



Rules of Procedure of the Senate of the Netherlands

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Definitions

Article 1

The terms below will have the following meanings throughout these Rules:

- a. 'President', the President of the Senate.
- b. 'Deputy Presidents', the Deputy Presidents of the Senate.
- c. 'Committee chair': the chair of a Senate committee.
- d. 'Committee vice chair': the vice chair of a Senate committee.
- e. 'Minister': one or more responsible ministers and state secretaries. The provisions in these rules that are applicable to a minister will also apply, by analogy, to a member or members of the House of Representatives to whom the House of Representatives has assigned the task of defending a bill adopted there.
- f. 'Parliamentary term', the period during which an elected Senate operates. This period runs from the first meeting of a newly elected Senate up to and including the first meeting of the subsequent newly elected Senate.
- g. 'Old composition': the composition of the Senate immediately prior to the first meeting of a newly elected Senate.
- h. 'Public nature of committee meetings': the public may attend committee meetings, provided there is sufficient space, and may in any event watch the proceedings via a livestream.
- i. 'Publish': to make available to the general public in physical or digital form.

Chapter I Admission of members and end of membership

Admission of members

Article 2

1. Each newly appointed member will submit the documents prescribed by the Elections Act (Kieswet).
2. These documents, together with the credentials of the newly appointed member, will be deposited at the secretariat for inspection by the members.

Article 3

The decision regarding the admission of members declared as appointed after an election will be taken, insofar as possible, by the Senate in its old composition.

Article 4

1. The President will entrust the task of examining the credentials to a committee of three members, designated by him for this purpose. One of them will be appointed by the President as chair.
2. In the event of an election the President will designate a second committee, as referred to in the previous paragraph. He will divide the task of examining the credentials among the two committees. If a member of one of the committees is a newly elected member, his credentials will be examined by the committee of which he is not a member.

End of membership

Article 5

1. A member that no longer meets the requirements of membership of the Senate, or holds a position which is not compatible with the membership, will inform the Senate in accordance with the Elections Act.
2. If the notification as referred to in the first paragraph is not made and the President is of the opinion that the member in question no longer meets the requirements of membership of the Senate, or holds a position which is not compatible with the membership, the President will inform this member in writing.
3. The member who has been warned by the President can ask the Senate for its opinion within eight days.
4. In the event of a situation as referred to in the previous paragraph, the Senate will appoint a committee of inquiry from among its members and will not express an opinion until this committee has issued a report. The member in question will be heard by the committee, unless the member indicates otherwise.

Chapter II Organisation of the Senate

Temporary presidency

Article 6

1. Until such time as a President is appointed, the following will temporarily act as President:
 - a. A former President, whereby the last President to have retired will have precedence.
 - b. A former Deputy President if no former President is available, whereby the Deputy President who has held a seat in the Senate for the longest period will take precedence and, in the event of seats held for the same length of time, the Deputy President who is the eldest in age.

- c. If no Deputy President is available either, the member who has held a seat in the Senate for the longest period of time or, in the event of seats held for the same length of time, the member who is the eldest in age.
2. The Temporary President will take the oath or make a solemn affirmation in the presence of the meeting.

Appointment of the President and Deputy Presidents

Article 7

1. As soon as possible after the start of a new parliamentary term or, if the post of the President becomes vacant during a term of office, the Senate will proceed to draw up a profile in connection with the appointment of a President.
2. After the profile has been established, members can put themselves forward as candidates for the presidency.
3. After the nomination procedure has ended the Senate will proceed to appoint a President.
4. If the President no longer enjoys the confidence of the Senate, the Senate will dismiss him and appoint a new President.
5. A President will be appointed and dismissed in accordance with Articles 89 up to and including 93 of these Rules.

Article 8

After the Senate has appointed a President, it will appoint a first and second Deputy President. Article 7 applies by analogy to Deputy Presidents.

Article 9

1. The President may temporarily transfer the presidency to one of the Deputy Presidents.
2. If the possibility offered in the first paragraph is not used, the first Deputy President, or in the latter's absence the second Deputy President, will deputise by law on behalf the President.
3. If neither the President, nor either of the Deputy Presidents are available, the President will be replaced in accordance with the arrangement referred to in Article 6 paragraph 1.

Duties of the President

Article 10

The President is responsible for:

- a. presiding over the business of the Senate with due regard for these Rules;
- b. maintaining order during the meetings of the Senate;
- c. ensuring the correct formulation of the points on which the Senate must decide and recording the outcome of votes held;
- d. implementing all decisions taken by, or on behalf of, the Senate;
- e. representing the Senate in external matters.

Article 11

1. The President is a member and chair of the Committee of President and Deputy Presidents.
2. He will preside over the meetings of the Committee of Parliamentary Group Leaders.

Committee of President and Deputy Presidents

Article 12

1. There is a Committee of President and Deputy Presidents.
2. The President and the two Deputy Presidents are members of the Committee of President and Deputy Presidents.
3. The meetings of the Committee of President and Deputy Presidents are private.
4. The agendas and lists of decisions of the meetings are made public.

Article 13

1. The Committee of President and Deputy Presidents executes the duties and powers on behalf of the Senate as assigned to the Senate by, or pursuant to, the law, unless these Rules stipulate otherwise, or if it concerns the Senate's legislative or monitoring duties and powers.
2. The Committee of President and Deputy Presidents is authorised to decide on legal acts by the Senate under private law.
3. The Committee of President and Deputy Presidents is authorised to grant the President a mandate and authorisation to exercise wholly or partially the duties and powers referred to in the previous paragraphs. In doing so, additional rules may be imposed.
4. The Committee of President and Deputy Presidents is responsible for supervising the duties performed by the Secretary General.

Article 14

1. The Committee of President and Deputy Presidents will prepare an estimate of the expenditures required in the following year.
2. The Committee will entrust the preliminary examination to a standing or temporary committee designated for that purpose by the Senate.
3. After the estimate has been adopted by Senate it will be sent, before 1 July, to the minister responsible for the chapter of the national budget that specifies the items for the States General.

Committee of Parliamentary Group Leaders

Article 15

1. There is a Committee of Parliamentary Group Leaders.
2. The leaders of the parliamentary parties represented in the Senate are members of the Committee of Parliamentary Group Leaders. They may arrange to be replaced by deputies.
3. The Senate Deputy Presidents can attend meetings of the Committee.
4. The Committee meetings are private.
5. The agenda of each meeting is published, as is a brief report.

Article 16

1. The Committee of Parliamentary Group Leaders supports and advises the President in managing the business of the Senate.
2. The President consults the Committee about the proposals he makes and decisions he takes, with the exception of decisions relating to maintaining order during Senate meetings. No consultation is necessary in instances which the President regards as simple or urgent. The Committee can also advise the President on its own initiative.
3. The President convenes the Committee whenever he considers it necessary, or in response to a written and substantiated request from at least four members of the Committee.
4. The President will notify the Senate of his decisions as referred to in the second paragraph.

