

The Riksdag Act

Chapter 1. Sessions

Time of elections to the Riksdag

Art. 1. Ordinary elections to the Riksdag are held in September. Rules concerning the timing of extraordinary elections are laid down in Chapter 3, Article 11, and Chapter 6, Article 5 of the Instrument of Government.

Start of sessions

Art. 2. The Riksdag convenes for a new session after an election on the fifteenth day after election day, but not before the fourth day after the election result has been declared, in accordance with the rules laid down in Chapter 3, Article 10 of the Instrument of Government.

In years in which no ordinary election is held, a new session starts on that date in September determined by the Riksdag at the preceding session in response to a proposal from the Riksdag Board.

If an extraordinary election has been announced prior to the date appointed, a new session starts in accordance with the provisions of paragraph two, provided the Riksdag convenes before the end of June as a result of the election. A Riksdag session continues until the start of the next session.

Art. 3. A report from the Election Review Board concerning the examination of the election warrants of members and alternate members is presented at the first meeting of the Chamber in an electoral period. A roll-call of members is taken thereafter. The Chamber then proceeds to elect a Speaker and Deputy Speakers in accordance with Chapter 8, Article 1, and a Nominations Committee in accordance with Chapter 7, Article 2.

At other sessions of the Riksdag, a roll-call of members is taken at the first meeting of the Chamber.

Reports on the examination of warrants received during an electoral period are presented as soon as possible.

Supplementary provision

1.3.1

The first meeting of the Chamber in a session starts at 11 a.m.

The Secretariat of the Chamber shall notify members of the time of the first meeting.

Opening of the Riksdag session

Art. 4. The formal opening of a Riksdag session takes place at a special meeting of the Chamber held no later than the third day of the session. At this meeting, the Head of State declares the session open at the invitation of the Speaker. If the Head of State is unable to attend, the Speaker declares the session open.

At this meeting, the Prime Minister delivers a Government policy statement unless there are special grounds why he or she should refrain from so doing.

The Speaker determines procedure at this meeting after conferring with the Deputy Speakers.

Supplementary provision

1.4.1

The formal opening of the session after an election to the Riksdag takes place at 2 p.m. on the second day of the session, or otherwise on the first day of the session at the same time. The Speaker may appoint another time.

Direction of the work of the Riksdag by the Speaker and the Riksdag Board

Art. 5. The Speaker, or in his or her place one of the Deputy Speakers, directs the work of the Riksdag. The Riksdag Board deliberates on the organisation of the work of the Riksdag, directs the work of the Riksdag Administration and determines matters of major significance concerning the Riksdag's international contacts programme.

The Riksdag Board consists of the Speaker as chair and ten other members whom the Riksdag appoints from among its members for the duration of the electoral period.

Each of the parliamentary party groups which corresponds to a party which obtained at least four per cent of the votes throughout the whole of the Realm at the preceding election to the Riksdag shall appoint a special representative to confer with the Speaker concerning the work of the Chamber, in accordance with the rules laid down in this Act.

Supplementary provisions

1.5.1

The Riksdag Board convenes at a summons from the Speaker.

1.5.2

If the Speaker is unable to attend, one of the Deputy Speakers will take his or her place as chair of the meetings of the Riksdag Board.

The Riksdag appoints ten deputies for the elected members of the Riksdag Board. The place of an absent member is taken by a deputy belonging to the same party group. Each party group appoints a personal deputy for its special representative.

The Riksdag Board meets behind closed doors. If the Board wishes to obtain information from a person who is not a member of the Board, it may summon him or her to attend a meeting. The Deputy Speakers, those of the special representatives of the party groups who are not members of the Board, and the Secretary-General of the Riksdag may participate in the deliberations of the Board.

Leave of absence from the duties of a member of the Riksdag

Art. 6. A member of the Riksdag may be granted leave of absence from his or her duties after the member's reasons have been examined. If a member has been granted leave of absence for at least one month, the member's duties shall be carried out by an alternate for the duration of his or her absence.

An application for leave of absence is considered by the Speaker in the case of absence for a period of less than one month, and by the Riksdag in the case of a longer period. An application which is made during a break of more than one month in the work of the Chamber is however always considered by the Speaker.

Supplementary provision

1.6.1

An application for leave of absence from the duties of a member of the Riksdag shall include the reasons for the absence. The application shall relate to leave of absence for a specific period.

Summons to an alternate to attend

Art. 7. When an alternate member is to replace the Speaker or a member of the Riksdag who is a minister, in accordance with the rules laid down in Chapter 4, Article 13 of the Instrument of Government, or a member of the Riksdag, in accordance with the rules laid down in Article 6 above, the Speaker shall summon the alternate to take up his or her duties. In this connection, the Speaker shall follow the order of precedence between alternates determined in the law on elections to the Riksdag. The Speaker may however depart from this order where special grounds exist.

Supplementary provision

1.7.1

An alternate member who is to exercise a mandate as a member of the Riksdag shall receive a written warrant to this effect. The warrant shall indicate the member whom the alternate will replace and the dates of the beginning and end of the appointment. A separate warrant may be issued setting out the date on which the appointment shall terminate.

The Speaker shall notify the Chamber when an alternate replaces a member and when a member resumes his or her seat.

Art. 8. If a member resigns his or her mandate, an alternate member who has been replacing that member shall continue to exercise the mandate until a new member has been appointed.

The Chairmen's Conference

Art. 9. The Chairmen's Conference deliberates on matters of common concern for the activities of the Chamber, the Riksdag committees and the Committee on European Union Affairs.

The Chairmen's Conference consists of the Speaker, acting as chair, and the chairs of the Riksdag committees and the Committee on European Union Affairs

Chapter 2. Meetings of the Chamber

Duties of the Speaker

Art. 1. The Speaker presides over the meetings of the Chamber. The Speaker is debarred from speaking on the substance of any matter under deliberation which has been entered in the order paper.

Supplementary provision

2.1.1

When presiding over the meetings of the Chamber the Speaker is assisted by a clerk of the Chamber.

Replacement for the Speaker

Art. 2. The Speaker may delegate to a Deputy Speaker the duty of presiding over a meeting.

In the absence of the Speaker and all the Deputy Speakers, that member among those present who has been a member of the Riksdag longest presides. If two or more members have been members of the Riksdag equally long, the member who is senior in age has precedence. The same shall apply pending the election of the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers.

The provisions of Article 1 restricting the Speaker's right to speak shall apply also to a Deputy Speaker and to any other member presiding over a meeting of the Chamber.

Seating of members in the Chamber

Art. 3. Each member shall have his or her own appointed place in the Chamber.

Supplementary provision

2.3.1

Members take their seats in the Chamber by constituencies. Special places shall be provided for the Speaker and Deputy Speakers and for ministers.

Meetings open to the public and meetings behind closed doors

Art. 4. The Riksdag may determine that a meeting shall be held behind closed doors, if necessary, with regard to the security of

the Realm, or otherwise, with regard to relations with another state or an international organisation. If the Government is to deliver a statement at a meeting, the Government may also determine, on the same grounds as the Riksdag, that the meeting shall be held behind closed doors.

A member or official of the Riksdag may not without authority disclose anything that has occurred at a meeting held behind closed doors. The Riksdag may, however, waive the duty of confidentiality, in whole or in part, in a particular case.

Supplementary provision

2.4.1

Special places shall be provided in the Chamber for the general public. A member of the public who creates a disturbance may be ejected forthwith. In the event of disorder developing among the general public, the Speaker may have all the members of the public ejected.

A visitor to the public gallery shall surrender, on request, his or her outdoor clothing, carrying bags, and any objects capable of being used to create a disturbance in the Chamber. A person who fails to comply with such a request may be refused admission to the public gallery. Personal possessions thus surrendered shall be stored in special accommodation for the duration of the visit.

Rules concerning security controls are laid down in the Act on Security Controls in the Riksdag (SFS 1988:144).

Summons to meetings

Art. 5. The Chamber convenes in response to a summons from the Speaker unless otherwise provided in the Instrument of Government or in this Act.

The summons shall indicate whether the meeting is a plenary meeting at which committee reports may be taken up for settlement. A summons shall be posted in the premises of the Riksdag no later than 6 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting and at least fourteen hours in advance.

A summons may however be posted later in exceptional circumstances. In such a case, the meeting shall take place only if more than half the members of the Riksdag consent thereto.

Supplementary provisions

2.5.1

Publication of notice of meetings of the Chamber and other activities in the Riksdag shall be determined by the Speaker.

2.5.2

When an election is to be held, this shall be specially indicated in the summons.

Breaks in the work of the Chamber

Art. 6. The Speaker determines what breaks of a week or more shall be made in the work of the Chamber during the current session, after conferring with the Riksdag Board.

If the Government has called an extraordinary election, the Speaker may determine, in response to a request from the Government, that the work of the Chamber shall be suspended for the remainder of the electoral period.

The Speaker may determine that a break in the work of the Chamber shall be interrupted. Such a decision shall be taken if so requested by the Government or by at least one hundred and fifteen members. The Speaker shall convene a meeting of the Chamber to be held within ten days from the submission of such a request.

Supplementary provision

2.6.1

Notice shall be published of the time of the first meeting of the Chamber after a break in the work of the Chamber has been interrupted. The Secretariat of the Chamber shall notify the members of the Riksdag concerning the time of such a meeting of the Chamber.

Order paper

Art. 7. The Speaker shall prepare an order paper for each meeting listing all matters on the table of the Chamber. An exception may be made for a matter which it is assumed will be dealt with behind closed doors.

The order paper shall indicate whether the meeting is a plenary meeting at which committee reports may be taken up for settlement.

Business shall be dealt with at a meeting in the order in which it appears on the order paper. Business includes elections scheduled to be held at a meeting.

Supplementary provisions

2.7.1

A motion calling for a referendum on a matter of fundamental law, a vote on a Prime Minister in accordance with Chapter 6, Article 3 of the Instrument of Government, a proposal for a new Prime Minister or a motion calling for a declaration of no confidence is entered as the first item on the order paper. If there are several such matters, they are taken in the order indicated above. This also applies to the order to be followed between a vote on a Prime Minister and a motion calling for a declaration of no confidence unless otherwise determined by the Speaker.

Business shall otherwise be entered in the following order unless otherwise determined by the Speaker:

1. elections;
2. Government bills and written communications from the Government; 3. submissions and reports from Riksdag bodies other than committees;
3. private members' motions;
4. documents from the EU referred to in Chapter 10, Articles 5, 6 and 8; and
5. committee reports and such statements as are referred to in Chapter 10, Articles 5,6 and 8, in the order in which the committees are listed in Supplementary provision 4.2.1.

2.7.2

The order paper shall indicate whether a matter is to be tabled, referred to a committee or taken up for settlement. A special note shall be appended if a committee, or the Speaker, has proposed that a matter shall be taken up for settlement after it has been tabled only once.

2.7.3

Rules concerning notes to be included in the order paper in special cases are laid down in Supplementary provisions 2.10.1, 3.6.2, 5.1.2 and 6.1.2.

2.7.4

The order paper shall be available in the Chamber and otherwise as determined by the Speaker.

Termination and adjournment of a meeting

Art. 8. A decision to terminate or adjourn a meeting in progress is taken by the Chamber without prior deliberation.

Putting questions for decision

Art. 9. The Speaker puts the questions for decision, based on the motions which have been put forward. If the Speaker considers that a motion conflicts with fundamental law or with this Act, he or she shall refuse to put the question, stating the reasons for this decision. If the Chamber requests nevertheless that the question be put, the Speaker shall refer the matter to the Committee on the Constitution for decision. The Speaker may not refuse to put the question if the Committee has declared that the motion does not conflict with fundamental law or with this Act.

The provisions set out in paragraph one concerning examination of the constitutionality of a motion shall not apply to the question whether Chapter 2, Article 22, paragraph one of the Instrument of Government is applicable to a particular draft law.

Right to speak

Art. 10. Every member and every minister shall be entitled to speak freely at a meeting on all matters under deliberation and on the legality of all that takes place at the meeting, with the exceptions set out in this Act.

The Head of State may deliver a declaration of office before the Chamber.

The Speaker may determine, after conferring with the special representatives of the party groups, that a debate shall take place at a meeting of the Chamber on matters unconnected with other business under consideration. Such a debate may be restricted to one particular subject or may be divided up according to subject.

Supplementary provision

2.10.1

Notice of a debate under Article 10, paragraph three, shall be entered in the order paper for the meeting at which the debate will take place.

Disqualification

Art. 11. No one may be present at a meeting when a matter is being deliberated which personally concerns himself or herself or a close associate. A minister may however participate in the deliberation of a matter concerning the performance of his or her official duties.

Restrictions on the freedom to speak

Art. 12. No speaker at a meeting may speak inappropriately of another person, use personally insulting language, or otherwise behave in word or deed in a way that contravenes good order.

