other committees responsible by subject matter, according to their respective jurisdictions.

4. If the committee considers that a matter referred to it does not fall within its remit, the President of the Senate shall be informed for a decision to be taken.

5. In the event that several committees consider that a particular matter falls within their remit, the President of the Senate shall, after consultation with the Chairpersons of the committees concerned, make the final decision.

Rule 35

REFERRAL TO A COMMITTEE SITTING IN A LEGISLATIVE CAPACITY

1. Except in the case of constitutional amendments and electoral bills, bills delegating legislative powers, enacting decree laws, authorising the ratification of international treaties, approving budgets and accounts, and bills returned to Parliament for further consideration pursuant to Article 74 of the Constitution, which shall be considered and voted on by the whole Senate, the President may refer an individual bill to the relevant standing committee for consideration of such measure in a reporting capacity, or to a special committee, and shall notify the Senate thereof.

2. Before the final vote is called, however, a bill may be tabled before the Senate by the President of the Senate when the Government or one-fifth of the members of the Senate so request, or, in the event that the debate has already begun, when such request is put to the Chairperson of the committee, so that it can be considered and put to the final vote on the floor of the Senate or finally approved following explanations of vote in the manner and within the limits provided by Rule 109(2) below. A bill shall also be referred back to the Senate in the cases provided by Rule 40(5) and (6) below.

Rule 36

REFERRAL TO A COMMITTEE SITTING IN A DRAFTING CAPACITY

1. Notwithstanding the exceptions provided by Rule 35(1) above, the President may refer a bill to a standing committee or a special committee sitting in a drafting capacity, and notify the Senate thereof, to vote on individual clauses, and then lay the bill before the Senate for a final vote following only explanations of votes, in the manner and within the limits provided by Rule 109(2) below.

2. Within eight days of notifying the Senate of the referral of the bill to a committee, eight Senators may move that a debate be held in the Senate before the bill is considered in a committee, in order to lay down, in a specific recommendation, the criteria to be followed by the committee when framing the bill. The Senate shall vote on this motion by show of hands, without a debate. If the motion is carried, the bill shall be set down in the programme of business to be placed on the agenda of the Senate for the debate.

3. Until the final vote by the Senate, the bill shall follow the normal procedure for debate and adoption if the Government or one-tenth of the members of the Senate or of one-fifth of the members of a committee so request, or in the case provided by the Rule 40(5) and (6) below.

Rule 37

REFERRAL TO A COMMITTEE SITTING IN A LEGISLATIVE OR DRAFTING CAPACITY OF A BILL PREVIOUSLY REFERRED TO THE SAME COMMITTEE SITTING IN A REPORTING CAPACITY

1. Notwithstanding the exceptions provided by Rule 35(1) above, the President of the Senate may, at the unanimous request of the committee and with the consent of the Government, change the status of a committee from reporting to legislative or drafting capacity during consideration of a bill.

2. Such procedure may not be applied when, as per Rule 40(5) and (6) below, an opinion in opposition to such measure has been expressed.

Rule 38

OPINIONS ON BILLS AND BUSINESS

The President may request an opinion on a bill from a committee other than the one to which the bill has been referred. If a committee deems it useful to hear the opinion of another committee or to express its opinion on bills or business referred to another committee it shall make such request through the President of the Senate.

Rule 39

PROCEDURE FOR EXPRESSING OPINIONS

1. The committee requested to express an opinion shall submit that opinion within fifteen days, or within eight days in the case of bills declared to be urgent, save for the right of the President of the Senate to set a shorter deadline, after appraising the circumstances.

2. If the committee has not expressed its opinion by these deadlines it shall be assumed that it does not deem it necessary to do so, unless, on the request of the Chairperson of the committee consulted, the deadline has been extended for a further period, which shall not be longer than the original deadline period, by the relevant committee.

3. Opinions are normally expressed in writing. In the case of urgent measures, or whenever appropriate, the opinion may offered on the floor of the relevant committee by the Chairperson of the committee consulted or by a member designated by the Chairperson.

4. The committee consulted may request that its written opinion be printed as an annex to the report which the relevant committee shall subsequently submit to the Senate.

Rule 40

MANDATORY OPINIONS

1. The 14th Standing Committee shall be requested to issue an opinion on the bills under Rule 23(3) above that have been referred to other committees, and bills governing the procedures for transposing EU law into Italian law.

2. The 1st Standing Committee shall be requested to issue an opinion on bills referred to other Committees that have constitutional implications or affect the organisation of the civil service.

3. The 5th Standing Committee shall be requested to issue an opinion on bills referred to other committees that give rise to new or increased expenditure or reduced tax revenues or contain provisions of relevance to the directives and forecasts in the economic development programme.

4. The 2nd Standing Committee shall be requested to issue an opinion on bills referred to other committees that create criminal or administrative penalties.

5. When the 5th Committee issues a written opinion stating its opposition to the passage of a bill giving rise to new or increased expenditure or reduced revenues which has been referred to another committee sitting in a legislative or drafting capacity, basing its opposition on inadequate cost assessments or budgetary coverage pursuant to the final paragraph of Article 81 of the Constitution and applicable legislation, such bill shall be referred back to the Senate in the event that the committee responsible by subject matter has not complied with the opinion.

6. The same procedure shall apply to a written opinion in opposition to a bill issued by the 1st Standing Committee in the cases provided by paragraph 2 above, and to a written opinion in opposition to a bill issued by the 14th Standing Committee in the cases provided by paragraph 1 above, if the committee responsible by subject matter has not complied with the opinion.

7. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 10 below, the opinions referred to in this Rule shall be issued within the deadlines and in the manner provided by Rule 39 above, and attached to the report which the committee responsible by subject matter delivers to the Senate. If the committee has deemed fit not to accept the aforementioned opinions, the report shall contain reasoned grounds for so doing.

8. When ascertaining whether funding is available, for the purposes of expressing an opinion under paragraph 5 above, the impact of each individual measure for each individual year in the running multi-year budget shall be assessed.

9. Bills containing provisions in respect of the matters stated in Article 117 of the Constitution and those provided by the Regional Special Statutes enacted by a Constitutional Amendment Act, or which relate to the Regions' legislative or administrative activities, shall also be referred to the Parliamentary Regional Affairs Committee. If the latter committee issues its opinion within the terms provided by the deadline under Rule 39 above, it shall be annexed to the report which the Committee having jurisdiction over the subject matter shall submit to the Senate.

10. The deadlines provided by Rule 39 above, by which the 1st, 5th and 14th Standing Committees are required to issue an opinion shall be counted as from the date on which the committee responsible by subject matter requests such opinion.

11. In the event that bills and amendments entailing the use of budgetary allocations, including provisions to special funds, for purposes other than those provided in the annual and multi-year Budget Bill and the Finance Act, are referred to the 5th Standing Committee for an opinion, this Committee may request the relevant committees to which the budgetary allocations or provisions refer to issue an opinion regarding their use for other purposes.

12. The committees responsible by subject matter shall submit to the 5th Standing Committee all the information in their possession on the bills and the amendments on which the 5th Standing Committee has been asked for an opinion, in order to assist it in assessing the expenditure entailed,

and, if so requested, the technical report referred to in Rule 76-bis(3) below.

Rule 41

PROCEDURE FOR COMMITTEES SITTING IN A LEGISLATIVE CAPACITY

1. As far as possible, the rules governing debates and voting in the Senate shall apply to debates and voting in a committee sitting in a legislative capacity, except for the restrictions on the submission of amendments provided by Rule 100(3), (4) and (5) below. A roll call vote and secret ballot – following the procedures provided by Rule 116(1) and (2) and Rule 118(6) – may be allowed at the request of three and five Senators, respectively. Motions requiring the support of at least eight Senators in the whole Senate shall require the support of at least two Senators in a committee, or by one Senator speaking on behalf of a Parliamentary Group.

2. The debate may be preceded by an explanatory presentation by the Chair or by a Senator delegated by the Chair to report to the committee on the bill, giving details of the background to the bill and any other information to contextualise the issues which the bill sets out to regulate.

3. If the Senator explaining the bill, or in the case of several sponsors, the first signatory, is not a member of the committee to which the bill has been referred, such Senator shall be advised of the date for which the committee has been convened.

4. Any Senator may submit amendments and recommendations to the committee, and may request, or be requested, to explain them before the committee.

5. Amendments entailing greater expenditure or reduced revenues, addressing major constitutional matters or relating to the organisation of the civil service, containing provisions creating criminal or administrative penalties or containing provisions in respect of the matter provided by Rule 40(1) shall be explained before the beginning of the debate and may not be put to the vote unless previously submitted to the 5th, 1st, 2nd and 14th Standing Committees, respectively, for an opinion. The standing committees considering the bill shall submit their opinions within eight days of the date of the request. If the opinions of the 1st, 5th and 14th Standing Committees have been received, the provisions of Rule 40(5) and (6) shall apply.

Rule 42

PROCEDURE FOR COMMITTEES SITTING IN A DRAFTING CAPACITY – FINAL VOTE ON THE BILL IN THE SENATE

1. The provisions of Rule 41 shall apply to the discussion of the sections of bills under consideration in a committee sitting in a drafting capacity.

2. In the cases provided by Rule 36(2) above, such committee shall discuss and pass individual sections following the guidelines set by the Senate. The Chair of the committee shall decide whether recommendations and amendments are admissible in the event that they appear to be in conflict with those guidelines.

3. Cloture and suspensory motions may not be tabled in the cases provided in paragraph 2 above; in all other cases the provisions of Rule 43(3) below shall apply.

4. After the individual clauses have been passed the committee shall appoint a rapporteur to draft a written report.

5. Only the rapporteur and the representative of the government may address the Senate. The bill shall then be put to the vote for final adoption. Explanations of vote shall be permitted in the manner and within the limits provided by Rule 109(2) below.

Rule 43

PROCEDURE FOR COMMITTEES SITTING IN A REPORTING CAPACITY.

1. When considering a bill referred to a committee sitting in a reporting capacity, a general debate shall be held after the explanatory presentation under Rule 41(2) above.

2. Individual sections shall be debated when amendments have been tabled. In this case, the committee may establish a Working Group, ensuring that its membership includes senators from the opposition, to draft the final version of the bill.

3. A committee may not make a decision on cloture or suspensory motions. In the event that these motions have been tabled and that the committee concurs with them, they shall be laid before the Senate, with a report. The debate may merely be postponed, provided that the date is prior to the deadline for the committee to report back to the Senate.

3-bis. In every standing committee, Senators who also sit on the 14th Committee shall report, also orally, on the aspects under Rule 40(1) above, following the conclusion of the consideration of any such measure by the 14th Standing Committee.

4. At the end of the debate, the committee shall appoint a rapporteur

to report to the Senate. The report shall be submitted within 10 days of the appointment.

5. For the purposes of the debate in the Senate, the committee may appoint a subcommittee of not more than seven members, selected to guarantee the participation of members of the Opposition.

6. Minority reports may always be submitted.

7. Both the rapporteur appointed by the committee to report back to the Senate and the Opposition rapporteur may supplement the report with oral comments.

Rule 44

DEADLINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF REPORTS

1. Committee reports on bills referred to them in either a reporting capacity or in a drafting capacity shall be submitted to the Senate by no later than two months from the date of referral.

2. According to the requirements of the programme of business or when circumstances make it appropriate, the President of the Senate may set a shorter deadline for the presentation of the report, and notify the Senate accordingly.

3. When the deadline is reached, the bill shall be considered to be set down for debate when the programme of business is decided, even without a report, in the version of the text as originally proposed, save where the Senate, at the request of the appropriate committee, sets a new deadline, which shall be not later than two months thereafter, consistently with the implementation of the programme of business.

4. When, in implementation of the provisions of paragraph 3 above, a committee sitting in a drafting capacity to which a bill has been referred has not yet completed voting on all the sections, such bill shall be debated and voted on in the Senate following the ordinary procedure. In the event, however, that pursuant to Rule 36(2) above, the consideration of such bill in the committee has been preceded by a preliminary debate in the Senate, the general debate shall not take place.

5. Committee reports shall be printed and circulated at least two days before the date of the debate.

Rule 45

CALCULATING DEADLINES

When calculating the deadlines for the submission of reports and the issuance of opinions no account shall be taken of the periods when the Senate has been adjourned pending convention by notice sent to its members.

Rule 46

COMMITTEE REQUESTS TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR INFORMATION AND CLARIFICATION - STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT

1. A committee may request members of the government to supply information or clarification on any issues, including policy issues, in relation to the subject matter falling within their remit.

2. A committee may also request members of the government to report, orally or in writing, on the implementation of laws and any follow-up to recommendations, motions or resolutions adopted by the Senate or accepted by the government. In order to receive a progress report on the implementation of laws already in force, a committee may appoint one or more rapporteurs to gather the relevant information and report back to the committee by the deadline set for them.

3. Members of the Government may attend a committee meeting in order to make a statement.

Rule 47

GATHERING INFORMATION ON BILLS AND BUSINESS REFERRED TO A COMMITTEE

A committee may require a Minister to ensure that any executive department or agency subject to such Minister's oversight provide information and administrative or technical details relating to a measure being considered by such committee, for which supplementary information is needed. For this purpose, a committee may hear individual civil servants or executive officers.

Rule 48

FACT-FINDING ENQUIRIES

1. Under authorisation of the President of the Senate, a committee may conduct a fact-finding inquiry in respect of the matters within its remit, in order to gather information and documentation.

2. In the performance of such fact-finding inquiries a committee shall not be vested with the powers under Rule 162(5) below and may not exercise any political control, issue directives or attribute liability.