Parliamentary group

Article 17

1. Members who have been elected from lists bearing the same name or designation of a political group at the top of the list will be deemed to constitute a parliamentary party from the start of the parliamentary term.
2. If only one member has been elected under a name or a designation, this member will be deemed to constitute a separate parliamentary group.
3. The name of the parliamentary group corresponds to the designation of the political group or the number which was placed at the top of the list as referred to in the first paragraph.

Article 18

1. Parliamentary groups can decide to merge and thus form a new parliamentary group. The President will be informed as soon as possible in such instances.
2. The name of the new parliamentary group will consist of the names of the merged parliamentary groups, in the sequence they desire.

Article 19

1. After the start of a parliamentary term the parliamentary groups will inform the President of the composition of their executive body.
2. The President will be notified as soon as possible in the event of interim changes in the composition of a parliamentary group or the executive body of a parliamentary group.

Article 20

1. If a division takes place in a parliamentary group, this will be reported to the President as soon as possible. The notification will take place:
 - a. in the event of a separation: by the member or the members that have separated.
 - b. in the event of a removal from the parliamentary group: by the parliamentary group which has removed one or more members from the group.
2. Members who have left, or have been removed from, the parliamentary group can form new parliamentary groups individually or jointly. They must inform the President to this effect as soon as possible. Article 19 will apply by analogy to these newly formed parliamentary groups.
3. The new parliamentary groups as referred to in the second paragraph can only use the name of their parliamentary group leader.
4. If, in the President's opinion, it is unclear in the context of a division in a parliamentary group as to which members must be regarded as a continuation of the original parliamentary group, both new parliamentary groups will use the name of the divided parliamentary party, accompanied by the name of their parliamentary group leader.

Article 21

1. The Senate will stipulate, by separate regulation, rules for the allocation and management of a financial contribution to parliamentary groups for the purpose of their work.
2. This regulation will stipulate the consequences of a merger as referred to in Article 18.
3. In this regulation a distinction can be made, as regards the amount of the financial contribution, between parliamentary parties which existed at the start of the parliamentary term and new parliamentary parties as referred to in Article 20.

The secretariat

Article 22

1. The Senate will appoint and dismiss the Secretary General and will decide to enter into, amend and terminate the Secretary General's employment contract. The

Committee of President and Deputy Presidents is responsible for executing the other powers relating to legal status which concern the Secretary General.

2. In consultation with the Committee of President and Deputy Presidents the Secretary General will decide to enter into, amend and terminate employment contracts with the deputy secretary generals and the directors. The Secretary General is responsible for exercising the other powers relating to legal status which concern them.
3. The Secretary General will decide to enter into, amend and terminate employment contracts with other secretariat officials and is responsible for exercising the other powers relating to legal status which concern them.
4. The third paragraph applies by analogy to secretariat employees who are not designated as officials.

Article 23

If the Senate deliberates on the appointment or dismissal of the Secretary General, such deliberations will take place behind closed doors.

Article 24

The Committee of President and Deputy Presidents will determine the duties and powers of the Secretary General and will grant the Secretary General the necessary mandates and authorities. The Committee can determine that the Secretary General can delegate his duties and powers to other secretariat employees.

Article 25

Under the supervision of the Committee of President and Deputy Presidents, the Secretary General will manage the civil servants.

Article 26

The establishment of an office of the clerk for interparliamentary relations will be arranged for by separate regulation, to be adopted by the two Chambers of the Netherlands.

Article 27

1. The arrangements for the Parliamentary Reporting Department, the exercising of duties, the publication of the report of matters dealt with at the meetings of the States General, as well as the retention periods will be arranged for by separate regulation, to be adopted by both Chambers of the Netherlands.
2. The power to make or undo changes in the report provided by the Parliamentary Reporting Department will be exercised by a joint committee of appeal for the Parliamentary Reporting Department, which will be instituted under the above-mentioned rules.

Chapter III Standing and temporary committees

Manner of composition and functioning

Article 28

1. At the start of each parliamentary term the Senate determines for which ministries it wishes to establish one or more standing committees. If so desired, it can also establish one or more standing committees for a ministry in between times.
2. The Senate can also establish standing or temporary committees for specific subjects or policy areas.

Article 29

The Senate will decide on the dissolution of a standing or temporary committee. A temporary committee that has performed its task will cease to exist without any special decision to this effect, unless the Senate has decided otherwise.

Article 30

1. The President will determine the number of members of a committee.
2. The President will ensure that each parliamentary group is represented in each committee, unless the Senate decides differently per committee, or a parliamentary group indicates via its executive body that it wishes to relinquish its right to representation.
3. With due regard for the size of the parliamentary groups, the President will designate the members and, if so desired, deputy members of the committee.
4. The designation of the members will take place, if possible, at the start of the parliamentary term and will apply for the duration thereof, unless expressly decided otherwise.

Article 31

1. The President will appoint a committee chair and a committee vice chair for each committee.
2. If neither the chair nor vice chair of a committee is able to attend, the member of the committee who has held a seat in the Senate for the longest period of time or, in the event of seats held for the same length of time, the member who is the eldest in age, will act as chair.
3. If two or more committees hold a joint meeting, the committee chairs will decide, on the basis of mutual consultation, which one of them, or which committee vice chair, will act as chair. The second sentence applies by analogy.

Article 32

The committee chair is responsible for:

- a. presiding over the business of the committee with due regard for these Rules;
- b. maintaining order during committee meetings;
- c. ensuring the correct formulation of the points on which the committee must decide and recording which decision has been taken;
- d. implementing all decisions taken by the committee;
- e. representing the committee in external matters.

Article 33

If a vote is taken in the committees, decisions will be passed by a majority of votes, whereby the voting weight of the members present is to be determined by the size of the parliamentary group to which they belong.

Article 34

1. Committees can delegate work with a limited term to working groups from among their members.
2. A working group will only perform work on behalf of the committee or committees in question and will report exclusively to that committee or those committees.
3. The working group's assignment will be recorded in writing as soon as possible. The duration of the work can also be recorded.

Article 35

A committee will be convened by the committee chair. The committee chair will also organise a meeting in response to a written and substantiated request by one or more committee members. The committee chair will set the agenda.

Public nature and accessibility

Article 36

1. The meetings of the committees are public, unless a committee decides that a meeting, or a part thereof, is to be held in private.
2. The Senate can decide that the meetings of a particular committee are to be, or may be, held in private.

3. If exceptional circumstances give cause to do so, a committee can decide to hold an entirely or partially digital meeting.
4. The decisions taken by the committees are to be published in brief reports.

Article 37

1. The President will have access to all meetings of the committees and will be able to participate in them.
2. Members who are not a member or deputy member of a committee are allowed to attend the meetings of said committee and can participate in meetings, insofar as the nature of the meetings does not preclude them from being present.

Powers

Article 38

Committees are, in any event, authorised:

- a. to contact a minister in order to obtain the documents which they believe they need to inspect;
- b. to consult in writing with a minister;
- c. to consult verbally with a minister;
- d. to hear the views of people and organisations about a subject to be determined by them;
- e. to hold technical briefings;
- f. to propose to the Senate that information or advice should be requested from an advisory body;
- g. to propose to the Senate that one or more rapporteurs are appointed in connection with a complex bill or another complex subject.

