

English Translation of the Ukrainian Original ([Верховна Рада України; Закон, Регламент від 10.02.2010 № 1861-VI](#)) with Amendments through 19 November 2010¹

LAW OF UKRAINE ON THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE

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¹ TRANSLATION NOTE: This unofficial translation of the Law on Rules of Procedure “Reglament” of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine was produced by the USAID Parliamentary Development Project for Ukraine with assistance of the Ukrainian-European Policy and Legal Advice Centre Phase V – UEPLAC. The text is consistent with the Law as amended as of November 19, 2010. Since articles have not been re-numbered upon the deletion of an article when the law was amended, the deleted article remains in this text indicated with strike-through. Reference to the law with Amendments are indicated in footnotes. If a term is unfamiliar, please see glossary at the end of this document.

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**RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE**

SECTION I. General Provisions

Article 1. Legal Principles of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine’s Work

1. The operating procedures of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (hereinafter the “Verkhovna Rada”), its bodies and officials, its principles of establishment, organization of activities and the coalition and dissolution of parliamentary factions of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine shall be regulated by the Constitution of Ukraine, these Rules of Procedure (hereinafter referred to as the Rules)², and the Laws of Ukraine on Committees of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, on Temporary Investigatory Commissions, on Special Temporary Investigatory Commissions and Temporary Special Commissions of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and on the Status of a National Deputy of Ukraine.

2. The Rules of Procedure of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (hereinafter the Rules) shall establish the procedure for organization and administration of sessions and meetings of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the formation of state authorities, and shall determine the legislative procedure, and procedure for consideration of other matters referred to its competence, and procedures of oversight activities of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

Article 2. Venue and Language of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine’s Meetings

1. The Verkhovna Rada shall meet at the premises of the Verkhovna Rada (5 Hrushevskoho St., Kyiv).
2. A majority of the national deputies of Verkhovna Rade of Ukraine (hereafter the “National Deputies”) of the elected parliamentary assembly may resolve to meet at another location, except in cases provided by paragraph 4 of Article 11 of these Rules.
3. Meetings of the Verkhovna Rada shall be conducted in the state language.

4. If a presenter cannot speak the state language, he/she shall have the right to speak in another language. The Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada shall ensure translation of such presenter's speech into Ukrainian, if necessary.

Article 3. Openness and Public Access to Verkhovna Rada Sessions

1. Meetings of the Verkhovna Rada shall be open and public, except where specified in the Constitution of Ukraine and these Rules.
2. Public access to Verkhovna Rada meetings shall be guaranteed by providing access to the mass media, who shall cover matters and resolutions considered by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and make such information available for citizens of Ukraine.
3. Mass media representatives may be accredited by the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada for a limited term or for the entire period of the Verkhovna Rada session according to the procedure approved by the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. A refusal to provide accreditation must be well-founded. The Secretariat of

² Law 2600-VI

the Verkhovna Rada may provide accredited mass media with materials, which have been distributed to national deputies, except for those, which may not be disclosed or made available to the public according to an applicable resolution adopted pursuant to the established procedure.

4. Mass media representatives violating media laws or these Rules shall be deprived of his or her accreditation under the procedure established in paragraph 3 of the present Article.
5. The openness of Verkhovna Rada sessions shall be ensured by TV and radio broadcast, publication of stenographic reports of the parliamentary sessions, and publication of resolutions of the Verkhovna Rada in the *Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady Ukrainy*, the *Holos Ukrainy* newspaper and in other publications of the Verkhovna Rada. The schedule, frequency and form of broadcasting and the extent of material published shall be determined by these Rules and the individual resolutions of the Verkhovna Rada.

6. The following events shall be broadcast live on radio and television in their full capacity or relevant records shall be broadcast in evening hours:

1. the oaths of the national deputies;
2. opening of Verkhovna Rada sessions;
3. consideration of organizational matters of the first session of a newly convened Verkhovna Rada;
4. election and recall of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, the First Deputy and the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada;
5. consideration of an issue of approval of the Prime Minister of Ukraine by the President of Ukraine³;
6. the oath by the newly elected President of Ukraine;
7. annual and special addresses of the President of Ukraine on domestic and foreign policy of Ukraine;
8. Government Days at the Verkhovna Rada
9. parliamentary hearings;
10. sessions addressing the duties of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine;
11. consideration of other matters in accordance with resolutions of the Verkhovna Rada.

Article 4. Closed Plenary Meetings of the Verkhovna Rada

1. Closed plenary meetings devoted to consideration of specific matters shall be conducted pursuant to a resolution of the Verkhovna Rada adopted by the majority of votes of the elected parliamentary assembly⁵ after an abbreviated discussion.

2. The President of Ukraine, the Prime Minister of Ukraine, and other officials whose attendance is required by the Verkhovna Rada shall have the right to attend closed plenary meetings. At the meeting, the Speaker shall announce names and surnames of the individuals invited.

3. Participants of a closed plenary meeting are prohibited from photographing, filming, recording, or using other means of communication or information processors.

³ Law 2600-VI

4. At the end of a closed plenary meeting, the Verkhovna Rada shall adopt, after an abbreviated discussion, a resolution to publish by stenographic bulletins, the results of voting and resolutions adopted, along with other materials from the meeting.

5. Stenographic reports and minutes of a closed plenary meeting shall be prepared by the relevant services of the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada in accordance with the procedure, excluding disclosure of any matters so excluded by the meeting.

Article 5. Seating Arrangement of National Deputies and Other Persons Attending Meetings of the Verkhovna Rada

1. At the first meeting of a newly convened Verkhovna Rada, national deputies shall be seated in the session hall of the Verkhovna Rada as recommended by the Preparatory Group of Deputies (hereinafter — the “Preparatory Group”). For subsequent sessions, the seating arrangement for the national deputies shall be established by the committee responsible for the procedural rules governing proposals of the parliamentary factions.

2. Persons other than national deputies shall be prohibited from entering the areas reserved for the national deputies during plenary meetings of the Verkhovna Rada, except for persons who accompany a disabled deputy and employees of the Secretariat servicing the meetings.

3. Persons invited to plenary meetings of the Verkhovna Rada shall occupy seats reserved for them under the established procedure.

Article 6. Invitations to Plenary Meetings of the Verkhovna Rada

1. The President of Ukraine and Prime Minister of Ukraine may attend plenary meetings without invitation.

2. Persons required to attend for consideration of matters on the agenda may attend meetings of the Verkhovna Rada upon invitation by the Verkhovna Rada or a national deputy. A national deputy shall apply to the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada to obtain authorization for a person invited by a national deputy not later than one day prior to the holding of the meeting. On the day of the plenary meeting, the Speaker, or the First Deputy Speaker or the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall issue a permit authorizing attendance of the persons invited by a national deputy.

3.⁴ Upon a procedural resolution of the Verkhovna Rada adopted by a vote of no fewer than one-third of the elected parliamentary assembly in favor, the Verkhovna Rada can formally summon or require the presence at its plenary meeting of any officer or public servant, excluding the President of Ukraine and judges.

4. A committee of the Verkhovna Rada, a temporary special commission or a temporary investigative commission of the Verkhovna Rada (hereinafter — the committee, temporary special commission, temporary investigative commission) may officially invite persons to plenary meetings of the Verkhovna Rada where the persons attendance is required for consideration of a motion prepared by that committee, temporary special commission or temporary investigative commission.

⁴ Law N 2157-VI

5. An officer presiding over a plenary session of the Verkhovna Rada shall inform the national deputies about any persons who will attend a session meeting by official invitation.

6. National deputies of prior parliamentary assemblies may attend open plenary meetings of the Verkhovna Rada in specially assigned seats reserved for the same.

Article 7. Provision of the Verkhovna Rada' Activities

1. The Verkhovna Rada Secretariat shall perform on behalf of the parliamentary assemblies, national deputies, parliamentary factions (parliamentary groups)⁵ the following functions: organizational, legal, scientific, documentary, informational, expert and analytical, material and technical, and financial functions.

2. The structure of the Verkhovna Rada Secretariat shall be approved by a majority of the elected parliamentary Assembly upon submission to the committee responsible for these Rules.

3. The Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada in shall perform its functions in accordance with the Regulation on the Verkhovna Rada Secretariat as approved by resolution of the Verkhovna Rada.

4. The budget of the Verkhovna Rada for the next year shall be approved by the Verkhovna Rada prior to adoption of the Law on the State Budget of Ukraine for such year, based on a conclusion of the committees responsible for the Rules of procedure and the State Budget.

Article 8. Head of the Verkhovna Rada Secretariat

1. The Verkhovna Rada shall appoint and dismiss the Head of the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada to and from his/her office.

2. The Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall nominate the candidates for Head of the Verkhovna Rada Secretariat.

3. The Head of the Verkhovna Rada Secretariat shall report to the Verkhovna Rada.

4. The Head of the Verkhovna Rada Secretariat may be dismissed from his office prior to expiration of his/her term by the Verkhovna Rada upon his/her resignation or upon grounds proposed by the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada or at least one-third of the votes of the elected parliamentary assembly

5. A Verkhovna Rada resolution to appoint or dismiss from office the Head of the Verkhovna Rada Secretariat shall be adopted by an individual open hand vote.

⁵ Law 2600-VI

SECTION II.

ORGANIZING THE WORK OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE

Chapter 1.

SESSIONS OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA

Article 9. Forms of the Verkhovna Rada's Work

1. The Verkhovna Rada shall work in sessions, both regular and extraordinary.
2. The presiding officer shall declare a legislative session of the Verkhovna Rada opened at the commencement of the first plenary meeting and closed at the end of the last plenary session.
3. Each parliamentary session shall be opened and closed with the performance of the National Anthem of Ukraine in the parliamentary session hall.
4. Verkhovna Rada sessions shall consist of plenary meetings of the Verkhovna Rada, and interim meetings of its committees, temporary investigative commissions and temporary special commissions to be held between the plenary meetings, work of the national deputies in parliamentary factions and with voters. A committee, a temporary investigative commission or temporary special commission may conduct its meetings simultaneously with Verkhovna Rada plenary meetings of the Verkhovna Rada only where approved by a procedural decision of the Verkhovna Rada.
5. Meetings of the Verkhovna Rada may be plenary, ceremonial or held in the form of parliamentary hearings.

Article 10. Regular Sessions of the Verkhovna Rada

1. Regular sessions of the Verkhovna Rada, except for the first session (paragraph 1 of Article 15 of these Rules) shall be held and commence on the first Tuesday of February and on the first Tuesday of September each year and end in forty-five (45) and ten (10) days before the next session's opening.

The Verkhovna Rada may alter the duration of a session by a resolution thereto.

- 2., The Verkhovna Rada Secretariat shall, no later than three (3) days before commencement of a parliamentary session, notify each national deputy and announce in the *Holos Ukrainy* newspaper the date and time of the opening session of the Verkhovna Rada, and the location and time of deputy registration.

3. The Verkhovna Rada may order certain committees, temporary special commissions or temporary investigative commissions by procedural motion to continue their work after a session's conclusion.

4. A committee, a temporary special or a temporary investigative commission may continue its work after session closing at its own initiative, provided a majority of members of the relevant committee, temporary special or temporary investigative commission, registered by the Verkhovna Rada, vote in favor of such decision. A committee, a temporary special or temporary investigative commission shall inform the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, and in case of his/her absence — the First Deputy Speaker or the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, who shall act as the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada on the adopted resolution.

Article 11. Extraordinary Sessions

1. Extraordinary sessions of the Verkhovna Rada shall be called by the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada and indicate the agenda for the session, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 83 of the Constitution of Ukraine.

The petitioners for an extraordinary session shall provide justifiable grounds for calling an extraordinary session of the Verkhovna Rada which signed and forwarded to the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, with all draft proposals for consideration to be enclosed. The petitioners calling for an extraordinary session cannot withdraw their signatures.

2. An extraordinary session of the Verkhovna Rada shall be convened no later than seven (7) days following receipt of a call to convene the extraordinary session, filed in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 83 of the Constitution of Ukraine. An order of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada to convene an extraordinary session of the Verkhovna Rada shall be published in the *Holos Ukrainy* newspaper no later than three days prior to opening and shall include an indication of matters to be put on the extraordinary session's agenda.

3. Draft proposals to be considered at an extraordinary session of the Verkhovna Rada shall be distributed to national deputies not later than three days prior to the session opening.

4. If the President of Ukraine issues a decree on introduction of a state of martial law or a state of emergency in Ukraine, the extraordinary session of the Verkhovna Rada shall be convened in two days without notice; and shall function until such time as the state of martial law or state of emergency is cancelled.

The Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada or the First Deputy or the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, acting as Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, shall determine the venue and time of an extraordinary session of the Verkhovna Rada, and this information shall be communicated to the national deputies of Ukraine without delay.

Chapter 2.

THE FIRST SESSION OF A NEWLY CONVENED VERKHOVNA RADA

Article 12. Information Provided to the Newly Elected National Deputies before the First Session

1. No later than 7 days after the Central Election Commission publishes the official election results, the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada shall send the following documents to national deputies:

1. the Constitution of Ukraine;
2. the text of the formal announcement of the election results to the Verkhovna Rada made by the Central Election Commission;
3. the Rules of Procedure of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine;
4. the Law of Ukraine on Status of a National Deputy of Ukraine;
5. the Law of Ukraine on Committees of the Verkhovna Rada;
6. the Law of Ukraine On temporary Investigative Commissions, on the Special Temporary Investigative Commissions and Temporary Special Commissions of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine;
7. the Regulation on Consultants to a National Deputy of Ukraine;
8. the Regulation on the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada;
9. the list of officials of the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada and their office phone numbers;
10. reference materials on the elected national deputies, including the following information: full name of the national deputy, year of birth, education, profession, recent occupation, position, company, political party affiliation (election bloc of political parties), postal address and telephone numbers, indicated by the national deputy;
11. the Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada on the list of prior parliamentary Committees.

Article 13. Formation and Organization of Preparatory Group Activities

1. The Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of the previous parliamentary assembly, or in case of his absence – the First Deputy or Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall establish a Preparatory Group from the newly-elected national deputies of Ukraine in order to develop proposals for organization and convening the plenary meetings of the first session of the newly assembled Verkhovna Rada, including filing of draft documents for consideration of the Verkhovna Rada prior to committee formation.

2. Political parties (election blocs of political parties), whose national deputies receive seats based on the election results, shall appoint one representative from every fifteen deputies elected from the political party list (election blocs of political parties) to the Preparatory Group. If more than eight unaffiliated national deputies receive no representation in the Preparatory Group through the quota allocation, such remaining deputies shall nominate one representative.

The written nomination of the national deputies —political party representatives (electoral blocs of political parties) shall be signed by the party leader (leadership body of the political party) and be submitted to the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of the previous parliamentary assembly.

3. The first meeting of the Preparatory Group shall be convened by the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of the previous legislature, and in case of his absence — by the First Deputy Speaker or the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada no later than 10 days following formal announcement of election of at least two thirds of the Constituent Assembly of the Verkhovna Rada. If the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of the previous parliamentary assembly, and in case of his/her absence — the First Deputy Speaker or the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada fails to convene the meeting of the Preparatory Group within the established period, the national deputies delegated to the Group shall call and convene a meeting independently on the next day following expiration of the said 10-day period.

5. The Preparatory Group shall elect a chairman, a deputy chairman and a secretary for the Group from among its members and function according to the rules established for temporary special commissions of the Verkhovna Rada. The Preparatory Group shall terminate its activities after establishment of the committees of the Verkhovna Rada.

6. The Preparatory Deputy Group shall report the results of its activities at the first session of the newly assembled Verkhovna Rada of the new convocation.

Article 14. Procedure of Swearing In National Deputies of Ukraine

1. The deputies of the newly elected Verkhovna Rada shall take an oath before the Verkhovna Rada as provided by Article 79 of the Constitution of Ukraine at the ceremonial meeting prior to opening of the first session of the newly elected Verkhovna Rada.

2. The Speaker of the preceding Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine shall invite the newly elected national deputies to take an oath and give the eldest national deputy the floor for reading the oath.

The eldest national deputy of Ukraine shall request all newly elected national deputies stand and read the text of the oath.

4. After reading the text of the oath, the Speaker of the preceding Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine shall propose the newly elected national deputies to affirm the oath by signature.

5. By order of the Preparatory Group's, the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine shall invite national deputies of the previous parliamentary assembly, the President of Ukraine, the Prime Minister of Ukraine, the Head of the Central Election Commission, members of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the Head and judges of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, the Head of the Supreme Court of Ukraine, the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights, the Head of the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine and other officials to the ceremonial meeting devoted to the taking of the oath by newly elected national deputies of Ukraine.

6. If a national deputy takes the oath separately, he/she shall read the text and affirm the oath with his/her signature at a regular plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

7. Copies of the oaths signed by national deputies of Ukraine shall be deposited with the depository of the Verkhovna Rada indefinitely.

Article 15. Opening of the First Session

1. The newly elected Verkhovna Rada shall convene its first session at the session hall of the Verkhovna Rada no later than on the 30th day after the official publication of the official election results for at least two-thirds national deputies of the elected parliamentary assembly.

2. The Verkhovna Rada Secretariat shall register the national deputies in attendance at the session.

3. The first session of the newly elected Verkhovna Rada shall be opened by the eldest national deputy. The Head of the Preparatory Group shall preside over the meeting until the Verkhovna Rada elects the interim administration of the session.

Article 16. Order for Consideration of Business at the First Session of the Verkhovna Rada

1. Before committee formation, the plenary meeting of the first session shall consider matters in the following order:

1. election of the session interim administration;
2. ;⁶
3. election of the Vote-counting Commission;
4. address coverage of the first session of the Verkhovna Rada in the mass media;
5. observe the extraordinary address of the President of Ukraine on domestic and foreign affairs of Ukraine;
6. attend the report delivered by the Chairman of the previous parliamentary assembly regarding the state of legislative work;
7. attend the report of the Preparatory Deputy Group; address questions to the presenter and his/her answers;
8. address the list of committees and their spheres of responsibilities;
9. address establishment and registration of deputy factions;
10. ;⁷
11. election of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada;
12. election of the First Deputy Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada;
13. establishment of committees, election of committees chairs, first deputy chairs, deputy chairs, secretariats and other committees members;
14. address the Conciliation Commission⁷ of the parliamentary factions of the Verkhovna Rada (hereinafter — “the Conciliation Commission”).

⁶ Law 2600-VI

⁷ Law 2600-VI

2. The above-mentioned section of the agenda does not require consideration and approval by the Verkhovna Rada. If required, the Verkhovna Rada may alter the order of consideration of the issues described above.

3. The Verkhovna Rada shall pass no resolutions concerning the address of the President of Ukraine, reports of the Preparatory Group and reports of the Speaker of the preceding Verkhovna Rada.

4. The agenda of the Verkhovna Rada for all subsequent sessions shall be considered and approved according to the requirements provided herein, taking into account the legislative activity of the preceding Verkhovna Rada.

Article 17. The Vote-Counting Commission

1. The Vote-counting Commission shall organize a vote count for the Verkhovna Rada and determine the voting results. The Vote-Counting Commission shall count votes, determine the presence of national deputies at the meeting by order of the Verkhovna Rada and consider appeals by any national deputies concerning violation of voting procedure or other obstacles to voting, as well as oversee use of the electronic vote-calculation system (hereinafter — the electronic system) (Article 43 of the Rules).

2. The Verkhovna Rada shall elect members of the Vote-Counting Commission from among the national deputies based on proportionate representation of all parliamentary factions by an open hand vote for the entire list, without debate.

3. The Vote-Counting Commission shall elect a chairman, deputy chairman, and secretary from among its members. Meetings of the Vote-Counting Commission shall be open and publicly accessible. National deputies, whose names have been included in a ballot paper, shall not participate in the activities of a Vote-Counting Commission.

Article 18. Interim Administration of the First Session of the Verkhovna Rada

1. The Interim Administration of the first session shall be comprised of five national deputies as follows: the Head of the Preparatory Group and one representative from each four political parties (election blocs of political parties) having received the greatest number of seats through the election results.

2. Members of the Interim Administration of the first session shall preside over meetings of the Verkhovna Rada in turn until the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada is elected. All members of the Interim Administration of the first session shall sign resolutions of the Verkhovna Rada passed during that period.

3. After the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada is elected, he/she shall preside over plenary meetings of the Verkhovna Rada, and the Interim Administration of the first session shall be dissolved.

Chapter 3.

PREPARATION AND ORGANIZATION OF CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS DURING A VERKHOVNA RADA SESSION

Article 19. Schedule of the Verkhovna Rada Session

1. The first and the third weeks of a month in which the Verkhovna Rada is in a session shall by default be reserved for plenary meetings of the Verkhovna Rada, the second week — for the activities of the committees, temporary commissions of the Verkhovna Rada, parliamentary factions, and the fourth week — for activities of national deputies in their constituencies.