3. The programme of such an inquiry, as drawn up by the committee, shall be notified to the President of the Senate who shall facilitate the implementation by entering into agreements with the ministers concerned, also in respect of any agencies under their oversight, and may also authorise technical consultancy services and visits, where appropriate.

4. All the costs of performing fact-finding inquiries shall be charged to the Senate budget.

5. For the purposes of an enquiry under this Rule, a committee may hold special sittings to which ministers, public officials and managers of public agencies may be called to give evidence. Representatives of local government authorities, private organisations, trade and professional associations and experts in the matter under review may also be invited to give evidence.

6. At the end of the inquiry, the committee may adopt a document which shall be printed and circulated. If the committee deems it appropriate, a verbatim report of its sittings may be compiled and published.

7. If the Chamber of deputies has also provided for a fact-finding survey to be conducted into the same matter, the President of the Senate may facilitate appropriate agreements with the Speaker of the Chamber of deputies, so that the committees of both Houses of Parliament may proceed on a joint basis.

Rule 48-bis

REQUESTS FOR FACT-FINDING INQUIRIES

In the event that recourse to any procedure under Rules 46, 47 or 48 above is proposed by at least one-third of the members of a committee, such request shall be put to the committee for a decision to be taken within ten days thereafter.

Rule 49

REQUESTING THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ECONOMY AND LABOUR [CNEL] FOR OPINIONS, STUDIES AND INVESTIGATIONS – CNEL'S COMMENTS AND PROPOSALS

1. A committee may request the President of the Senate to invite CNEL to express its opinion on any matter currently being investigated which entails economic, financial and social policy aspects or which in any way fall within the sphere of the economy and employment. The President of the Senate shall forward such request to the President of CNEL and sets a deadline for the

issuance of its opinion. If the deadline is beyond the deadline given to the committee to report to the Senate, the President shall move that the Senate grant an extension pursuant to the terms of Rule 44(3) above.

2. The opinion issued by CNEL shall be published as an annex to the committee's report. If the opinion concerns a bill that the committee is considering in legislative capacity, such opinion shall be printed as an annex to the bill.

3. Under the authorisation of the President of the Senate and in agreement with the President of CNEL, a committee may invite members of other committees and appropriate CNEL committees to attend the sittings under Rule 48 above.

4. A committee Chairperson or a duly designated Deputy Chairperson may give evidence before sittings of CNEL or its committees.

5. A committee may request the President of the Senate to invite CNEL to perform studies or conduct inquiries into matters of its interest in relation to issues falling within the remit of CNEL. The results of such studies and inquiries shall be published as soon as they are delivered.

6. Any comments and proposals submitted by CNEL in relation to bills under Senate scrutiny shall also be duly published.

Rule 50

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND PROPOSALS – RESOLUTIONS

1. A committee may submit to the Senate reports and proposals on matters falling within its remit.

2. Upon completion of the examination of business referred to it for which a report is not to be submitted to the Senate, a committee may adopt a resolution setting out its stance and providing guidelines stemming therefrom in relation to the subject matter. A representative of the Government shall be invited to attend such sitting.

3. At the request of the government or one-third of the members of the committee, such resolutions, accompanied by a written report, shall be submitted to the President of the Senate to be submitted to the Senate.

Rule 51

RELATED AND CONCURRENT BILLS

1. Any bills dealing with identical or closely connected matters shall be set down together on the agenda of the committee responsible by

subject matter, except when such committee has already completed its consideration of one or more of them.

2. In the event that the government announces to the Senate its intention to introduce a government bill to address a matter which is already the subject of a parliamentary bill referred to a committee, the committee may defer or suspend its discussion of the parliamentary bill until the government bill is introduced, but not beyond one month.

3. In the event that a bill is placed on the agenda of a committee dealing with a matter that is identical to, or closely connected with, the subject matter of a bill previously introduced before the Chamber of deputies, the President of the Senate shall notify the Speaker of the Chamber of deputies, so that appropriate agreements may be concluded.

TITLE VII CONVENING THE SENATE – ORGANISATION OF THE BUSINESS AND SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Rule 52

CONVENING THE SENATE

1. The Senate is convened by the President through the distribution of the Senate agenda.

2. A request to convene the Senate under Article 62(2) of the Constitution shall include the item to be placed on the agenda.

3. The Senate may also be convened in special session during the period in which its powers are extended following dissolution.

4. In the cases provided by Article 94(3) of the Constitution, the President, by joint agreement with the Speaker of the Chamber of deputies, shall set the date on which the Senate shall convene.

Rule 53

PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS

1. The business of the Senate shall be planned by-monthly on the basis of programmes and calendars.

2. As a rule, four weeks of each bi-monthly period shall be set aside for standing and special committee sittings and for meetings of joint committees, for which dedicated and appropriate time-frames shall be set aside by prior joint agreement with the Speaker of the Chamber of

deputies; three weeks shall be set aside for assembly business, and one week for the work of parliamentary groups and individual Senators.

3. The programme of business is compiled every two months by the President of the Senate, following consultation with the Speaker of the Chamber of deputies, the chairpersons of standing and special committees, and the government. The programme of business shall be submitted for approval to the Conference of Parliamentary Group Leaders meeting with the Vice Presidents of the Senate and a representative of the government. The programme shall be drafted in a manner that takes into account the priorities of the Government and the proposals made by parliamentary groups and individual Senators, also in relation to the function of ensuring government accountability to Parliament, for which specific and adequate time shall be set aside. Every two months, no less than four sittings shall be specifically devoted to the scrutiny of bills and texts submitted and sponsored by Opposition groups pursuant to Rule 79(1) below. The provisions of Rule 55(5) below shall apply.

4. If unanimously adopted, the programme of business shall become final after being announced to the Senate. When such announcement is made, if a Senator or a representative of the Government requests a debate on the programme, one speaker per Group in addition to the Senator or Government member requesting the debate may address the Senate for no longer than 10 minutes each.

5. The procedure provided in the paragraphs above shall also apply when examining and adopting any amendments to the programme of business.

6. For the purposes of implementing the programme of business, the President shall convene the chairpersons of the standing and special committees, together with a representative of the Government, to decide on the manner and timing of the work of committees, in coordination with the business of the Senate.

7. The Rules of Procedure of individual parliamentary groups shall lay down the procedures and manner whereby individual Senators may express their positions and submit proposals regarding the matters included in the programme of business or the agenda.

Rule 54
WORK PLAN

Should the Conference of Parliamentary Group Leaders fail to reach an agreement on the programme, the President shall compile a one-week

work plan based on the opinions put forward at the Conference. This work plan shall be announced before the Senate, and if no amendments are proposed, it shall be deemed adopted. Otherwise, the Senate shall vote on the individual amendments proposed following a debate restricted to only one speaker per Group, who shall each be given the floor for no more than 10 minutes. During the course of the week, the Conference of Parliamentary Group Leaders shall be convened to establish the scheduling of business for the following period.

Rule 55

CALENDAR OF BUSINESS

1. In order to establish the manner in which the approved programme of business is to be implemented, the President shall draft a calendar of business and submit it for approval to the Conference of Parliamentary Group Leaders, attended by a representative of the Government.

2. Such calendar, which shall normally cover one month, shall indicate the number and the date of each sitting, together with the business on the agenda.

3. If the calendar is unanimously adopted, it is considered to be final and is announced to the Senate. Otherwise, the Senate shall vote on any proposed amendments by show of hands following speeches by not more than one speaker per Group, who shall be given the floor for not more than 10 minutes each. The approved calendar shall be published and circulated.

4. The aforementioned procedure shall also be followed when examining and adopting proposals to amend the calendar.

5. When organising the debate on individual items of business in the calendar, the Conference of Parliamentary Group Leaders shall, as a rule, decide on the overall time to be allotted to each Group, as well as the date by which all the items on the calendar shall be put to the vote.

6. The calendar may only be amended by the President of the Senate to include any items which are required to be discussed and voted on, under the Constitution or these Rules, on a date falling within the period covered by the calendar.

7. At the end of each sitting, the Senate may resolve on a proposal put by the President or at the request of the Government or of eight Senators to place on the calendar other items not included in the programme of business, in relation to new contingent and urgent situations, provided that this does not prevent implementation of the programme of business. If

necessary, supplementary sittings may be held to address such matters. Following the same procedure, the Senate may reverse the order of the items on the calendar. Such measures shall be adopted by show of hands after not more than one speaker per Group has addressed the Senate, each for a period of not more than 10 minutes.

Rule 56

THE AGENDA

1. The President shall call to order and adjourn every sitting and simultaneously announce the date, time and agenda of the following sitting, save where the Senate is convened by notice sent to its members, in which case the agenda is normally announced five days before the sitting.

2. The agenda shall be drafted according to the calendar and on the basis of the work plan.

3. The President may decide, or eight Senators may propose, that the order of the items on the agenda for the sitting be reversed. The President may decide to put the proposal to the vote by show of hands, giving the floor to only one speaker against and one in favour for a maximum of 10 minutes each.

4. In order to discuss or vote on any item not on the agenda the Senate must adopt a decision with a two-thirds majority of those present acting on a proposal tabled at the beginning of the sitting, or when the Senate is about to address another agenda item, by the government or the Chairperson of the relevant committee or eight Senators. Only one speaker for each Group may address the proposal for not more than ten minutes each. If the proposal is carried, the committee may give an oral report.

Rule 57

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE OF PROCEEDINGS

All the sittings of the Senate are public. However, at the request of the Government or of one-tenth of the members of the Senate, the senate may resolve, without a debate, to sit *in camera*.

Rule 58

RESERVED SEATS IN THE SENATE

1. Seats are reserved in the Senate for representatives of the Government and of the committees reporting on the items on the agenda.

2. The Secretary General and other officials authorised by the President shall sit on the President's bench.

Rule 59

ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT AT SENATE AND
COMMITTEE SITTINGS

Members of the Government, who are not members of the Senate, are entitled, and upon request required, to attend Senate and committee sittings.

Rule 60

MINUTES AND REPORTS OF SITTINGS

1. Minutes shall be drafted of each sitting, giving account only of deeds and decisions, and the names of participants in a debate.

2. Each session shall begin with a reading of the previous minutes. If there are no comments, the minutes shall be considered adopted without a vote. If a vote is required, it shall be by show of hands.

3. No debate shall follow the reading of the minutes, except to rectify them or to speak in a personal capacity or to explain the vote.

4. The minutes of public sittings and sittings held *in camera* shall be signed by the President and two Secretaries immediately after their adoption. The Senate may order that no minutes be drafted of sittings held *in camera*.

5. A summary report and a verbatim report of every public sitting shall be compiled and published.

Rule 61

ANNOUNCEMENTS TO THE SENATE

After the reading of the minutes, and before moving on to the agenda, the President shall read out to the Senate any messages, letters and communications of relevance. Any messages written in unparliamentary language shall not be read out.

Rule 62

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

1. Senators may only absent themselves from sittings after submitting a written request to the President for leave of absence. At the beginning of

each sitting, the President shall announce the names of the Senators on leave of absence.

2. A notice indicating the names of Senators on leave of absence shall be posted in the Senate.

Rule 63
SPEAKING RIGHT

Only Senators, and members of the Government if they so request, may take the floor.

TITLE VIII
JOINT SITTINGS OF PARLIAMENT

Rule 64
CONVENING JOINT SITTINGS OF PARLIAMENT – THE CHAIR

1. Whenever the Constitution requires that both Houses convene in joint session, the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies shall preside with the Bureau of the Chamber of Deputies.

2. The President of the Senate shall make appropriate agreements with the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies in order to convene Senators.

Rule 65
RULES GOVERNING JOINT SITTINGS OF PARLIAMENT

The Rules of the Chamber of Deputies shall govern joint sittings of Parliament, notwithstanding the right of the two Houses to decide otherwise.

TITLE IX
ORDERLY PROCEEDINGS, SECURITY OF THE SENATE
AND ITS GALLERIES

Rule 66
CALL TO ORDER

1. The President shall call to order any Senator for disorderly conduct or use of unparliamentary language, and may order that the Senator concerned be named in the minutes.

2. A Senator called to order may explain his or her conduct before the Senate at the end of the sitting or, if the President deems it appropriate, immediately. After hearing the Senator's justification, the President may revoke the call to order. Such decision shall be final.

Rule 67

CENSURE – SUSPENSION – EXPULSION

1. Should a Senator, despite being called to order by the President, persist in disrupting the proceedings or, even if not already called to order, behave insultingly or violently or call for violence, or behave in a particularly unseemly manner, the President shall censure the Senator concerned and may order his or her suspension from the House for the rest of the sitting. For the purposes of censures and suspensions, Rule 66(2) above shall apply.

2. Should a Senator fail to obey the suspension order, the President shall adjourn the sitting and order the Quaestors to remove the Senator from the House.

3. In the cases provided by paragraph 1 above, the President may also submit a proposal to the Bureau – as enlarged pursuant to Rule 12(2) – to ban the censured Senator from taking part in the business of the Senate for not more than 10 sitting days. The Senator may submit further explanations to the Bureau.

4. In the event of an act of particular gravity committed within the precincts of the Senate, but outside the floor of the House, the President may also refer the matter to the Bureau which, after hearing the Senators concerned, may resolve to impose the penalties under paragraph 3 above.

