



СОБРАНИЕ НА РЕПУБЛИКА СЕВЕРНА МАКЕДОНИЈА



MANDATE AND IMMUNITY OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

MANDATE OF MPS

Mandate is the right of a member of parliament to represent the citizens by performing the role of an MP and to make decisions upon his/her conviction (free mandate).

The MPs in the Assembly of Republic of North Macedonia are elected for a period of four years on general, direct and free elections by a secret ballot. They are elected every four years, during the last 90 days of the mandate of the previous parliamentary composition or within 60 days from the dissolution of the Assembly.

The mandate of MPs is verified by the Assembly and starts from the day of verification and lasts until the day of verification of the mandate of the newly elected MPs, but no longer than 4 years.

MPs' mandate can be extended only in cases of a war or an extraordinary situation.

The constitutive session of the Assembly is held 20 days after the elections at the latest. If the constitutive session is not convened within the foreseen deadline, the MPs assemble themselves and constitute the Assembly on the 21st day from the completion of the elections.

The Assembly verifies the mandate of the MPs at the constitutive session upon the proposal from the Verification Committee of the Assembly.

When the mandate is verified, the MP acquires the rights and obligations specified in the Constitution, in the law, in the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and other regulations and general acts. The MP cannot be dismissed from the function, but the mandate may be terminated or revoked prior to the expiry of the time of her/his mandate. The MP's mandate ends prior to the specified elected mandate in one of the following cases: if she/he resigns; if she/he is convicted of crime that is punishable with at least five years of imprisonment; if an incompatibility with the parliamentary function is established; if she/he loses the citizenship of the country; if she/he is deprived of the working capacity with a valid decision or in case of death. The MP's mandate can be revoked when she/he is convicted of crime or other act subject to punishment that makes her/him not fit for the role of an MP, as well as for unjustified absence from the Assembly for a period longer than six months.

The proposal to revoke the MP's mandate is submitted by the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Mandatory-Immunity Issues, based on a previous notification from the President of the Assembly. In cases when the MP is convicted, the court that pronounced the sentence notifies the President of the Assembly. The proposal of the committee is discussed at the next session of the Assembly, whereby the discussion can end by reaching a decision to revoke the MP's mandate, if that is decided by 2/3 of the total number of MPs.

In case of self-dissolution of the Assembly of Republic of Macedonia, the mandates of the MPs end early. The Assembly is dissolved by a decision of the majority of the total number of MPs.

- MPs are elected for a period of four years
- The MP's mandate can end or be revoked only in the cases and the manner specified by the Constitution, the law and the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly

IMMUNITY OF MPS

Members of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia enjoy immunity from the day of their mandates' verification until the end of mandates.

According to the Constitution, MPs enjoy two types of immunity: non-accountability of the MP (substantive or essential immunity) and inviolability of the MP (procedural immunity). These two types of immunity ensure the freedom of MPs in the performance of their role and the independence of the representative body in the execution of the legislative branch of power.

The non-accountability of an MP refers to the fact that an MP cannot be criminally or otherwise held responsible or arrested for having stated an opinion, or because of the way the MP voted at the sessions of the Assembly or its working bodies. In this way, the substantive immunity guarantees the freedom of speech; however, it does not protect the MP from responsibility for any stated opinions outside the sessions of the Assembly or its working bodies. For instance, the MP shall not be held responsible if another MP or citizen is insulted during the parliamentary discussion, but shall be held responsible for any insult made outside of the Assembly.

This type of immunity cannot be revoked and shall be valid even after the end of the MP's mandate.

The substantive immunity does not exempt the MP from the obligation to respect the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly. The President of the Assembly has the right to remove the MP from the session, when despite a warning and a removal from the floor, she/he further disrupts the order at the session or uses expressions that ruin the dignity of the Assembly.

The inviolability of an MP (procedural immunity) refers to crimes committed outside of the legislative body. This type of immunity does not necessarily mean that criminal proceedings cannot be initiated against the MP or that the MP cannot be convicted of a crime.

The procedural immunity implies the inability to arrest an MP without approval from the Assembly, unless she/he was caught during the commission of crime that is punishable with at least five years of imprisonment.

In the first case, the competent court submits a request to the President of the Assembly to approve the arrest of an MP. In the second case, the competent authority notifies the President of the Assembly that an MP was arrested because she/he was caught during the commission of a crime which is punishable with at least 5 years of imprisonment. The competent authority notifies the President of the Assembly regarding the MP's arrest even when she/he did not invoke her/his immunity.

The President of the Assembly immediately submits the request for arrest for approval or the notification that the MP is arrested to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Mandatory-Immunity Issues, which is obligated to review the request or the notification and submit a report to the President of the Assembly within two days. The MP for whom the request refers to is notified about the session of the Committee. Based on the Committee's report, the Assembly decides if approval will be given for the MP's arrest within three days at the latest.

If the Assembly does not approve the arrest, the MP will be immediately released, even when she/he did not invoke her/his immunity.

- MPs in the Republic of North Macedonia enjoy two types of immunity: non-accountability of the MP (substantive or essential immunity) and inviolability of the MP (procedural immunity);
- Substantive immunity guarantees the freedom of speech during the sessions of the Assembly or its working bodies;
- Procedural immunity refers to the inability to arrest an MP for crimes committed outside the Assembly;
- Substantive immunity is valid even after the expiry of the MP's mandate, while the procedural mandate is valid only during the mandate.



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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

IMPLEMENTED BY:



This publication was prepared by the Parliamentary Institute as part of the Parliamentary Support Program (PSP), which is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) through the Embassy of the Swiss Confederation in the Republic of North Macedonia.

The PSP is implemented by the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" - Skopje (IDSCS) and the Center for Change Management (CCM). The content of the publication does not reflect the SDC's views.