2. In necessary circumstances, the Verkhovna Rada may, following an optional abbreviated debate, pass a resolution by a majority vote of the elected parliamentary assembly of the Verkhovna Rada on making ad hoc amendments to its monthly, weekly or daily schedule.

3. If an ad hoc resolution does not stipulate otherwise, the Verkhovna Rada shall hold two meetings: a morning session from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with a break from 12 a.m. to 12.30 a.m., and the evening session — from 4 p.m. to 6 p. m.

Morning sessions shall be held only on Wednesdays and Fridays. The second half of Wednesdays shall be reserved for independent work of national deputies in committees, temporary special and temporary investigative commissions and parliamentary factions. Mondays and the second half of Fridays shall be reserved for the independent activities of the deputies pursuant to their position.

4. The presiding officer may prolong a plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada for 15 minutes beyond the timeframe established by paragraph 3 of the present Article.

5. The Verkhovna Rada may make ad hoc amendments to the duration of a plenary meeting. Decisions to prolong a plenary session for more than 15 minutes past 6 p.m. shall be approved by the Verkhovna Rada at the morning meeting of the same day.

6. The Conciliation Commission shall meet by default on Mondays during the session period.

7. The draft agenda of a session shall be prepared by the committee responsible for procedural rules, with participation of the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada and shall take into consideration any proposals of parliamentary factions. A draft resolution approving the schedule of the Verkhovna Rada session shall be submitted for consideration to the Verkhovna Rada by national deputies and members of the committee responsible for the rules of procedure.

8. The Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall convene a supplementary plenary meeting on justifiable request by officials and agencies authorized to request convening of an extraordinary session of the Verkhovna Rada, subject to the Constitution of Ukraine, and at the proposal of the Conciliation Commission (clause 4 of paragraph 14 of Article 73 of the Rules of Procedure) within three days in case of emergencies between plenary meetings during the

session period. The agenda of such meetings shall include only those matters indicated in the requests for such meeting.

Article 20. Agenda of Verkhovna Rada Session

1. The agenda of a Verkhovna Rada session (hereinafter — the session agenda) shall be approved by the Verkhovna Rada for the each regular session.

2. A session agenda shall consist of two parts:

first — matters which have been prepared in full for the Verkhovna Rada's consideration;

second — matters to be prepared or revised by parliamentary committees, temporary special commissions of the Verkhovna Rada, in addition to draft laws deemed a priority by the President of Ukraine.

3. A session agenda shall also contain information on: titles, registration numbers and dates of registration of draft laws, resolutions and other acts of the Verkhovna Rada and subjects authorized by law to initiate legal acts; information on draft laws subject to priority consideration; name of the lead committee, a temporary special commission or an investigation commission of the Verkhovna Rada responsible for preparation of the matter for consideration by the Verkhovna Rada.

4. The following extraordinary matters shall be placed on the session's agenda (without voting):

1. laws returned for repeat consideration with the President's proposals;
2. draft laws on the State Budget of Ukraine for the following year;
3. draft laws which are prepared (have been prepared) for the second or third readings at the request of the Verkhovna Rada;
4. taking of oaths by officials, as well as their appointment, election and dismissal and acceptance thereof, as well as other parliamentary oversight matters to be considered by the Verkhovna Rada, and which fall exclusively within the rights of Parliament as established by the Constitution of Ukraine (254k/96-VR) and Laws of Ukraine;
5. annual and special addresses of the President of Ukraine concerning domestic and foreign affairs of Ukraine;
6. the draft Budget guidelines for the subsequent year and report on the status of the state Budget of Ukraine for the current year;
7. draft laws on ratification of and withdrawal from international agreements of Ukraine;
8. organization of activities of the Verkhovna Rada and its agencies;
9. ;⁸
10. other issues, as provided for herein.

⁸ Law 2600-VI

Article 21. Formulation of the Verkhovna Rada Session Agenda

1. The Verkhovna Rada Secretariat shall summarize proposals on a session agenda based on submissions to committees, temporary special and temporary investigative commissions on matters for specific sections. The Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall submit the draft agenda for Verkhovna Rada approval after discussion and approval by the Conciliation Commission.

2. Business included in an approved agenda for a plenary meeting and not considered by the regular session of the Verkhovna Rada, shall be put on the draft agenda for the next regular session of the presiding Verkhovna Rada. These issues shall be approved under the procedure established by these Rules.

4. A draft session agenda shall be distributed to the national deputies during registration at the commencement of a regular session. Draft resolutions proposing amendments and supplements to an approved session agenda shall be provided to national deputies no later than the day before consideration.

Article 22. Approval of the Verkhovna Rada Session Agenda

1. The Conciliation Commission shall approve the agenda of the Verkhovna Rada, together with a list of any pending draft laws not considered or withdrawn at the previous session, in addition to any draft laws proposed after preliminary consideration but not included in an agenda introduced by the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada for parliamentary approval. Propositions for other matters to be included in the session agenda shall be considered in brief, unless otherwise established by these Rules.

2. A motion on the session agenda, which does not obtain the required number of national deputy votes of, as referred to in paragraph 3 of the present Article, shall be rejected.

3. A draft resolution of the Verkhovna Rada on approval of the session agenda shall be adopted by a total majority of national deputies from the presiding Verkhovna Rada.

Article 23. Making Amendments and Supplements to the Verkhovna Rada Session Agenda

1. Additional issues may be added to an approved meeting agenda by amendment thereto. Matters on an approved agenda may be postponed, amended or excluded from the agenda after a brief discussion. Proposals to amend and supplement an approved session agenda shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the procedure for approval of a session agenda.

2. Resolutions to include, exclude or postpone a matter on an approved session agenda shall be adopted by a majority of votes of the elected parliamentary assembly of the Verkhovna Rada upon request of a party authorized by law to initiate such a legal act.

3. A matter on an approved session agenda may only be postponed once for future consideration, except for ratification/withdrawal of international treaties of Ukraine. Matters postponed from a session agenda may be considered at an extraordinary session. Matters

referred to in sub-paragraphs 7, 9, 12, ~~12~~¹⁹, 23, 28, 30, 31 of paragraph 1 of Article 85 of the Constitution of Ukraine may not be postponed.

Article 24. Schedule of Plenary Sessions of the Verkhovna Rada

1. The Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada shall draft a of plenary meeting schedule for a session of the Verkhovna Rada (hereinafter — the draft plenary meeting schedule) for each month based upon the submissions of the committees, temporary investigative and temporary special commissions, taking into account proposals of parliamentary factions in accordance with the approved session agenda, and shall submit the schedule to the Conciliation Commission for consideration. The draft plenary meeting schedule of the session should contain information on the date, time and agenda of plenary meeting, registration numbers and dates of distribution to the national deputies of draft laws (including alternative draft laws), and data on the persons authorized by law to initiate the legal acts.

2. On the same day, the draft plenary meeting schedule for the session approved by the Conciliation Commission shall be sent to the committees, temporary investigative and temporary special commissions, and parliamentary factions. On the next day following the meeting of the Conciliation Commission and before beginning of the morning plenary meeting, the draft schedule for the plenary meeting should be distributed to national deputies.

Article 25. Weekly Agenda for the Plenary Meetings of the Verkhovna Rada

1. The Agenda of plenary meetings of the Verkhovna Rada for each day of a plenary week shall be executed by the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada based on the approved schedule of the session's plenary meetings taking into account the priority and actual readiness of each issue to be considered by the Verkhovna Rada.

2. The agenda should include the following information: draft law registration numbers and titles, including numbers and titles of alternative laws (in accordance with Article 95 of these Rules), draft resolutions, dates of their distribution to the national deputies, persons authorized by law to initiate the legal act, speakers and co-speakers, and tentative time for debate on the matter.

3. During the plenary meetings each week, a period of 30 minutes shall be reserved in the early morning plenary meetings for briefings (up to 3 minutes): Tuesday - announcements, statements, information, proposals except for those to be made in accordance with the special procedure established by these Rules; on Wednesday — for announcements, statements, information, proposals. On Friday every week during plenary meetings, an hour, from 10 a. m. to 11 a.m., shall be reserved for questions to members of the Cabinet of Ministers; 30 minutes from 11 a. m. shall be reserved for a brief (up to 3 minutes) announcement of deputy inquiries and resolving to support and submit inquiries; an hour from 13.00 p. m. to 14.00 p. m. shall be reserved for speeches delivered by national deputies on miscellaneous issues; on the Friday of the third week of a month shall be reserved for announcement of deputy inquiries and resolving to support and submission of inquiries, and for discussion of responses to deputy inquiries with participation of heads and officials of public authorities (except for

⁹ Law 2600-VI

judicial bodies), bodies of local self-government, who shall answer to inquiries and questions of national deputies,.¹⁰

4. Matters of business shall be considered in the order listed in the plenary meeting agenda.
5. At the beginning of the following plenary meeting, the Verkhovna Rada shall address any agenda matters, which were not discussed during the previous plenary meeting.

6. The Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada shall provide the national deputies of Ukraine with the agenda for the next plenary day (except for issues provided by paragraph 5 of the present Article) by 6 p.m. of the previous day.

Chapter 4.

ORGANIZATION AND HOLDING OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA

Article 26. Registration of Participants and Holding of Plenary Meetings of the Verkhovna Rada

1. Before the opening of a each plenary meeting, national deputies shall be registered in person by demonstration of a personal parliamentary ID card and confirm their presence with their personal signatures, as well as through the use of electronic devices.

2. At the beginning of morning and evening meetings, the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada shall provide a list of all national deputies absent from the meetings to the presiding officer of the plenary meeting by order of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, the First Deputy Chairman (official journeys, vacations). The list shall be displayed on the electronic screen in the session hall.

3. A national deputy may be absent from a regularly scheduled plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada, where he/she complies with any orders of the Verkhovna Rada and has other good reason, including temporary disability, maternity or paternity leave, leave for marriage, leave for child birth and child care, compassionate leave, and documented transportation problems. A national deputy may provide additional reasonable circumstances, where provided by law, for taking a leave of absence.

4. A national deputy's salary for participation in plenary meetings shall be calculated based on written data register. Disputed matters shall be considered by the committee responsible for Rules of Procedure of the Verkhovna Rada.

5. The Speaker the Verkhovna Rada, and in case of his/her absence — the First Deputy Speaker or the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, shall open, hold and close plenary meetings of the Verkhovna Rada.

¹⁰ Law 2600-VI

Article 27. Duties of the Presiding Officer at a Verkhovna Rada Plenary Meeting

1. The Presiding Officer at the Verkhovna Rada plenary meeting shall:

1) comply with the Constitution of Ukraine and these Rules, and ensure compliance with such rules by all persons present at the plenary meeting;

2) report on the results of national deputy registration and on the number of national deputies absent from the meeting for good reason;

3) open, conduct, close and announce recesses at plenary meetings;

4) notify persons present at a closed plenary meeting of the procedure for conducting a closed plenary meeting;

5) announce the full name, a registration number, wording and sponsors of draft laws, resolutions and other acts submitted for consideration;

6) announce the registration for floor speeches through the electronic system;

7) announce lists of persons who have registered to speak;

8) grant deputies the floor to deliver speeches (or supplementary speeches), presentations, respond to questions, and announce subsequent speakers;

9) create equal opportunities for national deputies, and parliamentary factions to participate in discussion, as required by these Rules;

10) refrain from comment and assessment of speakers and their speeches, except in cases of violations provided by Article 51 of these Rules;

11) adopt measures for maintaining order at the meeting;

12) organize consideration of matters in accordance with provisions of these Regulations;

13) announce voting results and resolutions adopted;

14) announce official reports and deputy requests;

15) announce a 30-minute recess in a meeting at the request of at least two parliamentary factions; however, a parliamentary faction may exercise this right only once per plenary meeting;

16) exercise other powers and authorities in accordance with this Regulation.

2. The First Deputy Speaker or the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall preside over the meeting, in cases where the officer presiding over the meeting vacates his/her seat to deliver a speech, a supplementary speech or to participate in a debate, or during consideration of a proposal submitted by the presiding officer on a matter other than a

procedural matter and passing the resolution on the proposal thereto, as well as during consideration of matters related to the Speaker.

Article 28. Rights of the Presiding Officer at Plenary Meetings of the Verkhovna Rada

The presiding officer at the plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada shall have the right to:

- 1) make proposals on the procedural priority of certain matters to be voted on first during the course of a meeting;
- 2) combine consideration of several related issues on the agenda. If deputies have objections to such combination, a relevant procedural resolution shall be adopted by the Verkhovna Rada without debate;
- 3) summarize the discussions;
- 4) request speakers in a plenary meeting to reformulate matters more concisely; request clarifications from plenary speakers concerning factual errors in a speech;
- 5) read out or assign the First Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada to read out written proposals and other documents related to the matters being discussed;
- 6) make announcements prior to consideration of the agenda, and in emergency cases — in the course of the meeting, with the exception that there shall be no right to interrupt the speaker or the voting procedure;
- 7) extend the duration of the meeting by 15 minutes beyond the established timeframe;
- 8) announce a recess of up to 30 minutes but no more than two recesses during one plenary meeting;
- 9) order the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada to distribute additional materials to the national deputies on matters included on the agenda during the meeting;
- 10) silence a microphone without warning if a speaker takes to the floor without permission;
- 11) hold the preliminary votes in order to forecast the vote results for matters put on the agenda.

Article 29. Responsibility of the Presiding Officer at a Plenary Meeting of the Verkhovna Rada

1. If the presiding officer at the meeting violates provisions of this Regulation, a national deputy shall have the right to appeal to the chairman concerning any infringement(s) without delay or after the matter is no longer being considered, and require the immediate elimination of the said infringements.

2. If the presiding officer of a meeting regularly violates this Regulation, the Verkhovna Rada may remove the chairman from presiding over the plenary meetings for a period for up to two days by a majority vote of its elected parliamentary assembly, based on a written proposal submitted by at least two parliamentary factions, or signed by at least one third of the national deputies of the elected parliamentary assembly, or by the committee on Rules of Procedure following a brief discussion. The relevant entry shall be made in the minutes of the plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada. During this period, the chairman shall continue to receive payments for execution of his functions and responsibilities as a national deputy.

3. The presiding officer shall be removed from chairing the plenary meeting for the period during which a motion on his removal is being considered.

4. A proposal to remove the presiding officer from chairing the plenary meeting shall be discussed and voted on immediately upon submission of said proposal.

5. If the presiding officer is removed from chairing plenary meetings three times or more during one regular session, the Verkhovna Rada may consider recall of the presiding officer the office of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the first Deputy Speaker or the deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, respectively, upon conclusions of the committee responsible for these Rules of Procedure.

Chapter 5

DISCUSSION OF MATTERS AT PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA

Article 30. Discussion of Motions under Full Procedure at the Plenary Meeting

1. The procedure for full discussion of a motion (hereinafter — the full discussion) at a plenary meeting shall include:

1) presentation by the national deputy sponsoring the proposal, or another person authorized by the law to sponsor legal acts or a representative of such entity, questions posed to the sponsor and sponsor's reply;

2) supplementary report(s) presented by the co-reporter appointed by the lead committee, temporary special commission, and questions to a co-sponsor and his/her reply;

3) speeches by deputies — members of the lead committee or the temporary special commission with announcements and clarification of the dissenting opinion if it has not been delivered to the deputies, along with conclusions of the relevant committee or the temporary special commission;

4) speeches (by one representative) from each committee or temporary commission, if the draft act of the Verkhovna Rada was sent to other committees, in addition to the lead committee if conclusions of such committees or temporary special commissions have not been distributed to deputies;

5) speeches delivered by representatives of parliamentary factions, national deputies;

6. notification made by the presiding officer on the conclusion of debates and on the number of persons who registered to deliver speeches and spoke;
7. concluding remarks by the speaker and co-speaker(s);
8. clarifications and announcements of motions which have been submitted on the issue under consideration, which will be put to the vote, made by the presiding officer.

Article 31. Discussion of Motions by Abbreviated Procedure at the Plenary Meeting

1. Issues shall be considered by an abbreviated procedure at the discretion of the Verkhovna Rada.
2. An abbreviated consideration of an issue shall include:
 1. presentation by the sponsoring deputy of the proposal, or another person authorized by the law to sponsor legal acts or a representative of such entity with, who shall validate such proposal;
 2. presentation of the head or a representative of the lead committee if the issue under consideration has been prepared by this committee;
 3. speeches by representatives of two parliamentary factions in favor of each proposal, and representatives of two parliamentary factions against it;
 4. clarifications and notification of motions which have been submitted and which will be voted upon, by the presiding officer;
- 5) presentations on voting reasons delivered by a deputy from each parliamentary faction, which did not take part in the discussion.
3. The abbreviated procedure shall be applicable to other cases as referred to herein, in addition to cases provided for in paragraph 1 of the present Article.

Chapter 6

ORDER OF SPEECHES AND PROCEDURES FOR GRANTING THE FLOOR AT PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE

Article 32. Speech Duration at Plenary Meetings

1. No one shall take the floor at a plenary meeting unless so permitted by the presiding officer. The presiding officer shall grant deputies the floor for presentation of reports, supplementary reports, speeches, concluding remarks, requests, statements, resolutions, explanations, comments, questions, notifications and information, submission of motions, amendments, announcement of deputy requests, reasoning of response to deputy requests given by an official to whom the request was addressed, justification of proposals and amendments, answering questions, comments, and announcement of dissenting opinions.
2. Time granted for delivery of a report must be no less 10 minutes, 5 minutes for a supplementary report, and 3 minutes for concluding remarks. Three minutes shall be given to each presenter for statements, information, announcement of deputy requests, reasoning of response to deputy requests given by the official to whom the request was addressed. Two minutes shall be given to each presenter to: repeat speeches during debate, speeches delivered under the abbreviated procedure; speeches with respect to voting for individual articles of

draft laws or other acts; comments on nominees, and submission of proposals. One minute shall be given to each presenter for statements on the procedure and reasons of voting, explanations, comments, questions and answers, notices, remarks and to declare a dissenting opinion. The duration provided for reports and supplementary reports involving consideration of drafts of codes and drafts laws having more than 100 articles, items and draft laws which propose amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine shall be increased twofold, unless the Verkhovna Rada resolves otherwise.

3. Prior to commencement of any discussion, the presiding officer shall propose a total time limit for debate of the issue depending on the number of national deputies who have applied to speak on the floor.

If national deputies object to a chairman proposal, the Verkhovna Rada shall pass a procedural resolution stipulating the duration of a debate on the issue concerned.

Article 33. Procedure for Application to Take the Floor at Plenary Meetings

1. An application to access the floor at a plenary meeting with respect to any issue on the agenda for all parliamentary factions shall be made through an electronic system on the day the relevant issue of the agenda is to be considered, after the presiding officer shall announce consideration of the issue at the plenary meeting. Speech priority shall be established by a lottery, taking into account affiliation of national deputies with parliamentary factions.

2. National deputies shall register to deliver a speech on personal and miscellaneous matters (paragraph 3 of Article 25 of the Rules) after the presiding officer announces consideration of such issues at the plenary meeting. Speech priority shall be established by lottery taking into account the affiliation of any national deputies with parliamentary factions.

The total time reserved for presentation of national deputies on personal issues shall be no more than 15 minutes, unless the Verkhovna Rada resolves otherwise.

3. Speech priority on the floor on any issues of the agenda shall be determined by an electronic system irrespective of a national deputies' affiliation with parliamentary faction by lottery.

4. A lists of national deputies, who have registered to take the floor, shall be displayed on the screens of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, the First Deputy and the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, on the national deputy's personal monitors and on the information screen located in the session hall.

5. A national deputy may be given the floor without registration upon his/her request or request of another subject authorized by law to sponsor legal acts for validation of motions and amendments submitted in writing.

6. The Verkhovna Rada may establish other procedures for granting the floor for consideration of individual issues of the plenary meeting's agenda, with its resolution on extraordinary departure from the procedure set forth herein.

Article 34 Guaranteed Right to the Floor at the Plenary Meeting

1. The President of Ukraine, the Prime Minister of Ukraine, the Head of the National Bank of Ukraine, the Head of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, the Head of the Supreme Court of Ukraine, the Head of the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine, the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, or persons authorized by them and the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights shall have a guaranteed right to take the floor with respect to issues being discussed that fall within their competence.

2. A person officially summoned to a plenary meeting (paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 6 of these Rules) shall take the floor in accordance with the procedural resolution adopted by the Verkhovna Rada without debate.

3. One representative from each parliamentary faction shall have the guaranteed right to speak with respect to each issue on an agenda.