5. Any such decision adopted by the Bureau shall be announced to the Senate and may not be debated.

Rule 68

CONTINUOUS DISRUPTION OF PROCEEDINGS

In the event of continuous disruption of the proceedings in the Senate which the President's calls to order fail to calm, the President shall leave the Chair and the sitting shall be suspended until the President resumes the Chair. If the disruption continues after the resumption of the sitting, the President may once again suspend it for a given period of time or, as appropriate, adjourn the sitting. In the latter case, if the Senate has not already been convened for a later session that same day, it shall be deemed

to be automatically reconvened with the same agenda on the first working day thereafter at the same time as the suspended sitting, or even on a holiday, if the Senate had previously resolved to convene on that day.

Rule 69
SECURITY

1. All the powers required for ensuring the security of the Senate and the Senate precincts shall be vested in the Senate itself and are exercised in its name by the President.

2. The President may request one or more Quaestors, assisted by the Secretary-General, to issue instructions to the security guards, who shall be directly responsible to the President, and to act in agreement with the relevant authorities for the adoption of appropriate measures.

3. Law enforcement officers – including the Criminal Police – are prohibited from entering the precincts of the Senate or any other building housing committees, Services or Offices of the Senate, unless ordered to do so by the President. Law enforcement officers – including the Criminal Police – are also prohibited from entering any buildings housing joint bodies unless ordered to do so by the President of the Senate by joint agreement with the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies.

4. Law enforcement officers may not enter the Senate chamber or Committee Rooms unless ordered to do so by the President of the Senate, and then only after the sitting has been suspended or adjourned.

Rule 70

NON-ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC TO THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE – ADMISSION
TO THE GALLERIES

1. No member of the public may enter or be admitted to the floor of Senate during sittings.

2. The admission of members of the public to the galleries shall be governed by rules laid down by the President following a proposal of the Quaestors.

Rule 71
SECURITY OF GALLERIES

1. During Senate sittings, members of the public admitted to the galleries shall remain silent with their heads uncovered, and refrain from exhibiting any signs of approval or disapproval.

2. Any member of the public who interrupts parliamentary proceedings shall be immediately removed from the gallery by the Senate ushers acting on orders of the President, and in the event that it is impossible to identify the individual responsible, the whole gallery or the section of it in which the disorder occurred shall be vacated.

3. The persons expelled from the public gallery or a section of it shall not be readmitted. Any other persons arriving later and exhibiting a duly issued entry ticket shall, conversely, be readmitted.

Rule 72

CONTEMPT OF THE SENATE OR ITS MEMBERS –
REFUSAL TO OBEY THE ORDERS OF THE PRESIDENT

Anyone acting on contempt of the Senate or any of its members in the performance of their functions, or resisting the orders of the President may be immediately arrested on the instructions of the President and delivered to the relevant authorities.

TITLE X
INTRODUCTION AND TRANSMITTAL OF BILLS

Rule 73

INTRODUCTION, PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF BILLS

1. Bills initiated in the Senate shall be introduced at a public sitting or notified to the Bureau.

2. Bills introduced in the Senate or transmitted to the Chamber of Deputies shall be announced in the Senate and be published and distributed as soon as possible thereafter. They shall also be mentioned immediately in the general agenda.

Rule 73-bis

SUNSET CLAUSES, DEADLINES FOR THE PASSAGE OF OTHER LEGISLATION,
INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND ADOPTION OF OTHER MEASURES

The President of the Senate shall note any acts containing sunset clauses or laying down deadlines for the passage of other legislation or for the introduction of bills and the adoption of other measures by the Government, and shall duly inform the President of the Council of Ministers and the appropriate standing committees at least two months before such deadline expires.

Rule 74

BILLS INITIATED BY POPULAR REQUEST AND BILLS INITIATED BY REGIONAL COUNCILS

1. Before announcing to the House a bill initiated by popular request in the Senate, the President shall order the signatures of the sponsors to be checked and counted in order to ascertain that the bill is legally valid.

2. Bills initiated by popular request introduced in the previous Parliament do not need to be re-introduced in the following Parliament. At the beginning of a new Parliament, any such bills shall be referred again to committees and follow the standard procedure, save for the provisions of Rule 81 below during the first seven months.

3. A committee to which a bill initiated by popular request has been referred shall begin scrutiny of such bill within one month of referral. A representative of the sponsors appointed by the first 10 signatories to the bill may give evidence.

4. The deadline provided by paragraph 3 above shall also apply to bills introduced by the regional councils pursuant to Article 121 of the Constitution. A representative of the regional council introducing the bill may give evidence.

Rule 75

TRANSMITTAL TO THE GOVERNMENT OR THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES OF BILLS PASSED BY THE SENATE

A bills finally passed by the Senate shall be transmitted to the Government; other bills shall be transmitted to the Chamber of Deputies.

Rule 76

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF BILLS REJECTED AND INTRODUCED FOR A SECOND TIME

A bill which is substantially similar to a previously rejected bill shall not be referred to the appropriate committee until six months have passed from the date of rejection.

Rule 76-bis

TECHNICAL REPORTS ON BILLS, DRAFT LEGISLATIVE DECREES AND AMENDMENTS

1. A bill introduced by the Government, Regional Councils or the National Council on the Economy and Labour, and draft delegating

legislation entailing new or greater expenditure or reduced revenues may not be referred to the relevant standing committees, unless it is accompanied by the statutory technical report on the assessment of the costs of each provision and its financial coverage.

2. Government amendments entailing new or greater expenditure or reduced revenues which are not accompanied by the statutory technical report under paragraph 1 above may not be received.

3. Any standing committee responsible by subject matter and at all events the 5th Standing Committee may request the Government to submit the technical report under paragraph 1 above on bills initiated by popular request, members' bills, and parliamentary amendments submitted to them for consideration, in order to assess their costs. The report on the bills shall be submitted by the Government within 30 days of receiving the request.

4. Following a request submitted in writing by at least one-third of the members of the standing committees responsible by subject matter, the President of the Senate shall request the President of the Court of Auditors, pursuant to the provisions of current legislation, to provide an assessment of the financial effects of transposed decree-laws or delegated legislation. In the case of decree-laws such request to the President of the Senate shall be submitted by no later than the fifth day following the referral of the enacting bill to the relevant committee.

TITLE XI

URGENT MATTERS AND CLOSURE OF DEBATE

Rule 77

DECLARATION OF URGENCY – PERMISSION TO REPORT ORALLY

1. When the sponsor, the Chairperson of the relevant committee, or eight Senators issue a declaration of urgency in respect of a bill, or in general terms, any business to be discussed in the Senate, the Senate shall vote by show of hands. The debate on the motion, in which no more than one speaker for each parliamentary group may take the floor, and the vote shall take place in the first session following the session when the motion has been tabled. If the motion is carried all deadlines shall be reduced by one half.

2. For reasons of urgency, as per request of the relevant committee, and following a vote by show of hands, the Senate may permit the committee to deliver an oral report. Only one speaker for each parliamentary group may take the floor in the debate preceding such vote.

Rule 78
BILLS ENACTING DECREE-LAWS

1. When the President receives a bill enacting a decree-law from the Government under Article 77 of the Constitution, if the Senate has been dissolved or adjourned, the Senate shall be immediately convened to sit within five days.

2. The enacting bill submitted by the government or transmitted by the Chamber of Deputies to the Senate shall, as a rule, be referred to the appropriate committee on the day of submission or transmission. When referring such bill to a committee, the President shall appraise the circumstances and accordingly set the date for consideration of the bill.

3. Within the deadline indicated in paragraph 2 above, the enacting bill shall also be referred to the 1st Standing Committee, which shall submit its opinion to the appropriate committee within five days of referral. Should the 1st Standing Committee issue a contrary opinion, on the ground that the bill fails to meet the requirements provided in article 77(2) of the Constitution or in current legislation, the opinion shall be immediately forwarded both to the appropriate committee and to the President of the Senate, who shall put it to the vote in the Senate within five days. The President shall also put the committee's opinion to the vote in the Senate within five days, if so requested by one-tenth of the members of the Senate within one day after the date on which the opinion has been expressed. No more than one speaker for each parliamentary group may take part in the debate, and for a maximum of ten minutes each. The Senate shall vote on the negative opinion of the 1st Standing Committee by simultaneous roll-call vote.

4. If the Senate decides that the requirements under Article 77(2) of the Constitution or current legislation are not met, the enacting bill shall be rejected. If, however, the vote only applies to parts or individual provisions of the decree-law or the enacting bill, the effects of the vote shall only apply to those parts or provisions, which shall be deleted accordingly.

5. The enacting bill introduced by the Government in the Senate shall at all events be put on the Senate agenda in time to ensure that the final vote takes place by no later than the thirtieth day from the date of referral.

6. All amendments submitted to the committee and those endorsed by the whole committee shall be submitted as such to the Senate and shall be printed and distributed before the beginning of the general debate.

Rule 79
BILLS ENDORSED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS

1. When announcing to the Senate a bill which has been endorsed by more than one-half of the members of the parliamentary group, the Leader of such Group may inform the Senate that the bill has been endorsed by the Group itself. In this case, the appropriate committee shall examine the bill by no later than one month following the date of referral.

2. If the Leaders of all parliamentary groups second the endorsement under paragraph 1 above, the bill shall be immediately referred to the appropriate committee which, if required to report back to the Senate, may do so orally. The bill shall be placed on the calendar or the work plan immediately following the current one. If the bill is referred to a committee sitting in a legislative capacity it shall be considered by the Senate within one week of referral, taking precedence over every other matter.

3. The provisions of the previous paragraphs shall apply notwithstanding Rule 51(2) and (3) above.

Rule 80

BILLS INTRODUCED BY MEMBERS OF A COMMITTEE FOLLOWING A DEBATE

Any bill which, following a debate on matters falling within the remit of a committee, is introduced by two-thirds of the members of that committee, shall be laid before the Senate immediately after being announced for a decision to be taken on whether the committee shall be authorised to report orally on it, and whether it should be included in the next calendar or work plan.

Rule 81

BILLS PASSED OR CONSIDERED IN THE PREVIOUS PARLIAMENT

1. In the case of bills introduced in the first six months of a new Parliament which are identical to bills passed only by the Senate in the previous Parliament, the Government or twenty Senators may, within one month of their introduction, move that they be declared urgent and that summary proceedings be adopted as provided in paragraphs 2-5 below.

2. The Senate shall vote on each motion, without a debate, by show of hands; explanations of vote shall be held under the provisions of Rule 109(2) below.

3. Should the Senate resolve that the bill is urgent and resort to summary proceedings, if the bill is referred to a committee sitting in a reporting capacity, such committee shall be authorised to report orally to the Senate, and the bill shall be automatically included in the calendar or

work plan immediately following the current one so that the Senate can vote on it, with speaking rights restricted to the rapporteur, the Government and the sponsors of any amendments. Explanations of vote shall be held under Rule 109(2) below.

4. If the bill is referred to a committee sitting in a legislative capacity, such committee shall place it on its agenda by no later than fifteen days following the date on which the motion is carried.

5. A standing committees sitting in reporting capacity to which a bill is referred that is identical to a bill which was fully considered by such committees in the previous Parliament may resolve, within the first seven months from the beginning of the new Parliament, and after a summary consideration of such bill, to adopt the reports submitted in the previous Parliament without further debate.

Rule 82

DECLARATION OF URGENCY FOR SETTING THE DEADLINE FOR PROMULGATION

When a proposal is received to curtail the deadline for promulgation of a particular bill pursuant to Article 73 of the Constitution, the President shall, before putting the bill to the vote, move that the Senate adopt a declaration of urgency, wherefor an absolute majority of all the members of the Senate is required. If such motion is not carried, the proposal curtailing the deadline for promulgation shall not be put to the vote. If urgency is declared, the President shall notify the Chamber of Deputies or the Government thereof.

TITLE XII DEBATES

Rule 83

PROHIBITION TO DEBATE AND VOTE ON BUSINESS NOT ON THE AGENDA

The Senate may not debate nor resolve on any business that is not on its agenda, save in the cases provided by Rule 56(4) above and Rule 151 below.

Rule 84

REGISTRATION OF SPEAKERS

1. Senators shall normally register to take the floor on business included in the calendar by the day prior to the beginning of the debate through their parliamentary Groups. If the debate has not been organised pursuant to Rule 55(5) above, the President shall ensure that speaking times are consistent with the calendar. When any Group has used up all the time allotted to it, no further members of that Group may take the floor. Senators dissenting from the stance adopted by their Group on any business may register to speak as individuals, and their speaking time shall not be considered for the purposes of allotting speaking time to their Group.

2. In default of a calendar of business, requests for the floor may be submitted directly by a Senator to the Bureau up to twenty-four hours prior to the beginning of the relevant debate.

3. The President shall give the floor to Senators in the order in which requests for the floor were received, save for the President's right to alternate between speakers belonging to different parliamentary groups.

4. Any Senator registered to speak in a debate who was absent when called by the President shall lose their right to speak. Senators may agree between themselves to change the speaking order, and shall notify the Bureau accordingly.

5. A Senator wishing to make a statement, an announcement or a request to the Senate on any matter not on the Senate agenda shall give written notice to the President, disclosing the subject matter of such statement, announcement or request, and may only speak if duly authorised to do so, and then only for a maximum of ten minutes.

Rule 85

PLACE OF SPEAKING

Speakers shall address the Senate from their seats, standing.

Rule 86

PROHIBITION ON SPEAKING TWICE IN THE SAME DEBATE

Notwithstanding the right provided by Rule 109 below, no Senator may speak more than once in the course of the same debate except to raise an ancillary issue, or a matter of personal interest.

