



ORGANISATION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

The Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia is a unicameral representative body of the citizens and the holder of the legislative power of the Republic.

120 to 123 Members are elected in the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia. Each citizen of the Republic of North Macedonia who has reached the age of 18 and possesses work ability, has the right to be elected as a Member of Assembly. A citizen may run for Member of Assembly through a political party or through a group of voters with at least 1,000 signatures.

The term in office of the Members of Assembly is four years, and there are no restrictions for re-election. This term can be extended only in case of war or a state of emergency. The parliamentary mandate is a public office and it is incompatible with performing another public office or profession. The Assembly dissolves if the majority of the total number of Members of Assembly decide so.

The election of the Members of Assembly in general, direct and free elections by secret ballot means that their legitimacy stems from the will of the citizens and represents the application of the constitutional provision, according to which sovereignty derives from the citizens and is vested in the citizens.

The term "assembly" respectfully reflects the essence of the legislature – a place where citizens' representatives gather and adopt laws and other acts through an organized discussion.

CONSTITUTING THE ASSEMBLY

The Assembly is constituted no later than 20 days after the elections. The constitutive session is convened by the President of the Assembly from the previous composition. If the constitutive session is not held within this period, the elected Members meet and constitute the Assembly on the twenty-first day of the elections, and the session is presided over by the oldest elected Member. The Member of Assembly who convenes the first session presides over the session until the newly elected president or one of the vice-presidents

takes office. At this session, the mandates of the Members of Assembly are verified following the proposal of the Verification Commission. At the same session, the Assembly also elects the President of the Assembly from among its Members.

With the verification of mandates, the Members of Assembly acquire rights and duties stipulated by the Constitution, the Law and the Rules of Procedure. Members of Assembly are issued identification cards which include the right to immunity and all other rights that can be exercised in accordance with the office Member of Assembly.



ASSEMBLY'S AUTHORITY

Upon constitution, the Assembly can exercise its most important functions: legislative, electoral and control - oversight.

The basic competence of the Assembly is the adoption of laws which legally regulate social relations, as well as prescribe rights, obligations and responsibilities for social entities. In addition to the adoption of laws, the Assembly is the only body that provides authentic interpretations of laws, which convey the true meaning and intention of the legislator and provide guidelines for its consistent implementation. The Assembly also adopts and amends the highest legal act, the Constitution. Furthermore, it adopts the budget of the Republic, the final account of the budget and the spatial plan of the Republic. In the framework of its authority falls the adoption of declarations, which manifest the Assembly's position on issues of general political significance; resolutions, which indicate the state of affairs, problems and measures to be taken in a certain area; and recommendations, which give directions for overcoming current affairs in a certain area.

The Assembly has the competence to decide on the election of members of state bodies and to appoint holders of public offices. Thus, the Assembly elects the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, the judges in the Constitutional Court, the Ombudsman, it appoints and dismisses the Public Prosecutor of the Republic, and also elects, appoints and dismisses holders of public and other office stipulated by the Constitution (electoral competence).

The Constitution also provides the Assembly with instruments of control over other authorities and holders of public office (parliamentary questions, interpellation motion, vote of confidence on the Government, etc.). Similar to the control competence, the Assembly also has the oversight competence, which is exercised through oversight hearings conducted by the relevant working body whose scope of work covers matters which are the subject of interest. These hearings are held to obtain information and expert opinions on the implementation of policies, enforcement of laws and other activities of the Government and state administration bodies.

The Assembly also determines public fees, ratifies international agreements, decides on war and peace, makes a decision on changing the border of the Republic, makes a decision on joining and leaving an alliance or community with other states,

calls for a referendum, decides on the reserves of the Republic, establishes councils, grants amnesty and performs other tasks stipulated by the Constitution.

WORK OF THE ASSEMBLY

The organization and functioning of the Assembly are regulated with the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure.

The Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia is in permanent session and works in sessions. The sessions of the Assembly are convened by the President of the Assembly. They are public in essence, but the Assembly may decide to work without the presence of the public by a two-third majority vote of the total number of its Members.

Sessions are held from 11 am to 6 pm with a break of one hour, unless the President of the Assembly decides otherwise for certain sessions. The President of the Assembly may convene a session at the request of the President of the Republic, the Government and at least 20 Members of Assembly.

As a rule, the Assembly is in recess from 1 to 31 August, however, the President of the Assembly may convene a session during that period as well.

The sessions of the Assembly are presided over by the President of the Assembly. The Assembly works at the sessions according to a predetermined agenda. No one may speak at the session before having requested and been given the floor by the President of the Assembly. Members of Assembly may take the floor from the podium or their seat.

The Assembly may make decisions if the majority of the total number of its Members attend the session. The Assembly decides with a majority vote of the present Members, and at least with one third of the total number of Members, if the Constitution does not provide for a special majority. As a rule, the Assembly decides by public vote on all issues, but it can also decide by secret vote only on elections, appointments or dismissals of holders of public and other office.

WORKING BODIES OF THE ASSEMBLY

Due to the thorough consideration of the draft-laws and other issues in the competence of the Assembly, permanent and temporary working bodies are established in its framework, contributing to its more efficient work.

The permanent working bodies (committees) are established at the beginning and function throughout the mandate of the Assembly, while the temporary are established upon necessity. The working bodies are established by a decision of the Assembly.