4. A national deputy, representatives of other subjects authorized by the law to sponsor legal acts who have introduced a written motion or amendment shall be granted the floor to support the motion or amendment.

Article 35. Priority to the Floor at the Plenary Meeting

1. The presiding officer at the plenary meeting shall grant the floor to national deputies in accordance with the order of priority established at registration for taking the floor.

2. A deputy may withdraw his/her application to take the floor at any time. The deputy may grant his right to speak to another deputy. The time reserved for one presentation may not be divided among several deputies.

3. If a deputy is absent at his/her specified time to speak on the floor, he/she shall be deemed to have refused the opportunity to take the floor, unless his/her right to speak has been formally transferred to another deputy.

4. If a national deputy has applied to take the floor but could not deliver his/her speech due to conclusion of a debate, the text of the deputy's speech shall be included in the transcript bulletin of the meeting at such deputy's request, provided the said text was submitted to the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada immediately after close the meeting. The length of the printed text shall be such that it can be read within the time limit allocated for the speech.

Article 36. Requirements to Speak at Plenary Meetings

1. A presenter shall keep to the issue for which he/she has been granted the floor, and adhere to any time limits allocated for the speech. Under normal circumstances, nobody shall interrupt the presenter.

2. A speech involving a vote shall include a proposal to vote in favor, against or abstain from the vote.

3. A deputy may take the floor at a plenary meeting with respect to the same issue or motion subject to a vote no more than twice. The Verkhovna Rada may pass a procedural resolution as an exception from the said rule without debate.

4. Questions to presenters or co-presenters may be made in writing or verbally, and shall be clear and concise. A national deputy, who has submitted a question may provide additional clarification or elaboration. Responses to questions shall be also be clear and concise. Presenters shall not be questioned during the debate of an issue, with the exception of questions originated by the presiding officer to clarify issues.

5. A speech, supplementary report, a report during full discussion, a statement, notification, responses provided at the request of the Verkhovna Rada, and responses to deputy requests shall be announced from the Speaker's rostrum.

Chapter 7 VOTING PROCEDURES FOR VERKHOVNA RADA PLENARY MEETINGS

Article 37. Types and Procedures of Voting

1. Resolutions of the Verkhovna Rada shall be passed by open or secret vote in accordance with the procedure established by these Rules (Articles 47 – 50).

2. Open voting shall be conducted as follows:

1) by open registered (roll call) vote using electronic ballots through the electronic vote-counting system, including the availability of printed personal ballots of each deputy; vote results per parliamentary factions may be shown on the screen by request of national deputies;;

2) by a show of hands (of the electronic voting system);

~~— 3) by submission of registered ballots in accordance with the procedure established by the Verkhovna Rada.~~¹¹

3. After conclusion of each electronic vote using the electronic system, the results shall be shown on the electronic voting screen and announced by the presiding officer of the plenary meeting.

4. A secret vote shall be performed by a national deputy in person by submission of a ballot.

5. The Verkhovna Rada may pass a procedural resolution to determine the type and procedure of vote to be used for an issue under consideration if laws and the Rules do not specify the means and procedure for the vote.

¹¹ Law 2704-VI

Article 38. Ballots, Time and Venue of Secret Vote

1. The Vote-Counting Commission shall prepare the total quantity of secret ballots equal to the actual number of elected deputies listed by the Verkhovna Rada. Secret ballots shall be uniform in material, color, size and content, and shall not contain any marks. A secret ballot shall indicate the purpose of vote, and shall bear the stamp and signatures of the Head and the Secretary of the Vote-Counting Commission.

2. Ballots for personnel elections, appointments and accepted appointments shall include the names of all nominees who have agreed to run in accordance with the procedure established by these Rules or other laws. Candidate rejections shall by thee Verkhovna Rada shall be adopted without a vote. A nominee may withdraw his/her candidacy (not run) prior to a repeat vote. The national deputies may consider whether to approve or dismiss from office, recall, remove authority or express no confidence in a candidate by secret ballot regardless of the candidate's consent.

3. The time, venue (sector) and the voting procedure shall be determined by the Vote-Counting Commission, of which the deputies shall be informed the plenary meeting prior to the vote. If national deputies of Ukraine have any objections, amendments and supplements to the Vote-Counting Commission's decision, such shall be adopted after an abbreviated discussion by a majority of votes of the elected parliamentary Assembly of the Verkhovna Rada.

4. Prior to the commencement of a vote, the Vote-Counting Commission shall verify the availability of polling-booths (premises) for voting, sealed bulletin boxes, and arrange all other conditions required to guarantee confidentiality of the vote and free declaration of the deputies' will.

Article 39. Organization of Secret Voting and Determination of Results

1. Each national deputy of Ukraine shall be given one secret ballot paper by the Vote-Counting Commission upon presentation of the deputy's personal identification and his/her personal signature in the register of bulletin issued. Ballots shall be given directly at the entrance to the confidential voting area.

2. A room (sector) for a secret vote shall be equipped with tables for registration of national deputies and provision of the secret ballots (to be placed near the entrance to the confidential voting area and concealed voting booths (to be placed near the exit from the confidential voting area). The number of national deputies entering the confidential voting area shall correspond to a number of tables for registration. A national deputy may receive a secret ballot and enter the concealed voting booth only after the previous national deputy leaves the booth. A national deputy cannot re-enter the confidential voting area during the same vote.

3. Voting shall be conducted in a concealed voting booth by entering a mark next to the name of the nominee the deputy votes for or in accordance with another form of selection proposed in a ballot. The marked ballot shall be dropped into the ballot box located near the concealed voting booth. Voting shall end at the time determined by the Vote-Counting Commission.

4. Ballots, which do not comply with the required format, or ballots where two or more nominees for the same position have been selected, or ballots where it is impossible to determine the vote of a deputy, shall be deemed null and void. Names, which have been added to ballots, shall not be considered during a vote count.

5. A resolution shall be passed by secret vote if supported by the majority of votes of the elected parliamentary assembly of the Verkhovna Rada and if the Constitution of Ukraine does not determine another number of national deputy votes is required for adoption of the specific resolution at issue.

6. A secret vote shall be deemed null and void if less national deputies than required to adopt the relevant decision cast their secret vote. In such case, a repeat vote shall be conducted, unless otherwise determined by law or a majority of votes of the elected parliamentary assembly of the Verkhovna Rada.

Article 40. Repeat Vote

1. If no nominee acquires the required majority vote of the national deputies during an election, appointment or approved for appointment to the office of one person, a repeat vote shall be conducted between two nominees who received the largest number of votes during the first vote.

2. If only one nominee remains in a ballot after other nominees have withdrawn their candidacies, a repeat vote shall be conducted for that nominee.

3. If no decision is adopted on approval of dismissal, discharge or expression of no-confidence based on the results of a secret vote on a same person, the issue shall be rejected and shall not be subject to a repeat vote or consideration during the same session, unless new reasons emerge or new circumstances occur which were previously unknown to the Verkhovna Rada during initial consideration of the relevant case.

4. If no person is elected, appointed to office or approved for appointment to the office based on the results of the secret vote, repeat consideration of the same issue shall be conducted by nomination of new candidates unless the law establishes otherwise. The frequency of repeat considerations of such issues shall not be restricted.

Article 41. Secret Vote for a List of Nominees

1. The Verkhovna Rada may pass a procedural resolution to select a list of nominees for a secret vote unless otherwise is established by these Rules or the law. If a collective body should be elected, appointed, or approved for appointment, the secret ballot's list may contain more nominees than required for election, appointment or approval for appointment of such body.

2. Nominees shall be placed on a ballot alphabetically, or in such other order as determined by the Verkhovna Rada.

3. Voting shall be conducted, and votes shall be counted separately with respect to each nominee. Nominees who receive the largest number of national deputy votes, constituting more than one-half of the elected parliamentary assembly of the Verkhovna Rada, shall be

deemed as elected, appointed, or approved for appointment by secret vote for a list of nominees.

4. If the required number of persons has not been elected, appointed, or approved for appointment by vote for a list of nominees, the same issue of the agenda shall be considered with nomination of new candidates for vacant seats.

Article 42 Announcement of the Secret Vote Results

1. The results of a secret vote and any procedural violations of the secret vote discovered shall be reported to the plenary meeting by the chair of the Vote-Counting Commission or by a presenter designated by the Commission.

2. The Vote-Counting Commission shall record the results of a secret vote into a protocol, which should be signed by all members of the Commission in attendance. Any member of the Vote-Counting Commission who has objections to its decision shall record his/her dissenting opinion in writing, which should be attached to the protocol and announced at the plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada.

3. If a decision on election, appointment, or approval for appointment of a relevant nominee to an office is to be passed by secret vote, the presiding officer of the plenary meeting shall announce such decision based on a report of the Vote-Counting Commission; the decision shall be registered with the resolution of the Verkhovna Rada.

Article 43. Control over Use of the Electronic Vote-Counting System

1. The Vote-Counting Commission shall control use of the electronic vote-counting system at plenary meetings. The Vote-Counting Commission shall have unrestricted access to all information required to control and exercise control over the electronic system's work through engagement of specialists and experts.

2. Any issue to be considered which exceeds the remit of the Vote-Counting Commission's shall be considered by the Committee responsible for these Rules of Procedure at the request of the Vote-Counting Commission, a national deputy, a parliamentary faction (group) or by order of the Verkhovna Rada, the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada or the First Deputy or the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada.

Article 44. Timing of Voting during Adoption of Resolutions by the Verkhovna Rada

Voting on resolutions to be passed by the Verkhovna Rada shall be conducted immediately after discussion except in cases of impossibility (paragraph 3, Article 47 herein).

Article 45. Voting Procedure for Motions and Amendments at Plenary Meetings of the Verkhovna Rada

1. The presiding officer of a plenary meeting shall announce motions, including articles, sub-articles, parts and clauses of draft acts and amendments at a plenary meeting indicating the subject matter and sponsor. If a text has been distributed to national deputies and nobody requires a public reading, the presiding officer of a plenary meeting may announce the numbers of amendments, motions, articles, clauses of a draft act being voted on instead of

reading them out where such procedure allows the national deputies to identify the document being voted for. In any circumstances, a transcript of the plenary meeting shall clearly indicate the text and document voted on.

2. After the presiding officer of a plenary meeting announces an amendment or a motion, the sponsor of such amendment or motion shall take the floor at his/her request.

3. Prior to voting for several alternative motions or amendments, the presiding officer of a plenary meeting shall announce their contents in the order of submission and, if there are no objections to their contents, shall proceed with a vote thereto.

4. All submitted motions and amendments not recalled shall be voted on separately in accordance with the procedure established by these Rules.

5. Adoption of a motion shall imply rejection of the remaining submitted motions, which shall not be voted on.

6. If a motion or an amendment to be voted on contains several provisions, covers several matters, or contains several parts which have individual legal consequences, a procedural decision may be voted on to separate such parts, with the remainder of the motion or amendment to be voted on in its final reading.

7. If all parts of the motion or amendment to be voted on have been adopted, but the motion or amendment has been rejected during the vote as a whole, the motion shall be rejected as a whole.

8. Motions or amendments which fail to receive the necessary number of votes in favor shall be deemed rejected.

Chapter 8

RESOLUTIONS OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA

Article 46. Types of the Verkhovna Rada Resolutions

1. Resolutions of the Verkhovna Rada shall be acts of the Verkhovna Rada, in addition to other procedural acts and decisions which are recorded in the minutes of plenary meetings.

2. Acts of the Verkhovna Rada shall be passed in the form of laws, resolutions, declarations, appeals and addresses.

Article 47. Adoption of Resolutions by the Verkhovna Rada

1. In accordance with Article 84, paragraph 2, and , Article 91 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada shall adopt resolutions exclusively at its plenary meetings following discussion of the issue by the majority of the elected parliamentary assembly, except in cases provided for by the Constitution of Ukraine and these Rules.

2. Resolutions of the Verkhovna Rada shall be adopted by registered open roll-call vote, except in those cases provided for by paragraph 6 of the present Article, when voting by secret ballot is held.

3. National deputies of Ukraine shall vote in person at the session hall of the Verkhovna Rada, using the electronic vote-counting system, or at a location specifically designated for secret voting near the plenary hall.

4. Resolutions on motions concerning personal election, appointment, confirmation, appointment approval of offices or recall or removal from office shall be approved by the Verkhovna Rada by registered open roll-call vote, except in such cases provided by the law and these Rules, when voting by secret ballot is held.

5. The Verkhovna Rada can adopt decisions on draft legal acts only on issues put on the agenda of the plenary meetings of the Verkhovna Rada prior to beginning of the plenary meeting.

Article 48. Repealing Resolutions of the Verkhovna Rada

1. Resolutions of the Verkhovna Rada may be repealed by the Verkhovna Rada before the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada signs the relevant act.

2. Laws, resolutions and other acts of the Verkhovna Rada, which have taken effect, cannot be repealed by the Verkhovna Rada; the Verkhovna Rada may recognize such laws as invalid.

3. If the procedure of consideration and voting for a draft law, resolution or another act of the Verkhovna Rada is violated, a national deputy, or other person authorized by law to initiate a legal action may appeal to the presiding officer of a plenary meeting with a claim against such violation of these Rules during consideration and voting on the issue.

4. The presiding officer of a plenary meeting shall immediately take measures to eliminate any violations of these Rules, and if the voting procedures are violated or if there are obstructions which could affect the vote results, a repeat vote shall be held without discussion.

5. If the presiding officer of a plenary meeting fails to remedy a violation of these Rules and fails to eliminate any consequences of such violation during the vote for a law, resolution or another legal act as a whole, and if the chairman shelves the relevant claim, a national deputy, or other person authorized by law to take legal action shall address to the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada with a written claim within two days.

6. At the same time, a national deputy, or other person authorized by law to take legal action shall submit the draft resolution of the Verkhovna Rada to repeal the Verkhovna Rada's resolution which passed the law, resolution or other act as a whole.

7. The Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, the First Deputy Speaker or the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall send the draft resolution provided by sub-paragraph 2 of paragraph 4 of the present Article, to the committee responsible for the Rules of Procedure for preliminary consideration on the same day.

8. The Committee responsible for the Rules of Procedure shall prepare an opinion which comments on the suitability for approval or rejection of the draft resolution of the Verkhovna Rada without delay, but no later than three days after submission thereof (taking into account the calendar schedule of the session's work).

9. After consideration of the relevant draft resolution of the Verkhovna Rada by the Committee responsible for Rules of Procedure, the Verkhovna Rada shall consider the issue at the plenary meeting without a vote to include the matter on the agenda. Discussion of such draft resolution shall be conducted by an abbreviated procedure.

10. A decision to repeal the results of vote for a draft law, resolution, or other act of the Verkhovna Rada as a whole shall be adopted by a majority of votes of the parliamentary assembly of the Verkhovna Rada, with exception to where another procedure is established by these Rules.

Article 49. Resolutions of the Verkhovna Rada on Procedural Issues

1. At its meeting, the Verkhovna Rada may adopt resolutions on procedural issues (hereinafter — “Procedural Resolution”), as referred to in these Rules (paragraph 3 of Article 6, paragraph 4 of Article 9, paragraph 3 of Article 10, sub-paragraph 2 paragraph 1 of Article 28, paragraph 3 of Article 32, paragraph 2 of Article 34, paragraph 3 of Article 36, paragraph 5 of Article 37, paragraph 1 of Article 41, paragraph 6 of Article 45, paragraph 3 of Article 74, paragraph 4 of Article 96, paragraph 2 of Article 113, paragraph 2-3 of Article 119, paragraph 4 of Article 134, paragraph 2 of Article 157, paragraphs 1, 4 of Article 179, paragraphs 3, 6 of Article 181, paragraph 6 of Article 205) without committee preparation and inclusion in the agenda, and such resolutions shall be passed immediately after an abbreviated discussion by a one-third vote of the elected parliamentary assembly of the Verkhovna Rada.

3. A procedural resolution shall be passed by open vote and recorded in the minutes of a plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada.

Article 50. Resolutions on Ad Hoc Breach of Procedure Established by these Rules

1. If required, the Verkhovna Rada may pass a resolution on ad hoc breaches of procedure established by these Rules, within the restrictions imposed by paragraphs 2 and 3 of the present Article. Such resolutions shall be passed without discussion by voting upon submission of the relevant motion.

2. A resolution on an ad hoc breach of procedure established by these Rules shall not be passed if the procedure violated is secured by the Constitution of Ukraine or the law.

3. A resolution on an ad hoc breach of procedure established by these Rules may pertain to draft laws, prolongation or restriction of the period for submission of alternative draft laws, proposals and amendments to draft laws, restriction on the period to submit a draft law to a national deputy and periods for consideration of draft laws at committees (paragraph 3 of Article 101, paragraph 2 of Article 109, paragraph 2 of Article 116).

Chapter 9

MAINTAINING DISCIPLINARY AND ETHICAL COMPLIANCE DURING PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA

Article 51. Maintenance of Disciplinary and Ethical Compliance by National Deputies of Ukraine at Plenary Meetings

1. A national deputy should not use insulting expressions or incite unlawful or violent actions at a plenary meeting.
2. If a deputy believes that his/her words or actions are construed by the presenter or presiding officer incorrectly, such deputy may apply in writing to the presiding officer, and request the floor to provide clarifications or remarks. Upon such application, the presiding officer of a plenary meeting shall give a deputy the floor immediately or after the debate, but prior to the vote. If the floor is given after of the debate, the presiding officer of a plenary meeting shall promptly notify deputies of the time the deputy is granted the floor and that such application has been submitted.
3. If a national deputy uses insulting expressions towards another national deputy or a deputy faction, the presiding officer a plenary meeting shall warn the deputy that such expressions or appeals are not permitted or conclude the speech of such deputy. An offended national deputy or a representative of a deputy faction may appeal to the presiding officer of the plenary meeting to take the floor for remarking.
4. The presiding officer of a plenary meeting shall give the deputy or a representative of a deputy faction the floor immediately after filing the deputy's application or after consideration of the issue.
5. If a deputy or a parliamentary faction offended by an insulting expression considers a conflict not resolved and the national deputies fail to reach mutual understanding, such parties shall address to the committee of Rules of Procedure in writing, and the said committee shall consider the issue at its meeting. In such cases, based on the Committee on Rules of Procedure' findings, the Verkhovna Rada may adopt a resolution, without discussion, divesting the deputy of the right to participate in plenary meetings (up to five meetings). Such resolution shall be published for voter information in the *Holos Ukrainy* newspaper.
6. If a deputy commits acts of a criminal nature during a plenary meeting, the debate shall be terminated. The presiding officer of a plenary meeting shall inform the Verkhovna Rada of the action, announce a recess or conclude the meeting, and propose the Committee on Rules of Procedure take up the issue and submit a proposal recommending that appropriate disciplinary measures be taken. If such criminal acts were made prior to, during recess, or after conclusion of a plenary meeting, the presiding officer shall inform the Verkhovna Rada after the recess or at the commencement of the next meeting.
7. If the national deputies are in dispute as to the interpretation or application of different provisions of these Rules during consideration of such issues during a plenary meeting, which may result in disruption of the meeting, the presiding officer of the meeting shall announce a recess based on a written application of two parliamentary factions on violation of the provisions of these Rules.

Article 52. Maintenance of Discipline and Ethical Conduct by Presenters at a Plenary Meeting

1. A presenter shall not use insulting expressions, obscene or offensive words, or incite unlawful or violent actions at a plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada. The presiding officer shall warn the presenter that such expressions or appeals are forbidden or conclude the speech of such presenter, and divest the presenter of the right to speak at that meeting if the presenter violates such requirement.

2. A presenter reprimanded by the presiding officer shall be requested to cease speaking immediately; otherwise, the speech of the presenter may be concluded by the presiding officer.

3. The presiding officer of a plenary meeting shall reserve for the speaker additional time for presenting his/her report equal to the time of recess in his/her speech, unless such recess is associated with measures taken in accordance with these Rules.

4. If a presenter speaks without the presiding officer's permission, the microphone may be disconnected without notice.

5. If a presenter exceeds the time period allocated for the speech, breaks from the topic under consideration, or deviates from the topic on which he/she was given the floor to speak, the presiding officer of a plenary meeting shall warn him/her and terminate any right to speak in case of further violation. Any part of the presenter's speech delivered after the presenter is deprived of the right to speak shall not be included in the stenographic report of a meeting.

Article 53. Maintenance of Discipline by Persons Present at Plenary Meetings

1. Persons present at plenary meetings of the Verkhovna Rada shall be disciplined, and refrain from disrupting order and from any public manifestations of their opinion regarding the course of a meeting.