Rule 87

MATTERS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

1. It is deemed a matter of personal interest to be subjected to unwarranted criticism for personal conduct or wrongly accused of committing acts or holding opinions contrary to those expressed.

2. A Senator requesting the floor on a matter of personal interest shall inform the President thereof. If the President considers that the personal interest exists, he shall give the floor to the Senator concerned at the end of the sitting. The person whose statements have given rise to the matter of personal interest may only address the Senate to clarify or rectify the meaning of the words spoken.

3. Whenever measures adopted by a previous Government are debated, any Senator who was formerly a member of such Government may be given the floor at the end of the debate.

Rule 88

CHARGES OF DISHONOURABLE CONDUCT – COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

1. Whenever, in the course of a debate, a Senator is accused of dishonourable conduct, such Senator may request the President to appoint a committee to investigate and ascertain the basis for the accusation; the President may give such committee of inquiry a deadline for the submission of its conclusions. They shall be announced by the President before the Senate but they shall not be debated, even indirectly in the form of resolutions or motions.

2. The Senate may order the committee's report to be printed.

Rule 89

SPEAKING TIMES

1. In the general debate, no speaker may retain the floor for more than twenty minutes. The President nevertheless has the right, considering the circumstances, to extend the speaking time to sixty minutes, limited to one speaker for each parliamentary Group. The same speaking time shall also apply to replies by rapporteurs and members of the Government, notwithstanding the right of the President, considering the circumstances, to extend their speaking time to sixty minutes.

2. Save where otherwise provided by these Rules, no other Senator may speak for more than ten minutes.

3. The same limits also apply to speeches in a committee.

4. By leave of the President, Senators may submit tables and lists of

names or figures, rather than read them before the Senate, provided that they are printed and published as annexes to their speeches, to be placed on record.

Rule 90

DEPARTING FROM THE SUBJECT OR EXCEEDING SPEAKING TIME LIMITS

1. The President shall call speakers to order if they depart from the subject of the debate or exceed their speaking time limit.

2. If the speaker fails to comply after a second call to order, the President shall order the speaker to be silent.

Rule 91

PROHIBITION ON INTERRUPTING SPEECHES

No speech may be interrupted and resumed at another sitting.

Rule 92

POINTS OF ORDER ADMITTED ON THE AGENDA, THE ORDER OF DEBATES AND VOTING.

1. A point of order regarding the Senate Rules or the agenda or the priority of a debate or voting shall have precedence over the main matter on the agenda, the debate on which shall be suspended in order to address such point of order.

2. After the Senator raising a point of order has spoken, only one speaker against and one in favour may address the Senate for not more than 10 minutes each; however, in view of the importance of the point of order raised, the President may also give the floor to a speaker for each Parliamentary Group.

3. If the President puts the point of order to the vote, this shall be done by a show of hands.

Rule 93

CLOTURE AND SUSPENSORY MOTION

1. Cloture of a debate on a certain issue or a suspensory motion to postpone a debate or a vote may be tabled by a Senator before a debate is opened. The President may also admit such motions during a debate when they are justified by any new elements emerging since the beginning of the debate.

2. Cloture and suspensory motions interrupt the proceedings, and the debate may not continue until the Senate has voted on them.

3. When several motions for cloture are tabled, and each proposer has explained their motion, they shall all be debated together.

4. In the debate on cloture not more than one representative for each parliamentary group may take the floor. The maximum speaking time in each case shall be ten minutes.

5. Motions of cloture, even if tabled for different reasons, shall be put to the vote together by show of hands.

6. The provisions of paragraphs 3-5 above shall also apply to the debate and vote on suspensory motions; however, if several motions are tabled proposing different dates for the postponement of the debate the Senate shall first vote on suspension, and if this is carried, on the duration of the suspension.

7. Motions of cloture and suspensory motions may also be tabled in relation to sections and amendments.

Rule 94

GENERAL DEBATE ON BILLS

Debates on bills begin with a general debate. Such general debate may be broken down into titles or chapters when the Senate so resolves, without a debate, by show of hands.

Rule 95

TABLING AND DEBATING RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In the course of a debate on a bill, recommendations may be tabled on the substance of the bill.

2. As a rule, recommendations shall be tabled before the general debate, and the proposer may only speak on them in the course of that debate.

3. Recommendations tabled in the course of the general debate by a Senator who has not registered to speak may be addressed at the end of the general debate within the speaking time limits allotted to each Group pursuant to Rule 55(5) or Rule 84 (1) above.

4. The rapporteur and the representative of the Government shall express their opinion on recommendations at the end of the general debate.

5. Recommendations shall be put to the vote immediately after the speech by the rapporteur and the government representative. The proposers may refrain from requesting that the recommendation be put to the vote.

6. The President may require recommendations regarding particular provisions included in a section of a bill to be put to the vote before such section is voted on.

7. The proposer of an amendment may, by leave of the President, withdraw such amendment and transform it into a recommendation. In this case, the deadlines regarding the tabling shall no longer apply and the recommendation shall be transacted under the same conditions and according to the same deadlines as amendments, and voted on before the vote is taken on the provisions to which the recommendation refers.

8. A recommendation which is withdrawn or which would normally be declared lapsed because of the absence of the proposer at the time of the vote may be adopted by another Senator.

Rule 96

BLOCKING MOTIONS

1. Before beginning the debate on individual sections of a bill, any Senator may move that the section be not debated.

2. The provisions of Rule 95 above shall apply to the procedure for tabling and debating a blocking motion, where applicable. The vote on the blocking motion shall take precedence over the vote on recommendations.

Rule 97

DECLARATION OF INADMISSIBILITY

1. Recommendations, amendments or proposals which are irrelevant to the subject matter of the debate or which are framed in unparliamentary language shall be declared inadmissible.

2. Recommendations, amendments or proposals which contradict any resolutions already approved by the Senate on the subject during the same debate shall also be declared inadmissible.

3. After reading a recommendation, amendment or proposal, the President shall issue a decision without appeal.

Rule 98

REQUEST TO CNEL FOR AN OPINION

1. When a bill or business is being debated involving economic, financial and social policy principles, or at all events matters falling within the sphere of the economy and labour, before the closure of the general debate, each Senator may move that the National Council for the Economy and Labour (CNEL) be asked to submit its opinion. The provisions of Rule 93 governing cloture shall apply to the debate on such motions.

2. If the motion is adopted, the Senate shall decide on the deadline by which CNEL shall submit its opinion. The opinion shall be published immediately after submission and printed as a specific annex to the bill.

Rule 99

CLOSURE OF THE GENERAL DEBATE

1. When there are no more Senators registered to speak, the President shall declare the general debate closed, and give the floor to the rapporteurs and the representative of the Government .

2. If the representative of the government, after the procedure referred to in paragraph 1 above wishes to take the floor for a second time to make further statements, eight Senators may request a new debate on such statements, in which no more than one speaker for each parliamentary group may speak.

3. If the general debate is not limited in time or if the time limits have been exceeded eight Senators may move that the debate be adjourned. If there is opposition to the motion, the President shall give the floor to one speaker for each Group for not more than ten minutes each, and put the motion to the vote by show of hands.

4. After the general debate has been closed under paragraph 3 above and before the rapporteurs and the representative of the Government take the floor, only one Senator for each Group whose members have not taken part in the general debate shall be entitled to speak.

Rule 100

CONSIDERATION OF INDIVIDUAL SECTIONS OF A BILL – TABLING OF AMENDMENTS

1. Following the general debate on the bill and any vote on the recommendations, the Senate shall proceed to consider the individual sections.

2. Amendments proposed by individual Senators, by the committee or by the Government to each individual section shall be put to the vote.

3. As a rule, amendments shall be tabled in writing by the proposer to the Bureau at least twenty-four hours before the relevant section is debated, and shall be immediately forwarded to the committee.

4. If an amendment has been signed by eight Senators it may also be tabled on the same day as the debate, provided that this is done at least one hour before the beginning of the sitting.

5. Further amendments may be tabled in the course of the sitting on condition that they are signed by eight Senators and refer to other amendments already tabled, or are related to amendments already passed by the Senate. The President may nevertheless give leave for amendments to be tabled in other instances, when this is deemed appropriate.

6. The terms and conditions provided by paragraphs 4 and 5 above shall not apply to amendments tabled by the committee and the Government. When the committee and the Government avail themselves of the right to submit amendments without compliance with the aforementioned provisions, the President may postpone the debate relating to these, after appraising their importance, in order to give time for sub-amendments and other closely related amendments to be tabled.

7. The amendments which entail increased expenditure or reduced revenues shall be referred, as soon as they are tabled, to the 5th Standing Committee for its opinion. Such opinion may also be delivered orally during the course of the sitting by the Chairperson or another Senator delegated by the Chairperson, speaking on behalf of the whole committee.

8. The President may decide, without appeal, not to receive amendments which do not entail any real change and may also rule that amendments designed merely to adjust the formal wording of a clause be considered and voted on in the editing stage, under Rule 103 below.

9. All amendments referring to any one section shall be considered in one single debate, beginning with the introductory explanation by the proposers, to be followed by a debate in which each Senator may take the floor only once, even if such Senator has tabled amendments. When the debate is finished, the rapporteur and the representative of the government shall state their position regarding the amendments. If amendments are tabled during the course of the sitting or when it is considered appropriate for the purposes of an orderly debate, the President may rule that the debate be split in order to address separately the various amendments or sections, or parts thereof.

10. The relevant committee, the government and, in the case provided by paragraph 7 above, the 5th Standing Committee may request that the debate on amendments tabled during the course of the sitting be set aside and postponed to the following sitting.

11. The President may decide that it is appropriate, in the interests of the debate, to set aside individual sections and amendments thereto and refer them to the appropriate committee, setting the date for the debate to be resumed in the Senate.

12. Rule 99(3) above on the early adjournment of debates shall also apply to the debate on individual sections. After the closure of the debate, the proposers of amendments that have not yet been explained, the rapporteur and the representative of the Government may take the floor for a maximum of 10 minutes each.

13. As a rule, amendments shall be printed and distributed at the beginning of the sitting.

Rule 101

SPLIT CONSIDERATION MOTIONS

1. Once the consideration of the sections of a bill has begun, a Senator may request that one or more sections or provisions of the bill, by virtue of their autonomous regulatory contents, be considered separately.

2. If the Senate so decides, these may be debated and voted on in the manner and with the deadlines set for cloture and suspensory motions.

Rule 102

VOTING ON ARTICLES AND AMENDMENTS – SPLIT VOTING

1. Each section shall be voted separately, and each amendment shall be voted on before the section to which it refers.

2. When several amendments to the same text have been tabled, deleting amendments shall be examined first, followed by amendments which differ most widely from the original text, and the other amendments in the order in which they oppose, integrate or supplement the original. When only one amendment has been tabled for the deletion of a whole clause, the motion put to the vote shall be to keep the original text.

3. Sub-amendments shall be put to the vote before the amendment to which they refer.

4. The President may change the voting order when this is deemed appropriate for the economy and clarity of the vote.

5. When the text to be put to the vote contains several provisions or refers to several parties or matters or may be broken down into separate parts, each with a distinct logical meaning and regulatory contents, it may be put to a split vote. This may be moved by any Senator, and the Senate shall vote on the motion by show of hands without a debate.

6. Any amendment that is withdrawn or declared lapsed owing to the absence of the proposer may be adopted by another Senator.

Rule 102-bis

EFFECTS OF A NEGATIVE OPINION ISSUED BY THE 5TH STANDING
COMMITTEE

1. An amendment entailing greater expenditure or reduced revenues in respect of which the 5th Standing Committee has issued a negative opinion on the grounds of lack of financial coverage pursuant to the final paragraph of Article 81 of the Constitution may not be put to the vote unless fifteen Senators move that it be voted on. The proposers shall be deemed to be present for the purposes of the quorum even if they do not vote.

2. The vote on the amendments pursuant to paragraph 1 above and on the sections and bills to which the aforementioned negative opinion of the 5th Standing Committee refers shall be held by simultaneous roll-call vote.

Rule 103

FINAL TEXT EDITING

1. Before the final vote is taken on a bill, the President, the representative of the Government and any Senator may draw the attention of the Senate to any editing changes deemed appropriate in order to improve the language and form of the text and to any provisions already adopted which seem to be in conflict with other provisions or contrary to the purpose of the law, and suggest corrections.

2. If, pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 1 above, the Senate is requested to postpone the final vote to a later sitting and to request the committee to submit relevant proposals, the motion shall be voted on by show of hands without a debate.

3 Irrespective of the actions provided by paragraphs 1 and 2 above, when the text of the bill has been extensively amended, the final vote shall be postponed to the following sitting in order to enable the

committee and the government to submit the proposals under paragraphs 1 and 2 above, notwithstanding that the President may, in particularly urgent cases, postpone the vote to a later time in the same sitting.

4. The committee shall lay its proposals before the Senate by the given deadline accompanied, where necessary, by a short report.

5. No more than one speaker for each parliamentary group may speak to the proposals referred to above, which shall be put to the vote by show of hands.

6. The aforementioned provisions shall also apply when a committee sitting in a legislative capacity edits the wording of a bill. When examining a bill in a drafting capacity or in a reporting capacity, the text is normally edited at the sitting following the one in which the committee has completed its examination of individual sections and, in all instances, before appointing a committee member to report to the Senate.

Rule 104

BILLS PASSED BY THE SENATE AND AMENDED BY THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

In the event that a bill passed by the Senate is later amended by the Chamber of deputies, the Senate shall only discuss and vote on the amendments made by the Chamber of deputies, and put the whole bill to the final vote. New amendments may only be considered if they are directly related the amendments passed by the Chamber of deputies.