Article 39

1. A committee that wishes to consult in writing with a minister will decide in which meeting the relevant submission can be made.
2. In emergencies, a committee can decide that a submission can also be made outside a meeting. The committee will set a deadline for this.

Article 40

1. Committees which consider it desirable to appoint one or more rapporteurs will draw up a substantiated proposal and submit it to the Senate for a decision to be taken.
2. The proposal will, in any event, contain:
 - a. the assignment of the rapporteur or rapporteurs,
 - b. an indication of the duration of the work and
 - c. an indication of the required official support.
3. Once a report has been finalised, it will be submitted to the President who will forward it to the relevant committee or committees.

Article 41

1. Documents received by the Senate will be forwarded to the most relevant committee or committees.
2. If a committee decides to consider a document, it can exercise the powers referred to in Article 38.
3. The Senate will set rules, by separate regulation, on how to deal with confidential and state secret documents.

Chapter IV Committee reports relating to bills

Submission by the President

Article 42

1. The President will submit every bill to a committee for a preliminary examination, unless the following article is applicable.
2. The President can also submit the bill to several committees which will then jointly perform the preliminary examination.

Deadline letter

Article 43

1. If a bill is adopted in the House of Representatives without deliberation and without a vote, the Secretary General will notify all members of the Senate that the bill has been submitted to one or more committees. At the same time the Secretary General will also indicate how the bill was dealt with in the House of Representatives.
2. If none of the committee members, or other members, ask for a preliminary examination to be held by the deadline set for that purpose by the Secretary General, a blank report will be issued and the bill will be put on the agenda of a subsequent meeting of the Senate so that it can be accepted without deliberation and without a vote.
3. The deadline referred to in the previous paragraph must extend to at least ten days. If the bill is such that it has to be dealt with as a matter of urgency, the period can be shortened by the Secretary General, after prior authorisation from the President.

Bills of an urgent nature

Article 44

1. If, in the President's opinion, a bill cannot be prepared in writing owing to its urgency, the committee to which the bill has been entrusted will issue a blank report, or a report in which it reserves the right to examine the content of the bill in plenary deliberations.
2. The committee will meet as soon as possible in order to adopt the report referred to in the first paragraph and to advise the President on its plenary processing.

Reports

Article 45

1. A committee will issue a report on a bill submitted to it. If none of the committee members have any questions or comments, it will suffice to issue a blank report, or a report in which the committee reserves the right to examine the content of the bill in plenary deliberations.
2. After receiving a memorandum in response to the report, a committee can decide to register the bill for plenary deliberations, or issue a second report.
3. After receiving a memorandum in response to the second report, a committee can decide to register the bill for plenary deliberations, or issue a third report.
4. In the report and the second report a committee can state that, in the event of timely receipt of the memorandum, it considers the bill ready for plenary deliberations. It can register the bill for plenary deliberations subject to timely receipt of the memorandum.

5. When issuing the third report, a committee will register the bill for plenary deliberations subject to timely receipt of the memorandum.
6. On each occasion the committee will decide in which meeting the submission for a report can be made. In cases of urgency the committee can decide that a submission can also be made outside a meeting. The committee will set a deadline for this.
7. The committee can set a deadline for the receipt of each memorandum.

Article 46

1. If a committee wishes to issue a fourth report, it must ask the Senate for leave to do so.
2. If the leave is granted, a committee will re-register the bill for plenary deliberations when issuing the fourth report, subject to timely receipt of the memorandum.

Form of the reports

Article 47

1. The reports referred to in Articles 45 and 46 will be drawn up as concisely and clearly as possible. Questions and comments of a similar nature will be combined, if possible.
2. After the report has been prepared and adopted, it will be signed by the chair and clerk, or by the clerk of the committee for the report, and sent to the relevant ministers.
3. The reports are to be published.

Article 48

1. Draft reports on bills are to be sent to the members of the relevant committee or committees and to the other members who have made submissions.
2. The members to whom the draft has been sent can make comments by a deadline stated on the submitted draft report. The deadline must extend to at least five days, including a weekend. If greater speed is required, the committee chair can shorten the deadline referred to.
3. The clerk, or the clerk for the report, will incorporate the comments in the draft report.

Chapter V General provisions concerning the plenary meetings

Convocation and agenda

Article 49

1. The President will convene the meetings of the Senate. He will decide on the agenda.
2. He will also convene the Senate within fourteen days upon receipt of a written and substantiated request from at least seven members.
3. At least twenty-four hours before the start of the meeting, he will notify the members of the agenda determined by him.

Article 50

1. The President will place a bill on the Senate's agenda after it has been prepared in writing as referred to in the previous chapter.

2. The committee entrusted with the written preparation will advise the President about the date of the plenary deliberations, in case the committee or one of its members wishes a plenary deliberation.
3. In accordance with Article 69 paragraph 2 of the Constitution the President will invite the minister who is the first signatory to the bill to attend the meeting. The committee can ask the President also to invite ministers other than the first signatory to attend the deliberations.

Article 51

1. Based on the proposal by the President, a committee or one or more members, the Senate may decide to deliberate over matters other than bills.
2. Such deliberations do not need to be preceded by written preparations.
3. During the General Political Debate and General Financial Debate the Senate deliberates annually, within the framework of debating the National Budget, over the main themes of government policy, or the government's financial policy. In any given year the Senate can decide not to hold a General Political Debate or General Financial Debate.

Quorum

Article 52

1. Before the start of the meeting each member who wishes to participate in the meeting will register their presence in the Senate building in a way to be determined by the Senate, so that an attendance list can be drawn up. Members who arrive later will report their presence upon arrival.
2. If exceptional circumstances give cause to do so, the Senate can stipulate, by separate regulation, that members who wish to participate in the meeting can also register their presence by digital means, without being present in the Senate building.

Article 53

1. The attendance list is to be submitted to the President at the set time before the start of the meeting, unless no more than half the number of sitting members have reported their presence.
2. The President will open the meeting directly after receipt of the attendance list.
3. If the attendance list cannot be handed over to the President due to the absence of the required quorum, the start time of the meeting will be postponed by half an hour.
4. If the required quorum is not attained within the extra half hour, the President will consult with the members present in the hall.
5. After consulting, the President may decide to postpone the start time of the meeting to a later hour on the same day. He will inform all the members to this effect.
6. If the President believes that a postponement as referred to in the previous paragraph is inadvisable, or if it appears that a quorum has still not been attained when the postponed meeting is due to start, he will read out the names of the absent members and the reasons for their absence. These names, as well as those of the members present, will be included in the official report.
7. After said reading out of the names and reasons, the President will postpone the meeting to a date to be determined later.

Seats

Article 54

1. Each member will be allocated a seat in the plenary hall. The President will allocate these seats. When the President so requests, the members will take their seats.
2. The President will make seats available for the ministers and any people designated to assist them pursuant to Article 69 paragraph 3 of the Constitution.