2. Based on the proposal submitted by the presiding officer of a plenary meeting or a proposal of a national deputy adopted by a one third of vote of the parliamentary assembly of the Verkhovna Rada, persons who fail to meet requirements of paragraph 1 of this Article shall be escorted from the session hall.

Chapter 10

MINUTES, STENOGRAPHIC REPORTING, AND STENOGRAPHIC BULLETIN OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA MEETINGS

Article 54. Minutes of a Verkhovna Rada Plenary Meeting

1. Minutes shall be taken at Verkhovna Rada plenary meetings. Minutes of Verkhovna Rada meetings shall be maintained by the Verkhovna Rada Secretariat. Minutes shall be signed by the officer presiding at a plenary meeting. Each substitution of the presiding officer shall be recorded.

2. Minutes of the Verkhovna Rada meetings shall indicate the sequence number of the Verkhovna Rada assembly, the session number, minute number, date, time, and venue of the meeting; the number of deputies in attendance; name and initials of the presiding officer of a meeting, as well as the names of members of the interim administration of the session before election of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada; each issue on the agenda to be considered; names, surnames and positions of presenters and co-presenters; names, initial letters and numbers of IDs of national deputies who participated in the debate; voting results for draft laws, resolutions, and other acts of the Verkhovna Rada, orders of the Verkhovna Rada, proposals of national deputies and adopted resolutions, including procedural resolutions.

Article 55. Stenographic Bulletin, and Stenographic Reports of Verkhovna Rada Plenary Meetings

1. Meetings of the Verkhovna Rada shall be recorded by transcription. Transcript recording and publication of stenographic bulletins of a plenary meeting shall be performed by the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada. The stenographic recording and plenary meeting bulletin should completely reflect the procedures of consideration, and voting results for draft laws, resolutions, other acts of the Verkhovna Rada, in addition to all resolutions adopted, including procedural resolutions. Each should also contain the number, date, time and venue, agenda of the plenary meeting and name of the presiding officer.

2. The stenographic report of an open plenary meeting shall be posted on the official web site of the Verkhovna Rada no later than the next day after the plenary meeting absent any editing, and shall be edited within a week and signed by the head of the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada. Within this period, a national deputy may submit his/her remarks on errors made in the stenographic bulletin.

3. The stenographic bulletin of a plenary meeting shall include:

- 1) information on the roll-call registration of deputies in attendance;
- 2) the list of deputies recorded as absent for valid reason;
- 3) the results of roll-call votes;
- 4) the full results of voting;
- 5) the conclusions given by committees, temporary special and temporary investigative commissions with respect to issues under consideration, if they were given to deputies;
- 6) the texts of any speeches not delivered by deputies;
- 7) the texts of any deputy dissenting opinions of with respect to laws, resolutions and other acts of the Verkhovna Rada;
- 8) the lists of all parliamentary faction members after registration and changes made thereto; and

- 9) any discussion of deputy requests announced at a plenary meeting.
4. A record of speeches delivered at a plenary meeting shall be kept on tape for one year.

Article 56. Procedure for Accessing Minutes, Stenographic Bulletin, Stenographic Reports of Verkhovna Rada Plenary Meetings

1. Minutes, stenographic recording, and stenographic bulletin from plenary meetings shall be official documents that verify the progress of a debate and adoption of any resolutions by the Verkhovna Rada. National deputies shall be provided with such documents upon written applications to the head of the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada

2. Electronic bulletins of the Verkhovna Rada shall be made available to deputies upon their written applications to the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada.

SECTION III.

FORMATION OF BODIES OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA; ELECTION, APPOINTMENT AND RECALL OF VERKHOVNA RADA OFFICIALS

Chapter 11.

FORMATION OF PARLIAMENTARY FACTIONS IN THE VERKHOVNA RADA

Article 57. Formation of Parliamentary Factions

1. Parliamentary factions shall be established at the first session of the Verkhovna Rada of the new assembly prior to consideration of the election of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada and formation of the representative bodies of the Verkhovna Rada. Otherwise, the presiding officer shall announce a recess in the plenary meeting for formation. Prior to the next plenary meeting, the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada shall provide the deputies informational materials on the parliamentary factions, created in accordance with the Rules submitted to the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada at least one day prior to commencement of the meeting.

Article 58. Principles of Formation of Parliamentary Factions

1. Parliamentary factions shall be formed on a party basis by national deputies elected by political party (election blocs of political parties), which received a sufficient political mandate based on the results of the parliamentary elections.

2. A political party (an election bloc of political parties) may form only one faction in the Verkhovna Rada.

3. Parliamentary factions shall be formed on democratic principles in compliance with the constitution of Ukraine, the law of Ukraine On the Status of National Deputies and these Rules.

Article 59. Conditions of Formation of Parliamentary Factions

1. A minimum of fifteen national deputies shall be required to form a parliamentary faction.
2. A national deputy may only be a member of one parliamentary faction formed by the political party (election bloc of political parties)¹².
3. The Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, the First Deputy Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Verkhovna shall not be aligned with a parliamentary faction.
4. A national deputy who is excluded from the membership of a parliamentary faction shall become an unaffiliated deputy.

Article 59-1. Parliamentary Group¹³

1. National deputies not aligned with a parliamentary faction may join a non-aligned parliamentary group of deputies (hereinafter - Non-Aligned Parliamentary Group). The minimum number of national deputies allowing formation of a parliamentary group shall not be less than a number defined by paragraph 1 of Article 59 of the present Rules.
2. A national deputy may be a member of one parliamentary group. The Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, the First Deputy Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Verkhovna shall not be aligned with a parliamentary group.
3. A parliamentary group shall be registered with the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine under the procedure established by Article 60 of the present Rules.
4. A registered parliamentary group shall enjoy rights of a parliamentary faction.

Article 60. Procedure for Registration and Termination of Activities of Parliamentary Factions

1. Each parliamentary faction (parliamentary group) shall be registered by the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada. Registration is conditioned upon submission of written notice signed by each deputy in the parliamentary faction (parliamentary group) concerning the establishment of the parliamentary faction (parliamentary group) to the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada; such notice shall comprise the full name (and abbreviated name, if any) of the parliamentary faction (parliamentary group), its individual composition and political party affiliation of members, and names of the Head and Deputy Heads of the parliamentary faction (parliamentary group) (no more than one leader per 15 members of a parliamentary faction (parliamentary group)). The full and abbreviated names of a parliamentary faction (parliamentary group) shall coincide with the name of the relevant political party (electoral bloc of political parties). The full and abbreviated names of a parliamentary faction (parliamentary group) shall differ from names of registered parliamentary factions (parliamentary groups)

¹² Law 2600-VI

¹³ Law 2600-VI

2. After registration of the relevant documents on creation of the parliamentary faction (parliamentary group), the presiding officer of the plenary meeting shall inform the national deputies of registration of a parliamentary faction (parliamentary group), its deputy composition, and the head and deputy heads of a parliamentary faction (parliamentary group). Informational material regarding a parliamentary faction (parliamentary group) shall be distributed among national deputies after its registration; the same procedure shall be applicable for notification of changes to the composition of a parliamentary faction (parliamentary group).

3. A national deputy shall provide written notice to the presiding officer of the plenary meeting of his/her association and disassociation from a registered parliamentary faction (parliamentary group). Written submission by a national deputy on association with a parliamentary faction (parliamentary group) shall be coordinated by the head of the parliamentary faction (parliamentary group).

The presiding officer of a plenary meeting shall announce the exclusion of a national deputy from a parliamentary faction (parliamentary group) after submission of notice by the parliamentary faction (parliamentary group).

4. The Verkhovna Rada shall dismiss a parliamentary faction (parliamentary group) which fails to maintain the requisite minimum number of deputies defined in Article 59 of these Rules, within 15 days of such occurrence.

Article 60-1. Inter-faction Parliamentary Association¹⁴

1. Deputies may voluntarily form inter-faction parliamentary associations without registration and human, logistics, information, organizational support of activities from the part of the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

An inter-faction parliamentary association shall not have rights of a parliamentary faction (parliamentary the group) as stipulated in these Rules.

The presiding officer of a plenary meeting shall announce the formation of an inter-faction parliamentary association after submission of a written notice by the head of an inter-faction parliamentary association.

Chapter 12¹⁵

~~— COALITION OF PARLIAMENTARY FACTIONS IN THE VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE —~~

~~— Article 61. Procedure for Formation of the Coalition of Parliamentary Factions in the Verkhovna Rada¹⁶ —~~

~~— 1. A coalition of deputy factions of the Verkhovna Rada (hereinafter — the Coalition) — shall be an association of parliamentary factions, national deputies, which comprises the majority of national deputies of the constitutional composition of Verkhovna Rada to be formed by results of the elections on the basis of coordinated policy positions and on the principles set out by the Constitution of Ukraine (254k/96-VR) and the present Rules.~~

¹⁴ Law 2600-VI

¹⁵ Law 2600-VI

¹⁶ Law N 1952-VI

~~—2. A Coalition shall be formed within one month from opening of the first plenary meeting of the newly elected Verkhovna Rada, or within one month of termination of the activities of the previous coalition.~~

~~—3. A Coalition shall be formed by negotiations between parliamentary factions. An agreement to form a coalition between parliamentary factions in the Verkhovna Rada (hereinafter — the Coalition Agreement) shall be signed following consultations by heads of the respective parliamentary factions or upon a decision of a parliamentary faction, by a deputy head of the parliamentary faction.~~

~~— A Coalition Agreement shall set forth the common political mandate, which shall form the basis of the coalition, and the procedure of internal administration of the Coalition. The Coalition Agreement shall contain the list of national deputies forming the coalition, bearing personal signatures of national deputies. The list shall form an integral part of the Coalition Agreement.~~

~~—4. The Coalition shall be considered formed from the moment of the official announcement made by the presiding officer at a plenary meeting in accordance with the documents submitted to the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada in compliance with paragraph 3 of the present Article.~~

~~—5. An announcement on formation of the Coalition, the text of the Coalition Agreement and the list of members of the Coalition shall be published in the *Holos-Ukrainy* newspaper no later than in four days after the official announcement on establishment of the Coalition.~~

~~—6. If the Coalition dissolves, a new coalition shall be formed in accordance with the procedure established by these Rules.~~

~~— Article 62. Applicable Period for Formation of a Coalition~~

~~—1. The monthly term within which a coalition shall be formed in accordance with paragraph 7 of Article 83 of the Constitution of Ukraine and paragraph 3 of Article 61 of the rules shall be calculated in calendar days. The period begins from opening of the first plenary meeting of the newly elected Verkhovna Rada, or from the day of the regular or extraordinary session of the Verkhovna Rada when the prior coalition dissolved subject to these Rules, and shall end at 12.00 p.m. of the 30th calendar day.~~

~~—~~

~~— Article 63. Organization of the Coalition Activities~~

~~—1. The coalition shall pass resolutions at its general meetings by a majority of the votes of the national deputies — members of the Coalition.~~

~~—2. A Board of the Coalition shall be established in order to coordinate the mandate of the parliamentary factions composing the coalition.~~

~~—3. The Secretariat of the Coalition shall provide informational and technical support to the coalition. A Secretariat shall be established for the period of the coalition's activities in accordance with the procedure provided for secretariats of parliamentary factions.~~

~~—4. Any other organizational matters of the coalition shall be determined by the Coalition Agreement.~~

~~—Article 64. The Role of the Coalition in Formation of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine~~

~~—1. Subject to the Constitution of Ukraine, the Coalition shall provide a nominee for the candidacy for the Prime Minister of Ukraine and nominees for the offices of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.~~

~~—2. Nominations for the Prime Minister of Ukraine, and other cabinet ministers shall be resolved on at the general meeting of the Coalition.~~

~~—3. Coalition proposals concerning the nomination for Prime Minister of Ukraine shall be tendered to the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada no later than the next working day after adoption of such resolution; the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall thereafter communicate it to the President of Ukraine without delay. Cabinet of Minister nominations shall be provided to the Prime Minister of Ukraine on the day of his/her appointment to the office.~~

~~—4. A coalition which is dissolved or concludes a new coalition agreement before the Verkhovna Rada appoints the coalition's nominee to office shall not cause the coalition's proposed nominee to be withdrawn unless the new coalition resolves otherwise.~~

~~—Article 65. Changes to the Membership of the Coalition~~

~~—1. A parliamentary faction which is not a member of the majority Coalition may voluntary enter the coalition by signing the coalition agreement upon consent of the Coalition. In case a parliamentary faction which is not the member of the coalition demonstrates its initiative to enter the Coalition on terms different from those in the Coalition Agreement, all members of the Coalition shall conclude a new version of the Coalition Agreement by by tCoalition consent.~~

~~—2. A parliamentary faction may withdraw from a Coalition at any time by providing written notification to the heads of other parliamentary factions which form the Coalition no later than ten days prior to its withdrawal. During that period, such parliamentary faction may provide written notice revoking its application to withdraw at any time. If the parliamentary faction does not revoke its application, the presiding officer of the first plenary meeting shall announce the withdrawal of the parliamentary faction upon expiration of the 10 day term.~~

~~—3. The General meeting of the Coalition may resolve to expel a deputy from a parliamentary faction by passage of a resolution thereto.~~

~~—4. The following activities shall be published in the *Holos Ukrainy* newspaper within four days of their occurrence: the association, dissociation or expulsion of a parliamentary faction with the Coalition, execution of a new version of the Coalition Agreement, and announcement of a change in membership in a parliamentary faction.~~

~~—5. When a parliamentary faction disassociates from the Coalition or the Coalition expels a parliamentary faction, the Verkhovna Rada may pass a resolution on dismissal of the~~

~~members of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, who were nominated by the departing parliamentary faction in accordance with the procedure determined by law.~~

~~— Article 66. Termination of Coalition Activities~~

~~— 1. The activities of the Coalition shall be terminated if:~~

~~— 1) the Verkhovna Rada of the relevant parliamentary assembly terminates its activities;~~

~~— 2) the numerical composition of the coalition becomes less than required by the Constitution of Ukraine;~~

~~— 3) the coalition is dissolved by resolution.~~

~~— 2. The activities of the coalition shall be terminated in cases as provided for by sections 2 and 3 of paragraph 1 of the present Article from the moment of the official announcement at the plenary meeting. An announcement on termination of activities of the coalition shall be published in the Holos Ukrainy newspaper no later than four days after official announcement on termination of its activities.~~

~~— Article 67. Deputy Faction Acting as Coalition~~

~~— 1. Formation of a Coalition shall not be necessary where the national deputies of a parliamentary faction acquire a majority of seats in a newly elected Verkhovna Rada according to election results. Such parliamentary faction shall enjoy all rights of a Coalition as provided for by the Constitution of Ukraine.~~

Chapter 13

~~— PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION~~

~~— Article 68. Parliamentary Opposition¹⁷~~

~~— 1. The parliamentary opposition may be formed by a parliamentary faction (association of factions), subject to requirements specified in this article.~~

~~— 2. A parliamentary faction that is not a member of the majority Coalition, may oppose the policy platform of the majority Coalition and / or the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine formed by it. The formation of an opposition parliamentary faction shall be announced in the plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada by the presiding officer or the authorized representative of the appropriate faction.~~

~~— 3. Parliamentary factions which act in opposition may resolve to create an opposition association of parliamentary factions. Such resolution shall be adopted by parliamentary factions by issuance of a statement to that effect, which shall be signed by the heads of these factions. The formation of a parliamentary opposition (coalition) shall be realized by notification of its formation by its authorized representative at the plenary session of the Verkhovna Rada.~~

¹⁷ Law N 2157-VI

~~—4. A parliamentary faction which form the opposition may be a member of only one opposition coalition. In case a parliamentary faction associates with an opposition coalition, the withdrawal from or termination of such an opposition coalition shall cause the parliamentary faction to lose its status as engaged in opposition activities.~~

~~—5. Opposition activities of an opposition parliamentary faction or an opposition association of parliamentary factions shall be considered dissolved by resolution from the moment such dissolution is announced at the plenary session of Verkhovna Rada by the head or an authorized representative of the opposition parliamentary faction or an opposition association of parliamentary factions.~~

~~—6. The oppositional activities of an opposition association of parliamentary factions shall also be terminated if one or more factions that form an opposition association of parliamentary factions announce their withdrawal from an opposition association of parliamentary factions, if in that case only one faction remains in an opposition association of parliamentary factions.~~

~~—Article 69. Rights of the Parliamentary Opposition to Initiate Consideration of issues in the Verkhovna Rada~~

~~—1. The parliamentary opposition shall have the right:~~

~~—1) to convene an extraordinary session of the parliament in cases where such is supported by not less than one third of the national deputies of the elected parliamentary assembly of the Verkhovna Rada~~

~~—2) to compel additional plenary meetings of the Parliament in cases where such is supported by not less than one third of the national deputies of the parliamentary assembly of the Verkhovna Rada;~~

~~—3) to have included priority matters on the agenda of the Verkhovna Rada absent a vote in accordance with these Rules, the inclusion of draft laws and others acts of the Verkhovna Rada absent a vote on the weekly agenda of the plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada shall be done in accordance with sections 1 and 3 of Article 25 of these Rules.—~~

~~—Article 70. The rights of parliamentary opposition in plenary meetings of the Verkhovna Rada¹⁸~~

~~—1. A subject (subjects) engaged in opposition activity at the plenary meetings of the Verkhovna Rada Parliament shall be guaranteed the right to have a representative speak up to three minutes when considering such issues:~~

~~—1) the principles of domestic and foreign policy of Ukraine;~~

~~—2) the Program of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine;~~

~~—3) the status of the State Budget of Ukraine;~~

¹⁸ Law N 2157-VI

~~— 4) the responsibilities of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine;—~~

~~— 5) the national economic, scientific, technical, social, national-cultural development, and environmental protection policies.~~

~~— 2. The rights specified in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be executed by written application submitted to the presiding officer of the plenary meeting, by the head or an authorized representative of the appropriate opposition subject..—~~

~~— Article 71. The Rights of the Parliamentary Opposition to Representation in the Administration of the Verkhovna Rada and its Authorities~~

~~— 1. The Parliamentary Opposition shall have the right to representation within the administration of the Verkhovna Rada, and within its organs in accordance with these Rules.—~~

~~— Article 72. Opposition Government~~

~~— 1. The parliamentary opposition shall have the right to form an opposition government consisting of deputies — members of the parliamentary opposition after formation of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Verkhovna Rada.—~~

~~2. The opposition government shall: 1) by request be entitled to receive information and copies of acts from the Cabinet of Ministers~~

~~— 2) monitor the activities of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, as well as other executive organs and the officials therein;—~~

~~— 3) oversee development and implementation of the state budget of Ukraine within the framework of the parliamentary oversight authority thereto;~~

~~— 4) the national deputies — members of the opposition government shall prepare alternative proposals to the platform and acts of the Cabinet Ministers of Ukraine, and publish such alternative proposals in the mass media and other official websites of the Verkhovna Rada;~~

~~— 5) the national deputies — members of the opposition government shall develop draft laws in alternative to those of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine;~~

~~— 6) the national deputies — members of the opposition government shall develop alternative projects in response to the national program;~~

~~— 3. The provision of informational and technical support to the opposition government shall be conducted by the Secretariat, which is created by proposal of the parliamentary opposition for the corresponding period of the opposition government in accordance with the procedures established by the Coalition Secretariat.~~

Chapter 14

CONCILIATION COMMISSION OF PARLIAMENTARY FACTIONS OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE

Article 73 Conciliation Commission of the Parliamentary Factions (Parliamentary Groups)¹⁹

1. The Conciliation Commission shall be established as an advisory body for preliminary preparation and consideration of organizational matters pertaining to the activities of the Verkhovna Rada.

2. The Conciliation Commission shall consist of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, the First Deputy and the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, heads of the parliamentary factions (parliamentary groups) vested with the right of a conclusive vote and committees heads vested with the right of an advisory vote.

In the absence of a parliamentary faction (group) leader or committee head, a deputy leader or a deputy head of the parliamentary factions (parliamentary groups) shall participate in the meeting of the Conciliation Commission on behalf of such leader of a parliamentary faction (group) or the committee head, each having a right of conclusive or advisory vote, respectively.

3. The Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall oversee meetings of the Conciliation Commission. In his/her absence, one of his/her deputies shall oversee the meeting.

4. National deputies shall have the right to participate in meetings of the Conciliation Commission, to discuss issues being considered, to submit motions on the draft schedules of the session plenary work, the draft meeting schedule of and the draft agenda for each plenary meeting (Articles 20, 24, 25 of the Rules).

5. The following officials shall be entitled to participate in meetings of the Conciliation Commission:

- a) persons and representatives of persons authorized by law to commence legal actions;
- b) the head of a temporary special, or temporary investigative commission who has the right to an advisory vote if the Conciliation Commission considers a question at issue to be within such commission's competence;
- c) authorized officials of the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada who provide organizational and technical support to meetings of the Conciliation Commission and plenary meetings.