Rule 105

DEBATE ON GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS – DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

A special debate shall be held on Government statements at the request of eight Senators. In this case, after consulting the Government, the President shall place the item on the Senate agenda by no later than the third day following such request. During the debate, each Senator may submit a draft resolution, which shall be put to the vote at the end of the debate.

Rule 106

APPLICATION OF THESE PROVISIONS TO DEBATES

All the provisions of this Title shall apply, where applicable, to discussions and debates on any business laid before the Senate.

TITLE XIII
VOTES IN THE SENATE AND VOTING METHODS –
FINAL VOTE ON A BILL

Rule 107

MAJORITIES, QUORUMS, AND ESTABLISHING THE QUORUM

1. All votes in the Senate shall be decided by a majority of the Senators voting, save where a special majority is required. In the event of a tied vote, the motion shall be deemed to be rejected.

2. A quorum is always deemed to be present in the Senate, notwithstanding that twelve Senators present in the sitting may, before a vote is called by show of hands, move that the President establish the quorum.

3. Before voting on a measure which requires the support of the majority of the members of the Senate, the President may establish the quorum.

Rule 108

METHOD FOR ESTABLISHING THE QUORUM –
EFFECTS OF LACK OF A QUORUM

1. In order to establish whether the Senate has a quorum, the President shall ask Senators to signify their presence using the electronic voting device.

2. Senators absent from the Senate on business on behalf of the Senate or because of their duties as ministers shall not be counted when establishing the quorum. The same applies to Senators on leave of absence pursuant to Rule 62 above, up to a maximum of one-tenth of the total members of the Senate

3. Senators requesting the establishment of the quorum shall be counted as present even if they have subsequently absented themselves from the Senate or have failed to signify their presence.

4. In the absence of a quorum, the President shall suspend the sitting for at least 20 minutes, to reconvene later in the day or adjourn it altogether. The sitting shall at all events be adjourned if the quorum is not established four times in succession. When the sitting has adjourned, in the event that no other sessions are set down in the calendar of business for the same day or for the following day, the sitting shall be deemed reconvened

with the same agenda and at the same time on the next working day, or on a holiday if the Senate had previously resolved to sit on that day.

5. The fact that a quorum is not established at one sitting shall not imply that there is no quorum upon reconvening as provided in the previous paragraph.

6. For the purposes of establishing the number of Senators present pursuant to Rule 107(3) above, the procedures for establishing a quorum shall apply. If the number of Senators present is fewer than the quorum required for voting, the President shall postpone the vote to a later time in the course of the same sitting or of another sitting, save where there is no quorum, in which case the provisions of paragraph 4 above shall apply.

Rule 109

EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE

1. Before voting by show of hands, each Senator may explain their vote, by simply declaring whether they are in favour or against, or whether they abstain.

2. Save in the cases in which the Rules provide that there shall be no debate or that the debate shall be limited, one Senator for each parliamentary group may give an explanation of vote on behalf of their respective group before each vote is taken; such explanation shall last not more than ten minutes; in view of the circumstances, the President may extend the speaking time to fifteen minutes. The same right shall also apply to Senators wishing to dissent from the positions adopted by their own group, provided that they are fewer in number than one-half of the membership of that group.

Rule 110

SPEECHES DURING THE VOTE

Once voting has begun, it may not be interrupted and no-one may take the floor until the result has been declared, except on a point of order relating to the Rules governing the voting process or in order to draw attention to voting irregularities or defects in the electronic voting system.

Rule 111

DECLARATION OF VOTING RESULTS

The President shall declare the result of voting using the words, “the Senate approves” or “the Senate does not approve”.

Rule 112
PROTESTS AGAINST SENATE VOTING RESULTS

Protests against the results of votes in the Senate shall be prohibited. If made, they shall not be recorded in the minutes or the reports of the sitting.

Rule 113
VOTING METHODS

1. Votes shall be taken in the Senate by show of hands, by roll call or by secret ballot. Roll-call votes shall either be conducted by simultaneous roll-call voting or by calling the roll.

2. The standard voting procedure in the Senate is by show of hands, unless fifteen Senators request a roll-call vote or, in the cases provided by paragraphs 4 and 7 below, twenty Senators request a secret ballot. The request, which may be made orally, shall be made after the closure of the debate and before the President opens the vote. If there are fewer than fifteen proposers present in the Senate when a roll-call vote is called, or fewer than twenty when a secret ballot is called, the request shall be deemed to have been withdrawn. For the purposes of the quorum, the proposers shall be counted as present even if they do not take part in the vote.

3. Votes relating to individuals and elections using ballot cards shall be by secret ballot in all cases.

4. At the request of the required number of Senators, a secret vote shall also be held in respect of matters relating to the language minorities under by Article 6 of the Constitution, civil and ethical/social relations under Articles 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31 and 32(2) of the Constitution, and motions to amend the Rules of the Senate.

5. When a vote is challenged on the grounds of its admissibility in relation to the cases provided by paragraph 4 above, the President shall settle the matter after, if deemed appropriate, having consulted the Select Committee on Rules.

6. In no case shall a secret ballot be permitted when the Senate is required to vote on finance bills or budgets and accounts, provisions and amendments thereto regarding taxation and contributions, provisions included in any bill and amendments thereto entailing greater expenditure or reduced revenue, indicating the resources with which to cover them, or providing for budget allocations. If any such provisions are part of sections or amendments relating to the matters referred to in paragraph 4 above, they shall be voted on separately in an open ballot.

7. The final vote on a bill shall, as a rule, be taken by open ballot except that in the case of bills dealing prevalently with the matters referred to in paragraph (4) above a secret ballot may be requested. The President shall decide, after consulting the Select Committee on Rules if deemed necessary, on whether or not the matters provided by paragraph (4) above are prevalent.

Rule 114

VOTE BY SHOW OF HANDS AND DOUBLE-CHECKING

1. Votes by show of hands may also be conducted using the electronic voting system if the President deems it appropriate to facilitate the vote.
2. The electronic voting system shall also be used whenever a request is made to double-check the vote by show of hands. Double-checking shall be requested immediately after the announcement of the results of the vote, and before ordering it to be done, the President shall require the doors giving access to the Senate floor to be closed.

Rule 115

SIMULTANEOUS ROLL-CALL VOTES

1. Simultaneous roll-call votes shall be held using the electronic voting system.
2. After the vote has been completed, the Secretaries shall provide the President with a list of Senators participating in the vote showing the manner in which each one has voted. The President shall then announce the results of the vote. The list shall remain available to Senators on the President's table and shall be published in the records of the sitting.

Rule 116

ROLL-CALL VOTING BY NAME

1. Roll-call voting by name, using the electronic voting system, is used for motions of confidence or no confidence, or when the President orders roll call voting by name at the request of fifteen Senators. In this case, after explaining the meaning of the "yes" and the "no" votes, the President shall draw by lots the name of the first Senator called to vote, after whom others will follow in alphabetical order.
2. After the roll has been called, a new roll shall be called of the Senators who failed to reply to the first roll-call.
3. Each Senator shall be called by name and indicate their votes in a

loud voice while simultaneously pressing the appropriate key of the electronic voting system. If there is a discrepancy between the two votes, the President shall suspend the roll-call and request the Senator to make it clear which way he or she intends to vote.

4. For the purposes of announcing and the publishing the result of the vote, the provisions of Rule 115(2) above shall apply.

Rule 117

VOTING BY SECRET BALLOT

1. Votes by secret ballot shall be held using the electronic voting system in such a way so as to ensure the secrecy of the vote both when the vote is cast and when the results are recorded.

2. The list of Senators taking part in the vote shall be published in the record of the sitting.

Rule 118

VOIDED AND REPEATED VOTES –

MALFUNCTIONING OF THE ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEM

1. In the event of voting irregularities, the President shall appraise the circumstances and may void the vote and order that it be repeated immediately, with or without the electronic voting system.

2. If the electronic voting system is out of order or malfunctioning, the provisions of the following paragraph shall apply for the establishment of a quorum and the number of Senators present for the purposes of double-checking and for roll-call or secret ballots.

3. When it is necessary to establish the quorum or count the number of Senators present for the purposes of Rule 108, the President shall order the roll to be called.

4. The results of the vote by show of hands may be double-checked by dividing the voters into two separate areas of the Senate floor.

5. The roll-call vote shall be held by calling the roll, pursuant to Rule 116(1)-(2) above; the Secretaries shall record the names of the voters and the vote cast by each.

6. In the case of a secret ballot, each Senator shall be given two balls, one white and one black, which shall be placed in the ballot box to cast their vote following the President's instructions for the ballot. The Secretaries shall take down the voters' names.

7. The technical procedures for the use of the electronic voting system shall be governed by instructions approved by the Bureau.

Rule 119

ADVANCE NOTICE OF VOTING USING THE ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEM

1. When voting is to be held using the electronic voting system, save when the vote is by show of hands, twenty minutes' advance notice must be given by the President before the vote is called.

2. Advance notice need not be repeated when, in the course of the same sitting, the electronic voting system is used for other ballots.

Rule 120

FINAL VOTE ON BILLS

1. Every bill, after being approved section by section, shall be put to the final vote for adoption.

2. A bill consisting of only one section, to which no additional sections have been proposed, shall be put to the final vote after any amendments or individual parts of the section had been voted on.

3. Constitutional Amendment Bills and Constitution Review Bills, electoral bills, prevalently comprising delegating provisions, bills enacting decree-laws, bills dealing with matters of public order, bills approving the State Budget and Accounts, and finance bills and bills under Rule 126-*bis* below, shall always be put to a roll-call vote using the electronic voting system pursuant to Rule 115 above, save for the provisions of Rule 113 above.

TITLE XIV

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BILLS

Rule 121

CONSTITUTIONAL BILLS – FIRST READING

1. The first reading of Constitutional Review Bills and other Constitutional Amendment Bills provided by Article 138 of the Constitution shall be governed by the provisions of these Rules referring to ordinary bills.

2. After approval on first reading, the bill is transmitted to the Chamber of Deputies.

3. If the Chamber of Deputies amends the bill, it shall return to the Senate for re-examination pursuant to Rule 104 above.

Rule 122

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BILLS –
TIME LIMITS FOR THE SECOND READING

1. The second reading under Article 138 of the Constitution can only take place after three months following the approval of the same text of the bill as transmitted to or subsequently passed by the Chamber of Deputies.

2. The three months shall be calculated using the ordinary calendar.

Rule 123

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BILLS – SECOND READING

1. At second reading the relevant committee shall re-examine the bill and report to the Senate.

2. After the general debate in the Senate, the bill shall only be put to the final vote for its adoption as a whole.

3. No amendments or recommendations, nor split voting motions referring to any one or more provisions, nor cloture or suspensory motions shall be admitted. A short postponement of the vote may be requested, on which the President shall decide without appeal.

4. Explanations of vote shall be admitted in the manner and with the time limits provided by Rule 109(2) above.

Rule 124

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BILLS – ADOPTION OF SECOND READING

1. For the final vote on a Constitutional Amendment Bills, an absolute majority of the members of the Senate shall be required.

2. If the bill is adopted with a two thirds majority of the members of the Senate, this shall be expressly mentioned by the President in the message to the Chamber of Deputies or the Government for the purposes of Article 138(3) of the Constitution.

3. If the bill is rejected, the provisions of Rule 76 shall apply if it is re-tabled.

TITLE XV
PROCEDURE FOR BUDGET CONSIDERATION AND
FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE
SCRUTINY

Rule 125

REFERRAL OF BILLS AND DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET AND
ECONOMIC PLANNING

Bills adopting the State Budget, the Finance Bill, the Economic and Fiscal Plan, the General Government Accounts, Court of Auditors Reports on State-subsidised government agencies, Treasury forecasts and all general reports and documents submitted to Parliament by the Government or the Court of Auditors relating to economic planning and general government budget, and other documents on the economic situation shall be referred to the 5th Standing Committee.

Rule 125-bis

CONSIDERATION OF THE ECONOMIC AND FISCAL PLAN

1. The Economic and Fiscal Plan shall be referred to the 5th Standing Committee for consideration, and to the other standing committees for their opinions. It shall also be referred to the Parliamentary Committee on Regional Affairs for comments. Such opinions and comments shall be delivered by the deadlines set by the President.

2. The 5th Standing Committee shall refer to the Senate within 20 days of referral, or within a shorter period if so ordered by the President. Minority reports may always be submitted.

3. Before beginning consideration of the Plan, the 5th Standing Committee may be authorised by the President of the Senate, also jointly with the corresponding committee of the Chamber of Deputies, to acquire further information regarding the criteria used for drafting the document. To this end, it shall submit the programme of hearings to the President of the Senate.

4. The discussion of documents in the Senate shall be organised by the Conference of Parliamentary Group Leaders pursuant to Rule 55(5) above. Such discussion shall be completed within 30 days of referral, with a vote on the draft resolution; if several drafts are present, the draft accepted by the Government shall be put to the vote first and each Senator may propose amendments to it.

Rule 126

REFERRAL TO AND CONSIDERATION BY A COMMITTEE OF THE BUDGET AND
THE FINANCE BILL

1. The Budget and the Finance Bill shall be referred to the 5th Standing Committee for overall consideration. The Budget and the Finance Bill shall be simultaneously referred to the other standing committees, each of which shall submit them to general consideration in respect of the parts for which they are responsible.