A person who has the floor shall confine his or her intervention to the matter under deliberation. Should anyone offend against the provisions of paragraph one or two and fail to comply with the Speaker's admonition, the Speaker may debar him or her from speaking for the remainder of the debate.

Arrangement of debates

Art. 13. The Speaker shall confer with the special representatives of the party groups concerning the arrangement of debates in the Chamber.

Limitation of the right to speak

Art. 14. The Riksdag may prescribe a limit to the number of interventions a speaker may make during the deliberation of a matter and the duration of such interventions in a supplementary provision of this Riksdag Act. A distinction may be made in this connection between different categories of speakers, such as ministers and majority or minority spokesmen for a committee, or spokesmen for a party group, and between speakers who have given prior notice before the meeting of their intention to speak and speakers who have not so done.

Such limitation of the right to speak may also be specially approved in conjunction with the deliberation of a particular

issue in response to a proposal from the Speaker. The decision is taken without prior deliberation.

Each and every person wishing to speak on an issue shall however be entitled to speak for at least four minutes.

Supplementary provisions

2.14.1

A person who wishes to speak in a debate in the Chamber shall, if possible, notify the Secretariat of the Chamber to this effect no later than 4.30 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting at which the deliberations will commence. Such notice shall indicate the expected duration of the intervention.

An intervention by a member who has not given prior notice under paragraph one shall be limited to four minutes, unless the Speaker finds that grounds exist for permitting an extension.

A further intervention by a member who has already spoken during the deliberation of a particular issue shall be limited to two minutes.

The rules laid down in paragraphs one to three shall not apply when a reply is given to an interpellation or a question.

2.14.2

The Speaker shall determine the duration of interventions in a specially-arranged debate under Article 10, paragraph three, after conferring with the special representatives of the party groups.

Order of speakers

Art. 15. The Speaker shall determine the order of speakers from among those giving notice before the deliberation of a particular issue that they wish to speak. Members asking leave to speak during the deliberations shall speak in the order in which they give notice to this effect.

Irrespective of the order of speakers, and without prior notice, the Speaker may:

1. give the floor to a minister who has not previously spoken; and
2. give the floor to a minister or a member who has previously spoken for the purpose of making a rejoinder which contributes information or corrects

remarks made by a previous speaker, or in order to refute an allegation made by a previous speaker.

Supplementary provisions

2.15.1

Irrespective of the order of speakers, and without having given prior notice, a minister who has not spoken previously in the deliberation of a particular issue may be given the floor for an intervention of no more than ten minutes' duration.

The duration of a rejoinder may not exceed two minutes unless the Speaker permits an extension to four minutes on special grounds. Each speaker may be permitted to make two rejoinders in the context of the same principal intervention. If the Speaker has already given a member leave to make a rejoinder, he or she shall be allowed to make his or her rejoinder before a minister makes an intervention breaking into the order of speakers.

2.15.2

Irrespective of the order of speakers, a member may indicate his or her concurrence with a preceding speaker in the course of the deliberation of an issue without stating his or her reasons.

2.15.3

A speaker shall address the Chamber from the rostrum or from his or her place in the Chamber. The Speaker may however designate another place in the Chamber.

Records

Art. 16. A verbatim record shall be kept of proceedings in the Chamber. No one may speak off the record. A decision may not be altered when the record is confirmed. The record of meetings of the Chamber and associated documents shall be published in print unless secrecy is imposed under special provisions.

Supplementary provisions

2.16.1

A statement made at a meeting shall be taken down in shorthand, transcribed and made available at the Secretariat of the Chamber without delay. If the speaker has registered no complaint against the transcript by 12 noon of the third working day following the meeting, not counting Saturdays, he or she

shall be presumed to have approved it. If the speaker adjusts the transcript, he or she should append his or her signature or initials thereto.

2.16.2

A record is confirmed by the Chamber on the fifth working day following the meeting, if the Riksdag meets on that day, or, failing that, at the next meeting thereafter. A record which cannot be confirmed within one month is confirmed at such time as the Speaker determines.

The record is confirmed in the presence of the members in attendance.

When a record is confirmed, a member is entitled to request correction of the record in respect of a statement which has been approved by another member under 2.16.1.

Chapter 3. Introduction of business

Government bills

Art. 1. The Government submits a proposal to the Riksdag in the form of a Government bill.

A Government bill shall include the Government minutes in the matter, an account of the preparation of the matter and a motivation of the proposal. Bills containing proposals for legislation shall include the opinion of the Council on Legislation, if such exists.

Supplementary provision

3.1.1

A Government bill is delivered to the Secretariat of the Chamber. It is notified by the Speaker to a meeting of the Chamber after copies have been made available to members in printed form.

The Budget Bill

Art. 2. The budget year starts on 1 January. Prior to this date, the Government shall submit a bill setting out proposals for State revenue and expenditure for the budget year (the Budget Bill).

The Budget Bill shall contain a budget statement and a budget proposal. If the Riksdag has approved the allocation of State spending to expenditure areas under the rules laid down in Chapter 5, Article 12, the Budget Bill shall include an allocation of appropriations according to these expenditure areas.

A bill relating to State revenue or expenditure for the coming budget year may be submitted subsequent to the Budget Bill only if the Government considers that exceptional economic policy grounds exist for such action.

A bill containing proposals for a new or significantly increased appropriation, or guidelines under Chapter 9, Article 6 of the Instrument of Government for State activities covering a period exceeding that to which the appropriation for the activity relates, should contain an estimate of future costs connected with the activity to which the proposal relates. If a proposal concerning an appropriation is based on a plan covering a period exceeding the period for which the appropriation has been calculated in the bill, the plan should be described.

Supplementary provisions

3.2.1

The Budget Bill shall be submitted no later than 20 September in years in which there is no election to the Riksdag in September. In other cases, the Budget Bill shall be submitted no later than one week after the opening of the Riksdag session. If this is impossible due to a change of Government, the Budget Bill shall be submitted within ten days from the date on which a new Government takes office, but no later than 15 November.

3.2.2

The Government shall submit a bill no later than 15 April each year setting out proposals for guidelines for future economic and budgetary policy (the Spring Fiscal Policy Bill).

3.2.3

Further rules concerning the budget process are laid down in the Act on the National Budget (SFS 1996:1059).

Times for submission of bills

Art. 3. In response to a proposal from the Speaker, the Riksdag determines the latest date on which bills which, in the Government's view, should be considered during the current session may be submitted. If a particular date is prescribed in this Act, that date however applies.

Art. 4. A decision under Article 3 does not apply:

in respect of a bill whereby, pursuant to law, the Government seeks the approval of the Riksdag for a statutory instrument which has already been issued; or

if the Government considers that exceptional grounds exist for submitting a bill at a later date.

Art. 5. The Government should time the submission of its bills so as to prevent, if possible, an accumulation of business in the Riksdag. The Government shall confer with the Speaker in this connection.

Written and oral information from the Government

Art. 6. The Government may communicate information to the Riksdag by means of a written communication or an oral statement delivered by a minister at a meeting of the Chamber.

Supplementary provisions

3.6.1

A written communication is delivered to the Secretariat of the Chamber. It is notified by the Speaker to a meeting of the Chamber after copies have been made available to members in printed form.

3.6.2

If a minister intends to deliver an oral statement at a meeting of the Chamber, a note to this effect should be entered in the order paper for the meeting concerned.

3.6.3

The Government shall report to the Riksdag in a written communication delivered each year no later than 1 March concerning the work of the commissions appointed by Government decision.

Committee initiatives

Art. 7. A Riksdag committee is entitled to introduce proposals in the Riksdag on any matter falling within its remit (committee initiative). A committee initiative takes the form of a committee report.

The Committee on Finance is entitled, for purposes of economic policy, to introduce proposals in the Riksdag also on a matter falling within the remit of another committee.

Submissions and reports from Riksdag bodies

Art. 8. The Riksdag Board, the General Council and Executive Board of the Riksbank, the Parliamentary Ombudsmen and the Auditors General may make submissions to the Riksdag in matters affecting the competence, organisation, personnel or working procedures of the body concerned.

The Riksdag may prescribe that the Riksdag Board, the General Council and Executive Board of the Riksbank and the Parliamentary Ombudsmen may make submissions to the Riksdag also in other cases.

Special provisions concerning reports to the Riksdag by a Riksdag body other than a committee are laid down in law.

The provisions of paragraph one apply also to each individual Auditor General at the National Audit Office. Further provisions concerning such submissions are laid down in the Act with Instructions for the National Audit Office (SFS 2002:1023).

Supplementary provisions

3.8.1

A submission or a report from a Riksdag body is delivered to the Secretariat of the Chamber. It is notified by the Speaker to a meeting of the Chamber after copies have been made available to members in printed form.

3.8.2

The Riksdag Board may make submissions to the Riksdag on issues concerning the conduct of Riksdag business or other questions coming within the Board's remit. The Board may also in other cases make submissions to the Riksdag on issues concerning the Riksdag or Riksdag bodies, if the submissions

are based on proposals emanating from commissions appointed by the Board on instructions from the Riksdag.

3.8.3

The General Council and Executive Board of the Riksbank may make submissions to the Riksdag within their areas of competence.

3.8.4

The Chief Parliamentary Ombudsman and the Parliamentary Ombudsmen may make submissions to the Riksdag on account of an issue which has arisen in their supervisory activities. Further provisions concerning such submissions are laid down in the Act with Instructions for the Parliamentary Ombudsmen (SFS 1986:765).

3.8.5

Each individual Auditor General may make submissions to the Riksdag on account of the audit statements relating to the annual accounts of the State, the Riksbank and the Riksbank Tercentenary Foundation.

Audit reports from the Auditors General

Art. 8 a. Each individual Auditor General delivers his or her audit reports on the performance audit to the Riksdag.

The Auditors General deliver the annual report with the most significant observations from the performance audits and the annual report to the Riksdag.

Supplementary provisions

3.8a.1

An audit report and the annual report are delivered to the Secretariat of the Chamber. They are notified by the Speaker to a meeting of the Chamber after copies have been made available to members in printed form.

3.8a.2

The annual report is delivered in the form of a report.

Private members' motions

Art. 9. A member of the Riksdag submits a proposal to the Riksdag in the form of a private member's motion.

Proposals on matters of varying nature shall not be combined in one and the same private member's motion.

Supplementary provision

3.9.1

A private member's motion is delivered to the Secretariat of the Chamber no later than 4.30 p.m. on the last day on which motions may be submitted. Private members' motions should indicate the party to which the member submitting the motion belongs.

Private members' motions are notified to the Chamber by the Speaker.

General period for the introduction of private members' motions

Art. 10. Private members' motions may be introduced once a year on any question falling within the jurisdiction of the Riksdag (the general period for the introduction of private members' motions).

Unless otherwise determined by the Riksdag in response to a proposal from the Speaker, the general period for the introduction of private members' motions runs from the start of a Riksdag session which opens in August, September or October and continues as long as private members' motions may be introduced on account of the Budget Bill. Private members' motions arising out of a Government bill etc.

Art. 11. Private members' motions arising out of a Government bill, a written communication from the Government, a submission or a report from a Riksdag body other than a committee may be introduced within fifteen days from the date on which the bill, written communication, submission or report was notified to the Chamber. If a bill or a submission must be dealt with promptly, the Riksdag may, if it finds that there are exceptional grounds for so doing, decide to curtail the period during which private members' motions may be introduced, in response to a proposal from the Government or the Riksdag body which made the submission. If there are special grounds, the Riksdag may decide, in response to a proposal from the

Speaker, to extend the period during which private members' motions may be introduced.

Supplementary provision

3.11.1

A proposal to extend the period during which private members' motions may be introduced must be submitted no later than the second meeting following the meeting at which the bill, written communication, submission or report was notified to the Chamber. A decision in favour of an extension is taken no later than the next following meeting.

Private members' motions arising out of a deferral

Art. 12. If consideration of a Government bill, a written communication from the Government or a submission or a report from a Riksdag body other than a committee has been deferred from one electoral period to the next, private members' motions arising out of the bill, written communication, submission or report may be introduced within seven days from the start of the new electoral period.

Private members' motions arising out of an occurrence of major significance

Art. 13. Private members' motions arising out of an occurrence of major significance may be introduced jointly by at least ten members, if the event could not have been foreseen or taken into account during the general period for the introduction of private members' motions, or any other period for the introduction of private members' motions set out in this Chapter.

Notification of decisions held in abeyance and exceptions from a respite

Art. 14. The Committee on the Constitution shall notify to the Chamber for final approval decisions on matters of fundamental law or relating to the Riksdag Act which have been held in abeyance over an election. If, under provisions of the Instrument of Government, the procedure laid down for the amendment of fundamental law or of the Riksdag Act shall be applied in any other case, the decision which is being held in abeyance shall be notified to the Chamber by the committee within whose remit the matter falls.