6. The Conciliation Commission shall carry out its work in the form of meetings, which shall take place on Mondays during plenary weeks. A meeting of the Conciliation Commission shall be valid if it is attended by at least one-half of its membership having the right of a conclusive vote.

¹⁹ Law 2600-VI

7. Conciliation Commission meetings shall be convened by the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, and in case of his/her absence — by one of the Deputy Speakers of the Verkhovna Rada or at the initiative of representatives of three or more parliamentary factions (parliamentary groups), if required.

8. The activities of the Conciliation Commission shall be public; its meetings shall be open with the exception of cases in which a resolution has been passed to hold the closed plenary meeting.

9. Minutes and a transcript report shall be taken for each meeting of the Conciliation Commission. Minutes for the Conciliation Commission meetings shall be signed by the presiding officer.

10. Motions of the Conciliation Commission shall be adopted by those members of the Conciliation Commission entitled to vote, and who represent the number of deputies sufficient to pass a conclusive resolution during the vote in the session hall.

11. Motions on the agenda of plenary meeting passed by the Conciliation Commission shall be sent to the parliamentary factions (parliamentary groups), bodies and persons concerned no later than 6.00 p.m. on the day the Conciliation Commission holds its meeting.

12. Committees, temporary special and temporary investigative commissions shall submit proposals to the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada for consideration at the regular plenary meeting of the Conciliation Commission no later than four days before the regular meeting.

13. Members of the Conciliation Commission, as well as other persons invited to attend its regular meetings shall be notified of the issues to be considered during its meeting and shall receive all relevant materials no later than three days prior to the meeting.

14. The Conciliation Commission shall:

1) coordinate legislative drafting plans and recommend it for the Verkhovna Rada's approval;

2) consider and approve proposals to the schedule of the session activities, draft agenda of the session, planned schedule of the plenary meetings and the weekly agenda of plenary meetings;

3) approve nominee lists for leaders, first deputy and deputy leaders and secretaries of committees;

4) submit motions to the Verkhovna Rada on convening the special plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada and propose the date of its conduction upon request of three deputy factions or five committees;

5) consider measures aimed at enforcing deputy attendance at plenary meetings;

6) introduce proposals on holding parliamentary hearings;

7) consider other issues related to organization of the Verkhovna Rada activities in accordance with these Rules.

Chapter 15

SPEAKER OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA, THE FIRST DEPUTY SPEAKER AND THE DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA

Article 74. Nomination of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

1. The Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall be elected from among the national deputies of Ukraine for the electoral term.

2. Candidates for office of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall be nominated by the deputies and parliamentary factions at a plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada. A deputy may nominate himself/herself for the position of Speaker. Upon nomination of an individual for the position of Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada shall adopt a resolution to forward for consideration the list of nominees and may take a recess for a period of time determined by the Verkhovna Rada in order to conduct a preliminary discussion of the nominees within parliamentary factions.

3. The Secretariat shall distribute informational material on each nominee to the parliamentary factions prior to initiation of any debate of nominees within parliamentary factions.

Such material shall contain information on the following: education, profession, party affiliation; an excerpt from the employment record-book of the nominee; a resume outlining important career achievements; an income statement, financial obligations and the property status of a nominee and his/her family members for the previous year in compliance with requirements established for first category civil servants; and any information regarding the nominee's membership in the management or supervisory boards of any companies or organizations engaged in commercial activity. The information submitted shall be signed by the nominee. The Verkhovna Rada may adopt a procedural resolution adding additional information regarding the nominees and their activities to the materials provided. The list of data provided should be the same for each nominee. Election of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall not require preliminary preparation by any committees.

Article 75. Election of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada

1. Nominees for office of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine shall deliver a 20-minute speech on their programs at a plenary meeting in the order they have been nominated.

2. The various nominees for Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine shall be discussed after the nominee presentations at the plenary meeting. The Verkhovna Rada shall reserve at least one hour for debate.

The deputies shall debate all nominees collectively. The National deputies shall have the right to question nominees; express opinions with respect to nominee platforms, as well as

their political, business and personal qualities; and campaign in favor or against a nominee. The presiding officer shall provide equal opportunity to deputies to speak on behalf of each nominee; with deputies taking the floor in the order established by Article 33 of these Rules.

A nominee may refuse to accept a nomination at any time, which shall cause the presiding officer to give the floor to the nominee to declare such refusal regardless of any procedural order thereto.

3. Resolutions on nominees shall be adopted by secret vote by submission of paper ballot.
4. The nominee who receives the greatest number of votes of the parliamentary majority of the Verkhovna Rada shall be elected Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada.
5. The Verkhovna Rada shall pass a relevant resolution on election of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada to be signed by the newly elected Speaker.
6. The Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine may be elected simultaneously with the First Deputy Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.
7. The Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine shall assume his/her authority immediately upon election.

Article 76. Dismissal of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada from Office by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

1. The Verkhovna Rada may dismiss the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada from his office at any time, upon the Speaker's personal request, except in cases when the Speaker is the acting President of Ukraine (Article 112 of the Constitution of Ukraine) or in cases arising from his/her unsatisfactory performance in the office, including cases when the Speaker is dismissed from overseeing plenary meetings on three and more occasions during one regular session, or for any other reasons which shall prevent the Speaker from performing his obligations. Early dismissal of the deputy shall simultaneously terminate his/her authority as the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada.

2. Motions to dismiss the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada (for reasons other than his/her personal resignation) may be introduced by:

1. the National deputies based on a recommendation from the committee responsible for the rules of procedure if the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada is dismissed from overseeing plenary meetings on three and more occasions during one regular session;
2. at least one-third of the national deputies forming elected parliamentary assembly of the Verkhovna Rada, with the motion of each deputy to be confirmed by deputies signatures (the signed letter shall be submitted in the original form bearing full names of national deputies, numbers of their IDs and irrevocable signatures).

3. In cases concerning dismissal of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada for reasons other than his/her personal resignation, or in cases seeking consent to hold the Speaker liable or to cause early dismissal of the deputy serving as Speaker, the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada or the presiding officer elected under the ad hoc procedure from among the national deputies who did not sign the proposal to remove Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall

preside over the meeting. The issue on election of an ad hoc chairman should not be put on the agenda of a plenary meeting; the Verkhovna Rada shall pass a resolution following an abbreviated debate without preliminary preparation by the committees.

4. A resolution to consider dismissal of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada on the agenda of the session shall be passed by the plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada the day after submission proposal to that effect is submitted. At the same time, the Verkhovna Rada shall authorize the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine to audit execution of the Verkhovna Rada budget over the current year.
5. The Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall execute a written report on his/her activities and on approval of the Verkhovna Rada budget for the current year. The report shall be accompanied by a summary of the Accounting Chamber and shall be distributed among national deputies no later than 2 days prior to consideration of the issue by the plenary meeting.
6. A motion to dismiss the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada does not require any preliminary investigation by the committees of the Verkhovna Rada.
7. If it is necessary to gather or verify information pertaining to dismissal of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada shall establish a temporary investigative commission absent a separate vote in order to add the motion on the session's agenda.

Article 77. Consideration of a Motion to Dismiss the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada

1. A motion to dismiss the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine shall be passed by a majority of the elected parliamentary assembly of the Verkhovna Rada, and shall be placed on the agenda of a session of the Verkhovna Rada on a date to be determined by the Verkhovna Rada, but no later than on the tenth day after the motion is placed on the agenda.

1. The Verkhovna Rada shall provide for time to debate the motion to dismiss the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada.

2. The Verkhovna Rada shall hear the following: a speech delivered by a representative of national deputies who sponsored dismissal of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada and the presenter's response to questions; a supplementary report presented by a representative of the temporary investigative commission (if established) and responses of the co-presenter to questions; a speech by the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada regarding his activities as the Speaker — up to 30 minutes (if present in person a report is not necessary) and his/her responses to questions. National deputies shall have the right to participate in ask questions during the discussion. The presiding officer shall provide equal opportunity to those speaking on behalf of and in opposition to the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada.

3. A resolution of the Verkhovna Rada to dismiss the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall be adopted by a secret vote through submission of paper ballots which shall be registered with the resolution of the Verkhovna Rada. Voting shall be considered completed if the paper ballots are received by at least two thirds of the elected parliamentary assembly of the Verkhovna Rada. In such cases, an ad hoc procedure (Article 50 of these Rules) is not applied.

4. If the Verkhovna Rada does accept the personal resignation of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, he/she may resign within fifteen (15) days following consideration of the

matter by the Verkhovna Rada. Thereafter, he/she shall be paid a deputy's salary and all other amounts payable to a deputy in accordance with the law.

Article 78. Powers of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada

The Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall have the following authorities in accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine in performance of his/her functions:

1. preside over meetings of the Verkhovna Rada in compliance with these Rules;
2. ~~organize activities of the Verkhovna Rada and its constituent bodies;~~²⁰
3. sign acts adopted by the Verkhovna Rada to certify the observance of their contents with resolutions passed;
4. assure implementation of acts of the Verkhovna Rada which require no further signature by the President of Ukraine;
5. fulfils functions vested in him/her by Articles 94, ~~112~~²¹ of the Constitution of Ukraine;
6. represent the Verkhovna Rada in relations with other state agencies of Ukraine and with foreign authorities;
7. maintain security of the Verkhovna Rada in accordance with current legislation;
8. take measures for protection of national deputies;
9. preside over meetings of the Conciliation Commission;
10. ensure observance of the planned schedule of the session's activities and the agenda of plenary meetings;
11. take measures to assure deputy presence at plenary meetings;
12. organize development of legislative reforms of the Verkhovna Rada;
13. organize preparation of issues for consideration at plenary meetings;
14. exercise control over timely consideration and submission of deputy requests;
15. issue orders on ~~provision of the Verkhovna Rada activities~~²², operation of the Secretariat and on foreign business trips of national deputies, officials of the Verkhovna Rada; sign relevant documents concerning paper work documents circulation in the Verkhovna Rada;
16. assign administrative duties to the First Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and control execution thereof, ~~coordinate activities of committees, temporary special, and temporary investigative commissions;~~²³
17. appoint the lead committee for drafting legislation to be submitted for consideration by the Verkhovna Rada;
18. have the right to convene and hold meetings of committees and temporary special commissions in order to consider matters the Speaker or the Verkhovna Rada determine a committee or a temporary special commission has failed to perform in due time or in the proper manner; and inform thereto on the next plenary meeting;
19. raise motions on accountability of persons for failure to comply with requirements of these Rules, the Laws of Ukraine On Status of National Deputies, On Committees of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, On Temporary Investigative Commissions, the Special Temporary Investigative Commission and Temporary Special Commissions of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine;
20. organize the activities of the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada and control its performance;

²⁰ Law 2600-VI

²¹ Law 2600-VI

²² Law 2600-VI

²³ Law 2600-VI

21. if required, nullify orders of the First Deputy Speaker or the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada and the Head of the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada;
22. proposes a nominee for Head of the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada to the Verkhovna Rada;
23. oversee development of draft budget of the Verkhovna Rada for the next year;
24. submit to the Verkhovna Rada a revenue and expense report of the Verkhovna Rada for the previous year and on compliance of the revenues and expenses with the approved budget of the Verkhovna Rada no later than two months following the end of the budget year;
25. bring an action against a national deputy to initiate his/her early dismissal if such deputy fails to comply with the requirement to avoid conflicts of interest between his/her deputy office and other kinds of activities;
26. execute orders of the Verkhovna Rada;
27. perform other duties established by the Constitution of Ukraine, these Rules and other laws of Ukraine.

2. Orders of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada may be changed, amended or annulled by resolution of the Verkhovna Rada approved by a majority of the parliamentary assembly of the Verkhovna Rada.

Article 79. Election and Termination of Authorities of the First Deputy Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada

1. The Verkhovna Rada shall elect the First Deputy Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada from among the national deputies in accordance with the procedure established for candidate nomination for the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (Article 74 of the Rules) for the electoral term.

2. Nominees shall be considered on a preliminary basis by the parliamentary factions, and then at a plenary meeting. Preliminary preparation and consideration of nominees shall be conducted in accordance with the procedure on consideration of nominees for the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada for each nominee separately.

3.²⁴ Election of the First Deputy Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine shall be adopted by an open roll-call vote of the majority of national deputies of the parliamentary assembly of the Verkhovna Rada and shall be supported with an appropriately issued resolutions.

4. The First Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada or the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada may be elected simultaneously from a single list.

5. The First Deputy Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine may be at any time dismissed from office by a decision of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in accordance with the procedures provided for in the first, second, third, fourth, and sixth parts of Article 76, the first, third, and fifth parts of Article 77 of these Rules of Procedure.

6. Reelection of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall not result in dismissal of the First Deputy Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada from their offices.

²⁴ Law N 2157-VI

Article 80. Authorities of the First Deputy Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

1. The First Deputy Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine shall:

1) perform the duties of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, as so delegated by the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada;

2) determine the lead committee for development of legislative acts submitted to the Verkhovna Rada by order of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, giving proper deference to the competencies of the committees;

3) take measures to coordinate the activities of committees, temporary special and investigative commissions;

4) perform other duties provided by these Rules and by orders of the Verkhovna Rada or the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

2. The First Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall act as the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada if the Speaker is absent or fails to fulfill his/her duties

The First Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall perform organizational and other activities which relate to cooperation between the Verkhovna Rada and governmental agencies; assure preparation and consideration of the draft Law on the State Budget of Ukraine and a report on its implementation; organize development of the draft budget of the Verkhovna Rada; perform organizational and other activities with respect to legislative drafting activities of the Verkhovna Rada and oversight authorities of the Verkhovna Rada.

3. The Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall act as the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine if the Speaker is absent or fails to fulfill his/her duties and if the First Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada fails is absent or cannot fulfill the said duties

The Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall engage in organization and other activities with respect to co-operation between the Verkhovna Rada and judicial bodies and informational support to the Verkhovna Rada.

Chapter 16

FORMATION OF VERKHOVNA RADA COMMITTEES

Article 81. Formation of Verkhovna Rada Committees

1. Committees shall be established in compliance with the Law of Ukraine On Verkhovna Rada Committees of Ukraine and these Rules.

2. The list of committees shall be approved at the first session of the newly elected Verkhovna Rada by a majority of votes of national deputies of its parliamentary assembly, if required.

3. The Verkhovna Rada shall form committees consisting of heads, first deputy heads, deputy heads, secretaries and committee members. Committee heads, first deputy heads, deputy heads, secretaries and committee members shall be elected by a majority of votes of the elected parliamentary assembly of the Verkhovna Rada. A national deputy may be affiliated with one committee only.

4.²⁵ Distribution of committee chairpersons, first deputy chairmen, deputy chairmen, secretaries and committee members shall be determined proportionate to the numerical strength of the parliamentary factions (parliamentary groups)²⁶ to the actual number of deputies under the procedure prescribed by the Verkhovna Rada. ~~At that, the parliamentary opposition shall be given a priority in choosing offices of:~~

~~1) committee chairpersons which are responsible for the budget, organization and activities of the Verkhovna Rada and its bodies, freedom of speech and information, rights of national minorities and interracial relations, freedom of religion, social policy, health, science and education, justice, judiciary, legal support of law enforcement, anti-criminal and corruption activities, activities of government monopolies, national stock companies, and management of state corporate rights;~~

~~—2) positions of first deputy chairmen of the committees headed by chairpersons from the Coalition nominated by the principle of proportional representation of deputy factions.~~

~~—If the parliamentary opposition comprises several subjects, the leadership positions in the relevant committees shall be divided on the basis of a mutual agreement reached by the subjects of the parliamentary opposition; and if such subjects fail to reach an agreement, such posts will be determined by drawing lots, which shall be conducted by the Vote-Counting Commission under the procedure it establishes.²⁷~~

5. The committee responsible for the rules of procedure shall keep record of proportionate representation of the parliamentary factions in committees.

Article 82. Election of Heads, First Deputy Heads, Deputy Heads and Secretaries of Parliamentary Committees

1. A list of nominees for heads, first deputy heads, deputy heads and secretaries of committees containing one candidate for each office shall be approved by the Conciliation Commission upon submission by the parliamentary factions.

2. Elections for the heads, first deputy heads, deputy heads and secretaries of committees shall not require preparation in committees.

3. A list of nominees for heads, first deputy heads, deputy heads and secretaries of committees shall include the following information: names of all committees; full names of all relevant candidates; names of the parliamentary factions which have nominated candidates for the office in accordance with the calculated quotas.

²⁵ Law 2157-VI

²⁶ Law 2600-VI

²⁷ Law 2600-VI

4. Heads, first deputy heads, deputy heads and secretaries of committees shall be elected by the list, without consideration at a plenary meeting by open roll-call vote.

5. The head of a committee, first deputy heads and the secretary of a committee may not belong to the same political party.

6. The head of a committee, first deputy heads and the secretary of a committee cannot be heads of parliamentary factions (parliamentary groups)²⁸.

Article 83. Dismissal of the Chair of a Committee, the First Deputy Chair, the Deputy Chair and the Secretary of the Verkhovna Rada Committee

1. The Verkhovna Rada may dismiss the head of a committee, first deputy head, the deputy head and the secretary of a committee at any time by resolution in accordance with the procedures established in the Law of Ukraine On Committees of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and these Rules.

2. A resolution to enter a motion on dismiss the head, the first deputy head, the deputy head and the secretary of a committee on the agenda of the session's plenary meetings shall be passed at the next plenary meeting following submission of the relevant motion. A date for consideration of the motion shall be scheduled concurrently with submission of the motion.

3. A maximum of 30 minutes of the session time shall be allocated for consideration of the dismissal of the head, first deputy head, deputy head and the secretary of a committee; including 10 minutes reserved for a speeches by the head of a committee or the first deputy head, the deputy head, the secretary of a committee.

4. Consideration shall include information of persons who have sponsored the motion, a speech of the head of a committee, the first deputy head, the deputy head or the secretary of a committee subject to the dismissal procedure, questions and response.

5. The absence of the committee head, first deputy head, the deputy head or secretary of a committee at the plenary meeting without good reasons shall not prevent the national deputy from considering dismissal of the absent individual(s).

6. A motion to dismiss a committee head, first deputy head, the deputy head or the secretary of a committee shall be adopted by a majority of the elected parliamentary assembly of the Verkhovna Rada through open roll-call vote; following adoption of the motion to dismiss, the relevant resolution indicating reasons of dismissal shall be executed.

7. If a committee head, first deputy head, the deputy head or the secretary of a committee is dismissed from his/her office, the parliamentary faction whose committee quota was used to occupy the committee seat shall have the right to nominate a new candidate.

Article 84. Formation of Membership of the Verkhovna Rada Committees

1. Committee members shall be elected from the list of candidates for committee membership (a list of the committee members should contain the following information: titles

²⁸ Law 2600-VI

of all committees; names of parliamentary factions; full names of the nominees for committee membership from each nominating parliamentary faction, arranged in alphabetical order) by open roll-call vote absent adoption of any resolution.

2. The membership of all committees of a parliament shall be put to the vote at the same time by adoption of the relevant resolution of the Verkhovna Rada.

3. A national deputy who wishes to switch to another committee of the Verkhovna Rada shall file the relevant application, and coordinate with the head of a parliamentary faction, to the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, who, in his/her turn, shall send the application to the committee on rules of procedure for ad hoc consideration and submission of a motion for the Verkhovna Rada consideration.

4. When effecting changes to the composition of a committee's membership, the national deputies shall pass a resolution on to amend the resolution of the Verkhovna Rada on election of committee members.

Chapter 17

CREATION OF TEMPORARY SPECIAL AND TEMPORARY INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSIONS OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA

Article 85. Procedure of Formation of a Temporary Special Commission

1. The Verkhovna Rada shall have the authority to form temporary special commissions, which shall act as the lead committee for preparation, preliminary consideration, and finalization of draft laws and other acts of the Verkhovna Rada.

2. A temporary special commission shall be comprised of national deputies, who have agreed to become members of the commission. The composition of a temporary special commission shall be based on the principle of proportionate representation of parliamentary factions.

3. Parliamentary factions shall propose the membership number and composition of a temporary special commission. At least one deputy from each parliamentary faction shall be represented in a temporary special commission. Parliamentary factions which do not nominate a member for a temporary special commission shall not be represented by a party member of the commission.

4. The Verkhovna Rada shall pass a resolution on formation of a temporary special commission, which shall indicate:

1. name of a temporary special commission;
2. purpose, objectives and matters to be prepared and initially considered by a temporary special commission;
3. membership number and composition of a temporary special commission, the head and the deputy head of a temporary special commission;
4. of the term period for activity of a temporary special commission (for an established period or until fulfillment of the relevant task);

5. the term period to report on the accomplishments of the temporary special commission, which shall not exceed six months;
6. arrangements for personnel, logistical, informational and organizational support of the temporary special commission activities.