2. [Repealed]

3. When the Government lays the Finance Bill before the Senate, the President of the Senate, after hearing the opinion of the 5th Standing Committee and the opinion of the Government shall, before referral of the bill, ascertain that there are no provisions falling outside its scope as provided by current legislation, or which introduce changes to current rules governing general state accounts. If there are, the President shall notify the Senate that such provisions have been removed for separate consideration.

4. In all instances, the President, after consulting the 5th Standing Committee and the Government, shall ascertain whether the Finance Bill contains any provisions conflicting with the rules of financial coverage provided by current legislation for the Finance Act, and before referral, shall notify the Senate accordingly.

5. The ministers responsible by subject matter shall attend committee sittings on overall consideration of the Budget and the Finance Bill. A verbatim report shall be drafted and published for such sittings.

6. Each committee shall, within the deadlines provided by paragraph 9 below, submit its official report and any minority reports to the 5th Standing Committee. The drafters of committee reports may attend the sittings of the 5th Standing Committee without the right to vote.

7. These reports shall be annexed to the general report of the 5th Standing Committee.

8. The 5th Standing Committee shall, within the deadlines provided by paragraph 9 below, adopt a general report on the Budget and the Finance Bill. Such general report shall also address – in separate sections – the budget items for which it is responsible by subject matter, and submit it to the President of the Senate together with any minority reports.

9. When the government introduces the Budget and the Finance Bill in the Senate, the requirements provided by paragraphs 6 and 8 above shall

be met within ten and twenty-five days, respectively, of the referral date of the Finance Bill. The final vote of the Senate shall take place within the fifteen-day period thereafter. When the Budget and the Finance Bill are transmitted to the Chamber of Deputies, the deadlines for the requirements provided by paragraphs 6 and 8 shall be established by the President of the Senate in order to ensure that the final vote in the Senate may take place within thirty-five days of transmittal.

10. During the overall consideration of the Budget and the Finance Bill in respect of the parts for which they are responsible, none of the committees may deal with any other business in any capacity. When calculating the deadlines for submitting reports and for issuing opinions on other bills or matters referred, the time required for consideration of the Budget and the Finance Bill shall not be counted.

11. From the date of referral of the Finance Bill until a final vote on the Budget is called by the Senate, no other bills entailing changes in expenditure or revenue, or bills designed to change current legislation governing general State Accounts may be placed on the agenda of the Standing Committees or the Senate. Consequently, all deadlines for the submission of reports or opinions on such bills shall be suspended.

12. Paragraphs 10 and 11 above shall not apply to the consideration of bills enacting decree-laws and any other bills which, by unanimous decision of the Conference of Parliamentary Group Leaders, may not be delayed.

Rule 126-bis

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS ANNEXED TO THE BUDGET AND THE FINANCE BILL

1. The discussion in the Senate of bills annexed to the Budget and Finance Bill, as anticipated in the Economic and Fiscal Plan adopted by Parliament, and introduced in Parliament within the statutory deadlines, shall be regulated by the Conference of Parliamentary Group Leaders, pursuant to Rule 55(5) above.

2. The prohibitions provided by Rule 126(10) and (11) above shall not apply to these bills, save for the prohibition to change current legislation governing General State accounts.

2-bis. When the government introduces a bill pursuant to paragraph 1 above in the Senate, the President of the Senate shall, after receiving the opinion of the 5th Standing Committee and the Government and before referral, ascertain whether any such bill contains provisions falling outside

its own scope, as provided by current legislation and by the Economic and Fiscal Plan adopted by Parliament. If such provisions exist, the President shall notify the Senate that these have been removed for separate consideration.

2-ter. No Members' or Government amendments may be received to the bills under paragraph 1 above, containing provisions in contrast to the financial coverage rules applicable under current legislation, or which fall outside the scope of the bill as defined by current legislation and by the Economic and Fiscal Plan adopted by Parliament.

2-quater. If the requirements pursuant to paragraph *2-ter* above are not met, the President of the Senate may, after receiving the opinion of the 5th Standing Committee and the Government, declare inadmissible such parts of the text as submitted by the committee to the Senate.

2-quinquies. Only the amendments rejected by the committee responsible by subject matter may be submitted to the Senate, even by only one proposer, notwithstanding the right of the President to admit new amendments which are related to amendments proposed by the committee or already carried by the Senate.

Rule 127

RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE BUDGET AND THE FINANCE BILL

1. Recommendations shall be tabled and addressed by the committees responsible by subject matter.

2. A recommendation accepted by the government or passed by the Senate shall be attached, together with the reports, to the general report of the 5th Standing Committee. A recommendation rejected by the Government or the relevant committee may only be re-tabled in the Senate if signed by eight Senators.

Rule 128

AMENDMENTS TO THE BUDGET AND THE FINANCE BILL

1. Members' and Government amendments to the Finance Bill shall be submitted to the 5th Standing Committee. Senators who are not members of the 5th Standing Committee may request, or be requested, to explain their amendments.

2. Members' and Government amendments to the Budget shall be tabled in the committees responsible by subject matter. If carried, they shall be referred to the 5th Standing Committee as draft committee

amendments. Any rejection of such amendments shall be mentioned in the report of the 5th Standing Committee.

3. Rejected amendments may be introduced again in the Senate, even by the proposer alone.

4. The President may admit new amendments in the Senate which are related to amendments proposed by the 5th Standing Committee or passed by the Senate.

5. The deadlines for proposing Members' and Government amendments to the Senate shall be set by the Conference of Parliamentary Group Leaders.

6. Members' and Government amendments to the Budget and the Finance Bill containing any provisions which are in contrast to the financial coverage rules under current legislation or falling outside the scope of the Budget or the Finance Bill as defined by current legislation, or which are designed to change current rules governing General State accounting, shall be inadmissible.

Rule 129

DEBATE IN THE SENATE ON THE BUDGET AND THE FINANCE BILL

1. A single general debate shall be held on the Budget and the Finance Bill, in which speakers may only comment on the overall budget approach and economic, fiscal and public administration policy. After the closure of the debate, the rapporteurs and the President of the Council of Ministers or one or more ministers delegated by the President of the Council of Ministers may address the Senate. Any recommendations regarding the aforementioned matters shall then be put to the vote.

2. When the government introduces the Budget and the Finance Bill in the Senate, consideration of individual sections of the Budget shall have priority over consideration of the individual sections of, and the final vote on, the Finance Bill. Any changes to the Budget resulting from passage through the Senate of the Finance Bill shall, as soon as they are tabled by Government, be referred immediately to the 5th Standing Committee, which shall report to the Senate. A notice of such changes shall then be put to the vote in the Senate and previously approved relevant sections of the Budget and related tables shall be deemed thus amended. The Budget, as amended, shall then be put to the final vote.

3. When the Budget and the Finance Bill are received from the Chamber of Deputies, the Senate shall debate and vote on the individual

sections of the Budget, as received from the Chamber of Deputies. In this stage only amendments relating to budget provisions unrelated to provisions of the Finance Bill may be received. Individual sections shall then be debated and voted on, and the Finance Bill shall be put to the final vote. Any changes to the Budget resulting from passage of the Finance Bill in a text different to the one received from the Chamber of Deputies shall then be debated and voted on pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2 above. The Budget, as amended, shall eventually be put to the final vote.

4. The individual sections of the Budget or the Finance Bill shall be considered and put to the vote in the sequence established by current legislation. When considering the Finance Bill, priority shall be given to provisions entailing the highest level of market borrowing and with the highest net borrowing requirement, following scrutiny and voting on any amendments thereto.

5. During consideration of individual sections, only the proposers of recommendations and amendments may take the floor for the purposes of explaining them, together with the rapporteur and the representative of the Government for the purposes of expressing their opinions. A recommendation relating to an accounting table shall be put to the vote before the relevant section.

6. The stages of the debate on the Budget and the Finance Bill defined in this Rule shall be regulated by the Conference of Parliamentary Group Leaders pursuant to Rule 55(5) above.

Rule 130

GENERAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS

The General Government Accounts Bill shall be referred to the 5th Standing Committee for consideration. Any opinion issued by any other committee shall be annexed to the report that the 5th Standing Committee shall submit to the Senate.

Rule 131

CONSIDERATION OF THE COURT OF AUDITORS REPORT ON STATE-SUBSIDISED AGENCIES

1. The reports of the Court of Auditors on government agencies which the State regularly subsidises are referred simultaneously to the committees responsible by subject matter and to the 5th Standing Committee.

2. Each such committee shall vest one or more Senators with the responsibility of studying the reports of each government agency or group of agencies in order to identify instances which the committees should investigate. Any other member of each committee may report similar instances.

3. By June each year, committees shall submit a report to the 5th Standing Committee setting out their conclusions on aspects relating to the management and actual work of government agencies falling within their remit.

4. By September each year, the 5th Standing Committee shall submit a general report to the Senate on the economic and financial aspects of State-subsidised government agencies and on their consistency with the Economic Development Programme. This report, to which committee reports shall be annexed, may also contain draft resolutions relating to the management of such agencies, also in the light of the conclusions of the aforementioned report.

5. The 5th Standing Committee's general report shall, as a rule, be debated by the Senate before debating the Budget.

6. Any comments submitted to the Senate by the Court of Auditors further to their yearly report shall be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration. The committee's feedback shall be included in the yearly committee report. However, when the comments of the Court of Auditors are particularly serious or urgent, such committee shall submit a special report to the 5th Standing Committee, which shall report promptly to the Senate.

Rule 132

QUALIFIED COURT OF AUDITORS' DECREES

A Qualified Court Of Auditors' decree shall be referred to the committee responsible by subject matter, which shall consider it within 30 days of referral. Following consideration, such committee may adopt a resolution.

Rule 133

REQUESTS TO THE COURT OF AUDITORS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Committees may request the President of the Senate to request the Court of Auditors to supply information, explanations and documentation, subject to compliance with the powers vested in the court under current legislation.

Rule 134

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM AN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES

A committee may solicit the President of the Senate to request an oversight committee including senators among its members to supply information, explanations and documentation, subject to the powers vested in such committee under current legislation.

TITLE XVI
REQUESTS TO PROSECUTE A SENATOR AND
VERIFICATION OF POWERS

Rule 135

REQUESTS TO PROSECUTE SENATORS UNDER ARTICLE 68 OF THE
CONSTITUTION

1. A request to prosecute a Senator shall be referred by the President to the Select Committee on Elections and Parliamentary Immunity, pursuant to Rule 19 above. The minister responsible shall submit documents to this committee upon request.

2. The only instance in which this Select Committee shall cease consideration of a request to prosecute a Senator shall be when the minister informs the Committee that the case has been dropped.

3. The quorum for meetings of the Select Committee on Elections and Parliamentary Immunity shall be one-third of its members.

4. All documents received by the Select Committee relating to requests to prosecute a Senator may only be viewed by the members of such Committee and only on its premises.

5. A Senator who has received a request for prosecution and fails to voluntarily appear before a magistrate to testify under the code of criminal procedure may provide explanation, also in writing, to the Select Committee.

6. If the request to prosecute refers to the crime of contempt of Parliament, the Select Committee may appoint one or more of its members to conduct a preliminary enquiry jointly with representatives of the corresponding committee of the Chamber of deputies.

7. The Select Committee shall report to the Senate within 30 days of the referral of the request unless a new deadline has been set. Such extension may not exceed thirty days and may be granted only once.

8. Having filed a report or if the deadline under paragraph 7 above has passed without the report being issued, the request shall be placed on the current calendar or work plan.

9. Minority reports shall always be admissible.

10. The Senate shall resolve on the Select Committee's proposal or, if this has not been made, on the request to prosecute, after hearing the report and information from the Chairperson of the Select Committee or from a duly delegated member of such Committee.

11. The provisions of this Rule shall apply, where relevant, to all requests to prosecute Senators submitted to the Senate pursuant to Article 68 of the Constitution.

Rule 135-bis

EXAMINATION OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE JUDICIARY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROSECUTING A SENATOR FOR CRIMES UNDER ARTICLE 96 OF THE CONSTITUTION

1. The President of the Senate, within five days of receiving them, shall submit to the Select Committee on Elections and Parliamentary Immunity all the documents received from the Judiciary for the purpose of attaining authorisation to prosecute a senator for the crimes under Article 96 of the Constitution.

2. The Select Committee shall invite the Senator concerned to provide any clarification he deems appropriate or which the Committee deems useful and shall permit the Senator concerned to see the case papers and produce documents and submit written defences.

3. The Committee shall submit a written report to the Senate within thirty days of receiving the documents. Minority reports may also be submitted.

4. Should the Committee consider that the Senate is not empowered to resolve on the request to prosecute, it shall propose that the documents be returned to the judicial authorities.

5. With the exception of the case under paragraph 4 above, the Committee shall propose granting or denying authorisation to proceed against each of the Senators under investigation.

6. After submitting the report or if the deadline under paragraph 3 above has expired, the Senate shall convene within 60 days from the date on which the request was submitted to the President of the Senate. In the

event that a report is not submitted by the Committee, the President of the Senate shall vest a member of the Committee with the authority to give an oral report.

7. Until the end of the debate in the Senate, at least twenty Senators may make proposals differing from the conclusions of the Committee in the form of specific reasoned recommendations.

8. The Senate shall vote firstly on motions to return the documents to the judicial authorities pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 4 above. If these motions are rejected and there are no further motions to consider, the sitting shall be suspended in order to enable the Committee to move further proposals. If the Committee has moved that authorisation to prosecute be granted and no motions to deny authorisation have been tabled, the Senate shall not put the matter to the vote, it being deemed that the conclusions of the Committee have been adopted. Otherwise, the motions denying authorisation to prosecute shall be put to the vote, and shall be deemed rejected if they fail to secure an absolute majority of the members of the Senate.