The Committee on the Constitution shall furthermore notify the Chamber of a decision concerning an exception from the respite prescribed for the introduction of a proposal which shall be taken in accordance with the procedure laid down in Chapter 8, Article 14 of the Instrument of Government.

Documents from the EU

Art. 14 a. Green and white papers that are forwarded to the Riksdag shall be considered by the Riksdag in accordance with the provisions laid down in Chapter 10, Article 5. The same applies to such other documents from the European Union, other than draft legislative acts, whose consideration in this manner shall be determined by the Speaker, after consultation with the special representatives of the party groups. In accordance with Chapter 10, Article 6, the Riksdag shall examine whether draft legislative acts conflict with the principle of subsidiarity.

In the manner laid down in Chapter 10, Article 8, the Riksdag shall approve or reject initiatives from the European Council to decide on an authorisation for the Council to amend the decision-making procedure in a particular area or in a particular case from unanimity to a qualified majority or from a special legislative procedure to the ordinary legislative procedure. In the same manner, the Riksdag shall approve or reject proposals from the European Commission to specify aspects of family law that have cross-border consequences and that can be the subject of legislative acts adopted in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure.

Motions calling for a referendum on a matter of fundamental law or for a declaration of no confidence

Art. 15. A motion calling for a referendum on a matter of fundamental law or for a declaration of no confidence shall be put forward at a meeting of the Chamber. The motion shall be delivered in writing as soon as it has been put forward.

Application for consent to prosecution or deprivation of liberty

Art. 16. If a prosecutor calls for the consent of the Riksdag under Chapter 4, Article 12, paragraph one of the Instrument of Government to take legal action against a member of the Riksdag or deprive him or her of his or her personal liberty, the prosecutor shall make a written application to the Speaker to this effect. The same procedure shall apply if any other person seeks the consent of the Riksdag to the prosecution of a member of the Riksdag on grounds of his or her actions.

If the application document is so incomplete that it cannot be used as a basis for consideration by the Riksdag, or if the applicant has failed to demonstrate that he or she is competent to raise charges or apply for such action to be taken by a public authority, the Speaker shall reject the application. In any other case the Speaker shall notify the matter to a meeting of the Chamber.

Supplementary provision

3.16.1

An applicant shall state in the application document the circumstances on which the application is based.

Withdrawals

Art. 17. A Government bill, a written communication from the Government, a submission or a report from a Riksdag body other than a committee or a private member's motion may be withdrawn until a committee report has been presented on the matter. A draft law held in abeyance for a minimum of twelve months under Chapter 2, Article 22, paragraph one of the Instrument of Government may be withdrawn until a new committee report has been presented under Chapter 4, Article 9, paragraph four of this Act.

If a bill, a written communication, a submission or a report has been withdrawn, private members' motions arising out of the bill, written communication, submission or report shall lapse.

If a bill, a written communication, a submission or a report has been withdrawn, private members' motions arising out of the withdrawal may be introduced within seven days from the date on which the withdrawal was notified to the Chamber.

Supplementary provision

3.17.1

Withdrawal of a bill, a written communication, a submission or a report shall take the form of a written communication containing a statement of withdrawal, which is delivered to the Secretariat of the Chamber. A withdrawal of a private member's motion is delivered in writing to the Secretariat of the Chamber. The Speaker cancels bills, written communications, submissions, reports and private members' motions which have been withdrawn, or which have lapsed as a result of a withdrawal, and notifies the Chamber accordingly. If the bill, written communication, submission, report or private member's motion has been referred to a committee, the committee shall be informed of its cancellation.

Calculation of statutory time limits

Art. 18. The provisions generally applying to the calculation of statutory time limits shall apply also to time limits within which action shall be taken under a provision of this Chapter.

Chapter 4. Preparation of business

Mandatory preparation of business

Art. 1. Government bills, written communications from the Government, submissions or reports from a Riksdag body other than a committee and private members' motions shall be referred to a committee for preparation. The same shall apply to applications under Chapter 3, Article 16, for consent to prosecution or deprivation of liberty which have been notified to the Chamber by the Speaker.

Before a matter is referred to a committee for preparation, it shall be tabled at a meeting of the Chamber, unless the Chamber decides on immediate referral.

Riksdag committees

Art. 2. The Riksdag shall appoint from among its members, for each electoral period, a Committee on the Constitution, a Committee on Finance, a Committee on Taxation and an

appropriate number of other committees. Such elections shall be valid for the duration of the electoral period.

The Riksdag may also appoint committees during the electoral period to serve no longer than the remainder of the electoral period.

Supplementary provisions

4.2.1

The Riksdag shall appoint the following fifteen committees no later than the eighth day following the first meeting of the Chamber in the electoral period of the Riksdag:

1. a Committee on the Constitution;
2. a Committee on Finance;
3. a Committee on Taxation;
4. a Committee on Justice;
5. a Committee on Civil Affairs;
6. a Committee on Foreign Affairs;
7. a Committee on Defence;
8. a Committee on Social Insurance;
9. a Committee on Health and Welfare;
10. a Committee on Cultural Affairs;
11. a Committee on Education;
12. a Committee on Transport and Communications;
13. a Committee on Environment and Agriculture;
14. a Committee on Industry and Trade; and
15. a Committee on the Labour Market.

The committees shall be elected in the order in which they are listed above.

4.2.2

If the Riksdag appoints any additional committee it shall indicate the committee's primary responsibilities.

Number of members of a committee

Art. 3. Each committee shall consist of an odd number of members, but no fewer than fifteen.

Supplementary provision

4.3.1

The size of the committees is determined by the Riksdag in response to a proposal from the Nominations Committee.

Responsibilities of the Committee on the Constitution

Art. 4. The Committee on the Constitution shall prepare matters concerning the fundamental laws and the Riksdag Act. Rules concerning the responsibilities of the Committee on the Constitution are also laid down in Chapter 2, Article 22; Chapter 8, Article 14; and Chapter 13, Article 1 of the Instrument of Government; and in Chapter 2, Article 9; Chapter 3, Article 14; Chapter 4, Article 11; Chapter 6, Articles 1 and 4; Chapter 8, Articles 11 and 13; Chapter 9, Article 8; Chapter 10, Article 6; and Supplementary provisions 4.6.1; 5.4.1; 8.4.1; 8.5.1; 8.11.1; 8.11.2; and 8.12.1 of this Act.

Responsibilities of the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Taxation

Art. 5. The Committee on Finance shall prepare matters concerning:

1. general guidelines for economic policy and the determination of the national budget; and
2. the activities of the Riksbank.

If the Riksdag has approved the allocation of State spending to expenditure areas under Chapter 5, Article 12, the Committee on Finance shall also prepare proposals for expenditure limits for expenditure areas, and for draft estimates of State revenue. Rules concerning the responsibilities of the Committee on Finance are also laid down in Chapter 9, Article 5 of the Instrument of Government; and Chapter 3, Article 7; Chapter 4, Article 8; Chapter 9, Article 8; and Supplementary provisions 4.6.2; 4.9.1; and 8.7.1 of this Act.

The Committee on Taxation shall prepare matters concerning State and local government taxation. Rules concerning the responsibilities of the Committee on Taxation are also laid down in Supplementary provision 4.6.3 of this Act.

Allocation of matters among committees

Art. 6. The Riksdag prescribes the principles according to which other matters shall be allocated among committees. In this connection matters falling within the same subject area shall be referred to the same committee. The Riksdag may however determine that there shall be a committee for the preparation of matters concerning legislation under Chapter 8, Article 2, paragraph one, point 1 of the Instrument of Government, irrespective of subject area.

The Riksdag may depart from the principles thus established and from Article 5 if this is deemed necessary in a particular case, having regard to the interdependence of different matters, the particular nature of a matter, or working conditions.

A committee may transfer a matter to another committee under the circumstances set out in paragraph two, provided this committee consents. The committee transferring the matter may deliver an opinion in the matter to the receiving committee in conjunction with the transfer.

Supplementary provisions

4.6.1

The Committee on the Constitution shall prepare matters concerning:

1. legislation of a constitutional and general administrative nature;
2. legislation concerning radio, television and film;
3. freedom of expression, formation of public opinion and freedom of worship;
4. financial support for the press and the political parties;
5. the National Audit Office, in respect of the election of an Auditor General, the removal of an Auditor General from office and the prosecution of an Auditor General;
6. the Riksdag, and authorities under the Riksdag in general, except for the Riksbank;
7. the county administration and the division of the country into administrative units;
8. local self-government; and

9. the consent of the Riksdag to the prosecution of a member of the Riksdag or interference with the personal liberty of a member.

Matters concerning appropriations falling within expenditure area 1 Governance are prepared by the Committee on the Constitution.

4.6.2

The Committee on Finance shall prepare matters concerning:

1. monetary, credit, currency and central government debt policy;
2. the credit and finance markets;
3. the commercial insurance market;
4. the National Audit Office, insofar as these matters do not fall to the Committee on the Constitution to prepare;
5. local government finance;
6. the State as employer, national statistics, accounting, audits and administrative efficiency;
7. State property and public procurement in general;
8. other questions of administrative finance not solely concerned with a particular subject area; and
9. budgetary questions of a technical nature.

The Committee shall also examine estimates of State revenue and coordinate the national budget.

Matters concerning appropriations falling within expenditure areas 2 Economy and financial administration; 25 General grants to local government; 26 Interest on central government debt, etc.; and 27 The contribution to the European Union are prepared by the Committee on Finance.

4.6.3

The Committee on Taxation shall prepare matters concerning:

1. tax assessment and tax collection;
2. the population registers; and
3. the enforcement service.

Matters concerning appropriations falling within expenditure area 3 Taxes, customs and enforcement are prepared by the Committee on Taxation.

4.6.4

The Committee on Justice shall prepare matters concerning:

1. the law courts;
2. the leasehold and rent tribunals;
3. the public prosecution service;
4. the police service;
5. forensic medicine;
6. the correctional care system; and
7. the Penal Code, the Code of Judicial Procedure and acts of law which supersede or are closely associated with provisions of these Codes.

Matters concerning appropriations falling within expenditure area 4 Justice are prepared by the Committee on Justice.

4.6.5

The Committee on Civil Affairs shall prepare matters concerning:

1. the Marriage, Parental, Inheritance, Commercial, Land, and Enforcement Codes and acts of law which supersede or are related to provisions of these Codes, insofar as these matters do not fall to any other committee to prepare;
2. insurance contract law;
3. company and association law;
4. law of torts;
5. transport law;
6. bankruptcy law;
7. consumer policy;
8. international private law;
9. legislation on other matters having the nature of general private law;

10. housing policy;
11. water rights;
12. land development planning;
13. building and construction;
14. physical planning; and
15. expropriation, the formation of property units and land survey.

Matters concerning appropriations falling within expenditure area 18 Community planning, housing provision, construction and consumer policy are prepared by the Committee on Civil Affairs.

4.6.6

The Committee on Foreign Affairs shall prepare matters concerning:

1. relations and agreements of the Realm with other states and with international organisations;
2. development assistance to other countries; and
3. other foreign trade and international economic cooperation, all insofar as these matters do not fall to any other committee to prepare.

Matters concerning appropriations falling within expenditure areas 5 International cooperation; and 7 International development cooperation are prepared by the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4.6.7

The Committee on Defence shall prepare matters concerning:

1. military and civil defence;
2. emergency and rescue services;
3. measures to reduce the vulnerability of society;
4. nuclear safety and protection against radiation; and
5. maritime rescue and coastguard services, all insofar as these matters do not fall to any other committee to prepare.

Matters concerning appropriations falling within expenditure area 6 Defence and contingency measures are prepared by the Committee on Defence.

4.6.8

The Committee on Social Insurance shall prepare matters concerning:

1. national insurance;
2. national pensions;
3. occupational injury insurance;
4. financial support for families with children;
5. Swedish citizenship; and
6. migration.

Matters concerning appropriations falling within expenditure areas 8 Migration; 10 Financial security for the sick and disabled; 11 Financial security for the elderly; and 12 Financial security for families and children are prepared by the Committee on Social Insurance.

4.6.9

The Committee on Health and Welfare shall prepare matters concerning:

1. care and welfare services for children and young people insofar as these matters do not fall to any other committee to prepare;
2. care and welfare of the elderly and disabled;
3. measures to combat drug and alcohol abuse, and other social services questions;
4. alcohol policy measures;
5. health and medical care; and
6. social welfare questions in general.

Matters concerning appropriations falling within expenditure area 9 Health and medical care, social services are prepared by the Committee on Health and Welfare.

4.6.10

The Committee on Cultural Affairs shall prepare matters concerning:

1. cultural and educational purposes in general;
2. popular education;
3. youth activities;
4. international cultural cooperation;
5. sports and outdoor activities;
6. religious communities, insofar as these do not fall to the Committee on the Constitution to prepare; and
7. radio and television, insofar as these do not fall to the Committee on the Constitution to prepare.