3. Furthermore, the President will make seats available for those people, in particular the ministers plenipotentiary of Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten or the special delegates of the representative bodies of those countries, upon whom any special power has been conferred by the Charter of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, by law or by treaty during the meetings of the two Chambers of the Netherlands.

Public nature and conduct of attendees

Article 55

The meetings of the Senate are public, with the exception of the instances referred to in Article 66 of the Constitution.

Article 56

1. Disruptive behaviour on the part of observers of a meeting of the Senate and the other people present in the Senate building will not be tolerated. All attendees must comply with the instructions of the President, the Senate's secretariat officials, the police and other supervisory officers.
2. The instructions as referred to in the first paragraph also include the guidelines adopted by the President for the making of image and sound recordings by journalists in the Senate building.
3. Observers will be silent and refrain from showing any signs of approval or disapproval.
4. The President will supervise the conduct of the observers of a meeting and, in the event of an infringement of the above-mentioned rules of conduct, may order the people responsible, or all people seated in a given section of the gallery, to leave. In doing so the President can be assisted by the Senate's secretariat officials, the police and other supervisory officers.
5. The President will suspend the meeting if he considers this necessary in order to maintain order.
6. With the exception of the second paragraph, this article applies by analogy to committee meetings, whereby the term 'the President' can be read as 'the committee chair'.

Article 57

If he deems such to be necessary, the President is authorised to take measures to ensure that all people present at the premises of the Senate vacate the premises. In doing so the President can be assisted by the Senate's secretariat officials, the police and others supervisory officers.

Publication of documents

Article 58

The Secretary General and the deputy secretary generals are responsible for publishing the appropriate documents which the Senate receives from the government, as well as the documents issued by the Senate, unless publication is impossible, or a document is confidential.

Chapter VI Speaking at meetings

Floor and list of speakers

Article 59

1. The members will speak at meetings from the area designated as the floor, unless the President has given them leave to speak from another place in the plenary hall.
2. When speaking the members will address the President.
3. Only with the President's prior permission may something being displayed or handed over from the area designated as the floor.

Article 60

1. No one will speak without having been given the floor by the President.
2. If the President himself wishes to speak on the subject being discussed in a way other than is necessary for the execution of the duties assigned to him pursuant to Article 10, he will leave the President's chair to do so. He will not return to the President's chair as long as the subject is under discussion and will be replaced during this period of time pursuant to the provisions of Article 9.
3. The President may permit interruptions. These interruptions must consist of short comments or questions.
4. Interruptions may be made from the areas in the hall designated for this purpose.

Article 61

1. As soon as the President has placed a bill or any other subject on the agenda, or has indicated his intention to do so to the members, the members may request to have their names added to the list of speakers at the secretariat.
2. The President will grant permission to the members to take the floor in the sequence of the list of speakers and thereafter to those requesting the floor. He may decide to deviate from the list of speakers, if this is required due to the nature of the deliberation.
3. He may also determine the sequence in which speakers from various parliamentary groups will have the floor in advance.

Personal business and motion of order

Article 62

1. Each member will be given the floor immediately for question of personal privilege.
2. If possible, motions of order will be made at the start of the meeting. If this is impossible, the President will grant a member the floor during the meeting in order to make a motion of order.

Referral back to the committee

Article 63

1. The Senate may decide to refer a bill on the agenda back to the committee which performed the preliminary examination if new facts and circumstances have occurred after registering for the plenary deliberations which the Senate believes make it desirable to refer the bill back.
2. The President or at least five members can make a proposal for a referral back as referred to in the previous paragraph. The Senate will take an immediate decision about the proposal.
3. After the referral back, the committee can use its powers pursuant to Article 38.

Ministers and members speaking at meetings

Article 64

The President will only give the floor to ministers, people they have designated to assist them, the ministers plenipotentiary and the special delegates who demand the floor after the speaker who has the floor has finished his speech.

Article 65

The members will only take the floor for a maximum of two speaking periods on the same subject, unless the Senate grants leave for them to speak a subsequent period.

Motions

Article 66

1. A member who has the floor can table motions on the subject under consideration, either alone or together with other members.
2. A motion will be tabled in writing and signed by the member or members presenting it.
3. A motion can only be taken into consideration if it has been countersigned or is supported by at least four other members.
4. A member cannot table any motions when he first takes the floor, unless the Senate has given leave to do so.
5. Motions will be dealt with at the same time as the deliberations on the subject under consideration, unless the Senate decides otherwise.
6. The first signatory can amend or withdraw the motion until it has been voted on. He will immediately inform the Secretary General to that effect, who will inform the Senate accordingly.
7. If a motion is amended or withdrawn, the President will report such during the meeting, before any voting takes place.

Article 67

1. The Senate may postpone voting on motions. If the voting has not occurred at the latest in the first meeting to be held twelve weeks after the postponement decision, the motion will be deemed to have lapsed, unless the Senate decides otherwise.
2. At the end of a parliamentary term all postponed motions will lapse, unless the Senate decides otherwise.

Article 68

1. During the deliberations the President will give notice that a motion addressed to the government has been embraced by the government if:
 - a. the minister has indicated agreement with the content of the proposed motion and
 - b. the President is satisfied that none of the members present in the plenary hall object to the adoption of the motion.
2. After adoption a motion will no longer be part of the deliberations and will no longer be voted on.

Conduct during the meeting and disciplinary actions

Article 69

- Every member will behave during a meeting in a manner which:
- a. demonstrates mutual respect and respect for the other participants in the meeting, and
 - b. is not detrimental to the Senate's dignity and functioning.

Article 70

If a person who has the floor deviates from the subject under deliberation, the President will draw his attention to this and call on him to return to the subject in hand.

Article 71

1. Members will refrain from:
 - a. using offensive and threatening expressions;
 - b. disrupting the order;
 - c. expressing assent with, or inciting, unlawful acts;
 - d. violating a duty of secrecy or a duty to observe confidentiality.
2. If a member acts contrary to the first paragraph, the President will warn him and give him the opportunity to retract the words which gave grounds for the warning, or to observe after all the duty of secrecy or the duty to observe confidentiality.

Article 72

1. The President can order a speaker to yield the floor if this speaker:
 - a. continues to deviate from the subject under deliberation despite being called to return to the subject in hand as referred to in Article 70;
 - b. continues, despite a warning as referred to in Article 71, to use offensive and threatening expressions, to disrupt the order, to express assent with, or incite, unlawful acts, or to violate a duty of secrecy or a duty to observe confidentiality.
2. A member who, pursuant to the previous paragraph, has been ordered to yield the floor with regard to a certain subject may no longer take part in the deliberations on this subject being held at the meeting in question.

Article 73

If the President considers it to be necessary with an eye on the order of business at the meeting, he can exclude a speaker to whom the previous article has been applied and any other member who is guilty of conduct as referred to in that article, from continued attendance of the meeting on the day on which the exclusion occurs.

Article 74

1. If the President considers it to be necessary with an eye on the order of business at the meeting, he can oblige a member who has been excluded from attending a meeting to leave the Senate building immediately and not re-enter the building before the end of the period of exclusion.
2. If necessary, the President will arrange for the excluded member to be ejected from the Senate building by force. In doing so the President can be assisted by the Senate officials, the police and others supervisory officers.