Working bodies are constituted by areas, in a way that draft-laws and other acts are considered by the relevant working body and the Legislative Committee. For each matter it considers, the working body takes a position and submits a report to the Assembly.

The composition of the working bodies and the inquiry committees is decided according to the number of Members of Assembly organised in parliamentary groups, non-attached Members, and in accordance with the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men.

The working bodies of the Assembly have a chairperson, a deputy chairperson, a certain number of members and their deputies. The working body works in meetings convened by the chairperson of the working body.

Working bodies may also have two external members - professional and expert persons who participate in its work without the right to make decisions. Also, the working bodies may invite professionals and experts at their meetings, as well as representatives of the local self-government, the associations, etc., in order to present opinions on the topic that is being considered at the meeting of the body.

The Assembly may also establish inquiry committees for all areas and for any issue of public interest, upon a proposal submitted by at least 20 Members of Assembly. As a rule, the chairpersons of the inquiry committees are chosen from among the Members in opposition. The findings of the inquiry committees are the basis for initiating a procedure to determine the responsibility of the holders of public office.

ORGANIZATION OF THE MEMBERS IN PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS

Parliamentary groups are established in the Assembly, and the Members of Assembly may join only one parliamentary group. The parliamentary group consists of at least five Members of Assembly who belong to the same or different political parties. The parliamentary group appoints a coordinator and up to two deputies.

Each parliamentary group in the Assembly, depending on the number of its Members, as well as a certain number of independent Members of Assembly, have the right to hire external associates, according to the principle one external associate per five Members.

COORDINATION OF THE WORK OF THE ASSEMBLY

The President of the Assembly holds regular coordination meetings with the vice-presidents and the coordinators of the parliamentary groups every Monday, and ad hoc coordination meetings if necessary. At the coordination meetings, the work schedule of the working bodies in the Assembly is aligned, an annual projection is made on the oversight hearings, consultations are carried out on certain draft-laws, and views and guidelines are harmonised on the work of the Special Organization Unit - Parliamentary Institute.

PUBLICITY IN THE WORK

Transparency is the basic principle in the work of the Assembly. The sessions of the Assembly are public and they can be followed live on the Assembly TV channel, as well as on the Internet, through the website of the Assembly www.sobranie.mk. The Assembly issues a newsletter and other publications to report on its work.

The Media reports on the work of the Assembly. Their representatives have the right to attend the sessions of the Assembly and the working bodies' meetings for the purpose of informing the public about their work.

Citizens can follow the sessions of the Assembly and the working bodies' meetings from the galleries, in accordance with the regulations for the internal order of the Assembly.

The last day of the working week (Friday) is foreseen for constituency relations of the Members of Assembly. This is an opportunity for Members to hear the opinions and problems of citizens in their constituency and to take various initiatives.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE ASSEMBLY

In the framework of its competencies, the Assembly pursues regular and occasional international cooperation, in the country and abroad, in a traditional and a virtual way.

Regular international cooperation includes participation in sessions, meetings and other events on a multilateral level, cooperation with the European Parliament, as well as the activities of the Parliamentary Groups of the Assembly for Cooperation with Parliaments of other countries on a bilateral basis. Occasional international cooperation implies participation in conferences, seminars, workshops and other meetings, which are initiated by other national parliaments, international organizations and institutions, domestic and foreign non-governmental organizations and foundations, following invitations received on other grounds, as well as meetings with international representatives and foreign ambassadors accredited to the Republic of North Macedonia. The President and Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, the Committee on Foreign Policy, the European Affairs Committee, other committees and working bodies of the Assembly, the permanent delegations in the parliamentary assemblies of multilateral international organizations, parliamentary groups for cooperation with the parliaments of other countries, ad hoc delegations, each Member of Assembly and the Secretary General of the Assembly have the authority to pursue international cooperation.



MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

The Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia forms delegations to eight international parliamentary assemblies, and a delegation to the Parliamentary Committee for Stabilization and Association. All delegations (except the Delegation in the PA of La Francophonie, which is elected from among the Members of Assembly who are in the Section of the Assembly in the PA of La Francophonie), are elected at a plenary session of the Assembly, upon the proposal of the Committee for Election and Appointment Issues. The composition of each delegation reflects the respective party representation in the Assembly and the representation of both sexes.

The Assembly is a member of the parliamentary assemblies of the following organizations and institutions: Council of Europe, OSCE, NATO, Mediterranean, Central European Initiative (CEI), South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP), La Francophonie and Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

BILATERAL COOPERATION

In order to promote bilateral parliamentary cooperation, the Assembly establishes a certain number of parliamentary groups for cooperation in each parliamentary term, according to the interest and the strategic objectives for cooperation with parliaments of individual countries. The distribution and the number of the parliamentary groups for cooperation may vary, that is, one group may cover one or more countries. Each group has a chairperson and a maximum of 8 members.

The delegation to the Parliamentary Committee for Stabilization and Association (Joint Parliamentary Committee – Republic of North Macedonia and the European Union) is a body for bilateral cooperation of the Assembly with the European Parliament, in accordance with Article 114 of the Law on Ratification of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the European Communities and their Member States. The delegation was established in 2004 and includes Head of the Delegation, two Deputies to the Head, 10 members and 10 deputy members.



ПРОГРАМА ЗА ПАРЛАМЕНТАРНА ПОДДРШКА
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Author: Special Organizational Unit - Parliamentary Institute, Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia

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