Matters concerning appropriations falling within expenditure area 17 Culture, media, religious communities, leisure are prepared by the Committee on Cultural Affairs.

4.6.11

The Committee on Education shall prepare matters concerning:

1. the school system, certain special types of education and other educational activities;
2. higher education and research; and
3. financial support for students.

Matters concerning appropriations falling within expenditure areas 15 Financial support for students; and 16 Education and academic research are prepared by the Committee on Education.

4.6.12

The Committee on Transport and Communications shall prepare matters concerning:

1. roads and road transport;
2. railways and rail transport;
3. ports and shipping;
4. airports and civil aviation;

5. postal services;
6. electronic communications; and
7. IT policy.

Matters concerning appropriations falling within expenditure area 22 Transport and communications are prepared by the Committee on Transport and Communications.

4.6.13

The Committee on Environment and Agriculture shall prepare matters concerning:

1. agriculture, forestry, horticulture, hunting and fishing;
2. meteorological services;
3. nature conservation; and
4. other environmental protection questions not falling to any other committee to prepare.

Matters concerning appropriations falling within expenditure areas 20 General environmental protection and nature conservation; and 23 Agricultural sciences, rural areas and food are prepared by the Committee on Environment and Agriculture.

4.6.14

The Committee on Industry and Trade shall prepare matters concerning:

1. general guidelines for industry and trade policy and associated research questions;
2. industry and handicrafts;
3. trade;
4. intellectual property law;
5. energy policy;
6. regional development policy;
7. state-owned enterprises; and
8. price and competition conditions in the business sector.

Matters concerning appropriations falling within expenditure areas 19 Regional development; 21 Energy; and 24 Industry

and trade are prepared by the Committee on Industry and Trade.

4.6.15

The Committee on the Labour Market shall prepare matters concerning:

1. labour market policy;
2. working life policy, including labour law;
3. integration;
4. measures to combat discrimination, insofar as these matters do not fall to any other committee to prepare; and
5. equality between women and men, insofar as these matters do not fall to any other committee to prepare.

Matters concerning appropriations falling within expenditure areas 13 Integration and gender equality; and 14 The labour market and working life are prepared by the Committee on the Labour Market.

Sharing of matters between two or more committees

Art. 7. Matters other than the Budget Bill may be shared between two or more committees only where special grounds so warrant.

Cooperation between committees

Art. 8. A committee may provide another committee with an opportunity to deliver an opinion concerning a matter or an issue affecting that committee's area of competence. Before a committee delivers a report containing proposals in a matter which has been raised in the Riksdag, the Committee on Finance shall be provided with an opportunity to comment, if the proposal could have significant future repercussions for public revenue and expenditure.

If, during the consideration of a matter, at least five members of a committee so request, the committee shall obtain an opinion under paragraph one. The same shall apply if such a request has been put forward unconnected with the consideration of a matter, if the question relates to European Union activities. The committee may reject a request for an

opinion if it is put forward during the consideration of a matter and the committee concludes that the action requested would so delay consideration of the matter that serious detriment would result. In such a case, the committee shall state in its report its reasons for rejecting the request.

A committee may reach agreement with one or more other committees to prepare a matter jointly through deputies on a joint committee.

Mandatory consideration in committee

Art. 9. The committees shall deliver reports to the Chamber on all matters which have been referred to them, and which have not been withdrawn. Joint committees deliver reports to the Chamber.

Reports on matters the consideration of which has been deferred to the following electoral period under Chapter 5, Article 10, shall be delivered by the committees appointed by the newly-elected Riksdag.

When notifying the Chamber of a decision held in abeyance under Chapter 3, Article 14, a committee shall append an opinion in the matter.

If a draft law has been held in abeyance for a minimum of twelve months under Chapter 2, Article 22, paragraph one of the Instrument of Government, the committee shall deliver a new report on the matter.

Supplementary provisions

4.9.1

A decision of the Committee on Finance on a question under Chapter 9, Article 5 of the Instrument of Government shall be reported to the Government in a written communication.

4.9.2

The committees shall inform the Chamber in written communications of the matters concerning which no report has been delivered.

Referral back and referral to another committee

Art. 10. A matter on which a committee has delivered a report shall be referred back to the committee by the Chamber for further preparation if at least one third of those voting concur in a motion to this effect. The same matter may not be referred back more than once under this Article.

The Chamber may also refer the matter to another committee for further preparation. If a motion for referral to another committee and a motion for referral back to the same committee are put forward concurrently, the motion for referral back shall be considered first. If the motion for referral back is approved, the motion for referral to another committee lapses.

Obligation of a State authority to furnish information and deliver opinions to a committee

Art. 11. A State authority shall furnish information and deliver opinions when so requested by a committee, unless it follows otherwise from Article 13, paragraph three. This obligation however applies to the Government only in respect of European Union activities falling within the committee's subject area. An authority which is not an authority under the Riksdag may refer a request from a committee to the Government for decision.

If, during the consideration of a matter, at least five members of a committee so request, the committee shall obtain information or an opinion under paragraph one. The same shall apply if such a request has been put forward unconnected with the consideration of a matter, if the question relates to European Union activities. The committee may reject a request for information or an opinion if the request is put forward during the consideration of a matter and the committee concludes that the action requested would so delay consideration of the matter that serious detriment would result. In such a case, the committee shall state in its report its reasons for rejecting the request.

The Committee on the Constitution may not declare that Chapter 2, Article 22, paragraph one of the Instrument of Government is not applicable in respect of a particular draft law without obtaining the opinion of the Council on Legislation in the matter.

Times of committee meetings

Art. 12. Committees convene as the work of the Riksdag requires.

Supplementary provisions

4.12.1

A committee convenes for the first time within two days from its election in response to a summons from the Speaker. The committee is convened thereafter by its chair. The chair shall convene the committee if so requested by at least five members of the committee. The Committee on Finance shall also be convened by the Speaker in response to a request from the Government, for purposes under Chapter 9, Article 5 of the Instrument of Government.

A personal summons shall be sent to all members and deputy members. The summons should be posted, if possible, in the premises of the Riksdag no later than 6 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting.

4.12.2

A committee may meet concurrently with the Chamber only if the deliberations in the Chamber relate to business other than the settlement of a matter or an election.

4.12.3

Pending the election of a chair, that member from among those present who has been a member of the Riksdag longest presides. If two or more members have been members of the Riksdag equally long, the member who is senior in age has precedence.

4.12.4

A record shall be kept of committee meetings.

Meetings behind closed doors and meetings open to the public

Art. 13. Committees shall meet behind closed doors. A committee may, however, determine that a meeting shall be open to the public, in whole or in part, in respect of that part of it which relates to information-gathering.

If special grounds exist, a committee may permit a person other than a member, deputy member or official of the committee to be present at a meeting behind closed doors.

A representative of a State authority shall not be obliged, during a public part of a committee meeting, to furnish information which is subject to secrecy rules at the authority.

Supplementary provisions

4.13.1

Sound or video recordings may be made of a public part of a committee meeting unless otherwise determined by the committee.

4.13.2

Special places shall be provided for the general public at a public part of a committee meeting. A member of the public who creates a disturbance may be ejected forthwith. In the event of disorder developing among the general public, the chair may have all the members of the public ejected.

A visitor attending a public part of a committee meeting shall surrender, on request, his or her outdoor clothing, carrying bags, and any objects capable of being used to create a disturbance at the meeting. A person who fails to comply with such a request may be refused admission to the meeting. Personal possessions thus surrendered shall be stored in special accommodation for the duration of the visit.

Rules concerning security controls are laid down in the Act on Security Controls in the Riksdag (SFS 1988:144).

Disqualification at committee meetings

Art. 14. No one may be present at a meeting of a committee when a matter is being deliberated which personally concerns himself or herself or a close associate.

Voting at a committee meeting and the right to append a reservation

Art. 15. Voting in a committee shall be by open ballot. In the event of a tied vote, the opinion in which the chair concurs shall prevail.

A member who loses a vote in a committee may append a reservation, with a motion, to the committee's report. If the

vote relates to the committee's decision regarding an opinion to be delivered to another committee, the member may append a dissenting view to the opinion. The report or opinion shall not, however, be delayed as a result.

Separate statements

Art. 16. A member may explain his or her position in a separate statement appended to a committee report or an opinion delivered to another committee.

Committees' duty of confidentiality

Art. 17. A member, deputy member, or official of a committee may not without authority disclose any matter which the Government, or the committee, has determined shall be kept secret, having regard to the security of the Realm or for any other reason of exceptional importance arising out of relations with another state or an international organisation.

Follow-up and evaluation by committees

Art. 18. The preparation of business by the committees shall include the task of following-up and evaluating Riksdag decisions within the subject areas set out for each committee in Articles 4 to 6 and associated supplementary provisions.

Preparation of audit reports from the National Audit Office

Art. 18 a. Audit reports from the National Audit Office shall be delivered by the Speaker to the committee responsible for the subject area dealt with in the report according to provisions in Articles 4 to 6 and associated supplementary provisions. If the committee wishes to obtain information in connection with such an audit report, the procedure set out in Article 11 shall apply.

The Speaker shall deliver audit reports not dealing with the activities pursued by the Riksdag or an authority under the Riksdag to the Government.

The Government shall deliver a written communication to the Riksdag for each audit report on the performance audit that the Speaker delivers to the Government. In the written communication, the Government shall give an account to the Riksdag of the measures the Government has taken or intends to take in response to the observations of the National Audit Office. If the Government has taken or intends to take similar

measures in response to several audit reports, however, the Government may deliver a written communication covering several audit reports to the Riksdag.

The written communication from the Government shall be delivered to the Riksdag within four months of the Government receiving the report. When calculating the respite, July and August shall not be counted.

Foreign travel by committees

Art. 19. A committee shall consult the Riksdag Board before taking a decision concerning foreign travel. The Board shall deliver an opinion concerning the appropriateness of the journey. In this connection, consideration shall be had to the international relations of the Riksdag, the cost and other circumstances. The Riksdag Board may issue more detailed rules concerning foreign travel by committees.

Chapter 5. Settlement of business

Notification and tabling of committee reports

Art. 1. A committee report shall be notified to the Chamber and tabled twice at meetings of the Chamber before settlement, unless the Riksdag determines, in response to a proposal from the committee or from the Speaker, that the matter shall be settled after having been tabled only once. Rules concerning further tabling of committee reports are laid down in Article 7, paragraph two.

A motion under Chapter 2, Article 22, paragraph one of the Instrument of Government calling for a draft law to be held in abeyance for a minimum of twelve months may be put forward when the committee report on the draft law has been notified to the Chamber.

Supplementary provisions

5.1.1

A committee report shall not be notified to the Chamber before copies have been distributed to members of the Riksdag.

The Speaker shall confer with the chair and deputy chairs of the committee before introducing a proposal that a matter shall

be settled after having been tabled only once. When the Speaker introduces such a proposal, it shall be notified to the Chamber at the same time as notice is given that the committee report is being tabled.

5.1.2

A motion calling for a draft law to be held in abeyance for a minimum of twelve months is put forward in writing and entered, if possible, in the order paper of the Chamber.

Tabling and settlement times for certain other matters

Art. 2. A motion calling for a referendum on a matter of fundamental law or for a declaration of no confidence shall be tabled in the Chamber until the second meeting following the meeting at which the motion was put forward. The matter shall be settled no later than the next meeting thereafter.

A proposal from the Speaker for a new Prime Minister shall be tabled in the Chamber until the second meeting following the meeting at which the proposal was put forward. The matter shall be settled no later than the fourth day following the day on which the proposal was put forward, in accordance with the provisions laid down in Chapter 6, Article 4, paragraph two of the Instrument of Government.

Motions put forward during the deliberation of a committee report

Art. 3. A member may move adoption or rejection of the proposals for decision contained in a committee report during the deliberation of the report. Rules concerning motions and decisions to refer a matter back to the committee delivering the report, or to refer it to another committee, are laid down in Chapter 4, Article 10.

Settlement of business

Art. 4. A matter under deliberation may not be taken up for settlement until the Chamber has declared the debate closed, in response to a proposal from the Speaker. A committee report may be taken up for settlement only at a meeting which has been notified in the summons under Chapter 2, Article 5, and entered in the order paper under Chapter 2, Article 7, as a

plenary meeting at which committee reports may be taken up for settlement.

A matter is settled by acclamation or, if a member so requests, by holding a vote. If a special procedure rule is to be applied under Article 9, the matter must always be settled by means of a vote. If necessary, settlement of a matter shall be divided up into separate part-decisions.

If a motion has been put forward under Chapter 2, Article 22, paragraph one of the Instrument of Government calling for a draft law to be held in abeyance for a minimum of twelve months, and a motion has also been put forward for the rejection of the draft law, the Riksdag shall examine the last-named motion before taking a vote to adopt the law forthwith.