5. The head of a committee shall not be elected the head of a temporary special commission. A national deputy upon approval of the relevant parliamentary faction may combine offices at a committee and a temporary special commission.

6. The secretary of a temporary special commission shall be elected at the first meeting of the temporary special commission from among its members.

7. The head of a temporary special commission, the deputy head and the secretary of a commission may not be members of the same parliamentary faction.

8. The term a temporary special commission shall not exceed one year upon its establishment.

Article 86. Term of Activity of the Verkhovna Rada Temporary Special Commission

1. A temporary special commission shall be established for the period of time determined by the Verkhovna Rada. Within a reasonable period of time but which shall be no longer than six months after its establishment, a temporary special commission shall present a written report on its activities to the Verkhovna Rada, as well as any draft acts of the Verkhovna Rada and other materials, prepared by national deputies —commission members, whose materials shall be distributed to national deputies. Following consideration of the activities of a temporary special commission at meetings of the relevant committees and at the plenary meeting, the Verkhovna Rada shall pass a decision on dissolution or prolongation of the commission and shall set a new term period for its activities.

2. The authorities of a temporary special commission shall be terminated if:

1) the Verkhovna Rada passes a law, resolution or another act which divests the commission of its primary goal;

2) the powers of the Verkhovna Rada, which has established the commission, are terminated.

Article 87. Establishment of Temporary Investigative Commissions of the Verkhovna Rada

1. In accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 89 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada shall have the right to form temporary investigative commissions. The issue on creation of a temporary investigative commission shall be considered without vote for putting this issue on the agenda of a session plenary meeting.

2. The procedure for creation, and requirements for composition of a temporary investigative commission shall be established in accordance with the procedure provided for establishment of a temporary special commission (paragraphs 2 – 5 and 7, 8 of Article 85 of the Rules), with the exception of any specific requirements governed by the present Article.

3. A national deputy within following categories shall not be a member of a temporary investigative commission:

1) who is related or closely related to an official of a governmental agency, body of local self-government, an enterprise, institution, organization or a person affiliated with the management body of an association of citizens, which is the focus of the temporary commission investigation, or an officer or official who is being investigated;

2) who has commercial and legal interests in a governmental agency, body of local self-government, an enterprise, institution, organization, or citizen's association which is the focus of the temporary commission's investigation, either directly or indirectly through his/her family members;

3) who is or has been a party of any judicial proceedings in which the governmental agency, body of local self-government, enterprise, institution, organization, officers or officials thereof, and an association of citizens, or an individual is the focus of the temporary commission's investigation;

4) who participated in revision, audit or any other review, which is the cause for or caused the formation of the temporary investigative commission, prior to becoming a national deputy.

4. A national deputy who has been nominated to be a member of a temporary investigative commission by a parliamentary faction shall inform the Verkhovna Rada on any impediments to full participation in the procedures of a commission, if reasons as referred to paragraph 3 of the present Article, are present.

5. The secretary of a temporary investigative commission shall be elected at the first meeting of temporary investigative commission from among its members, by open or secret vote, by a majority of national deputies – members of the temporary investigative commission as approved by the Verkhovna Rada.

6. The majority of national deputies – members of a temporary investigative commission may change a secretary of a temporary investigative commission at the commission meeting, and the head and the deputy head of a temporary investigative commission may be replaced at the plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada by a majority vote of national deputies of the elected parliamentary assembly.

7. A national deputy may be elected to only one temporary investigative commission upon approval of the relevant parliamentary faction.

8. If a temporary investigative commission fails to submit a report to the Verkhovna Rada within the time frame established by the Verkhovna Rada, such commission shall be deemed dissolved the next day after the term for presentation of the report by a temporary investigative commission expires. The relevant announcement shall be made by the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine at a plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada.

Article 88. Conclusions of a Verkhovna Rada Temporary Investigative Commission

1. The results of an investigation performed by a temporary investigative commission shall be set out in a written report, which should contain conclusions and proposals on:

- 1) facts and circumstances which formed the basis for the investigation;
- 2) information and circumstances revealed by a temporary investigative commission and evidence thereof;
- 3) unsubstantiated data and circumstances;
- 4) facts and circumstances which require further verification and reasons therefor;

2. A temporary investigative commission shall define how its findings may impact a resolution to be passed by the Verkhovna Rada. The proposals of a temporary investigative commission shall be set forth in the draft of the resolution or another act of the Verkhovna Rada and shall be submitted by national deputies — members of a temporary investigative commission for Verkhovna Rada consideration.

3. Based on the results of a temporary investigative commission's conclusions and recommendations, the Verkhovna Rada may:

- 1) consider the conclusions and recommendations of a temporary investigative commission;
- 2) dissolve the temporary investigative commission;
- 3) elect to continue the activities of a temporary investigative commission for an extended period defined by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, but no more than for a year from the date of formation of a commission.

4. When considering conclusions and recommendations of a temporary investigative commission, if required, the Verkhovna Rada may:

- 1) send materials prepared by a temporary investigative commission to the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine for further review and response;
- 2) send the recommendations of a temporary investigative commission to the President of Ukraine, and the Prime Minister of Ukraine;
- 3) send conclusions of the temporary investigative commission to the relevant governmental body, body of local self-government or an official in order to gauge responsiveness in accordance with the law;
- 4) publish conclusions of the temporary investigative commission in the *Holos Ukrainy* newspaper.

5. The conclusions and proposals of a temporary investigative commission shall not be binding on the investigating authorities or any court.

6. A temporary investigation commission shall be dissolved when:

- 1) the Verkhovna Rada passes the final resolution on the commission's activities;
- 2) a temporary investigative commission fails to present a report to the Verkhovna Rada within the time period specified by the Verkhovna Rada (paragraph 8 of Article 87 of the Rules);
- 3) the parliament which established the temporary investigative commission is itself dissolved.

7. The Verkhovna Rada shall hear a report on the activities of a temporary investigative commission at any time within the time period specified for the commission's activity, or at any earlier time upon request of an investigative commission, but no more than two times during the entire period of the commission's operation.

SECTION IV

LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE

Chapter 18.

SUBMISSION AND REVOCATION OF DRAFT LAWS

Article 89. Right of Legislative Initiative⁸

1. The right of legislative initiative in the Verkhovna Rada shall be granted to the President of Ukraine, national deputies, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the National Bank of Ukraine²⁹.

2. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine shall have the exclusive right to submit the Draft Law on the State Budget of Ukraine.

3. The President of Ukraine or the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine shall submit the Law on ratification of international treaties of Ukraine.

4. The right of the legislative initiative shall be executed in the form of submission to the Verkhovna Rada of:

- 1) draft laws, draft Rules of Procedures of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and draft resolutions;
- 2) draft acts of the Verkhovna Rada;
- 3) motions to draft laws;
- 4) amendments to draft laws.

²⁹ Law 2600-VI

5. In these Rules, the following terms used in the present sections shall have the following meaning:

1) “a draft law” shall mean draft laws, ~~draft Rules of Procedures of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine~~³⁰, and draft resolutions, which contain normative provisions to be passed;

2) “draft acts” shall mean resolutions, declarations, addresses, representations concerning the organizational, administrative, oversight and other functions of the Verkhovna Rada;

3) “a motion” shall mean a proposal to amend a draft law (articles, paragraphs, clauses, sentences) by introducing structural changes, combining sections, charters, articles, paragraphs and clauses, and dividing individual provisions into separate sections, charters and articles;

4) “an amendment” shall mean any correction, clarification, elimination of errors and inconsistencies in the text of a draft law.

Motions shall be made in writing prior to the second reading of a draft law which allows voting in favor or against such motions.

A proposal on the structural parts of a draft law should contain titles of parts, sections, chapters and articles, paragraphs or clauses of a draft law, if required.

An amendment may be made in writing prior to the second and third readings, and orally during consideration of a draft law in the second reading at a plenary meeting.

Article 90. Execution of Draft Laws

1. A draft laws should be executed in accordance with requirements of the law, these Rules and other applicable regulations.

2. A draft law shall be submitted to the Verkhovna Rada bearing the signature of the sponsor or a representative of a sponsoring entity authorized to engage in legislation;

3. If a draft law is sponsored by several national deputies, the sponsor of record shall be the national deputy, whose name (signature) opens the list of names (signatures). If said national deputy recalls his/her signature, the following deputy signatory shall be deemed the sponsor of the draft law.

The sponsor or a representative of a body authorized to sponsor the draft law shall have the right to present a speech at a plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada and at a meeting of the lead committee or a temporary special commission on the issue.

4. A draft law shall comply with any fundamental provisions, principles or criteria established by a decision of the Verkhovna Rada.

³⁰ Law 2600-VI

5. A draft law to amend or supplement a law of Ukraine shall not make amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine. A draft law may amend the text of an original legal act (a law, a code, fundamental laws etc.), but shall not amend the procedure to amend a legal act.

6. Each draft law shall contain provisions regulating the procedure for enforcement of the law proposed by the draft.

7. If enforcement of a draft law adopted requires amendment of other laws in force at that time, the requisite amendments shall be stated in the “Transitional Provisions” section of the draft law or shall be submitted by the sponsor of the draft law as a single bill. A draft law shall be accompanied with the list of laws and other regulations to be amended or passed in order to implement the provisions of the said draft law in case of its adoption.

Article 91. Forms of Accompanying Draft Laws

1. A draft law shall be submitted for registration with the following: a draft resolution to be passed by the Verkhovna Rada contingent upon the results of review of the draft law, the list of authors of a draft law, a proposal identifying a candidate for reporter at the plenary meeting, and an explanatory note, which should contain the following information:

1) objectives supporting the relevance of the draft law, its main provisions and position within the legislative system;

2) expected socio-economic, legal and other consequences of the law’s implementation;

3) other data relevant to consideration of a draft law.

2. Documents referred to herein shall be accompanied with an electronic copy.

3. If implementation of a draft law requires financial and other expenses from the state or local budgets, the draft law shall be accompanied by a financial and economic evaluation (calculation of expenses) and proposal for coverage of the expenses.

4. Draft laws which require no budgetary revenues and/or expenditures shall be indicated in an explanatory note.

5. If a draft law submitted may be adopted solely by nationwide referendum, such requirement shall be indicated into an explanatory note.

6. A draft law proposing amendments to laws of Ukraine shall be accompanied by a comparative table placing side by side the text of the relative provisions (articles, paragraphs, clauses etc.) of the law currently in force and the proposed amended wording

7. If a draft law is submitted upon coordination with the relevant executive or judicial body, the relevant authorization shall be attached.

Article 92. Registration of Draft Laws

1. A draft law submitted to the Verkhovna Rada shall be registered with the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada.

A draft law submitted in compliance with Articles 90 and 91 of these Rules shall be registered with the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada on the day of its submission.

2. Acceptance and registration of a draft law may be rejected if it has been submitted in contravention to Article 86 of the Rules, and if an alternative draft law is not submitted within the time period specified herein.

3. Motions, amendments, and recommendations to draft laws shall be submitted to the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada or directly to a committee or a temporary special commission of the Verkhovna Rada responsible for that draft law.

4. The Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada shall enter all registered draft laws into parliament's electronic network.

Article 93. Preliminary Consideration of Draft Laws by Verkhovna Rada Committees

1. The Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada or, in accordance as properly delegated by the Speaker, the Deputy Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada shall within five days of registration of a draft law refer the draft law to the State Budgetary committee for expert assessment of the law's impact upon budgetary revenues and expenditures, and on implementation of the Law of Ukraine On the State Budget of Ukraine for the current budget period, and also submit the draft law to the lead committee for preparation and preliminary consideration of the draft law.

If the Verkhovna Rada resolves to establish a temporary special commission (Article 85 of these Rules) for preparation and preliminary consideration of a draft law, such commission shall act as the lead committee in accordance with the procedures established by these Rules.

2. The lead committee shall no later than thirty days following registration of a draft law perform an initial review of said draft law and advise on placement of the draft law on the agenda of the session's plenary meeting. The assessment of the of the lead committee shall be accompanied by the assessment of the State Budgetary committee, which shall be provided to the lead committee no later than fourteen days after acceptance of a draft law for review.

3. Before its initial review of a draft law, the lead committee of the Verkhovna Rada may propose the Cabinet of Ministers, Ministries, other state authorities, citizen's associations to present their opinions on adoption of the law at its meeting.

4. A sponsor of a draft law or a representative of an entity qualified to sponsor legislation, and where necessary — representatives of the Cabinet of Ministers, Ministries, other state authorities, citizens associations, as well as experts, specialists and other persons shall be invited to the lead committee for the initial review of a draft law.

5. Other committees shall consider a draft law by request of the lead committee request or by their own initiative and shall send their assessment to the lead committee.

Article 94. Return of Draft Law to the Subject Sponsor

1. The Speaker, the First Deputy Speaker or the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada may return a submitted draft law submitted to the sponsor or sponsoring entity without

consideration at a plenary meeting where founded on grounds listed herein and recommended by return by the lead committee or a temporary special commission.

2. A draft law shall be returned without consideration at a plenary meeting in the following circumstances:

1) by recommendation of the Constitutional law committee which finds the draft law to be unconstitutional, except in cases where the draft law proposes amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine;

2) due to a failure to comply with the procedural requirements of these Rules or other laws of Ukraine concerning formalization, structure, content, and the style obligatory for draft laws;

3) due to a lack of the financial and economic evaluation of a draft law where the lead committee or relevant temporary special commission determines consideration of the draft law impracticable absent such evaluation;

4) due to passage in the first reading of a draft law stands as an alternative to the proposed draft law;

5) due to repetition, whereby the rejected draft law and its provisions are a textual duplicate of a draft law submitted to either the current or a previous session of the Verkhovna Rada;

3. A draft law shall be returned within fifteen days of receipt of the assessment by the lead committee or a temporary special commission with indication of reason of rejection.

4. Rejected draft laws may be re-submitted for consideration by the Verkhovna Rada upon correction of any deficiencies which acted as reason for its rejection.

Article 95. Withdrawal of a Draft Law from Consideration

1. Draft laws not considered for further discussion on the first reading by the previous Verkhovna Rada shall be withdrawn and shall not be considered by the newly elected Verkhovna Rada.

2. The Verkhovna Rada may resolve to withdraw a draft law from consideration if the draft law is made redundant due to approval or submission of other legislative acts or for other reasons.

3. A draft law shall be withdrawn without consideration or a a motion to consider thereto where the Verkhovna Rada selects an alternative draft law for further consideration.

4. Rejected and recalled draft laws shall be deemed withdrawn from consideration.

Article 96. Inclusion of Draft Laws in Parliamentary Session Agenda

1. A plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada shall consider only draft laws which are to be placed on the parliamentary agenda

2. The Verkhovna Rada shall resolve to place a draft law on the session's agenda within 30 days after approval of a recommendation by the lead committee or a temporary special commission.

3. If the lead committee fails to pass a recommendation to place a relevant draft law on the session's agenda within the term established by these Rules (paragraph 3 of Article 93), the Verkhovna Rada shall consider the issue at its plenary meeting within 15 days following receipt of relevant written application by the sponsor of a draft law to place the draft law on the session's agenda or on to provide additional time for preparation of the recommendation on the said draft law to the lead committee.

4. The Verkhovna Rada may place a draft law on the session's agenda by a procedural decision for urgent consideration (without additional placement on the session's agenda), if such draft law has been prepared for urgent consideration by a relevant order of the Verkhovna Rada.

Article 97. Case File of Draft Law

1. The Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada shall, with the assistance of the lead committee, maintain a case file of each draft law put on the session's agenda. A case file shall contain documents submitted in accordance with the procedure for legislative initiative, and any documents prepared in the process of consideration, finalization and adoption of the relevant draft law by the Verkhovna Rada, its bodies and other authorities, institutions and organizations, which were executed thereof at the order of the Verkhovna Rada.

2. The following documents shall be added to a case file of a draft law in order of their initiation, submission, distribution, consideration or approval:

1) a draft law, including alternative draft law(s), if submitted under the established procedure, any explanatory notes thereto and any other accompanying forms;

2) any draft alternative decisions being submitted and Verkhovna Rada resolutions on development, finalization and approval of the relevant draft law;

3) all versions of the draft law, including alternative drafts, submitted for initial review or for the first, second, third or repeat readings, and any explanatory notes thereto and any other accompanying forms;

4) amendments and motions to a draft law submitted in accordance with the established procedure;

5) any recommendations on a draft law and data of expert examinations, informational or scientific research performed with respect to a draft law per instruction of the Verkhovna Rada;

6) recommendations by committees on a draft law;

7) minutes and extracts from minutes of meetings of the lead commission on draft law and stenograph bulletins of relevant meetings, if available;

8) minutes and stenograph bulletins of meetings of the Verkhovna Rada, which contain information on consideration of the relevant draft law;

9) results of the roll-call vote on draft law;

10) proposals of the President of Ukraine on a draft law;

11) documents describing results and consequences of the referendum on the draft law;

12) accompanying letters;

13) final wording of a draft law;

14) draft laws and other documents related to development and consideration of the acts on amendment, supplementation or cancellation of the law by the Verkhovna Rada.

3. A case file of a draft law shall contain the original copies of the typed documents, original counterparts bearing seals and signatures; and in case of absence of original counterparts, duly certified copies shall be added to a case file.

Article 98. Distribution of Draft Laws among National Deputies

1. All draft laws submitted to the Verkhovna Rada shall be distributed to the national deputies no later than five days after registration of the draft law. Following the initial of a draft law by the lead committee, the national deputies shall receive recommendations from the lead committee, in addition to any findings of other committees and other documents, as provided for herein.

2. Draft laws shall be distributed in the form of comparative tables for consideration in the second and the third readings, and draft laws proposing amendments to current laws shall be submitted in the form of comparative tables for the first reading.

Article 99. Data to be Indicated in Draft Law and Accompanying Documents Distributed to National Deputies

1. A draft law to be distributed to the national deputies shall contain, in addition to its title, the following information, on the cover page and the following pages:

1) name of the body the document was submitted to — “the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine”;

2) sponsors — sponsoring entities authorized to initiate the draft law and their signatures or signature of a person acting on behalf of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine or the National Bank of Ukraine³¹;

3) the date of registration and registration number of a draft law;

4) a list of annexes to the draft law indicating the number of pages in each annex.

³¹ Law 2600-VI

2. Any and all documents submitted with a draft law shall have the following information:

1) dates and a list of the stages of preparation and consideration passed by a draft law; a text of the Verkhovna Rada's resolution on the draft law;

2) the list of committees charged with preparation of the document, with an indication of the lead committee and committees, which have submitted their written proposals to the draft law;

3) any expert recommendations on a draft law;

4) the name and position of the presenter (co-presenter);

5) for draft laws presented for the first reading — information on the authors of the draft law, a structural description and list of state authorities who were engaged in preparation of the final wording of a draft law;

3. Other information documentation may be subject to submission based on a decision of the lead committee.

Article 100. Alternative Draft Laws

1. Alternative draft laws shall be draft laws which propose regulation of the same issues and contain similar provisions and regulate the same social relations.

2. An alternative draft law may be submitted no later than 14 days following distribution of the first draft law on the relevant issue to the national deputies.

3. Alternative draft laws may be submitted for the repeat first reading within 10 days of distribution or sending the original draft law for the repeat first reading.

4. No alternative draft laws shall be submitted after a draft law has been adopted in the first reading.

Article 101. Specifics of Consideration of a Priority Draft Law

1. A priority draft law is a draft law which shall be subject to resolution by the President of Ukraine or the Verkhovna Rada.

2. The Verkhovna Rada may recognize a draft law as subject to priority adoption after including the draft law on the session's agenda or during further consideration of a draft law.

3. The Verkhovna Rada may allow for an extraordinary (ad hoc) deviation from the review procedures provided by these Rules, and shorten any applicable period for submission of alternative draft laws, motions and amendments, and shorten the terms of distribution of a draft law to national deputies prior to its consideration in one or another reading. The said terms shall not be reduced for more than 50%.

4. A priority draft law shall be put on the agenda for the next plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada after completion of the initial review or elaboration and shall be submitted for priority consideration.

Article 102. Consideration of Draft laws

1. The Verkhovna Rada shall generally consider draft laws in three readings except for cases stipulated by the present Article.

2. Consideration and adoption of draft laws in three readings shall include;

1) the first reading, which shall entail debate and approval of the main principles, provisions, criteria, and structure of a draft law and adoption of the draft law as a whole;

2) the second reading — consideration and approval on a article-by-article basis;

3) the third reading — adoption of a draft law as a binding and effective law.