Article 75

1. No appeal can be made to the Senate against the decisions by the President pursuant to Articles 70 up to and including 72.
2. Any member can ask the Senate to review a decision made by the President pursuant to Articles 73 and 74 immediately after having been informed of the said decision. The Senate will then make an immediate decision and confirm or reject the President's decision. No deliberations will take place on the decision.

Article 76

Articles 69 up to and including 72 and 75 first paragraph apply by analogy to committee meetings, whereby the term 'the President' can be read as 'the committee chair', and the term 'the Senate' can be read as 'the committee'.

Maximum floor time

Article 77

1. The President will determine the speaking time limits for members with respect to a motion of order and an interpellation.
2. The President can also set maximum floor times per parliamentary group for the purpose of deliberations on matters other than bills, as referred to in Article 51. The President will consult the Committee of Parliamentary Group Leaders on this as soon as possible.
3. If the previous paragraph is applicable, the President will take account, when setting the maximum floor times, of the size of the parliamentary groups to which the speakers belong.
4. If the second paragraph is applicable, the members will, for the second speaking period, have at most half of the floor time allocated to them for the first speaking period. The President can also set maximum floor times for two speaking periods together, whereby the members decide themselves on the allocation of floor time across both speaking periods.
5. If a member exceeds the floor time allocated to his parliamentary group, the President may order him to yield the floor. No appeal can be made to the Senate against this decision.

Adjournment of deliberations

Article 78

1. The President can adjourn the deliberations if he considers this desirable, with an eye on the progress of the business of the Senate, or to maintain order.
2. In other instances the Senate can decide on an adjournment of deliberations based on the proposal of the President, or at least five members who are present and who propose this by making a motion of order as referred to in Article 62 paragraph 2. The proposal will indicate the duration of the adjournment.

Closure of deliberations

Article 79

1. The President will close the deliberations if no one else asks to have the floor.
2. During deliberations the President may propose to the Senate that its further deliberations should be closed at a specified time. In addition, at least five members who are present can propose this by calling for a motion of order to the Senate.
3. If the Senate adopts a proposal as referred to in the previous paragraph, the President will allocate fairly the remaining floor time on the part of the Senate, while taking account of the size of the parliamentary groups to which the speakers belong.

Chapter VII Voting on business and on people

Voting on business

Article 80

1. After closing the deliberations, the President will put the bill or other proposal to vote.
2. If none of the members requests a vote, the President will conclude that the proposal has been adopted without a vote.

3. The President will determine the moment at which the vote will take place.
4. If a roll call vote has been requested, the voting will take place at a subsequent meeting, unless the Senate decides otherwise or these Rules determine otherwise.
5. Paragraphs 3 and 4 apply by analogy to the decision on motions of order as referred to in Article 62 paragraph 2.

Article 81

If motions are tabled during deliberations on a bill, these motions will be put to the vote after the vote on the bill, unless the Senate decides otherwise.

Article 82

Before the vote takes place, the President will offer the members the opportunity to issue brief statements to explain their vote.

Article 83

1. Voting will take place by means of a standing vote, unless the Senate decides to hold a roll call vote at the request of one of the members.
2. In the event of a standing vote, the voting weight of the members present is determined by the size of the parliamentary group to which they belong.
3. If, in the event of a standing vote, the members of a parliamentary group are divided in their vote, they will inform the President accordingly well before the vote, stating the names of the members who are going to vote for and against.
4. If, in the opinion of the President or of one of the members, the outcome of a standing vote is unclear, a new vote will be held in the same way.
5. If, in the opinion of the President or of one of the members, the outcome is then still unclear, a roll call vote will be held. Article 80 paragraph 4 applies by analogy.

Article 84

1. In the event of a roll call vote, the member with whom the roll call starts will be decided by drawing lots. After that the President will follow the numbers on the attendance list and will himself be the last person to cast a vote.
2. Each member will cast his vote by saying 'for' ('voor') or 'against' ('tegen'), without any addition.

Article 85

1. If a member makes a mistake during a standing vote, he will only be able to rectify his mistake before the President determines the outcome.
2. If a member makes a mistake during a roll call vote, he will only be able to rectify his mistake before the following member has voted.
3. If a member has not rectified his mistake on time, he can ask for it to be noted that he has made a mistake at the end of the vote. This will not change the outcome of the vote.

Article 86

1. Except in the cases referred to in the Constitution, all decisions on business will be taken by a simple majority of votes.
2. In the event of a tied vote, the decision will be postponed until a subsequent meeting. In the event of a tied vote at a subsequent meeting, the proposal being voted on will be deemed to have been rejected.

Article 87

If, during the vote, it transpires that the quorum, as referred to in Articles 52 and 53, is no longer present, the vote will be deemed to be without result. The vote will be deemed to have not been cast. After establishing that the requisite quorum is absent, the President will close the meeting.

Article 88

If a proposal is adopted without a vote, members who are present in the plenary hall can have a note included in the official report indicating that they want to be regarded as having voted against. Any such note will not be accompanied by a clarification.

Voting on people

Article 89

1. Votes on people will take place using ballot papers deposited in a ballot box.
2. Voting on a person does not have to take place if none of the members requests such a vote, unless it concerns the appointment or the dismissal of the President, the Deputy Presidents or the Secretary General.
3. For each vote, the President will appoint a committee of four members who, as tellers, will:
 - a. ensure that the number of ballot papers does not exceed the number of members present;
 - b. open the ballot papers and establish their validity;
 - c. determine who has been voted for and announce the content of each ballot paper via the first member appointed;
 - d. determine the outcome of the vote and announce the outcome via the first member appointed.

Article 90

1. Ballot papers that have not been completed, or have not been properly or clearly completed, are invalid.
2. Ballot papers that have not been properly completed also means ballot papers bearing the name of a person who is not a candidate.

Article 91

An simple majority of valid votes is required for a valid outcome of a vote as referred to in Article 89.

Article 92

1. Votes on people will take place in one or more rounds. If no one has obtained an simple majority in the first vote, as referred to in the previous article, a second - also entirely free - vote will be held.
2. If no simple majority is obtained in the second vote, a third vote will be held between the two people who received the most votes in the second vote.
3. If the provisions of the previous paragraph cannot be applied because two or more people have received an equal number of votes, a separate vote will first be held to determine which of the people may stand in the third vote.

Article 93

If the votes are tied in the separate vote held to determine which of the people may stand in the revote, or if the votes are tied in the final vote, the matter will be decided by drawing lots.

Notification of the outcome of the votes

Article 94

1. If the Senate has adopted a bill, it will give notice of this to the King and to the House of Representatives.
2. If the bill was introduced by the King, the Senate will give notice:
 - a. to the King using the following words:

'To the King, The States General have adopted the bill in the form in which it lies before us'.

- b. to the House of Representatives using the following words:

'To the House of Representatives, The Senate hereby gives notice to the House of Representatives of the fact that it has adopted the bill concerning..... , sent to it by the House of Representatives on.....'