Supplementary provision

5.4.1

If a motion has been put forward under Chapter 2, Article 22, paragraph one of the Instrument of Government calling for a draft law to be held in abeyance for a minimum of twelve months, and if the draft law fails in the vote to obtain the five-sixths majority of members voting which is necessary under the Instrument of Government rule to secure immediate adoption of the draft law, the draft law shall be referred to the Committee on the Constitution for examination under paragraph three of the aforementioned Article of the Instrument of Government concerning the applicability of the abeyance procedure in respect of the draft law. If the Committee on the Constitution has declared the procedure to be applicable, the Riksdag reconsiders whether the proposal can be rejected or adopted forthwith. In any other case the matter shall be referred back to the committee which prepared it.

Settlement by acclamation

Art. 5. When a matter is settled by acclamation, the Speaker puts to the question every motion put forward in the course of the deliberations. The question shall be worded in such a way that it can be answered with a ‘Yes’ or ‘No’. The Speaker declares what he or she understands to be the result, and confirms the decision by striking his or her gavel, unless a member calls for a vote.

Settlement by means of a vote

Art. 6. When a matter is settled by means of a vote, the principal proposal is that motion which in the Speaker's view the Riksdag adopted by acclamation. When there has been no acclamation, the principal proposal is the motion determined by the Speaker. A second motion is put up against this principal proposal to act as a counter-proposal. If there are more than two motions which can be put up against each other, the Riksdag shall first apply Article 5 to determine which shall constitute the counter-proposal.

Voting is by open ballot. Under the rule laid down in Chapter 4, Article 7 of the Instrument of Government, the proposal which obtains the support of more than half the members voting constitutes the decision of the Riksdag, unless otherwise provided in the Instrument of Government or in this Act. The Speaker announces the result of the vote and confirms the decision by striking his or her gavel.

Supplementary provisions

5.6.1

When a vote is taken, the Speaker formulates the proposal on which the vote will be taken. If a special procedure rule under Article 9 is to be applied in a particular case, this shall be stated in the proposal put to the vote.

When the members have taken their places in the Chamber after due warning has been given, the proposal which is to be put to the vote is read out and submitted to the Chamber for approval.

A vote may be taken by having the members rise in their places. If the Speaker finds that the outcome of a vote taken by having the members rise in their places still leaves room for doubt, or if a member calls for a count, a new vote shall be taken using the vote-recording machine or, when this cannot be used, by means of a call of names.

5.6.2

When a vote is taken by having the members rise in their places, the Speaker calls first on those members wishing to vote 'Yes' to rise and calls thereafter on members wishing to vote 'No' to rise.

When a vote is taken using the vote-recording machine, the way each member votes shall be registered.

When a vote is taken by means of a call of names, the Speaker calls upon two members to join him or her at the Speaker's table and record the vote. The Deputy Speakers are called up first, followed by the other members according to constituency. Responses must be one of the following: 'Yes', 'No', 'Abstain'.

Procedure in a tied vote

Art. 7. If the vote is tied concerning which motion shall constitute the counter-proposal, the outcome is determined by lot.

If the vote is tied in a principal division, the matter is tabled. If the vote is tied when the matter is raised a second time, the Speaker puts the proposal that the matter be referred back to the committee for further preparation. The matter shall be referred back if at least half of those voting concur. In any other case, the decision of the Riksdag is determined by lot.

After a matter has been referred back, it shall be taken up again in its entirety for settlement by the Chamber. If the vote is tied again in the principal division, the matter is determined by lot.

Referral back of a legislative matter settled by means of part-decisions

Art. 8. If the settlement of a legislative matter has been divided up into two or more part-decisions, the Riksdag may decide forthwith, after the last part-decision, and in response to a proposal from the Speaker or from a member, that the matter shall be referred back to the committee for further preparation. If the Riksdag decides to refer the matter back, the part-decisions are null and void. Decisions under this Article to refer a matter back to a committee may not be repeated.

Settlement under a special procedure rule

Art. 9. If a decision requires other than a simple majority and more than one proposal has been put forward for a decision of this nature, the following applies. The Riksdag first selects one of the proposals in accordance with the rules generally in force. A decision is taken thereafter, applying the special procedure rule, whether this proposal shall be adopted or rejected. This procedure shall be applied even when there are several measures of draft legislation which are mutually incompatible and a motion has been put forward for one of them to be held in

abeyance for a minimum of twelve months under Chapter 2, Article 22, paragraph one of the Instrument of Government.

If two or more motions are put forward concurrently which call for a referendum on the same measure of fundamental law which is being held in abeyance over an election, or which call for a declaration of no confidence in respect of the same minister, only one vote is taken.

Deferral of business

Art. 10. A matter should be settled in the electoral period in which it is introduced. The Riksdag may, however, permit consideration of the matter to be deferred to the first parliamentary session of the next electoral period. Consideration of a matter put forward during a break in the work of the Chamber lasting until the first parliamentary session of the next electoral period is furthermore treated as having been deferred to that parliamentary session. The same shall apply to consideration of a matter which the Riksdag has not had time to settle on account of a break in the work of the Chamber in connection with the calling of an extraordinary election.

A matter relating to the national budget for the next following budget year shall be settled before the start of the budget year, if settlement cannot be deferred without detriment to adoption of the national budget.

A draft law held in abeyance for twelve months under Chapter 2, Article 22, paragraph one of the Instrument of Government shall be examined before the end of the following calendar year. If another draft law is closely connected with legislation held in abeyance under this rule, the Riksdag may determine that it shall be settled within the time applying to the examination of the draft law held in abeyance. If a matter under this paragraph cannot be settled within the time prescribed due to the calling of an extraordinary election, it shall be settled as soon as possible after the newly-elected Riksdag convenes.

Supplementary provisions

5.10.1

A decision to defer business is taken in response to a proposal from the committee within whose remit the matter falls. The Chamber may also decide to defer a matter without such a proposal having been put forward.

5.10.2

A decision under Article 10, paragraph three, sentence two, is taken in response to a proposal from the committee within whose remit the matter falls.

Final settlement of a matter held in abeyance over an election

Art. 11. A matter which has been held in abeyance over an election under the rules laid down in Chapter 8, Articles 14-17 of the Instrument of Government shall be settled at the first parliamentary session of the electoral period within which a final decision may first be taken under the rules laid down in the Instrument of Government, provided the matter has not already been rejected. Settlement may be deferred to another parliamentary session by decision of the Riksdag. A decision of this nature may be repeated. The matter shall be settled finally before the next ordinary election to the Riksdag.

In the case of deferral due to an extraordinary election, the rules laid down in Article 10, paragraph one, shall be applied. If a proposal for an amendment of fundamental law held in abeyance over an election, or any other decision which shall be taken in accordance with the same procedure is rejected in a referendum, the committee within whose remit the matter falls shall notify the matter to the Chamber.

Supplementary provision

5.11.1

A decision to defer final settlement of a matter which has been held in abeyance over an election under the rules laid down in Chapter 8, Articles 14-17 of the Instrument of Government is taken in response to a proposal put forward by the committee within whose remit the matter falls.

Decisions within the budget process

Art. 12. The Riksdag may decide in an act of law to allocate State spending to expenditure areas.

If the Riksdag has taken a decision under paragraph one, it determines for the next following budget year, by means of a single decision, an expenditure limit for each expenditure area, indicating the highest figure to which the sum total of

expenditure falling within the expenditure area may amount; and an estimate of State revenue under the national budget.

Decisions concerning appropriations or other expenditure under the national budget year may not be taken before a decision has been taken under paragraph two. Appropriations or other expenditure under the national budget shall be determined for each expenditure area by means of a single decision.

Decisions concerning appropriations for the current budget year which affect expenditure limits may not be taken before a decision has been taken approving adjustment of the expenditure limits.

Supplementary provision

5.12.1

State expenditure shall be referred to the following expenditure areas: 1 Governance; 2 Economy and financial administration; 3 Taxes, customs and enforcement; 4 Justice; 5 International cooperation; 6 Defence and contingency measures; 7 International development cooperation; 8 Migration; 9 Health and medical care, social services; 10 Financial security for the sick and disabled; 11 Financial security for the elderly; 12 Financial security for families and children; 13 Integration and gender equality; 14 The labour market and working life; 15 Financial support for students; 16 Education and academic research; 17 Culture, media, religious communities, leisure; 18 Community planning, housing provision, construction and consumer policy; 19 Regional development; 20 General environmental protection and nature conservation; 21 Energy; 22 Transport and communications; 23 Agricultural sciences, rural areas and food; 24 Industry and trade; 25 General grants to local government; 26 Interest on central government debt, etc.; and 27 The contribution to the European Union.

Decisions relating to the purposes and activities to be included in an expenditure area are taken in conjunction with decisions relating to the Spring Fiscal Policy Bill.

Written communications of the Riksdag

Art. 13. If a Riksdag decision calls for executive action, the body responsible for executing the decision is informed by means of a written communication. Riksdag decisions on account of a Government bill or a submission shall always be

communicated to the Government or the Riksdag body putting forward the submission by means of a written communication.

Supplementary provision

5.13.1

The written communications of the Riksdag are drawn up by the Secretariat of the Chamber and signed by the Speaker.

The committee which has prepared a matter shall be informed of the Chamber's decision in the matter.

5.13.2

Chapter 10, Sections 6 and 8 contain provisions on written communications of the Riksdag to institutions in the European Union.

Chapter 6. Interpellations and questions to ministers

Interpellations

Art. 1. An interpellation shall deal with a specific subject, and shall include a statement of motivation. The Speaker determines whether an interpellation may be introduced. If the Speaker considers that an interpellation conflicts with fundamental law or with this Act, he or she shall refuse to allow the interpellation to be introduced, stating the reasons for the decision. If the Chamber requests nevertheless that the interpellation be introduced, the Speaker shall refer the matter to the Committee on the Constitution for decision. The Speaker may not refuse to allow the interpellation if the Committee has declared that it does not conflict with fundamental law or with this Act.

An interpellation is answered by a minister within two weeks from its referral to the minister. If a break occurs in the work of the Chamber during the two-week period, the period is extended accordingly.

If no reply is given within the period indicated in paragraph two, the minister shall inform the Riksdag why no reply will be given or why a reply is being held over. A statement of this nature shall not give rise to a debate.

An interpellation lapses if no reply is given during the parliamentary session at which it was introduced.

Supplementary provisions

6.1.1

An interpellation is delivered to the Secretariat of the Chamber. The Speaker notifies a meeting of the Chamber without delay of his or her decision whether or not to allow the interpellation to be introduced. If the Speaker allows the interpellation to be introduced, he or she forwards it to the minister without delay.

After conferring with the special representatives of the party groups, the Speaker determines the latest date in a parliamentary session on which interpellations may be delivered to the Secretariat of the Chamber for a reply, prior to a break of more than one month in the work of the Chamber.

The interpellation shall be entered in the record of Riksdag proceedings.

6.1.2

The Speaker determines the meeting at which a reply will be delivered, after conferring with the minister and the interpellant. Notice of this date shall be given without delay in the manner determined by the Speaker, and shall be entered in the order paper.

The reply to an interpellation may be distributed to members in advance.

6.1.3

When a minister replies to an interpellation, his or her reply shall be delivered in the form of an oral statement of no more than six minutes' duration. The minister shall be entitled to make three more interventions, of which the first two shall be of no more than four minutes' duration each, and the third of no more than two minutes' duration.

The interpellant shall be entitled to make no more than three interventions, of which the first two shall be of no more than four minutes' duration each, and the third of no more than two minutes' duration.

Other speakers shall be entitled to make no more than two interventions, of which the first shall be of no more than four minutes' duration, and the second of no more than two minutes' duration.

Questions

Art. 2. A question may be oral or written. It shall deal with a specific subject.

Oral questions

Art. 3. An oral question is put forward at a special Question Time arranged in the Chamber. It receives an immediate reply from a minister.

The Speaker determines who shall have the floor at Question Time. The Speaker may decide to limit interventions to no more than one minute.

Supplementary provision

6.3.1

Question Time is held every Thursday in weeks in which the Chamber meets for purposes other than the tabling of business.

Should the work situation in the Riksdag so require, the Speaker may determine that Question Time shall be held in a particular week on some day other than Thursday or that it shall be cancelled.

The Government Offices shall inform the Secretariat of the Chamber no later than Friday of the preceding week which ministers will be in attendance at Question Time. Notice to this effect shall be given without delay in the manner determined by the Speaker.

Written questions

Art. 4. A written question may include a brief introductory explanation. The Speaker determines whether a written question may be introduced. If the Speaker considers that a written question conflicts with fundamental law or with this Act, he or she shall refuse to allow the question to be introduced, stating the reasons for the decision. If the Chamber requests nevertheless that the question be introduced, the Speaker shall refer the matter to the Committee on the Constitution for decision. The Speaker may not refuse to allow

the question if the Committee has declared that it does not conflict with fundamental law or with this Act.