3. The Verkhovna Rada may conduct a repeat first reading a maximum of two occasions.

4. By Verkhovna Rada decision, a draft law may be passed as a law immediately following completion of the first or second reading if the draft law requires no exceptions and no substantive remarks were made by the national deputies, the legislative research and expertise bodies of the Verkhovna Rada, or other entities authorized to engage in legislative drafting, with the exception of codes and draft laws containing more than 100 articles, which shall require further consideration

5. Draft laws shall be submitted in the form of comparative table for the second and third readings; draft laws proposing amendments or supplements to the laws in force shall be accompanied with the comparative table for the first and all further readings.

Article 103. Expert Examination of Draft Laws

1. The Speaker, the First Deputy Speaker, or the Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine or by decision of the lead committee, may cause a draft law to be sent for scientific, legal, or other examination, or for additional informational or scientific research; and the subject matter and purpose of any additional examination or research shall be expressly defined.

2. A registered draft law placed on the session's agenda shall be submitted automatically scientific examination during preparation for the first reading, and shall be submitted to the relevant units of the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada for legal examination and editing during preparation for the next readings.

The final legal examination and edit shall be performed after the Verkhovna Rada adopts a legal act in its final reading.

3. Some draft laws may be submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, relevant Ministries, other state authorities, institutions and organizations, and to individual specialists for specialized evaluation.

4. Experts shall provide their conclusions to the Verkhovna Rada no later than 14 days from receipt of a request for review from officials and bodies of the Verkhovna Rada. A failure to submit a recommendation within that period shall be deemed as having required no remarks.

5. Expert recommendations shall be sent to the lead committee for reference during consideration of a draft law and during resolutions to engage in further elaboration of a draft law.

Article 104. Recall of Draft Laws

1. Prior to putting a draft law on the agenda, the sponsor authorized by the law to initiate legal acts may recall its draft law.

2. The Verkhovna Rada may recall a draft law, which has been placed on the session's agenda, from consideration by its decision before taking the draft law as a basis for further elaboration at the first reading.

3. A sponsor – qualified sponsoring entity — may recall a draft law by written application addressed to the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada.

4. A recalled draft law shall be withdrawn from consideration together and deleted from the electronic database of draft legal acts.

Article 105. Recognizing Draft Laws as Recalled

1. If the previously elected Verkhovna Rada assembly fails to adopt a submitted draft law in the first reading before the end of its electoral term, such draft laws shall be regarded as recalled.

2. If a national deputy, who has submitted a draft law is removed from his parliamentary seat before the draft law is passed in the first reading, such draft law shall be recalled.

3. A draft law submitted by the President of Ukraine or the Cabinet of Ministries of Ukraine shall be regarded as recalled if the President of Ukraine or the Cabinet of Ministers loses their authorities before the draft law is passed in the first reading.

Article 106. Consideration of Draft Laws Passed by Prior Verkhovna Rada Assemblies in the First and Subsequent Readings

1. The Speaker of a previous Verkhovna Rada assembly shall provide the newly elected Verkhovna Rada with a list of draft laws and items returned by the President of Ukraine with proposals which the previous Verkhovna Rada failed to adopt final resolutions for. The list shall be accompanied with a report on preparation and consideration of these acts, and case files of the pending draft laws.

2. Draft laws approved by the previous Verkhovna Rada the first or subsequent readings, but did not pass as laws, shall be prepared and considered by the newly elected Verkhovna Rada, starting from the stage of preparation to the second reading.

Article 107. Rejection of Draft Laws

1. A draft law shall be rejected if all decisions proposed in favor of it fail to obtain the necessary number of votes of national deputies. Entry on The rejection of a draft law shall be made recorded in the minutes of a plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada.

2. A draft law rejected by the Verkhovna Rada or a draft law, which is a duplicate, shall not be submitted for consideration of the current session and the next extraordinary sessions of the Verkhovna Rada. The rejected draft law shall be withdrawn from consideration and deleted from the electronic database of draft laws.

Chapter 19

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT LAWS IN THE FIRST READING

Article 108. Consideration of a Draft Law by the Lead Committee

1. After placing a law on a parliamentary session's agenda, it shall be prepared for the first reading by the lead committee.

2. Consideration of a draft law during preparation for the first reading shall be performed in accordance with the procedure established for pre-legislative consideration of draft laws (Article 93 of the Rules) taking into account specific features determined by this Chapter.

Articles 109. Terms for Making Motions to Draft Laws

1. Motions to repeat the first reading shall be made within ten days following the first reading of a draft law.

2. The Verkhovna Rada may prolong the periods established by the present Article, or reduce by no more than in half with its decision on ad hoc infringement of the procedure, established by these Rules. The period for consideration shall not be reduced in cases concerning debate of Codes and other bills having more than 100 articles.

3. Only motions concerning basic provisions, principles, criteria shall be submitted for the first reading.

Article 110. Specific Features of Consideration of Alternative Draft Laws

1. Absent extraordinary circumstances, alternative draft laws shall be considered in the order of their submission.

2. When considering an alternative draft law, the lead committee may recommend the Verkhovna Rada to use an alternative draft law as a basis for further elaboration or to prepare another text to be submitted for consideration by the Verkhovna Rada by national deputies — members of the committee.

3. When preparing a draft law for the first reading, the lead committee may set forth alternative wordings of disputed provisions.

4. The Verkhovna Rada shall consider any and all alternative draft laws concurrently at a single plenary meeting.

Article 111. Lead Committee Recommendations on a Draft Law

1. Based on the results of preparation of a draft law for consideration in the first reading, the lead committee shall pass a resolution, which shall contain:

1) a proposal to pass a resolution as provided by Article 109 herein as to the relevant draft law (all alternative draft laws, if submitted) by the Verkhovna Rada and evaluation of the proposal;

2) a proposal to postpone consideration of a draft law (if required);

2. If alternative draft laws are considered, the lead committee may propose the Verkhovna Rada to clarify basic provisions, principles, criteria and structural framework which form the basis of the draft law.

3. If a draft law requires financial and economic evaluation, the lead committee recommendation thereto shall be accompanied by an assessment of the State Budgetary committee concerning the completeness and authority of such evaluation. The lead committee may also attach individual recommendations of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and other committees.

4. If there are any discrepancies between the recommendations of any committees charged with preparation of a draft law by order of the Verkhovna Rada, the lead committee shall take measures as are necessary to rectify such discrepancies. Any matters which cannot be agreed upon shall be submitted to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for review.

Article 112. Timelines for Submission of Recommendations on Draft Laws Prepared for the First Reading to the National Deputies

1. A recommendation prepared by the lead committee for the first reading, and recommendations of other the relevant committees, and all other accompanying materials shall be made available to the national deputies no less than seven days in advance of consideration at the plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada.

Article 113. Procedure for Consideration of Draft Laws in the First Reading

1. Absent extraordinary circumstances, a draft law shall undergo the full debate in first reading (Article 30 of the Rules).

2. During consideration of a draft law in the first reading, the Verkhovna Rada may pass a procedural resolution on debate of the draft law following the abbreviated procedure.

3. Draft codes and other draft laws which are more than 100 articles shall not be considered by means of abbreviated procedure.

4. Following the first reading of a draft law, the national deputies shall vote for one of decisions provided by Article 109 of these Rules.

Article 114. Decision to be Passed after Consideration of a Draft Law in the First Reading

1. Following the first reading of a draft law, the Verkhovna Rada may:

1) accept the draft law as a basis for further drafting and charge the lead committee with preparation of the draft law for the second reading;

2) reject a draft law;

3) send a draft law to the sponsoring entity authorized to submit the bill for further drafting or send it to the lead committee for additional preparation in advance of a repeat first reading, while identifying the basic provisions, principles, and criteria the draft law or its structural framework shall comply with;

4) require that a draft law be published in the media sources specified by the Verkhovna Rada for public debate, and subsequently revised in compliance with the results of the debate, and submitted for a repeat first reading.

2. After the draft law has undergone additional drafting, the Verkhovna Rada may resolve to pass a draft law formally as a law so long as all requirements of these Rules (paragraph 4 of Article 97) are met.

3. If a draft law shall be deemed rejected where a resolution in accordance with subparagraphs 1, 3 of paragraph 1 of the present Article fails to achieve the required number of votes. Such rejection shall be registered in minutes of a plenary meeting as a resolution of the Verkhovna Rada.

Article 115. Procedural Requirements for the Repeat First Reading of a Draft Law

1. A draft law shall be sent for repeat first reading within the time period established by the Verkhovna Rada, but no later than 30 days following the first reading, and in the new wording prepared by the lead committee and/or sponsor authorized with legislative initiative, with recommendations of the lead committee and other committees attached, and shall be considered in accordance with the procedure provided by these Rules (Articles 107, 108).

2. The time period for submission of a draft law which was the subject of public debate and set for a repeat First Reading in accordance with resolution of the Verkhovna Rada shall be established by a separate resolution of the Verkhovna Rada.

3. The lead committee and/or the sponsoring entity authorized by law to initiate legal act which has prepared a draft law for the repeat first reading by order of the Verkhovna Rada shall have the right to present a draft law before the national deputies.

Chapter 20

THE SECOND READING OF A DRAFT LAW

Article 116. Time Period for Submission of Motions to a Draft Law Prepared for the Second Reading

1. Motions and amendments to the second reading of the draft law shall be made within fourteen days after the law was passed for additional drafting.

Motions and amendments to the repeat second reading of a draft law shall be made within ten days of the initial second reading and only concerning those articles, paragraphs, subparagraphs, sentences of the draft law that were not adopted in the second reading. Motions and amendments to draft laws which remain unfinished from the previous session of the Verkhovna Rada (paragraph 2 of Article 106 of these Rules) shall be made within 14 days from the day of the draft laws' inclusion in the first Session Agenda of the newly elected Verkhovna Rada.

2. The Verkhovna Rada may extend the time period established by this Article or reduce the time period by no more than one half of the stipulated time period by a decision on ad hoc infringement of the present Article. The time period for consideration of a draft code or another draft law having more than 100 Articles shall not be reduced.

Article 117. Terms of Distribution of Draft Laws Prepared for the Second Reading to National Deputies

1. A draft law prepared for the second or a repeat second reading, including any recommendations from the lead committee and other accompanying materials shall be distributed to national deputies no later than 10 days prior to consideration of a draft law at the plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada.

2. A draft law prepared for the second or a repeat second reading shall be signed by the head of the lead committee, head of the secretariat of the lead committee, heads of the Legal and Publishing Departments of the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada. If a draft law is signed with reservations, such notes shall be attached to the materials being distributed to national deputies together with the draft law.

Article 118. Content of a Comparative Table of a Draft Law Prepared for the Second Reading

1. A draft law shall be submitted for the second reading in the form of a table containing:

- 1) the draft law, which shall form the benchmark for comparison ;
- 2) all motions and amendments (with a brief reference, if possible), which have been submitted and not recalled, numbered and positioned alongside the appropriate articles of a draft law with an indication of the sponsor or sponsoring entity which made the submission;
- 3) recommendation(s) of the lead committee concerning any motions attached thereto;

4) the final wording of a draft law proposed by the lead committee for adoption in the second reading.

2. If the lead committee fails to include some motions in the main table, a comparative table of additional motions shall be prepared.

3. If the lead committee does not pass a resolution on an article or a motion, the final wording of the text of the Article shall be the same as the wording of the first reading.

4. A proposal which is duly submitted for a second reading, shall not be considered or inserted in the comparative table as described paragraph 1 of this article, where the Constitutional law committee finds the submitted proposal to be in contravention of the requirements of the Constitution of Ukraine. The Constitutional law committee shall deliver such a finding based on a request of the lead committee within a period of 14 days from its submission.

5. A draft law which has been prepared for a second reading or a repeat second reading and not received any proposals or amendments shall be submitted without a comparative table.

Article 119. Consideration of Draft Laws in the Second Reading

1. The articles of a draft law subject to a second reading shall be debated and voted on by the Verkhovna Rada individually and separately. If required, any paragraphs, sub-paragraphs, clauses or sentences of an article may be debated and subject to a vote.

2. The Verkhovna Rada may pass a procedural decision concerning the debate of a draft law in parts (sections) by holding a separate debate and vote for such parts. Such procedural decision may be adopted following discussion in accordance with the abbreviated procedure.

3. Prior to or during discussion of a draft law in the second reading, a motion may be subject to debate and vote on the structural parts of the first draft law which contains the basic or decisive provisions which affect the other appropriate structural parts of the draft law.

Such a motion shall be considered under the abbreviated procedure; after which a procedural decision shall be passed.

A motion of the Conciliation Commission to consider the structural framework of a draft law shall be put to the vote without debate prior to consideration of a draft law.

Article 120. Procedure for Discussion of a Draft Law in the Second Reading

1. During the second reading of a draft law, each article shall be debated in sequence (unless they chose another procedure of consideration of a draft law — Article 119 of the Rules) and in the wording proposed by the lead committee.

2. Upon request of a subject authorized by the law to initiate legal acts, deputies may consider motions and amendments to these articles which were rejected by the lead committee.

3. Upon request of the national deputies, a motion taken up by the lead committee shall also be debated and voted on either to adopt or withdraw such motion in whole or in part. According to the same procedure, an issue on consideration of a resolution on the relevant article of a draft law passed in the first reading but missed in the wording proposed by the lead committee shall be voted on.

4. If several alternative proposals are provided in the table of a draft law and the lead committee has yet to resolve on such alternatives, the Verkhovna Rada shall consider each proposal.

5. Sponsors of motions shall have the right to explain their motions. If several alternative motions on one article or a part thereof are available, the several alternatives shall be discussed simultaneously; the sponsors of the motion shall take the floor in order of their submissions.

6. A comparative table of additional motions to a draft law shall be considered simultaneously with the basic comparative table.

7. If a motion or an amendment timely submitted has not been distributed to national deputies, this shall not impede a debate and vote for it at the same plenary meeting. The contents of a motion or an amendment shall be announced by the presiding officer.

Article 121. Procedure for Voting on a Draft Law in the Second Reading

1. On request of the author of a motion, the Verkhovna Rada shall vote for each proposal rejected by the lead committee.

2. After consideration of any motions concerning a relevant article of a draft law, the Verkhovna Rada shall vote on the article as a whole.

3. If there are no motions to articles or reservations to the text of a draft law proposed by the lead committee, and the national deputies whose motions were rejected by the committee do not insist on voting for such motions, the presiding officer may put several successive articles to the vote as a whole. The text of such articles shall be announced at the request of at least one national deputy.

4. An article shall be deemed rejected where no version of the article submitted for the second reading get the necessary number of votes.

5. After the article-by-article consideration of a draft law, the Verkhovna Rada shall submit a draft law for a formal vote in the second reading. If national deputies have no objections, the presiding officer may put the draft law to the vote as a whole as an act of the Verkhovna Rada.

6. A draft law shall not be voted on in cases where the Verkhovna Rada rejects select articles of a draft law or makes material amendments to the wording of individual structural parts of a draft law proposed by the lead committee, and such rejection results in discrepancies or gaps in the text of a draft law which would prevent application of a draft law after its adoption and enforcement.

7. If a draft law is not divided into articles and clauses, the title of a draft law and its text shall be put to the vote separately.

Article 122. Elimination of Discrepancies and Making Editorial Amendments to Draft Laws

1. Prior to voting for a draft law in the second reading and as a whole, the Verkhovna Rada may order the lead committee to make editorial corrections to a draft law, taking into account amendments made at the plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada during consideration of a draft law.

2. In cases as described in part 1 of this Article, voting on a draft law in the second reading shall be postponed for the time period specified by the Verkhovna Rada, and the next consideration shall start with voting without putting the draft law on the agenda and without debate.

3. A draft law prepared by the lead committee or an editorial group pursuant to paragraph 1 of the present Article may be distributed to national deputies before the plenary meeting or immediately before the vote for a draft law in the second reading.

Article 123. Decision to be Passed by Results of the Second Reading of a Draft Law

1. Based on the results of the second reading of a draft law, the Verkhovna Rada shall resolve to:

1) pass a draft law in the second reading and charge the lead committee with preparation of the draft law for the third reading;

2) reject the draft law;

3) pass the draft law in the second reading and formally as a law;

4) pass a draft law in the second reading without individual sections, articles and paragraphs, and resubmit the pertinent parts to the lead committee for further drafting with subsequent submission for the third or repeat second reading;

5) return a draft law to the lead committee for further drafting with subsequent submission for the third or repeat second reading.

2. If a decision in accordance with sub-paragraph 3 of paragraph 1 of the present Article is passed, the Verkhovna Rada shall determine parts, sections, chapters, articles and paragraphs of articles to be finalized.

3. A draft law shall be deemed rejected where no options as referred to in paragraph 1 of the present Article get the required number of voters of national deputies.

4. If the wording of a draft law proposed by the lead committee is passed without amendment and if the relevant departments of the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada have no reservations to the text, the Verkhovna Rada may pass the draft law in the second reading and formally as a law.

Article 124. Consideration of Draft Laws in a Repeated Second Reading

1. The lead committee shall submit a draft law for the repeated second reading in the form of a comparative table.
2. The lead committee shall submit only those motions, which were submitted after the second reading, for the repeated second reading. All motions, including those made for articles and paragraphs during the previous second reading, shall be added to the table.
3. If only individual structural parts of a draft law are sent for the repeated second reading, a comparative table shall include those structural parts only.
4. The repeated second reading of a draft law shall be held in accordance with the procedure provided for the second reading (Articles 114 – 118 of the Rules).

Chapter 21

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT LAWS IN THE THIRD READING

Article 125. Amendments to a Draft Law before the Third Reading

1. Amendments to a draft law sent for third reading shall be made within five days following the previous reading.
2. The lead committee shall only make editorial amendments and clarifications, correct errors and discrepancies in the text of the draft law, and standardize the structural framework of the draft law approved in the second reading, prior to the third reading. The lead committee shall reject all other amendments without consideration.

Article 126. Term Period for Distribution of Draft Laws for the Third Reading to National Deputies

1. A draft law prepared for third reading shall together with any recommendations of the lead committee and other materials attached be distributed to the national deputies no later than five days prior to consideration of the draft law.
2. A draft law prepared for the third reading shall be signed by the heads of the lead committee, head of the secretariat of the lead committee and heads of the Legal and Publishing Departments of the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada. If a draft law has been signed with reservations, such remarks shall be included in materials distributed among deputies together with the draft law.

Article 127. Accompanying Documents to Be Submitted for Third Reading of a Draft Law

1. The lead committee shall prepare a comparative table of the final wording of a draft law for the third or repeat third reading.

The text of a draft law amended by the lead committee after adoption in the second reading shall be submitted in the form of a separate comparative table prepared in accordance with requirements of the Rules (Article 118).

2. The lead committee shall submit the following documents together with a draft law:
 - 1) the list of current laws to be amended and supplemented due to adoption of the said law — if any;
 - 2) any plan of the organizational, personnel, material and technical, financial, and informational measures required for implementation of the draft law under consideration received by the lead committee from the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine — if required;
 - 3) any draft acts of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, other central execution authorities to additionally be passed by the draft law under consideration or is required for enforcement of the said law, in cases where the Verkhovna Rada has resolved to develop such draft acts.

Article 128. Procedure for Consideration of Draft Laws in the Third Reading

1. Resolutions on amendments, clarifications, elimination of errors and discrepancies in the text of a draft law made after adoption of a draft law in the second reading shall be made during the third reading.

2. Consideration of a draft law in the third reading shall include:
 1. a vote on articles of a draft law amended subsequent to their adoption in the second reading;
 2. a vote on a draft resolution submitted by national deputies — members of the lead committee — on approval of the plan of the organizational, personnel, material and technical, financial, and informational measures required for enforcement of the draft law under consideration as submitted by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine;
 3. a vote to formally adopt the draft law as law
3. When a law is adopted in its final reading, any amendments to the law, except for correction of editorial or technical mistakes, shall only be permissible by proposal of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada following the procedure determined herein (Article 126).

Article 129. Decisions to be Passed after Consideration of Draft Laws in the Third Reading

1. Based on the outcome of the third reading, the Verkhovna Rada may resolve to:
 1. pass a law in its final reading and send it to the President of Ukraine for signing;
 2. postpone the vote on a draft law in its entirety due to adoption of a resolution to postpone consideration of a draft law or postpone pending receipt of the draft acts of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine which shall be adopted in accordance with the requirements of the draft law under consideration;
 3. pass a draft law in its final reading and submit it for a national referendum;
 4. reject a draft law.