- 3. If the bill was introduced by the House of Representatives, the Senate will give notice:

- a. to the King using the following words:

'To the King, The States General have adopted the bill displayed alongside. They request the con-firmation of the King for this bill.'

- b. to the House of Representatives using the following words:

'The Senate hereby gives notice to the House of Representatives of the fact that it has adopted the bill concerning received by it on and has, on behalf of the States General, requested the confirmation of the King for this bill.'

Article 95

- 1. If the Senate has defeated a bill, it will give notice of this in the manner indicated in paragraphs 2 and 3.
- 2. If the bill was introduced by the King, the Senate will give notice:

- a. to the King using the following words:

'To the King, The Senate has defeated the bill displayed alongside.'

- b. to the House of Representatives using the following words:

'To the House of Representatives, The Senate hereby gives notice to the House of Representatives of the fact that it has defeated the bill concerning....., sent to it on '

- 3. If the bill has been introduced by the House of Representatives, the Senate will give notice to the House of Representatives using the following words:

'To the House of Representatives, The Senate hereby gives notice to the House of Representatives of the fact that it has defeated the bill concerning....., sent to it on '

Article 96

- 1. The President is responsible for drawing up and signing the notifications referred to in the previous articles and for sending them to the King and to the House of Representatives.
- 2. The notifications will be prepared, signed and sent as soon as possible after the Senate has decided whether or not to accept a bill.

Chapter VIII Official report

Form of the official report

Article 97

An official report will be prepared of each meeting, as referred to in Article 49, and of each gathering, as referred to in Article 53 paragraphs 3 to 7.

Article 98

The official report will contain:

- a. a verbatim report of the deliberations held;
- b. the names of the members whom, as evidenced by the attendance list, have reported their presence in the Senate building;
- c. the names of the members who were absent with prior notice;
- d. the outcomes of the votes and, in the event of a roll call vote, the names of the members who have declared themselves to be for or against;
- e. a note if one or more members have made use of the option referred to in Article 88;
- f. a statement of all decisions taken by the Senate or by the President.

Article 99

1. The parts of the official report, referred to in the previous Article under b to f, will be collectively described as the 'minutes'.
2. The minutes will be adopted by the President and the Secretary General.
3. These adopted minutes will be deposited for inspection by the members at the secretariat on the day of the next meeting.
4. During said meeting any member may raise an objection to the contents of the minutes and ask for a ruling of the Senate on this. Such a ruling by the Senate will be attached to the minutes and will be deemed to replace, supplement, or confirm the parts to which the objection was raised.
5. The minutes will be kept at the secretariat.

Private meetings

Article 100

1. The official report of meetings that are held in private, in accordance with the provisions of Article 66 of the Constitution, will be prepared and kept separately.
2. The Senate will decide whether the Parliamentary Reporting Department will be entrusted with this, or the Secretary General or a secretariat official designated by the Secretary General.
3. The minutes from this report will be adopted by the President and the Secretary General and deposited at the secretariat for confidential inspection by the members and will be treated in accordance with the provisions of Article 99 paragraph 4. If the Senate is requested to make a ruling, in accordance with this article, the minutes will be deliberated in a meeting behind closed doors.
4. The minutes will be maintained separately and kept at the secretariat.
5. The Senate will decide whether and if so, under what conditions, people other than members of the Senate will be permitted to inspect the minutes.

Chapter IX Right of inquiry and investigation, right of interpellation and right to ask written questions

Enquiry and other investigation

Article 101

Rules on decision-making and on other subjects relating to a parliamentary inquiry and other parliamentary investigations will be laid down by separate regulation adopted by the Senate.

Article 102

A parliamentary inquiry will be conducted by a committee appointed for this purpose from among the members of the Senate and known as the parliamentary committee of inquiry.

Article 103

A parliamentary investigation other than as referred to in the previous article will be conducted by a committee appointed for this purpose from among the members of the Senate and known as the parliamentary committee of investigation.

Interpellation

Article 104

1. If a member requires information from a minister on a subject that is not on the Senate's agenda or one of its committees, he may seek the Senate's leave to hold an interpellation. When requesting the leave the member will indicate the main points on which he wishes to ask questions.
2. If at all possible the leave will be requested at the start of the meeting and the member will inform the President of his intention before the start of the meeting.
3. If the Senate grants the requested leave, the President will decide the day of which the interpellation will be held. If an interpellation is required very urgently and the minister is present, the President can decide that the interpellation will be held immediately. The minister will then provide the requested information immediately. If this is impossible, the President will postpone the further proceedings until a later time.
4. Unless the interpellation is held immediately, the interpellant will submit the questions he intends to put forward during the interpellation to the President as soon as possible and in writing. The President will send these questions to the minister concerned, unless he is of the opinion that the questions contain words as referred to in Article 71. The President will notify the members of the questions that have been forwarded.
5. During an interpellation the interpellant will not speak more than two periods and other members not more than once, unless the Senate grants leave for another speaking period.

Written questions

Article 105

1. A member who wishes to put forward written questions to a minister will submit these questions to the President. The questions should be brief and clearly formulated.
2. The President will send these questions to the minister concerned, unless he is of the opinion that the questions contain words as referred to in Article 71.

3. The President will notify the members of the questions that have been forwarded and will also publish them.
4. The decision of the President on whether or not to send the questions is not a decision within the meaning of Article 16 paragraph 2.
5. The questions and written answers will be included in the Appendix to the Proceedings.

Chapter X Petitions

Article 106

A petitions committee is to be set up whose composition, task and method of working shall be regulated in a separate regulation.

Article 107

1. The President will submit to this committee the petitions received by the Senate, with the exception of those which:
 - a. relate to bills pending before one of the Chambers of the Netherlands or
 - b. relate to subjects concerning general government policy.
2. A petition as referred to in the previous paragraph under a. or b. is to be submitted to the appropriate committee or committees.

Chapter XI European affairs

Definitions

Article 108

1. This chapter serves to elaborate on the details of the Treaty on the European Union, the Protocol on the role of national parliaments in the European Union, the Protocol on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality and Articles 3 and 4 of the Kingdom Act on approval of the Treaty of Lisbon.
2. In this chapter the following definitions apply:
 - a. consultation documents: green papers, white papers and communications from the European Commission as referred to in Article 1 of the Protocol on the role of the national parliaments in the European Union;
 - b. drafts of legislative acts: proposals, initiatives, requests and recommendations as referred to in Article 2 of the Protocol on the role of the national parliaments in the European Union and Article 3 of the Protocol on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality;
 - c. principle of subsidiarity: the principle referred to in Article 5 paragraph 3 of the Treaty on the European Union and the Protocol on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality;
 - d. reasoned opinion: a reasoned opinion as referred to in Article 6 of the Protocol on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality;
 - e. principle of conferral: the principle referred to in Article 5 paragraph 2, of the Treaty on the European Union;
 - f. principle of proportionality: the principle referred to in Article 5 paragraph 4 of the Treaty on the European Union;
 - g. parliamentary scrutiny reserve: the reservation referred to in Article 4 of the Kingdom Act on approval of the Treaty of Lisbon;
 - h. parliamentary right of consent: the instrument referred to in Article 3 of the Kingdom Act on approval of the Treaty of Lisbon.