A written question receives a written reply from a minister.

Supplementary provisions

6.4.1

A written question is delivered to the Secretariat of the Chamber. The Speaker notifies a meeting of the Chamber without delay of his or her decision whether or not to allow the question to be introduced. If the Speaker allows the question to be introduced, he or she forwards it to the minister without delay.

The written reply is delivered to the Secretariat of the Chamber, which forwards it to the member who submitted the question.

Written questions delivered during the week no later than 10 a.m. on Friday receive a reply no later than 12 noon on the following Wednesday.

The Speaker may determine, during a break of more than one month in the work of the Chamber, that replies shall be given within fourteen days from the date on which the questions were submitted. The Speaker makes his or her decision after conferring with the special representatives of the party groups. If no reply is given within this period, the minister shall inform the Secretariat of the Chamber of when the question will receive a reply or that no reply will be given.

6.4.2

Written questions and ministers' replies to questions shall be entered in the record of Riksdag proceedings.

Chapter 7. General provisions concerning elections within the Riksdag

Applicability of provisions

Art. 1. The rules in Articles 2 to 12 apply to elections held by the Chamber and the rules laid down in Articles 13 and 14 to elections within a committee or other Riksdag body elected by the Chamber in whole or in part.

Nominations Committee

Art. 2. Unless otherwise prescribed by the Riksdag, elections held by the Chamber shall be prepared by a special Nominations Committee appointed from within the Riksdag.

The Nominations Committee is appointed at the first meeting of the Chamber in the electoral period to serve to the end of the electoral period. Each party group which corresponds to a party which obtained at least four per cent of the national vote at the election to the Riksdag shall have a seat on the Nominations Committee. A further ten seats are distributed proportionately among the same party groups. Members are appointed applying the procedure set out in Article 12, paragraph one.

Supplementary provisions

7.2.1

The Speaker determines how many members each party group shall appoint to the Nominations Committee. In making the proportional distribution, the basis of calculation set out in Article 4, paragraph three, shall be applied.

7.2.2

The Nominations Committee does not prepare the election of a Regent, a Deputy Regent, a person who shall hold office as a Regent ad interim, the Speaker, the Deputy Speakers, the Secretary-General of the Riksdag, the Parliamentary Ombudsmen or Deputy Ombudsmen, the Auditors General, or elections to the Ministerial Remunerations Board or the Board for the Remuneration of the Parliamentary Ombudsmen and the Auditors General.

Provisions relating to the preparation of elections are laid down, in the case of the Secretary-General of the Riksdag in Supplementary provision 9.1.1; in the case of the Parliamentary Ombudsmen and Deputy Ombudsmen in Supplementary provision 8.11.2; in the case of the Auditors General in Supplementary provision 8.12.1; in the case of members of the Ministerial Remunerations Board in Supplementary provision 8.4.1; and in the case of members of the Board for the Remuneration of the Parliamentary Ombudsmen and the Auditors General in Supplementary provision 8.5.1.

7.2.3

The Nominations Committee convenes for the first time on the same day as it is appointed, in response to a summons from the Speaker. The Committee convenes thereafter at the summons of its chair.

The provisions of Chapter 4, Article 13, paragraph one, sentence one, and paragraph two, and Supplementary provisions 4.12.1, paragraph two, and 4.12.2 to 4 apply also to the Nominations Committee.

Elections by acclamation

Art. 3. At elections of two or more persons, the Nominations Committee may present an agreed list. The list shall contain as many names as there are persons to be elected and shall be approved by all the members participating in the meeting of the Nominations Committee or by all save one.

The Speaker moves adoption of the agreed list and, if it is adopted, declares the persons listed to be elected. Election shall however be by secret ballot, if so requested by at least as many members as correspond to the figure obtained if the sum total of members entitled to vote is divided by the number of persons to whom the election relates, increased by one. If the figure obtained is not a whole number, it is rounded up to the next higher whole number. This election shall be held at a later meeting.

If it is prescribed that the incumbent of a particular post shall be elected separately, the election shall be held by acclamation. The election shall be held by secret ballot, however, if a member so requests. If the body or group responsible for preparing the election has put forward a unanimous proposal, the election by secret ballot shall not be held until a later meeting.

Elections by secret ballot

Art. 4. Elections are held by secret ballot unless otherwise prescribed in Article 3 or some other principal provision of this Act.

If two or more persons are to be elected by secret ballot, the seats are distributed proportionately among all the groups of Riksdag members participating in the election under a particular designation.

The seats are distributed between the groups by allocating them one by one to the group with the highest comparison figure on each occasion. The comparison figure is identical with the number of votes obtained by the group as long as it has not been allocated a seat. The comparison figure is calculated thereafter by dividing the votes obtained by the group by the number of seats the group has already been allocated, increased by one. When the comparison figures are tied, the matter is decided by lot.

If only one person is to be elected, that person is elected who obtains the most votes, unless otherwise prescribed by the Riksdag in a principal provision of this Act. In the event of a tied vote, the election is decided by lot.

Supplementary provisions

7.4.1

Ballot papers shall be single sheets, folded and unmarked, and shall be identical in size, material and colour. They may include information concerning the election to which they relate. A ballot paper is invalid if it carries any distinguishing mark clearly placed upon it with deliberate intent. If a member submits more than one ballot paper in an election, these ballot papers are invalid. If, however, the ballot papers are identical in content, one ballot paper shall be deemed valid in the count.

7.4.2

At a proportional election, the ballot paper shall designate in words a particular group of Riksdag members. The names are listed consecutively, one after the other, following this designation.

A ballot paper is invalid:

- if it lacks a designation of a members' group;
- if it carries more than one such designation; or
- if it lacks the name of an eligible candidate.

A name on a ballot paper shall be regarded as null and void:

- if the candidate is not eligible;
- if the name has been crossed out;
- if it is not clear who is intended; or

if the order of precedence between that name and another name on the ballot paper is not clearly apparent.

The order of precedence between candidates' names in each members' group shall be determined by calculating comparison figures for the candidates applying the method laid down in Chapter 14, Article 10 of the Elections Act (SFS 2005:837). If several candidates obtain the same comparison figure, the election is decided by lot.

7.4.3

When one person is being elected, there shall be one name on the ballot paper.

A ballot paper is invalid if:

it contains the names of two or more candidates;

it contains the name of a candidate who is not eligible;

the name has been crossed out;

it is not clear who is intended; or

it contains the designation of a members' group.

Provisions concerning the outcome of an election relating to one person are laid down in Chapter 8, Articles 1 to 3, 11 and 12; and in Chapter 9, Articles 1 and 5.

7.4.4

At an election by secret ballot the Speaker shall call upon five members to join him or her at the Speaker's table. Of these, three shall assist at the opening and examination of the ballot papers and two record the votes. The members are called up in the manner prescribed in Supplementary provision 5.6.2. When a member's name is called, he or she proceeds to the Speaker's table and hands his or her ballot paper to the Speaker.

When all the ballot papers found to be valid have been read out by the Speaker and have been recorded by the Clerk of the Chamber currently on duty and the two members, their notes are compared. The Speaker establishes the result of the election and announces it to the Chamber.

7.4.5

If two or more elections are to be held by secret ballot, the Speaker may determine that the ballot papers for all the

elections shall be delivered before a count is taken in any of the elections, unless otherwise requested by a member.

Appeals against elections by secret ballot

Art. 5. Appeals against elections by secret ballot may be lodged by a member of the Riksdag with the Election Review Board. The election is valid irrespective of any appeal. Supplementary provisions

7.5.1

Written appeals against elections are lodged with the Election Review Board. The appeal shall be delivered to the Secretariat of the Chamber within five days from the day on which the result of the election was announced in the Chamber. As soon as the appeal period has expired, the Speaker shall notify a meeting of the Chamber of all the appeals received. The Speaker determines the period during which comments concerning the appeals may be submitted to the Election Review Board. When the period during which comments may be submitted has expired, the Speaker forwards the appeal documents to the Election Review Board forthwith. The Speaker should also submit promptly to the Election Review Board his or her own opinion concerning the appeals.

7.5.2

The Election Review Board shall declare an election null and void and order a re-election if it finds in its examination of an appeal that a provision of Article 4 or of Supplementary provisions 7.4.1 to 5 has been set aside in the election. A re-election shall however be ordered only if it can be assumed with justification that what occurred has affected the result of the election. If the error can be rectified by means of a recount or any other less radical measure, the Election Review Board shall however instead direct the Speaker to effect the necessary rectification.

7.5.3

Ballot papers and other election material shall be held in safe keeping until the election result takes effect.

Times and validity of elections

Art. 6. Elections relating to a period corresponding to the electoral period of the Riksdag are held as soon as possible after the start of the electoral period and are valid until the Riksdag holds a new election in the next electoral period, unless otherwise prescribed by the Riksdag.

Re-elections

Art. 7. If a new member has taken his or her seat in the Riksdag due to the revision of a Riksdag election result on appeal, elections held by the Riksdag earlier in the electoral period shall be held again if so requested by at least ten members of the Riksdag.

Election of deputy members

Art. 8. If two or more persons are to be elected, at least as many deputy members as there are ordinary members shall also be elected, unless otherwise prescribed by the Riksdag. The provisions relating to the election of ordinary members apply also to elections of deputy members. When the Riksdag has held an election for a Riksdag body and has appointed deputy members in this connection, it may approve a change in the number of deputy members of the body, provided the deputy members are no fewer in number than the ordinary members. An alternate member of the Riksdag who has been summoned to take up duty may be appointed a deputy member of a committee of which the absent member is a member, without increasing the number of deputy members of the committee. In such a case, the procedure laid down in Article 12, paragraph one, applies.

Supplementary provisions

7.8.1

A question of an increase in the number of deputy members to exceed the number originally elected is prepared by the Nominations Committee. Elections of deputy members necessitated by an increase in the number of deputy members shall be held as soon as possible.

7.8.2

Unless otherwise prescribed or specially determined, the same number of deputy members shall be appointed as there are ordinary members.

7.8.3

Provisions concerning deputy members are laid down, in the case of the Riksdag Board in Supplementary provision 1.5.2; in the case of the Ministerial Remunerations Board in Chapter 8, Article 4; in the case of the Board for the Remuneration of the Parliamentary Ombudsmen and the Auditors General in Chapter 8, Article 5; in the case of the Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs in Chapter 8, Article 8; in the case of the Parliamentary Council of the National Audit Office in Chapter 8, Article 14; and in the case of the War Delegation in Chapter 8, Article 15.

Attendance by deputy members

Art. 9. Unless otherwise prescribed by the Riksdag, an elected member of a Riksdag body shall be replaced in his or her absence by a deputy member belonging to the same party group. If this is not possible, deputy members have precedence in the order in which they were elected, or, if the election was held using an agreed list, in the order in which their names were listed.

Ineligibility

Art. 10. Unless otherwise prescribed by the Riksdag, a person elected by the Chamber to a post for which membership of the Riksdag is a prerequisite shall resign the appointment if he or she leaves the Riksdag or is appointed Speaker of the Riksdag or a minister.

Supplementary provision

7.10.1

Provisions concerning eligibility for membership of various bodies are laid down, in the case of the Speaker in Chapter 10, Article 12 of the Instrument of Government and in Chapter 1, Article 5, and Chapter 8, Article 15 of this Act; in the case of a member of the Riksdag who is also a minister in Chapter 8, Article 15 of this Act; and in the case of a member who has left the Riksdag in Supplementary provision 8.6.2 of this Act.

Eligibility and obligation to accept an appointment

Art. 11. Only a Swedish citizen may hold a post appointed by election of the Riksdag. Provisions on the requirement of Swedish citizenship for the Parliamentary Ombudsmen and the Auditors General are laid down in Chapter 12, Article 6 of the Instrument of Government.

A person appointed to such a post by election of the Riksdag may not refuse the appointment without the Riksdag's consent.

Successors

Art. 12. If a person who has been elected to a body which at the start of the electoral period was appointed by means of an election of two or more persons resigns his or her appointment ahead of time, the party group or groups for which he or she was elected shall notify the Speaker of the name of a successor. The Speaker shall declare the person nominated as a successor to be elected. If no name is put forward, or if more than one person is nominated, the Speaker appoints a successor. If a seat becomes vacant ahead of time and the original election related to only one person, the same procedure is applied in a supplementary election for the remaining period as was applied in the case of the original election. The provisions of this rule apply unless otherwise prescribed by the Riksdag.

Elections of chairs

Art. 13. A body whose members are appointed by the Chamber in whole or in part shall elect from among its members a chair and one or more deputy chairs, unless otherwise prescribed.