8-bis. Motions denying authorisation to prosecute shall be put to the vote at a morning sitting. Senators may vote throughout the sitting and during the afternoon sitting on the same day by simultaneous roll-call vote or, later, by making their vote known to the Secretaries. In the interval between the two sittings, the ballot papers shall be kept in the custody of the Secretaries.

9. If a request is received to prosecute several Senators as conspirators to commit the same crime, the Senate shall resolve separately in respect of each one.

10. In the case of an authorisation under section 10(1) of Constitutional Amendment Act No 1 of 16 January 1989, the Committee shall report orally to the Senate, which shall meet within fifteen days of the date of the request from the judicial authorities. The Senate shall vote on the Committee's conclusions.

11. The provisions of Rule 135(3) and (4) above shall apply with respect to the validity of meetings of the Committee and to the documents submitted to it.

Rule 135-ter
VERIFICATION OF POWERS

1. The Senate shall debate on and put to the vote motions submitted by the Select Committee on Elections and Parliamentary Immunity in relation to challenged elections and motions relating to disqualification.

2. Until the end of the debate in the Senate, no less than twenty Senators may table a motion differing from the conclusions of the Committee and including a reasoned recommendation, in the absence of which the Senate shall not proceed to vote on the conclusions of the Committee, which shall *ipso facto* be adopted.

TITLE XVII SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Rule 136

BILLS RETURNED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

1. If the President of the Republic, pursuant to Article 74 of the Constitution, delivers a reasoned message to Parliament requesting reconsideration of a bill already passed, such bill shall be considered by both Houses following the same order as when first approved.

2. The message submitted to the Senate shall be referred to the appropriate committee. Such committee shall submit a report on the bill to the Senate, which may restrict the debate to the parts mentioned in the President's message. The bill shall be put to the vote, first section by section, and then as a whole.

Rule 137

REGIONAL LAWS IN CONFLICT WITH NATIONAL OR REGIONAL INTERESTS – CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTION ON ITS MERITS

1. In the case provided by the final paragraph of article 127 of the Constitution, the President of the Senate, in consultation with the President of the Chamber of deputies, shall request the Committee on Regional Issues, pursuant to article 126 of the Constitution, to issue its opinion on the merits of conflicting interests, and set the deadline within which the opinion shall be issued.

2. As soon as the opinion is received by the President of the Senate, it shall be referred to the appropriate committee, which shall report to the Senate.

3. The Senate shall debate and resolve on the report following ordinary procedures. The decision adopted by the Senate shall then be notified to the government and the Speaker of the Chamber of deputies.

Rule 138

EXAMINATION OF VOTES OF THE REGIONAL COUNCILS

1. Votes submitted by the regional councils shall be notified to the Senate and referred to the committee responsible by subject matter. Committee scrutiny may be concluded with a report to the Senate or a resolution requesting the government to take action.

2. If such votes are relevant to a bill already referred to a committee, they shall be referred to such committee to be discussed jointly with the bills.

Rule 139

RULINGS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT –

REFERRAL TO A COMMITTEE AND FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE DECISIONS

1. In the event that a legislative measure or an act having the force of law has been declared unconstitutional pursuant to article 136 of the Constitution, the President shall notify the Senate of the ruling of the Constitutional Court as soon as it is served. It shall be printed and referred to the relevant committee.

2. Any ruling of the Constitutional Court may be referred by the President of the Senate to a committee for consideration, as the President may deem appropriate.

3. When such committee considers that the provisions declared unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court should be replaced by new provisions, and no legislative initiative has yet taken in this regard, it shall adopt a resolution inviting the Government to proceed to take action.

4. A similar resolution may be adopted by a committee when it considers it advisable for the government to take action in relation to rulings of the Constitutional Court.

5. The President of the Senate shall submit the resolution thus adopted to the President of the Council of Ministers, and notify the Speaker of the Chamber of deputies thereof.

Rule 139-bis

COMMITTEE OPINIONS ON GOVERNMENT MEASURES

1. When the Government is under a statutory duty to request a parliamentary opinion on a measure falling within the Government's jurisdiction, such request and its referral to the standing committee

responsible by subject matter shall be announced before the Senate at the first sitting following the receipt of such request.

2. Within twenty days of referral, which may be extended once only for not more than ten days by the President of the Senate, the committee shall submit its opinion to the President of the Senate who shall forward it to the Government.

3. The President, however, in consideration of the complexity of the measure, may also agree, after consultation with the Speaker of the Chamber of deputies, to set a longer deadline.

4. The deadline under the paragraphs above shall also run when the Senate is in recess. For the purpose of considering any measure received after the recess which the government deems to be urgent, the committee responsible shall be convened by the President of the Senate pursuant to Rule 29(6) above, by sending the agenda for the meeting to all the Senators with at least three days notice.

5. The provisions of this Rule also apply to opinions to be issued by a joint committee. If the committee sits in the Senate, the referral of the measure under paragraph 1 above and the notice convening the meeting pursuant to paragraph 4 above shall be served by the President of the Senate.

Rule 140
PETITIONS

1. When the Senate receives a petition requesting legislative measures or setting out general needs, the President may order that its authenticity and the citizenship status of the petitioner be ascertained, save where the petition is submitted personally by a Senator.

2. A summary of the petition is then announced to the Senate and referred to the committee responsible by subject matter.

Rule 141
CONSIDERATION OF PETITIONS

1. A petition relating to a bill that has already been referred to a committee shall also be referred to such committee to be discussed jointly with the bill.

2. The relevant committee may also resolve to admit or reject other petitions, after appointing a rapporteur. In the first instance, if no

measure is adopted pursuant to Rule 80 above, the petition shall be transmitted by the President of the Senate to the Government, with the request to act on it.

3. In all cases the petitioner shall be notified of the decision adopted by the Senate.

TITLE XVIII

LIAISON PROCEDURES WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Rule 142

DISCUSSION OF BUSINESS AND REPORTS RELATING TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. At the request of the Government or eight Senators, the 14th Standing Committee may resolve that a debate, with the participation of the minister responsible, be held on draft measures of the European Commission published in the Official Journal of the European Union and in relation to the presence of such draft measures or other business on the Council agenda, or in relation to matters relating to agreements on the Union or the activities of the Union and its bodies.

2. The Standing Committee on European Union Policies shall consider the reports on European Union affairs submitted by the Government and, after receiving the opinions of the committees responsible by subject matter, shall report to the Senate.

3. Government reports shall simultaneously be referred also to the 3rd Standing Committee which may express its opinion on them. Such opinion shall be printed and annexed to the report of the 14th Standing Committee.

Rule 143

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND DECISIONS OF INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLIES

1. Resolutions adopted by the European Parliament and decisions adopted by the international assemblies of which Italian parliamentary delegations are part, and which have been formally submitted to the Senate, shall be referred by the President, after informing the Senate, to the committees responsible by subject matter or, when they refer to the

institutions or general policies of the European Union, to the 14th Standing Committee.

2. In the event that the committee responsible by subject matter resolves to debate the resolutions and decisions under paragraph 1 above and any related business, it shall, through the President of the Senate, request the 3rd Standing Committee and the 14th Standing Committee to issue their opinions by the deadline under Rule 39, counting from the date of the request.

3. In the event that the 14th Standing Committee resolves to debate the resolutions and decisions under paragraph 1 above, and any related business, it shall request the 1st Standing Committee and the 3rd Standing Committee, through the President of the Senate, to issue their opinions by the deadline under Rule 39 above, counting from the date of the request.

Rule 144

CONSIDERATION OF REGULATORY MEASURES AND OTHER RELEVANT INSTRUMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. In order to deliver an opinion on a motion pursuant to paragraph 6 below on whether follow-up action should be taken by Parliament or the Government, the committee responsible by subject matter shall scrutinise measures and instruments under Rule 29(2-*bis*) above, the Government's progress reports on EU procedures for adopting the draft instruments, and the Government's progress report on the transposition of EU legislation into Italian law. The 3rd and 14th Standing Committees shall be requested for opinions, which shall be annexed to the report of the relevant committee.

2. The President of the Senate shall announce the report before the Senate, forward it to the President of the Council of Ministers, and notify the Speaker of the Chamber of deputies thereof.

3. Bills introduced by the Government to enforce EU treaties and follow-up amendments to them or bills to enforce Community measures which the Government is required to submit to Parliament shall be referred for opinion to the committees responsible by subject matter. The 14th Standing Committee may deliver its own comments and proposals to such committee. If this is the case, such comments and proposals shall be annexed to the opinion of the committee responsible by subject matter.

4. The 14th Standing Committee shall consider the instruments mentioned in paragraphs 1-3 above when they refer to the institutions or broad EU policy; in this case, the 1st and the 3rd Standing Committees may

submit their comments and proposals to the 14th Standing Committee: Any such proposals shall be annexed to the opinion of the 14th Committee.

5. In the cases provided by paragraphs 1 and 3 above, the 14th Standing Committee may request that its opinions, comments and proposals be forwarded to the Government, through the President of the Senate, in the event that the committee responsible by subject matter does not issue an opinion within 15 days of referral. The 1st Standing Committee and the 3rd Standing Committee may do likewise, in the cases provided by paragraph 1 and paragraph 4, respectively.

6. When the matters referred to in the paragraphs above have been considered, committees may adopt resolutions laying down principles and guidelines which shall apply to Italian policy in respect of the preparatory work for the development of Community measures and instruments, stating their opinion on the general approach adopted by the Government in respect of each European Union policy, sets of regulatory measures currently being issued on a subject, or individual regulatory measures of particular relevance to general policy. The provisions of Rule 50(3) above shall apply to such resolutions.

Rule 144-bis

REFERRAL AND CONSIDERATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION BILL AND REPORT ON ITALY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. The European Union Bill and the annual report on Italy's participation in the European Union shall be referred to the 14th Standing Committee for general consideration in a reporting capacity and to committees responsible by subject matter for consideration of measures under their responsibility.

2. Within 15 days of referral, each committee shall scrutinise the parts of the European Union Bill for which it is responsible and conclude its work by adopting a report and appointing a rapporteur, who shall normally be one of the senators sitting on the 14th Standing Committee. Any minority report tabled in the Committee shall also be submitted within the same deadline. One proposer for each minority report may attend, and report to, the sittings of the 14th Standing Committee. Within the same fifteen-day deadline, each committee shall examine the parts of the annual report on Italy's participation in the European Union under their responsibility and conclude their work by adopting an opinion. After the deadline, the 14th Standing Committee may at all events proceed to examine the bill and the report.

3. After the deadline under paragraph 2 above and within the following thirty days the 14th Standing Committee shall complete its consideration of the European Union Bill and draft a general report for the Senate, to which the reports under paragraph 2 above shall be attached. After the deadline provided by paragraph 2 above and within the following 30 days, the 14th Standing Committee shall complete its consideration of the annual report on Italy's participation in the European Union and draft a general report for the Senate, to which committee opinions under paragraph 2 above shall be attached.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 97 above, any amendments relating to matters which fall outside the specific scope of the European Union Bill, as defined by current legislation, shall not be received. In such cases, the President of the Senate may declare the text proposed by the committee to be inadmissible.

5. Only amendments rejected by the 14th Standing Committee may be tabled before the Senate, even by the proposer alone, save for the right of the President to receive any other amendments related to amendments already introduced by the committee or passed by the Senate.

6. The general debate on the European Union Bill takes place simultaneously with the debate on the annual report on Italy's participation in the European Union. Until this debate is concluded, motions may be tabled on the annual report pursuant to Rule 105. The debate on the European Union Bill and the annual report on Italy's participation in the European Union shall be regulated by the Conference of Parliamentary Group Leaders, pursuant to Rule 55(5).

7. After the final vote on the European Union Bill, the Senate shall resolve on any draft resolutions that may have been moved pursuant to paragraph 6 above. If several draft resolutions have been received, the first one to be put to the vote shall be the one accepted by the government, to which each Senator may move amendments.

Rule 144-ter

CONSIDERATION OF JUDGMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

1. The most important judgments of the European Court of Justice shall be submitted to the committee responsible by subject matter and to the 14th Standing Committee.

2. The committee responsible shall consider the matter, with the participation of a government representative and a rapporteur appointed by the 14th Standing Committee in the debate.

3. At the end of the debate, such committee may adopt a resolution stating whether it considers that the national authorities should take initiatives or ensure compliance, indicating the criteria to be followed. The provisions of Rule 50(3) above shall apply to this resolution.

4. The President of the Senate shall submit the such resolution to the President of the Council of Ministers, and notify the Speaker of the Chamber of deputies thereof.

5. If a bill dealing with the same matter is already on the committee agenda, or if one has been introduced in the meantime, both shall be submitted to joint consideration and in such case the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 4 above shall not apply.

Rule 144-quater

GATHERING INFORMATION FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS

1. In relation to matters falling within its remit, a committee may, with leave of the President of the Senate, invite members of the European Parliament to provide information on aspect relating to the powers and activities of EU institutions.

2. With leave of the President of the Senate, a committee may invite members of the European Commission to provide information on the policies of the European Union falling within such committee's terms of reference.

TITLE XIX

QUESTIONS, INTERPELLATIONS AND MOTIONS

Rule 145

QUESTIONS – TABLING QUESTIONS

1. The purpose of a question is to solicit information or explanations on a particular issue from the ministers responsible, or to learn which measures have been adopted or are planned to be introduced in relation to the issue at hand.