Selection procedure

Article 109

1. Every year the European Commission's work programme will be placed on the agenda in all committees as referred to in Article 28 paragraph 1.
2. The committees will select from the work programme those consultation documents and drafts of legislative acts which they wish to place on the agenda directly after publication.
3. The consultation documents and drafts of legislative acts selected by the committees are to be combined into a single list, which is to be established by the Senate. This list will bear the name 'The Senate's European Work Programme'.
4. The committees referred to in the first paragraph can also select consultation documents and drafts of legislative acts which they wish to place on the agenda separately from the work programme. To that end an overview of recently published European proposals will be offered to members every week.

Article 110

1. Consultation documents and drafts of legislative acts which are part of the Senate's European Work Programme, as well as other selected proposals, are to be placed on the agenda of a meeting of the relevant committee after publication so that the procedure can be determined.
2. The committee will decide whether, when assessing a proposal, it wishes to use the powers assigned to it in Article 38.
3. The committee can also consult with European institutions, bodies and authorities and with the national parliaments of other member states of the European Union.

Subsidiarity check, parliamentary scrutiny reserve and parliamentary right of consent

Article 111

1. If a committee decides to scrutinise a draft of a legislative act, it can assess whether the draft is consistent with the principle of subsidiarity.
2. The committee can also assess whether the draft is consistent with the principle of conferral and the principle of proportionality.
3. If the committee is of the opinion that the draft violates one or more of the principles referred to in the previous paragraphs, it can propose to the Senate that a reasoned opinion is sent to the presidents of the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission. To that end the committee will draft a reasoned opinion.
4. The Senate and its committees will aim to coordinate their subsidiarity check with the House of Representatives.

Article 112

1. On a proposal by any of its committees, the Senate may decide that it regards a draft of a legislative act to be of such political importance that it wishes to be informed about its consideration in a specific way. In its proposal to the Senate the committee will provide reasons as to why it considers the proposal to be of such political importance. The Senate will inform the government of its decision and ask the government to make a parliamentary scrutiny reserve.
2. The committee entrusted with scrutinising the draft will hold verbal consultations with the government about the special political importance of the proposal within four weeks after the notification referred to in paragraph 1. If so desired, it can also opt for written consultation.
3. During the consultation referred to in the previous paragraph, the committee will indicate which aspects of the proposal, or its consideration, it wishes to be informed about in particular and by which deadline. Agreements made during the consultation about the way in which information is to be provided by the government, the negotiation process and the legislative procedure and any sub-

sequent consultation, are to be laid down in writing and brought to the government's attention.

4. At the end of the consultation referred to in the previous paragraph, the Senate will inform the government that it no longer considers continuation of the parliamentary scrutiny reserve made by the government to be necessary.
5. Contrary to the previous paragraph the Senate can, on a proposal by the committee involved, inform the government that it considers continuation of the parliamentary scrutiny reserve to be necessary for a period of time to be determined by the Senate. After that, further consultations will take place between the committee and the government. The previous paragraph and this paragraph will apply by analogy at the end of these consultations.

Article 113

On a proposal by the most relevant committee or committees the Senate will decide on the granting of approval of drafts of decisions which are intended to bind the Kingdom as referred to in Article 3 of the Kingdom Act on approval of the Treaty of Lisbon.

Debate on European Affairs (Algemene Europese Beschouwingen)

Article 114

In the debate known as the 'Debate on European Affairs', the Senate deliberates annually on European cooperation and integration and the involvement of the Netherlands and the role of the Euro-pean Union and the Council of Europe in that respect. In any given year the Senate can decide not to hold a Debate on European Affairs.

Chapter XII Proceedings in relation to treaties and decrees (including draft decrees)

Proceedings in relation to treaties

Article 115

1. As soon as a treaty is submitted to the Senate for its tacit approval, the Secretary General will note the following on the accompanying letter:
 - a. the date of receipt and
 - b. the latest date on which notice may be given of the request by, or on behalf of, the Senate, or by at least fifteen of its members, that the treaty will be subject to the explicit approval of the States General.
2. The Secretary General will send the accompanying letter, with the above-mentioned notes, to the members without delay.
3. The notification referred to in the first paragraph must be made within thirty days of the date of receipt of the treaty submitted for approval.
4. The notification can only be withdrawn if the Senate grants permission.

Article 116

1. Within the period referred to in Article 115, one or more members may ask the President that they be given the opportunity to ask a minister for information regarding a treaty submitted for approval.
2. The President will then invite the minister concerned to provide the requested information either verbally or in writing.

Article 117

1. The Senate can give notice of the request for the explicit approval of a treaty on a proposal by one or more members.

2. If the Senate decides to give notice of this request, the President will inform the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the President of the House of Representatives of the Netherlands as soon as possible.

Article 118

The President can give notice of the request for the explicit approval of a treaty on behalf of the Senate. Before deciding to do so, the President will consult the most relevant committee or committees. The President will inform the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the members and the President of the House of Representatives of the Netherlands as soon as possible.

Article 119

If fifteen or more members wish to give notice of the request for the explicit approval of a treaty, they must do so by informing the President, who will inform the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the members and the President of the House of Representatives of the Netherlands as soon as possible.

Article 120

The provisions of the previous articles of this chapter apply by analogy to intentions to:

- a. conclude a treaty which explicitly concerns the execution of an approved treaty;
- b. extend an expiring treaty;
- c. denounce a treaty.

Proceedings in relation to decrees (including draft decrees)

Article 121

1. If a decree/draft decree is submitted to the Senate on the grounds of the law and notice of a request can be given that the subject, or the entry into force of the decree/draft decree is regulated by law, the Secretary General will note the following on the accompanying letter:
 - a. the date of receipt and
 - b. the latest date on which notice may be given of the request.
2. The Secretary General will inform the members as soon as possible of the decision/draft decision and of the latest date referred to in paragraph 1 under b.
3. This article applies by analogy in other instances in which, as a result of a letter received by the Senate, notice can be given of a request described in law.

Article 122

Insofar as provided for in law, the request referred to in the previous article can be given to the relevant minister:

- a. by the Senate, with Article 117 applying by analogy;
- b. on behalf of the Senate, with Article 118 applying by analogy;
- c. by a number of members referred to in law, with Article 119 applying by analogy.

Chapter XIII Management of the affairs of the Kingdom

Article 123

The President will give the ministers plenipotentiary of Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten and the special delegates of the representative bodies of those countries the opportunity to exercise the powers conferred upon them, in particular pursuant to

Articles 17 and 18 of the Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands (Statuut voor het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden).

Article 124

The President will give the floor to the ministers plenipotentiary and the special delegates if they so request, but only after the speaker who has the floor has finished his speech.

Article 125

The committee entrusted to deal with a Kingdom Bill is entitled to ask the ministers plenipotentiary and the special delegates for information, as well as to accept such information that they wish to provide to the committee of their own volition.