Supplementary provision

7.13.1

Provisions concerning elections of chairs and deputy chairs are laid down, in the case of the Election Review Board in Chapter 3, Article 12 of the Instrument of Government and in Chapter 8, Article 2 of this Act; in the case of the Ministerial Remunerations Board in Chapter 8, Article 4 of this Act; in the case of the Board for the Remuneration of the Parliamentary Ombudsmen and the Auditors General in Chapter 8, Article 5; in the case of the Parliamentary Council of the National Audit Office in Chapter 8, Article 14; and in the case of the Riksdag Appeals Board in Chapter 9, Article 5 of this Act.

Elections within Riksdag bodies

Art. 14. Elections within a body under Article 13 are held by acclamation or by secret ballot, if a member so requests.

Supplementary provision

7.14.1

Ballot papers shall be single sheets, folded and unmarked, and shall be identical in size, material and colour. If the vote is tied, the election shall be decided by lot.

Chapter 8. Certain bodies and officials

Election of Speakers

Art. 1. Elections of a Speaker and First, Second and Third Deputy Speakers under Chapter 4, Article 2 of the Instrument of Government shall be held at the first meeting of the Chamber in the Riksdag electoral period and are valid until the end of the electoral period. The Speakers are elected individually in the above order.

If the election is held by secret ballot, the candidate who receives more than half the votes cast is elected. If no such majority is obtained, a new election is held. If no candidate receives more than half the votes cast on this occasion either, a third election is held between the two candidates obtaining the highest number of votes in the second election. The person receiving the most votes in the third election is elected.

Election of chair and deputy chair of the Election Review Board

Art. 2. Rules concerning the election of the chair of the Election Review Board are laid down in Chapter 3, Article 12 of the Instrument of Government.

The Riksdag appoints a deputy for the chair of the Election Review Board by means of a separate election. The rules laid down in Chapter 3, Article 12 of the Instrument of Government concerning the chair apply also to the deputy.

When a chair or deputy chair is elected by secret ballot the procedure laid down in Article 1, paragraph two, is applied.

Election of a Regent

Art. 3. At an election by secret ballot of a Regent or a Deputy Regent under Chapter 5, Article 5 of the Instrument of Government, or a person qualified to hold office as a Regent ad interim under Chapter 5, Article 7 of the Instrument of Government, the procedure laid down in Article 1, paragraph two, is applied. The election is valid until the Riksdag determines otherwise.

The Ministerial Remunerations Board

Art. 4. The Ministerial Remunerations Board consists of a chair and two other members. These are elected individually by the Riksdag after each ordinary election to the Riksdag and serve until a new election for the Board has been held. No deputy members are appointed.

If, for reasons of ill health or for any other reason, a member is prevented from performing his or her duties, the Riksdag elects a replacement to serve in his or her place for as long as the problem persists.

Supplementary provision

8.4.1

Elections of members of the Ministerial Remunerations Board are prepared by the Committee on the Constitution.

The Board for the Remuneration of the Parliamentary Ombudsmen and the Auditors General

Art. 5. The Board for the Remuneration of the Parliamentary Ombudsmen and the Auditors General consists of a chair and two other members. These are elected individually by the Riksdag after each ordinary election to the Riksdag and serve until a new election for the Board has been held. No deputy members are appointed.

If, for reasons of ill health or for any other reason, a member is prevented from performing his or her duties, the Riksdag elects a replacement to serve in his or her place for as long as the problem persists.

Supplementary provision

8.5.1

Elections of members of the Board for the Remuneration of the Parliamentary Ombudsmen and the Auditors General are prepared by the Committee on the Constitution.

International delegations

Art. 6. If an international agreement has been concluded with effect that the Riksdag shall appoint a delegation to an international organisation from among its members, rules concerning this may be laid down in a supplementary provision of this Article.

Supplementary provisions

8.6.1

The Riksdag elects twenty members of the Swedish Delegation to the Nordic Council. The Delegation is elected for each session of the Riksdag. The Delegation shall report annually to the Riksdag on its activities.

8.6.2

The Riksdag elects six members of the Swedish Delegation to the Council of Europe. The Delegation is elected for the period from 1 November of the year in which an election to the Riksdag has been held until the corresponding date following the next election. A member or a deputy member of the Swedish Delegation to the Council of Europe who has left the Riksdag in conjunction with an election to the Riksdag may continue to serve for the remainder of the Delegation's term of office.

The Delegation shall report annually to the Riksdag on its activities.

8.6.3

The Riksdag elects eight members of the Swedish Delegation to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. The Delegation is elected for the electoral period of the Riksdag.

The Delegation shall report annually to the Riksdag on its activities.

Election of the General Council of the Riksbank

Art. 7. Elections of members of the General Council of the Riksbank under Chapter 9, Article 13 of the Instrument of Government are valid for the electoral period of the Riksdag.

Supplementary provision

8.7.1

A member of the General Council of the Riksbank:

may not be a minister;

may not be a member of the Executive Board of the Riksbank;

may not be a board member or deputy board member of a commercial bank or other undertaking coming under the supervision of the Financial Supervisory Authority;

1. may not hold any other employment or appointment which renders him or her unsuitable for appointment as a member of the General Council.

Nor may a member of the General Council be a minor, an undischarged bankrupt, debarred from trading or placed under administration under Chapter 11, Article 7 of the Parental Code.

If a member accepts an employment or an appointment such that it may conflict with the rules of paragraph one, the Riksdag shall remove the member from his or her appointment to the General Council in response to a proposal from the Committee on Finance. Any employment or appointment accepted by a member of the General Council shall be reported to the Riksdag.

The Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs

Art. 8. Elections of members of the Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs under Chapter 10, Article 12 of the Instrument of Government are valid for the electoral period of the Riksdag.

A Deputy Speaker shall act as deputy for the Speaker on the Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs. The number of deputy members elected shall be nine.

Art. 9. The Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs meets behind closed doors. The Prime Minister may permit also a person other than a member, deputy member, minister or official to be present.

Supplementary provisions

8.9.1

A record shall be kept of meetings of the Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs. The Secretary of the Council is appointed by the Government.

Deputy members of the Advisory Council shall always be notified of meetings of the Council.

8.9.2

A member, deputy member or official present for the first time at a meeting of the Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs shall affirm that he or she will abide by the duty of confidentiality under Chapter 10, Article 12 of the Instrument of Government.

Art. 10. The Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs convenes in response to a summons from the Speaker or, in his or her absence, a Deputy Speaker, or in re-sponse to a summons from two other members of the Council, for the purpose of ordering the War Delegation to replace the Riksdag under Chapter 15, Article 2 of the Instrument of Government. The proceedings are conducted by the Speaker, by a Deputy Speaker or, if none is present, by that member among those present who has been a member of the Riksdag longest. If two or more members have been members of the Riksdag equally long, the member who is senior in age has precedence. In the event of a tied vote when a vote is held on a decision, the opinion in which the chair concurs shall prevail.

The Parliamentary Ombudsmen

Art. 11. The Riksdag elects Ombudsmen under Chapter 13, Article 6 of the Instrument of Government to supervise the application of laws and other statutes in public activities. The Parliamentary Ombudsmen shall be four in number, one Chief Parliamentary Ombudsman, and three Parliamentary Ombudsmen. The Chief Parliamentary Ombudsman shall act as administrative director and shall determine the main thrust of the Ombudsmen's activities. The Riksdag may in addition elect one or more Deputy Ombudsmen. A Deputy Ombudsman shall have held office previously as a Parliamentary Ombudsman.

The Chief Parliamentary Ombudsman, the other Parliamentary Ombudsmen and the Deputy Ombudsmen are elected individually. When an Ombudsman is elected by secret

ballot, the procedure laid down in Article 1, paragraph two, is applied.

A Parliamentary Ombudsman is elected for the period from the date of his or her election, or such later date as the Riksdag may determine, until a new election has been held in the fourth year thereafter and the person then elected has assumed office. The election shall however never be valid beyond the end of that year. A Deputy Ombudsman is elected for a period of two years from the date of his or her election, or such later date as the Riksdag may determine. In response to a proposal from the Committee on the Constitution, the Riksdag may however remove from office prior to that date a Parliamentary Ombudsman or a Deputy Ombudsman who has forfeited the confidence of the Riksdag.

If a Parliamentary Ombudsman retires ahead of time, the Riksdag shall elect a successor without delay to serve for a new four-year period.

Supplementary provisions

8.11.1

The Committee on the Constitution shall confer with a Parliamentary Ombudsman on working procedures and other matters of an organisational nature, either on its own initiative, or at the request of one of the Parliamentary Ombudsmen.

8.11.2

The election of a Parliamentary Ombudsman or a Deputy Ombudsman is prepared by the Committee on the Constitution.

The National Audit Office

Art. 12. The Riksdag shall elect three Auditors General, in accordance with Chapter 13, Article 8 of the Instrument of Government.

The Auditors General are elected individually. When an election is held by secret ballot, the procedure laid down in Article 1, paragraph two, is applied. Elections of Auditors General are valid from the date of election, or such later date as the Riksdag may determine, until a new election has been held in the seventh year thereafter and the person then elected has assumed office. The election shall however never be valid beyond the end of that year. An Auditor General may not be re-elected.

One of the Auditors General shall be Auditor General with administrative responsibility and shall be responsible for the administrative direction of the authority. The Riksdag determines which of the Auditors General shall assume this responsibility.

An Auditor General may not be an undischarged bankrupt, debarred from trading, or placed under administration under Chapter 11, Article 7 of the Parental Code. Nor may an Auditor General hold any employment or appointment or engage in any activity which might affect his or her independent status.

Supplementary provisions

8.12.1

Elections of Auditors General are prepared by the Committee on the Constitution.

8.12.2

An Auditor General shall report in writing the following circumstances to the Riksdag:

any ownership of and changes regarding ownership of financial instruments under Chapter 1, Section 1 of the Financial Instruments Trading Act (SFS 1991:980);

any agreement of a financial nature with a former employer, such as an agreement relating to salary or pension benefits paid during a period covered by his or her appointment at the National Audit Office;

any paid employment which is not of a purely temporary nature;

any independent income-generating activity pursued alongside his or her appointment as an Auditor General;

any appointment at a municipality or county council, if the appointment is not of a purely temporary nature; and

any other employment, appointment or ownership which might be presumed to affect the performance of his or her duties.

Art. 13. The Riksdag may remove an Auditor General from office in response to a request from the Committee on the Constitution.

If an Auditor General retires ahead of time, the Riksdag shall elect a successor without delay to serve for a new seven-year period.

Art. 14. The Riksdag elects the Parliamentary Council of the National Audit Office for the electoral period of the Riksdag. The Council consists of one member from each party group, which corresponds to a party which obtained at least four per cent of the national vote at the election to the Riksdag. No deputy members shall be appointed.

The Riksdag elects a chair and one or more deputy chairs from among the members of the Council. The chair and each deputy chair are elected individually.

The War Delegation

Art. 15. The Riksdag shall elect a War Delegation from among its members, in accordance with Chapter 15, Article 2 of the Instrument of Government.

The War Delegation consists of the Speaker as chair, and fifty other members elected by the Riksdag for the electoral period of the Riksdag.

A member of the Riksdag is eligible to be a member of the War Delegation irrespective of whether he or she is also a minister. No deputy members are appointed for the War Delegation. If a member is permanently prevented from attending after the War Delegation has replaced the Riksdag, another member of the Riksdag is appointed to replace him or her as laid down in Chapter 7, Article 12, paragraph one.

Supplementary provisions

8.15.1

The chair and deputy chair of the War Delegation prepare the activities of the Delegation in the event of the Delegation replacing the Riksdag.

8.15.2

The rules laid down in Chapter 4, Article 13, paragraph one, sentence one, and paragraph two; and Supplementary provisions 4.12.1, paragraph two, 4.12.2 and 4.12.4 apply also to the War Delegation at a time when the Delegation is not acting in place of the Riksdag.

Further rules

Art. 16. The Riksdag may adopt more detailed rules concerning Riksdag bodies and appoint representatives in certain cases.

Supplementary provisions

8.16.1

The Riksdag determines statutes for the Riksbank Tercentenary Foundation and elects twelve members of the Board of the Foundation in accordance with Article 3 of the Foundation's statutes (RFS 1988:1).

The Foundation shall report annually to the Riksdag on its activities.

8.16.2

In accordance with Section 4 of the Act on the appointment of permanent salaried judges (2010:1390), the Riksdag elects two members to represent the public in the Committee on Judges and one personal substitute for each of them.

Chapter 9. Provisions concerning personnel and administration

The Secretary-General of the Riksdag

Art. 1. The Chamber appoints a Secretary-General. The Secretary-General of the Riksdag ensures that a record is kept of meetings of the Chamber. He or she dispatches the decisions of the Riksdag and assists the Speaker in the work of the Riksdag also in other respects. The Secretary-General of the

Riksdag also acts as head of the Riksdag Administration and Secretary of the War Delegation.