2. A Senator wishing to put a question shall table it in writing, indicating whether a written or oral reply is required. If this is not specified, it shall be assumed that the questioner requires a written reply.

Rule 146

RECEIVING QUESTIONS AND ANNOUNCING THEM TO THE SENATE

The President, having ensured that a question meets the requirements of Rule 145 above and is not framed in inappropriate language, shall announce it to the Senate and order it to be published in the records of the sitting.

Rule 147

ORAL QUESTIONS IN A COMMITTEE

By agreement with the questioner, the President may rule that the oral reply be given in a sitting of the committee responsible by subject matter, and shall notify the Senate accordingly.

Rule 148

PROCEDURE FOR ORAL QUESTIONS IN THE SENATE

1. As a general rule, one session each week shall be reserved for questions to ministers requiring an oral reply, save when Parliament is in recess.

2. Questions requiring an oral reply shall be placed on the agenda by no later than the fifteenth day after the date on which they are tabled, in the order in which they are tabled or in the order which the President deems appropriate for the purposes of the business of the Senate.

3. The Government may announce to the Senate, and explain the reasons thereof, that they cannot reply to the question or they should postpone the reply to a later date, to be specified.

4. Questioners who are not present when their turn comes to put a question shall lose the right to reply and the question shall be declared lapsed.

Rule 149

QUESTIONER'S REJOINDER

1. Questioners may make a rejoinder to the Government's reply signifying whether or not they are satisfied with the reply to their question.

2. Questioners shall have a maximum of five minutes at their disposal. If the questioner fails to stop speaking when the allotted time runs out, the President shall call the speaker to order, and if the questioner refuses to comply, the President shall order him to stop speaking.

Rule 150

POSTPONEMENT OF QUESTION TIME TO ANOTHER SITTING OF THE SENATE

In the event that not all the questions on the agenda can be put, the President shall postpone the remaining questions to be brought at the beginning of the following question time session.

Rule 151

URGENT ORAL QUESTIONS

At the request of the questioner or the Government to treat a question to be put in the Senate as a matter of urgency, the President shall rule on the request and may order it to be put immediately or at the sitting on the following day, notwithstanding the right of the Government under Rule 148(3) above.

Rule 151-bis

QUESTIONS REQUESTING AN IMMEDIATE REPLY

1. From time to time, and at all events at least once a month, part of the sitting for the debate on bills shall be set aside for questions requiring immediate answer on matters specifically identified by the Conference of Parliamentary Group Leaders.

2. During these questions, the government shall be represented by the President of the Council of Ministers or the Deputy President of the Council of Ministers, or by the Minister responsible by subject matter.

3. The representative of the Government may speak first, if so requested, for a maximum of 10 minutes.

4. One senator for each parliamentary group may put questions, for not more than one minute, in the form of a simple question to the Government without comments. The President shall ensure that the questioners alternate between the government and opposition Groups.

5. The representative of the government shall reply for a maximum of three minutes. The questioner shall be entitled to a rejoinder for a maximum of three minutes.

6. When the President of the Council of Ministers gives a reply, or when the importance of the question makes it advisable, the President may rule that it shall be broadcast live on television.

Rule 152

QUESTIONS REQUESTING AN ORAL REPLY IN A COMMITTEE

1. Questions to be put for an oral reply in a committee shall be placed on such committee's agenda within 15 days of being tabled.

2. Questioners who are not members of such committee shall be notified that their question has been put on the agenda at least twenty-four hours before the date of the sitting at which the question is to be put.

3. Questions placed on the agenda shall be put at the beginning of each sitting.

4. After forty minutes into the sitting, the Chairperson shall postpone any remaining questions to the following sitting.

5. Anything not regulated by this Rule shall be regulated by the rules for questions put on the floor of the Senate.

6. A verbatim report shall be compiled and published for the parts of committee sittings devoted to questions.

Rule 153

QUESTIONS REQUESTING A WRITTEN ANSWER

1. The Minister responsible shall reply within twenty days to a questioner who has requested a written answer. The Minister shall also submit copy of such reply to the President of the Senate, notwithstanding the right provided by Rule 148(3) above.

2. If the reply to the question has not been supplied within the set deadline, the President of the Senate shall, by agreement with the questioner, order the question to be put on the agenda for an oral reply at the first sitting of the Senate reserved for question time, or at the first sitting of the committee responsible by subject matter, and shall notify the Senate accordingly.

3. The written reply shall be published in full in the records of the Senate.

4. Questions requesting a written answer may also be tabled when Parliament is in recess.

Rule 154

INTERPELLATIONS – TABLING INTERPELLATIONS

1. An interpellation is a question put to the government regarding the motives or intentions underlying its conduct on matters of particular importance or of a general nature.

2. All interpellations put to the government shall be tabled in writing and submitted to the President who, after ensuring their admissibility according to the criteria set out in Rule 146 above, shall order them to be announced to the Senate and published in the records of the sitting.

Rule 155

SETTING THE DATE FOR INTERPELLATIONS

The President shall, after consulting the Government and the questioner, decide at which sitting the interpellation shall be dealt with, save where the questioner requests that the date be set by the Senate. In this case, after hearing the stance of the Government, the Senate shall resolve on the date by show of hands, without debate.

Rule 156

PROCEDURE FOR INTERPELLATIONS

1. Interpellations shall normally be placed on the agenda of sittings reserved for questions.

2. The questioner may not speak for more than twenty minutes when putting an interpellation. Following the reply from the Government, the questioner may make a rejoinder for a maximum of five minutes. The provisions of Rule 149(2) above shall apply.

3. Interpellations and questions regarding identical or closely connected matters shall normally be dealt with together. In this case, interpellations shall be given priority. After the Government's reply, rejoinders may be made by the Senators putting the questions and the interpellations, in that order.

Rule 156-bis

SUMMARY PROCEEDINGS FOR INTERPELLATIONS

1. Parliamentary Group leaders, speaking on behalf of their respective Groups, and the representatives of the various political elements in the Group of Non-Attached Members, may submit no more than one Group interpellation per month.

2. In the case of interpellations seconded by at least one-tenth of the Senators, the procedures and the speaking times provided by this Rule shall apply. Each senator may second yearly no more than six interpellations on which summary proceedings are applied.

3. The interpellations referred to in this Rule shall be placed on the agenda within fifteen days of being tabled. If necessary, supplementary sittings will be held.

4. A representative of the Parliamentary Group putting the interpellation or of the senators that have seconded the interpellation pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2 above may put the interpellation, speaking for a maximum of ten minutes. The questioner may make a rejoinder following the Government statement speaking for not more than five minutes.

Rule 157

MOTIONS – INTRODUCTION – SETTING THE DATE FOR THE DEBATE

1. The purpose of a motion is to move a resolution by the Senate. A motion shall be tabled by at least eight Senators. After ascertaining that the motion is admissible under the requirements of Rule 146 above, the President shall have it announced before the Senate and published in the records of the sitting.

2. When the proposers of a motion request that the date for the relating debate be set by the Senate, the Senate shall, after hearing a representative of the government and one of the proposers, vote on the request by show of hands and without debate. If necessary, it may decide to hold a supplementary sitting pursuant to Rule 55(7) above.

3. If the motion is seconded by at least one-fifth of the members of the Senate, it shall be debated within thirty days of being tabled. To this end, the President shall exercise the right provided by Rule 55(6) above and, if necessary, order a supplementary sitting. Each Senator may not second more than six motions, to which summary proceedings have been applied, in any one year.

Rule 158

SINGLE DEBATE WITH VOTE ON SEVERAL MOTIONS

1. Motions relating to facts or matters that are identical or closely connected shall be addressed in a single debate.

2. In this case, one proposer for each motion shall speak before the floor is given to the other registered speakers.

3. If several motions are tabled, the ones which do not pre-empt others shall be put to the vote first.

Rule 159

JOINT DEBATE ON MOTIONS, INTERPELLATIONS AND QUESTIONS

When interpellations and questions have been tabled on issues or matters that are identical or closely connected to those to which the motions refer, the President shall rule that they be addressed together in a single debate. Proposers of interpellations shall speak immediately after the proposers of motions, and the proposers of questions who have not taken part in the debate may take the floor, for a rejoinder, within the terms of the final paragraph of Rule 149 and immediately following the representative of the government.

Rule 160

PROCEDURE FOR DEBATING MOTIONS

The provisions of Title XII shall apply, where applicable, to debating motions. Motions shall be put to the vote prior to any recommendations relating to them.

Rule 161

MOTIONS OF CONFIDENCE AND NO-CONFIDENCE –
RESOLUTION OF CONFIDENCE

1. Motions of confidence and no-confidence in the Government shall be motivated and voted on by calling the roll.
2. A motion of no-confidence must be seconded by at least one-tenth of the members of the Senate, and shall be discussed at the sitting established by the Senate, after consulting the government, but not before three days following the date when it is tabled.
3. In respect of the motions provided by this Rule, no recommendations may be tabled, and the motions may not be voted on in separate parts.
4. A vote of confidence in the Government may not refer to proposals to amend the Rules of Procedure, and in general on any matter relating to the internal management of the Senate.

TITLE XX
PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Rule 162

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

1. Proposals to initiate a parliamentary inquiry shall be regulated, in so far as applicable, by the provisions regulating bills.

2. When a proposal to set up a Parliamentary inquiry has been seconded by at least one-tenth of the members of the Senate, it should be placed on the agenda of the committee responsible by subject matter, which shall meet within five days following the date of referral. The President of the Senate shall establish a deadline by which such committee shall report to the Senate. After the expiry of the deadline, consideration of the proposal as has been tabled shall be put on the agenda of the first sitting following the expiry of such deadline, or of a supplementary sitting to be held on the same day or the following day. The debate in the Senate shall be regulated by Rule 55(5) above.

3. When the Senate resolves to set up an inquiry into matters of public interest, a committee shall be appointed in such a manner so as to ensure that its composition reflects the sizes of Parliamentary Groups.

4. If the Chamber of deputies also resolves to set up an inquiry on an identical subject, the committees thus established by both Houses may, by joint agreement, resolve to proceed jointly.

5. Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution, such committee shall have equal powers as the judiciary.

6. A decision to establish an inquiry shall be published in the Official Gazette of the Italian Republic.

Rule 163

TRANSFER OF MEMBERS OF A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY AWAY FROM SENATE PREMISES

When a committee of inquiry deems it appropriate to meet elsewhere or to detail any of its members out of premises, it shall notify the President of the Senate thereof.

TITLE XXI DEPUTATIONS

Rule 164

APPOINTMENT AND COMPOSITION OF DEPUTATIONS

The President of the Senate shall resolve on the number of members of a deputation and proceed to appoint its members ensuring, as far as possible, that the various parliamentary groups are represented on it. The President or a Vice President shall always be a member of a deputation.

TITLE XXII
SENATE BUDGET AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

Rule 165

SENATE BUDGET AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS – BUDGET VARIATIONS

1. The budget and the financial accounts, as compiled by the Quaestors and agreed by the Bureau on the basis of a report submitted by the Quaestors, shall be referred to the chairperson of the 5th Standing Committee who, after examining them with the chairpersons of the other standing committees, shall report to the Senate.

2. The debate in the Senate shall normally be public; it shall be held *in camera* when the Senate Bureau or twenty Senators so request.

3. Any variations to budget allocations shall be decided by the Bureau.

TITLE XXIII
SENATE STAFF

Rule 166

SENATE STAFF RULES

1. The Senate staff report to the Secretary-General who is accountable to the President.

2. Staffing levels, duties and powers of staff and all rules governing the Senate staff shall be set down in Staff Rules agreed by the Senate Bureau.

TITLE XXIV
ADOPTION OF AND AMENDMENTS TO THE SENATE
RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 167

ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE SENATE RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. The Senate shall adopt its rules of procedure by an absolute majority of its members.

2. Each senator may table proposals to amend these Rules of

Procedure, which shall be printed and referred for consideration to the Select Committee on Rules.

3. The Select Committee on Rules shall submit a written report to the Senate, which shall be printed and distributed at least five days before the beginning of the debate.

4. In the Senate, no sub-amendments may be tabled to amendments under consideration, unless they have been tabled at least forty-eight hours before the beginning of the debate and submitted to the Select Committee on Rules for consideration. The President may, however, give leave to table new amendments during the course of the debate, if they are related to amendments previously carried.

5. All amendments to these Rules shall be adopted with an absolute majority of the members of the Senate.

6. When a proposal to amend these Rules consists in a consistent set of interconnected measures, an absolute majority is only required for the final adoption of the set of rules; eight senators may, however, request individual provisions be dealt with and put to the vote separately. In such case, an absolute majority shall be required to adopt each separate part.

7. These Rules and any amendments thereto shall be published in the Official Gazette of the Italian Republic.

TRANSITIONAL PROVISION

1. During the 16th Parliament, all Parliamentary Groups established at the beginning of the term shall be represented in the Senate Bureau.

2. A Group not represented in the Bureau following the votes under Rule 5(1), (2), (2-*bis*) and (2-*ter*) may request that a further Bureau Secretary be elected. A decision on such request shall be made by the Bureau.

3. If the existing ratio between majority and opposition members is overturned following a request under paragraph 2 above, a further Secretary from among the members of a majority Group shall be elected.

4. In votes for elections under paragraphs 2 and 3 above, which shall be held in the course of the same sitting, each Senator may write only one name on their ballot papers. One Senator per Group shall be elected, provided that such Senator obtains the largest number of votes and belongs to a Group under paragraph 2 or 3 above.

5. The provisions of Rule 5(2-*quater*), (3) and (4) shall apply.