Article 126

If the ministers plenipotentiary or the special delegates designated thereto exercise the power granted to them under Article 18 of the Charter of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to request that the vote be deferred until the next meeting, such a request will be granted.

Article 127

Articles 66 and 68 apply by analogy on the understanding that the words 'a member who' must be read as 'a special delegate who' and that the words 'a member' must on each occasion be read as 'a special delegate' and that the word 'members' must on each occasion be read as 'members or special delegates'.

Article 128

If, on the grounds of Article 104, the Senate has given a member the opportunity to ask a minister for information regarding an affair of the Kingdom, the President will give the ministers plenipotentiary the opportunity to attend the proceedings for this interpellation and to provide the Senate with such information in this regard as they consider desirable.

Article 129

1. When dealing with treaties that affect Aruba, Curaçao or St. Maarten, the power assigned to the ministers plenipotentiary under Article 24 paragraph 2 of the Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands will be taken into account, under application of Articles 115 up to and including 119.
2. In particular, the ministers plenipotentiary will be given the opportunity to attend the oral proceedings for dealing with questions and proposals as referred to in Articles 116 and 117 of and to provide the Senate with such information in this regard as they consider desirable.

Chapter XIV Integrity and undesirable conduct

Article 130

The Senate will adopt, by separate regulation, a Code of Conduct on Integrity containing rules governing the promotion of ethical conduct by members of the Senate. This separate regulation must also establish a set of instruments for compliance with and interpretation of this Code of Conduct.

Article 131

The Senate will adopt, by separate regulation, a Code of Conduct on undesirable conduct containing rules to prevent undesirable conduct by members of the Senate.

This separate regulation must also establish a set of instruments for compliance with and interpretation of this Code of Conduct.

Chapter XV Modifications to the Rules of Procedure

General

Article 132

1. Any member may propose a modification to the Rules. A proposal may also be made by a number of members jointly or by a standing or temporary committee.
2. The proposal will be made in writing and will contain the text of the intended modification as well as a clarification thereof. Each proposal will be published immediately after it has been made.
3. In the following articles the term 'the proposing party' will always be interpreted as the member or members from whom, or the standing or temporary committee from which, the proposal came.

Article 133

1. The Senate will establish a temporary committee for the preliminary examination of the proposal, or will entrust the examination to an existing committee.
2. If the proposal is extremely straightforward in nature, or is made by a temporary committee established for that purpose, the Senate may decide to deliberate over the proposal without a preliminary examination.

Amendments and modifications

Article 134

1. After a proposal has been published, any member can table amendments to it, individually or with other members. An amendment will be made in writing and will contain the text of the intended modification as well as a clarification thereof. An amendment will be published immediately after it has been made.
2. The first signatory of an amendment can change and withdraw the amendment during the Senate's deliberations. If the deliberations are held in private, it will only be possible to withdraw the amendment with the permission of the Senate.
3. Any member can table sub-amendments, individually or with other members, in order to change amendments tabled by other members.
4. The rules which apply to amendments apply by analogy to sub-amendments.

Article 135

The proposing party is entitled to make modifications to the proposal until the time of the final vote.

Written preparations

Article 136

1. A proposal for the modification of the Rules will be dealt with by a committee, as referred to in Article 133 paragraph 1, in the same way as a bill entrusted to a committee, with the proposing party replacing the minister.
2. The committee can table amendments to the proposal.
3. If amendments are received by the secretariat during the preliminary examination, the proposing party and committee will express their opinion on these amendments in the documents that are exchanged.

4. The proposing parties cannot participate in the preliminary examination of a proposal tabled by them in the committee referred to in Article 133 paragraph 1.

Mandate for exercising rights

Article 137

1. If a proposal has been made by more than one member, the first signatory will exercise the rights granted to the proposing party under these Rules.
2. If a proposal has been made by a standing or temporary committee, the chair of said committee will exercise, on behalf of the committee, the rights granted to the proposing party under these Rules.
3. A standing or temporary committee as referred to in the second paragraph can also designate one or more of its members to exercise the rights referred to.

Order of decision-making

Article 138

1. When decisions are taken on an article and the proposed amendments to said article are made, the following order of decision-making will be observed:
 - a. a decision on any sub-amendments;
 - b. a decision on amendments;
 - c. a decision on the article, whether or not modified or replaced by another article;
2. If more than one amendment has been tabled with respect to a specific part of a proposal, the most far-reaching amendment will take precedence. Insofar as, in the President's opinion, the previous sentence does not provide a definite answer, amendments will be voted on in the order in which they have been tabled.
3. The Senate may decide that amendments must be deemed as having lapsed as a result of the other modifications made.
4. After all the articles have been decided on, the Senate will take a final decision regarding the proposal as a whole.

Article 139

1. If the proposal has been modified in the course of the deliberations, the Senate may decide to postpone the final decision until a following meeting. In the intervening period the committee, as referred to in Article 133 paragraph 1, will consult with the proposing party regarding suggestions for possible changes which have become necessary as a result of the modifications made or due to the rejection of articles, or those changes which are intended to rectify manifest errors.
2. The deliberations will be re-opened to consider the modifications thus proposed and the articles to which they relate, unless the Senate decides to take an immediate decision on the proposed modifications.
3. In the proposal adopted by the Senate the President will make changes to the numbering of chapters, articles, paragraphs of articles, or sections of articles and to the references relating to those parts of the text insofar as these President considers this necessary due to modifications made to the proposal.

Chapter XVI Final provisions

Article 140

The articles of Chapter XV of these Rules apply by analogy to proposals to adopt or amend the other regulations to be adopted by the Senate on the grounds of these Rules.

Article 141

1. In the event of a demissionary Cabinet the Senate may decide, on a proposal by one or more members, to declare certain bills and subjects controversial.
2. If a bill or subject has been declared controversial, its consideration will be postponed until a new Cabinet has taken office, or until the Senate decides otherwise in the interim.

Article 142

The Senate may decide, at any time, to derogate from the provisions of these Rules, if none of the members object to this and if the derogation is not contrary to the Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Constitution or any other law.

Relevant other articles from the proposal to amend the Rules of Procedure of the Temporary committee for the updating of rules of procedure (CARO)

ARTICLE II

[Amends the Rules for the Petitions Committee of the Senate of the Netherlands]

ARTICLE III

[Amends the Senate parliamentary and external investigation regulation]

ARTICLE IV

As long as the Senate has not adopted the regulation referred to in Article 21 of the Rules of Procedure, the Senate financial support for parliamentary groups regulation of the Internal Committee of 10 December 2020 will continue to apply.

ARTICLE V

All motions postponed on the grounds of Article 93 paragraph 3 of the current Rules of Procedure will lapse when the new Rules of Procedure come into effect, unless the Senate decides otherwise, no later than during the first meeting, four weeks after the new Rules of Procedure come into effect.

ARTICLE Va

When the new Rules of Procedure come into effect, Chapter IV of the current Rules of Procedure will continue to apply to bills with regard to which a provisional report, or a further provisional report, has been published prior to the new Rules of Procedure coming into effect, or if a relevant submission has been made.

ARTICLE VI

The changes referred to in the previous articles come into effect on 13 June 2023.