The election of the Secretary-General of the Riksdag is held at the start of the parliamentary session following an ordinary election for the Riksdag and is valid until a new election of the Secretary-General is held. The election shall be prepared.

If the election is held by secret ballot, then the candidate who receives three quarters or more of the votes cast is elected. If three quarters or more of the votes cast are not obtained, a new election is held. If no candidate receives three quarters or more of the votes cast on this occasion either, the election will be prepared again.

Supplementary provision

9.1.1

The election of the Secretary-General of the Riksdag shall be prepared by a group consisting of the Speaker and the special representatives of the party groups.

Secretariats of the Riksdag committees and the Committee on European Union Affairs

Art. 2. The Riksdag committees and the Committee on European Union Affairs are assisted by secretariats which form part of the Riksdag Administration. The head of such a secretariat shall be a Swedish citizen.

The Riksdag Administration

Art. 3. The Riksdag draws up instructions for the Riksdag Administration.

Art. 4. The Riksdag Administration shall, in respect of the Riksdag and authorities under the Riksdag, and to the extent determined by the Riksdag:

deal with questions relating to negotiations on terms and conditions of employment of personnel, and other staff matters;

draw up proposals for appropriations under the national budget, but not in respect of the National Audit Office;

deal with questions relating to the administration of the Riksdag in general, and questions concerning the financial

administration of authorities under the Riksdag other than the Riksbank; and

adopt provisions and recommendations concerning questions under points 1 to 3.

Appeals

Art. 5. Decisions by a Riksdag body in an administrative matter against which appeals may be lodged under special provisions are examined by an administrative court in cases determined by the Riksdag, and by the Riksdag Appeals Board in other cases.

The Appeals Board consists of a chair, who shall hold currently, or shall have held previously, an appointment as a permanent salaried judge, and who is not a member of the Riksdag, and four other members elected by the Riksdag from among its members. The chair is elected separately. Elections for the Appeals Board are valid for the electoral period of the Riksdag.

The chair of the Appeals Board shall have a deputy. Rules applying to the chair apply also to the deputy chair. At an election by secret ballot of a chair or a deputy chair of the Appeals Board, the procedure laid down in Chapter 8, Article 1, paragraph two, is applied.

Remuneration of members and other financial terms and conditions

Art. 6. A member of the Riksdag shall receive remuneration out of public funds. Rules regarding such matters, other financial terms and conditions relating to the mandate, and compensation paid to an alternate for a member of the Riksdag are laid down in law.

Assistance with factual information

Art. 7. Members of the Riksdag and Riksdag bodies shall have access to library services and shall be entitled in general to assistance in obtaining factual information for their Riksdag work.

Prosecution

Art. 8. Prosecution of officials listed below in respect of offences committed in the exercise of their office may be decided:

only by the Committee on Finance in the case of prosecution of a member of the General Council of the Riksbank or a member of the Executive Board of the Riksbank;

only by the Committee on the Constitution in the case of prosecution of a member of the Riksdag Board, the Election Review Board or the Riksdag Appeals Board, or of one of the Parliamentary Ombudsmen, of one of the Auditors General or of the Secretary-General of the Riksdag.

The rules laid down in paragraph one concerning prosecution of a member of the Executive Board of the Riksbank shall not apply in respect of an offence committed in the exercise of the Riksbank's decision-making powers under the Act on Exchange Control and Regulation of Credit (SFS 1992:1602).

Supplementary provision

9.8.1

Special provisions apply to the right to decide on prosecution of particular officials other than those named in Article 8.

Chapter 10. Conduct of European Union business

Information from the European Union

Art. 1. The Riksdag receives written information about the work of the European Union from the Union's institutions in accordance with the protocols to the treaties.

Government's obligation to inform the Riksdag of EU work

Art. 2. In accordance with Chapter 10, Article 10 of the Instrument of Government, the Government shall keep the Riksdag continuously informed concerning developments within the framework of European Union cooperation.

The Government shall account to the Riksdag concerning its actions at the European Union and shall submit a written communication annually to the Riksdag reporting activities at the European Union.

Government's obligation to inform the Riksdag of its position regarding documents from the European Union

Art. 3. The Government shall inform the Riksdag of its position regarding the documents put forward by the institutions of the European Union to the Riksdag and which the Government deems significant.

Committees' work with EU business

Art. 4. The committees shall monitor activities at the European Union within the subject areas laid down for each committee in Chapter 4, Articles 4 to 6, and associated supplementary provisions.

The Government shall deliberate with the committees in matters concerning European Union business decided by the committees. The committees may decide that these deliberations are to be open to the public. Otherwise the provisions on meetings open to the public and meetings behind closed doors under Chapter 4, Article 13, and associated supplementary provisions shall apply.

If so requested by at least five members of a committee, the committee shall decide to hold deliberations with the Government under paragraph two. The committee may reject such a request if such action would so delay consideration of the matter that serious detriment would result. In such a case, the committee shall enter in the record its reasons for rejecting the request.

Rules concerning the obligation of the Government and other State authorities to furnish information concerning European Union business to the committees are laid down in Chapter 4, Article 11.

Consideration of EU documents

Art. 5. The Riksdag shall consider green papers and white papers which are forwarded to the Riksdag in the manner laid down in this paragraph. After conferring with the special representatives of the party groups, the Speaker may determine

that other documents from the European Union, other than draft legislative acts, shall also be considered in this manner.

In accordance with Chapter 4, Articles 1 and 7, the Chamber shall refer such a document to the relevant committee under Chapter 4, Articles 4 to 6, and associated supplementary provisions for examination.

The provisions of Chapter 4, Article 8, apply to the committee's examination of the document. The committee shall obtain any necessary information from the Government.

The committee shall give an account of its examination in a statement to the Chamber. Chapter 4, Articles 15 and 16, apply to the decision regarding the statement.

The Chamber takes a decision on the statement in accordance with the rules laid down in Chapter 4, Article 10; Chapter 5, Articles 1, 3 to 7 and 10; and associated supplementary provisions.

Rules concerning the obligation of the Government and other State authorities to furnish information concerning European Union business to the committees are laid down in Chapter 4, Article 11.

Subsidiarity control

Art. 6. The Riksdag shall examine whether draft legislative acts conflict with the principle of subsidiarity.

In accordance with the provisions laid down in Chapter 4, Articles 1 and 7, the Chamber shall refer a draft to the relevant committee under Chapter 4, Articles 4 to 6, and associated supplementary provisions, for examination.

Chapter 4, Article 8 is applicable to the committee's examination. Within two weeks from the day the committee so requests, the Government shall inform the committee of its assessment regarding the application of the principle of subsidiarity to the current draft.

If the committee considers that the draft conflicts with the principle of subsidiarity, the committee shall deliver a statement to the Chamber with a proposal that the Riksdag should send a reasoned opinion to the Presidents of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission. The committee shall also deliver a statement to the Chamber if so requested by at least five members of the committee. Otherwise the committee shall report to the Chamber by means of an extract from the minutes that the draft legislative act does not conflict with the principle of subsidiarity.

The provisions of Chapter 4, Articles 15 and 16 apply to the committee's decision to deliver a statement. The Chamber makes a decision on the statement in accordance with the rules laid down in Chapter 4, Article 10; Chapter 5, Articles 1, 3 to 7 and 10; and associated supplementary provisions.

The Committee on the Constitution shall monitor the application of the principle of subsidiarity and shall inform the Chamber annually of its observations.

Members of a convention for treaty amendments in the European Union

Art. 7. From among its members the Chamber shall elect members and deputy members to conventions set up to prepare treaty amendments in the European Union. If an election to the Riksdag takes place while a convention is deliberating, the Riksdag shall elect new members and deputy members to the convention after the election to the Riksdag.

Otherwise the provisions of Chapter 7, Articles 2 to 5 and 7 apply to the election of convention members and Chapter 7, Article 9 to the duties of their deputies. Convention members shall present information about the work of the convention at meetings of the Chamber.

Approval of certain initiatives from the European Union

Art. 8. The Riksdag shall approve or reject initiatives from the European Council to decide on an authorisation for the Council to amend the decision-making procedure in a particular area or in a particular case from unanimity to a qualified majority or from a special legislative procedure to the ordinary legislative procedure. The Riksdag shall similarly approve or reject proposals from the European Commission to specify aspects of family law that have cross-border consequences and that can be the subject of legislative acts adopted in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure.

In accordance with Chapter 4, Articles 1 and 7, the Chamber shall refer initiatives to the relevant committee under Chapter 4, Articles 4 to 6, and associated supplementary provisions, for examination.

The provisions of Chapter 4, Article 8 apply to the committee's consideration. The committee shall obtain the necessary information from the Government. The committee

shall present its proposals for a decision in a statement to the Chamber.

The provisions of Chapter 4, Articles 15 and 16 apply to the decision to deliver a statement.

The Chamber makes a decision on the statement in accordance with the rules laid down in Chapter 4, Article 10; Chapter 5, Articles 1, 3 to 7 and 10; and associated supplementary provisions.

The Riksdag shall inform the Presidents of the European Council, the Commission and the Council of its decision to reject an initiative or a proposal by means of a written communication.

The Committee on EU Affairs

Art. 9. The Riksdag shall appoint from among its members for each electoral period a Committee on European Union Affairs (the Committee on EU Affairs) to confer with the Government under Chapter 10, Article 10 of the Instrument of Government.

The Committee on EU Affairs shall consist of an odd number of members, but no fewer than fifteen.

At meetings of the Committee on EU Affairs, each party group represented on the Committee has the right to substitute for one member of the Committee a member of the parliamentary committee whose field of responsibility is affected by the issues under consideration at the Committee's deliberations with the Government. This right does not, however, apply to a party group which already has a member or deputy member on the Committee who is also a member of the parliamentary committee concerned.

Supplementary provision

10.9.1

The size of the Committee on EU Affairs is determined by the Riksdag in response to a proposal from the Nominations Committee.

Government's obligation to inform and consult the Committee on EU Affairs

Art. 10. The Government shall inform the Committee on EU Affairs of matters which are to be decided by the Council of the European Union. The Government shall also consult the

Committee regarding the conduct of negotiations in the Council prior to decisions in the Council.

The Government shall deliberate with the Committee on EU Affairs concerning other matters associated with the work of the European Union, if so requested by the Committee on special grounds. The Government shall consult the Committee prior to meetings of the European Council.

Meetings of the Committee on EU Affairs

Art. 11. The Committee on EU Affairs shall meet behind closed doors. The Committee may, however, determine that a meeting shall be open to the public, in whole or in part. The Committee may permit a person other than a member, deputy member, minister, official accompanying a minister or official of the Committee also to be present at a meeting behind closed doors.

A representative of a State authority shall not be obliged, during a public part of a meeting, to furnish information which is subject to secrecy rules at the authority.

Supplementary provisions

10.11.1

The Committee on EU Affairs convenes for the first time within two days from its election in response to a summons from the Speaker. The Committee is convened thereafter by its chair. The chair shall convene the Committee if so requested by at least five members of the Committee.

A personal summons shall be sent to all members and deputy members. The summons should be posted, if possible, in the premises of the Riksdag no later than 6 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting.

10.11.2

Pending the election of a chair, that member from among those present who has been a member of the Riksdag longest presides. If two or more members have been members of the Riksdag equally long, the member who is senior in age has precedence.

10.11.3

Sound or video recordings may be made of a public part of a meeting of the Committee on EU Affairs unless otherwise determined by the Committee.

10.11.4

Special places shall be provided for the general public at a public part of a meeting of the Committee on EU Affairs. A member of the public who creates a disturbance may be ejected forthwith. In the event of disorder developing among the general public, the chair may have all the members of the public ejected.

A visitor attending a public part of a meeting of the Committee shall surrender, on request, his or her outdoor clothing, carrying bags, and any objects capable of being used to create a disturbance at the meeting. A person who fails to comply with such a request may be refused admission to the meeting. Personal possessions thus surrendered shall be stored in special accommodation for the duration of the visit.

Rules concerning security controls are laid down in the Act on Security Controls in the Riksdag (SFS 1988:144).

Duty of confidentiality in the Committee on EU Affairs

Art. 12. A member, deputy member, or official of the Committee on EU Affairs may not without authority disclose any matter which the Government, or the Committee, has determined shall be kept secret, with regard to the security of the Realm or for any other reason of exceptional importance arising out of relations with another state or an international organisation.

Record of meetings of the Committee on EU Affairs

Art. 13. A record shall be kept at meetings of the Committee on EU Affairs. A shorthand record shall be kept of statements made at meetings at which the Committee confers with the Government.

Transitional provisions

Transitional provisions 1974

1. This Riksdag Act supersedes the previous Riksdag Act.

Transitional provisions relating to 2010 amendments

This Act comes into force on 1 July 2011 as regards supplementary provisions 4.6.9 and 4.6.11 and otherwise on 1 August 2010.