2. A resolution which is adopted in accordance with in sub-paragraph e of paragraph 1 of the present Article shall cause a draft law to be submitted for referendum, and its results shall be determined in compliance with the provisions of the Constitution of Ukraine and laws regulating the procedures for national referenda.

3. A draft law shall be deemed rejected if the Verkhovna Rada fails to pass a resolution as provided for by sub-paragraphs 1-3 of paragraph 1 of the present Article.

Chapter 22

SENDING APPROVED LAWS TO THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE FOR SIGNING

Article 130. Preparation of an Adopted Draft Law for Signing by the Verkhovna Rada Chairman

1. The text of a law passed by the Verkhovna Rada shall be registered by the lead committee, signed by the (acting) chair and the (acting) head of the secretariat of the lead committee, heads of the Legal and Publishing Departments of the Verkhovna Rada Secretariat and thereafter submitted for signing by the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada within ten days. If the law has been signed with reservations, all reservations shall be submitted to the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine together with the original text.

2. The Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall sign a law no earlier than two days and no later than 5 days after its submission, except for cases as provided for herein.

3. If case of any violation of the procedure established by these Rules, which serve as the basis for annulment of a vote result, and if a text submitted to the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada does not comply with the text passed by the Verkhovna Rada, a national deputy may appeal to the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada with a well-substantiated written proposal to make amendments to the adopted law within two days, in which case the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall not sign the law without consideration of the said proposals by the Verkhovna Rada in accordance the procedure established herein (Article 48).

4. The Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada shall send a signed law to the President to Ukraine without delay.

Article 131. Elimination of Conflicts and Gaps in an Adopted Law

1. In cases of any misstatements or evident conflicts between provisions being revealed in the text of a law submitted for signing, the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall submit a motion for the Verkhovna Rada's consideration to eliminate such discrepancies and gaps.

2. The issue concerning elimination of conflicts and gaps in a law passed shall be considered by the Verkhovna Rada without preliminary placement on the agenda on the day of its submission by the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, provided that national deputies have been given materials necessary for consideration of an issue and on resolution thereof.

3. Before consideration of an issue as referred to in paragraph 1 of the present Article, the national deputies shall be provided with written proposals signed by the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada which describe the discrepancies and gaps of a law passed and provide precise definitions, which should be made in the text of a law in order to eliminate the said discrepancies and gaps.

4. During consideration of a resolution on elimination of any textual conflicts or gaps, the presiding officer of a plenary meeting shall make a presentation. No general discussion shall be held.

5. Debate and vote on each proposal made by the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall be conducted in accordance with the procedure applicable to consideration of motions and amendments in general.

6. Proposals by the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada which fail to obtain the majority of votes of the elected parliamentary assembly of the Verkhovna Rada shall be rejected.

7. Voting for a law in its final reading shall be conducted after consideration of proposals of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada.

8. If the Verkhovna Rada approves at least one proposal of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, the lead committee shall prepare and submit for signing an adjusted text of the law within three days.

9. If all proposals of the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada are rejected, he shall sign the previously submitted text of the law on the same day.

Chapter 23

REPEAT CONSIDERATION BY THE VERKHOVNA RADA OF LAWS VETOED BY THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

Article 132. Procedural Consequences of the Presidential Veto

1. If the President of Ukraine vetoes a law passed by the Verkhovna Rada and returns a law to the Verkhovna Rada supported by a substantiated and clear proposal within the time period established by paragraph 2 of Article 94 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the results of the vote for the law in its final reading shall be cancelled and the procedure of its repeated consideration in the Verkhovna Rada shall be initiated.

2. A law returned by the President of Ukraine for repeat consideration shall be redrafted by the lead committee and then submitted for the Verkhovna Rada's consideration no later than 30 days after receipt of the law with the President's proposals unless the Verkhovna Rada resolves otherwise.

Article 133. Preparation for Consideration of Proposals of the President of Ukraine at the Plenary Meeting of the Verkhovna Rada

1. Proposals of the President of Ukraine to a law returned shall be considered by the lead committee which prepared the final wording of the law.

2. Other committees may consider proposals of the President of Ukraine at their meetings at their own initiative or upon request of the lead committee and communicate their opinions to the lead committee within ten days following receipt of the said request.

3. During consideration of the Presidential proposals to the returned law, the lead committee shall consider validity of each individual proposal and decide on advisability to pass or reject such proposal.

4. The lead committee shall submit the law with the Presidential proposals in the form of a comparative table containing:

- 1) the text of articles of the law passed which are subject to the Presidential proposals;
- 2) the text of amendments and supplements proposed by the President of Ukraine;
- 3) the decision of the lead committee on each proposal made and a short validation of each decision;
- 4) the final wording of respective articles, paragraphs or sub-paragraphs of the articles recommended by the lead committee for adoption.

5. A comparative table is not required in the event that presidential proposals include only a recommendation to reject the adopted law.

6. The Verkhovna Rada Speaker, or – in his absence the First Deputy Speaker or the Deputy Speaker may forward proposals of the President of Ukraine for expert examination and subsequent recommendation to the respective agencies of the Verkhovna Rada Secretariat. Any recommendations prepared after the aforementioned examination shall be forwarded to the Verkhovna Rada Chairman, the lead committee and distributed to the national deputies

7. Presidential proposals together with any recommendations from the lead committee, comparative tables and other accompanying materials shall be distributed to national deputies not later than three days before consideration of the respective motion at a plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada.

Article 134. Procedure for Consideration of Proposals to Laws Returned by the President of Ukraine at Plenary Meeting

1. Proposals of the President of Ukraine to a returned law are considered in accordance with the procedure for voting on proposals and amendments (Article 45 of the Rules), taking into account the specific requirements of this Article.

2. Consideration of a presidential proposals shall commence with a report by an officer commissioned by the President of Ukraine stating the nature of proposals delivered. The failure to attend the plenary meeting shall not be grounds for a proposal not to be considered. After the report, the floor shall be granted to the lead committee for a co-report. The presenter and co-presenter shall answer questions asked by national deputies.

3. After the report and co-report, the presiding officer shall call a vote on the proposals of the President of Ukraine in the order they are laid down by the President or in other sequence determined by the Verkhovna Rada.

4. A discussion of individual proposals shall only be pursuant to a procedural decision adopted by the Verkhovna Rada.

Article 135. Voting on Proposals of the President of Ukraine to a Returned Law

1. A law adopted by parliament and rejected by the President, shall be subject to a vote to reject the law in its final reading.

If the proposal to reject the law in its final reading obtains a majority of votes, the law shall be considered rejected.

2. If a proposal to reject the law in its final reading fails to receive the support of the Verkhovna Rada, a vote shall be called to pursue repeat passage of the law in its final reading (veto override). The law shall be considered adopted if it obtains a two third of the votes of the elected parliamentary assembly of parliament, after which the law shall be forwarded to the President of Ukraine.

3. If a presidential proposal fails to receive the majority of votes of the elected parliamentary assembly of parliament, such proposal shall be considered rejected, and the text of any article that was subject of the proposals shall remain unchanged.

4. After voting on a presidential proposal, the law shall be voted on in its final reading.

5. A law obtaining the majority of votes required shall, in the event that all related presidential proposals are rejected, be adopted in its final reading.

6. If the Verkhovna Rada supports a part of a presidential proposals during repeat consideration and the law receives two third of the votes of the elected parliamentary assembly of parliament, the law shall be considered to have overridden the presidential veto.

7. A law subject to repeat consideration and for which the Verkhovna Rada rejects all presidential proposals thereto shall be passed only upon receipt of not less than two thirds of the votes of the elected assembly of parliament.

8. Following the decision of the Verkhovna Rada, a law that has been rejected after a repeat consideration may be sent for revision to a lead committee, which committee must submit it for consideration of the Verkhovna Rada no later than thirty days after its previous consideration. If the Verkhovna Rada fails to pass a resolution to send such a law to a lead committee, the law shall be considered rejected.

9. After revision by the lead committee, a law shall be forwarded for repeat consideration by the Verkhovna Rada. If such law fails to receive a necessary number of votes, it shall be deemed rejected.

Article 136. Forwarding Law to the President of Ukraine for Signature after Repeat Consideration

1. A law including presidential proposals that passes repeat consideration shall be prepared by the lead committee (Article 130 of the Rules) and submitted to the Verkhovna Rada Chairman who shall sign and forward to the President of Ukraine.

~~**Article 137. Official promulgation of Law that Passed After Repeat Consideration by Verkhovna Rada Chairman**~~

~~1. If the President fails to sign a law that passes repeat consideration by a two third vote of the elected parliamentary assembly of parliament, the Verkhovna Rada Speaker shall without delay enact such law and publish it with his signature.³²~~

Chapter 24

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER ACTS OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE

Article 138. Procedure for Passage of Resolutions and Other Acts of the Verkhovna Rada

1. The Verkhovna Rada shall pass resolutions and other acts (decisions, declarations, addresses and announcements) provided for in Article 46 of the Rules by a majority of its elected parliamentary assembly, except for those cases provided for in the Constitution of Ukraine.

2. Resolutions of the Verkhovna Rada shall address specific issues and shall ensure fulfillment of the parliamentary organizational, managerial, monitoring and other functions.

3. Resolutions and other acts of the Verkhovna Rada shall be adopted pursuant to the procedures set for consideration of draft laws in the first reading envisaging their passage as laws, except for cases when the Verkhovna Rada adopts another decision.

4. Resolutions and other acts passed by the Verkhovna Rada shall be signed and enacted by the Verkhovna Rada Speaker.

5. Resolutions passed by the Verkhovna Rada shall enter into legal force on the day of their official enactment, if not otherwise provided for by these resolutions.

³² Law 2600-VI

Chapter 25

PUBLICATION AND RECORDING OF LAWS, RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER ACTS PASSED BY VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE

Article 139. Publication and Retention of Laws and Acts Passed by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

1. The laws signed by the President of Ukraine and laws enacted by the Verkhovna Rada Chairman shall be published in the *Holos Ukrainy* newspaper and in the *Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady Ukrainy* bulletin. Laws published in the aforementioned media shall be considered officially enacted.

2. The Verkhovna Rada Secretariat shall forward resolutions and other acts of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine signed by the Verkhovna Rada Chairman for publication to the *Holos Ukrainy* newspaper and the *Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady Ukrainy* bulletin.

3. If any discrepancies are detected in the published law or other acts of the Verkhovna Rada and the original text, the revised text shall be published in the *Holos Ukrainy* newspaper and the *Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady Ukrainy* bulletin not later than ten days after discovery of such discrepancy.

4. Laws signed by the President of Ukraine and acts signed by the Verkhovna Rada Chairman are considered original texts and shall be retained by the Verkhovna Rada Secretariat. All other counterparts of laws and other acts of the Verkhovna Rada shall be considered copies.

Article 140. Law Case File

1. After a law enters into force, the Verkhovna Rada Secretariat in conjunction with a respective committee shall open a law file that contains:

- 1) the adopted text of the law;
- 2) a schedule of organizational, career-oriented, material, technical, financial and informational events approved by the Verkhovna Rada and aimed to ensure implementation of the law's provisions, as well as reports received by the Verkhovna Rada on fulfillment of the aforementioned plan by the Cabinet of Ministers;
- 3) a list and texts of normative acts on ensuring implementation of the law's provisions issued by the President of Ukraine, Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, ministries and other central executive bodies;
- 4) information from the Supreme Court of Ukraine, higher specialized Ukrainian courts, Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine; other central executive bodies, government agencies and local self-government bodies as well as officers thereof; and their proposals concerning improvement of the law's efficiency;

5) documents, relevant final wordings of the law related to amendments or abolition of the law;

6) decisions and rulings of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine concerning the law; and interpretation of the law's provisions rendered by the Supreme Court of Ukraine – if available.

SECTION V

PROCEDURES FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

Chapter 26

PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT LAWS PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF UKRAINE

Article 141. Legislation Regulating the Procedure to Amend the Constitution of Ukraine by the Verkhovna Rada

1. Actions by the Verkhovna Rada related to amendment of the Constitution of Ukraine shall be regulated by the Constitution of Ukraine, these Rules and other norms that do not run contrary to the provisions of this Article.

Article 142. Authority to Introduce a Draft Law Proposing Amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine, Proposals and Amendments to Such Draft Laws and Proposals on Consideration Thereof at the Verkhovna Rada

1. The right to introduce a draft law at the Verkhovna Rada which proposes a constitutional amendment shall be permitted by the President of Ukraine, national deputies in the amount provided for by Article 154 and paragraph 1 of Article 156 of the Constitution of Ukraine.

2. The following persons shall have a right to submit proposals and amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine: the President of Ukraine and national deputies according to the quorum stipulated in Article 154 and paragraph 1, Article 156 of the Constitution of Ukraine – for respective draft laws.

3. In the course of development and consideration of a draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment, and proposals and amendments to such draft laws or motions related thereto, as well as proposals concerning the procedure and results of such consideration shall be introduced by national deputies in accordance with a general procedures provided for in the Law of Ukraine “On the Status of a National Deputy of Ukraine” and these Rules.

4. When submitting draft laws on constitutional amendments, and proposals and amendments related to such draft bills, or proposals concerning the procedure and results for their such consideration, the aforementioned persons shall state in writing the names (up to three persons) of those who shall represent their lawful interests, should the need arise, during

development and consideration of the bill introduced to the Verkhovna Rada and its bodies. The persons authorized to present the draft laws, proposals and amendments thereto introduced by the national deputies at the Verkhovna Rada and its units may only be national deputies who have signed a petition on submission of the respective draft laws, proposals and amendments thereto to the Verkhovna Rada; these representatives may be replaced after submission of a petition pursuant to the number of signatories required by Article 144 of these Rules.

Article 143. Procedure for Submission of Draft Laws Proposing Amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine, and Proposals and Amendments Thereto

1. The procedure for submission of draft laws to amend the Constitution of Ukraine and proposals or amendments thereto is set forth in and shall comply with Articles 154, 156, 157, 158 of the Constitution of Ukraine and in paragraph 1, 4 of Article 90, Articles 91, 92, 94 of these Rules and in this Article.

2. Persons with the right to table draft laws which propose constitutional amendments and proposals or amendments thereto to the Verkhovna Rada shall submit the aforementioned instruments in writing with a cover letter bearing their signatures. A signature of a national deputy may not be retracted.

3. A draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment must state a date of its entry into force.

4. A draft law which proposes to amend Section I “General Provisions”, Section III “Elections. Referendum” and Section XIII “Amending the Constitution of Ukraine” shall not contain provisions concerning amendment to any other sections of the Constitution, except for clarifications that result from amendments to the norms of Sections I, III and XIII of the Constitution of Ukraine. Approval of amendments to other Sections of the Constitution of Ukraine resulting from any textual clarification changes at an all-national referendum shall not prevent the Verkhovna Rada from amending the same provisions in the future in accordance with Article 155, paragraph 2 of Article 158 of the Constitution of Ukraine.

5. A draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment introduced to the Verkhovna Rada as provided for in Article 154 of the Constitution shall not contain provisions which are systemically united with other constitutional norms, such that amendments to the Sections of the Constitution mentioned in Article 156 of the Constitution will be required.

6. In the event that the Sections of the Constitution of Ukraine mentioned in Article 155 and the Sections mentioned in paragraph 1, Article 156 of the Constitution of Ukraine require concurrent amendments, a sponsor of such amendments to the Constitution shall introduce the bill to the Verkhovna Rada in two separate draft laws (concurrent draft laws). Such draft laws shall provide for a combined procedure for their entry into force, and contain provisions which, if the Verkhovna Rada rejects one of the draft laws or, in case the results of the national referendum which fail to support a draft law, such draft law shall not enter into force.

7. A draft law which proposes amendments to Sections I, III and XIII of the Constitution of Ukraine shall be accompanied by a draft law which provides for appropriation of necessary funds from the State Budget of Ukraine for organization of a national referendum to consider the amendments to the Constitution.

8. An explanatory note to a draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment, with exception to the general provisions provided for in the Rules of Procedure (paragraph 1 of Article 91), shall also provide for issues mentioned in sub-paragraphs 2-10 and 14 of paragraph 2, Article 145 of the Rules.

9. Alternative draft laws may be introduced at the Verkhovna Rada no later than 14 days after a draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment has been distributed to the national deputies. When a national deputy signs a petition concerning submission of two and more alternative draft laws proposing a constitutional amendment, his/her signature under a petition concerning the second and further draft laws shall not be counted.

Article 144. Withdrawal of Draft Laws which Propose Amendment of the Constitution of Ukraine, and Proposals and Amendments Thereto

1. A draft law which proposes amendment of a constitutional amendment shall be considered revoked after receipt of a written petition by its sponsor and where the draft law has not been included in the agenda of the parliamentary session. The withdrawal of a draft law shall be announced at the current plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada.

2. A draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment which is included into the parliamentary session agenda but not yet forwarded by the Verkhovna Rada to the Constitutional Court may be revoked only upon consent of the Verkhovna Rada. Verkhovna Rada consent shall be evidenced by a resolution to exclude a respective draft laws from the Verkhovna Rada's agenda.

3. A petition to withdraw a draft law introduced to the Verkhovna Rada by the national deputies shall be signed by a majority of the national deputies who submitted the draft law, but not by fewer than one third of the elected assembly of the Verkhovna Rada for draft laws covered by Articles 154, 155 and 156 of the Constitution of Ukraine – which shall require the signatures of no less than two thirds of the elected assembly of the Verkhovna Rada.

4. A proposal or amendment to a draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment may be revoked by a written petition submitted by a sponsor thereof prior to a on the draft law by the Verkhovna Rada. A petition to withdraw the proposal or amendment submitted by national deputies shall be done in accordance with the procedure set forth in paragraph 3 of this Article.

5. Upon receipt of a written petition from a sponsor of a draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment or upon receipt of a substantiated written petition from a national deputy of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada may rescind its request for the Constitutional Court to rule on compliance of the draft law which proposes the constitutional amendment with the requirements of the Constitution of Ukraine or, after a substantiated written petition of a national deputy, the Verkhovna Rada may retract from the Constitutional Court its request for a ruling on compliance of a draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment with provisions of Articles 157 and 158 of the Constitution of Ukraine at any time before the first plenary hearing of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine (paragraph 1, Article 44 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Constitutional Court of Ukraine”). A resolution to withdraw its request from the Constitutional Court shall be approved by a majority of the elected parliamentary assembly of the Verkhovna Rada without inclusion of this motion into the parliamentary

session agenda. The Verkhovna Rada may only consider a motion to withdraw a request once for every draft law.

6. Upon receipt of a Constitutional Court opinion on rejection to file or on termination of the constitutional proceedings based on a Verkhovna Rada resolution to withdraw the respective draft law, such draft law shall be considered excluded from the parliamentary session agenda (without a special voting on this motion). The presiding officer shall announce this at the next plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada.

Article 145. Preparation for Consideration of a Motion to Include a Draft Law which Proposes Amendment of the Constitution of Ukraine on the Agenda of Parliamentary Session of the Verkhovna Rada and Procedure for Its Further Procession

1. The procedure for consideration of a motion to include a draft law proposing a constitutional amendment into the agenda of a parliamentary session and the procedure for its further procession shall be done in accordance with the requirements in this Article, paragraphs 1, 2, 4, and 5 of Article 93, Article 96, paragraph 1 of Article 98, paragraphs 1, 3, 4 and 5 of Article 103, paragraph 4 of Article 110, paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of Article 111 of the Rules of Procedure and the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 117 of the Rules of Procedure.

2. A lead committee and other committees commissioned to organize consideration of a motion to include a draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment in the agenda of a parliamentary session and its further procession shall, within the scope of their responsibilities, provide recommendations on the following:

1) on the eligibility or ineligibility of the person to submit a draft law which proposes a Constitutional amendment to the Verkhovna Rada;

2) whether adoption of a draft law introduced in accordance with Article 154 of the Constitution shall require concurrent amendment of the sections of the Constitution of Ukraine mentioned in Article 156 of the Constitution;

3) the compliance of the introduced draft law with provisions of paragraph 2, Article 156 of the Constitution of Ukraine;

4) whether adoption of the constitutional amendment shall result in violation of any of Ukraine's international commitments;

5) on the overall political, social and economic benefits (or necessity) of adoption of such draft law;

6) on presence or absence in the draft law of such provisions (or similar to) identified in previous recommendations or resolutions determined by the Constitutional Court of Ukraine as detrimental to human and civil rights and freedoms or damaging to the independence or territorial integrity of Ukraine;

7) whether there are any concerns (on the part of a committee, researchers or experts) on the draft law's compliance with the requirements of Articles 157 and 158 of the Constitution of Ukraine;

8) on the existence of a previous opinion of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine concerning the draft law's compliance with requirements of Articles 157 and 158 of the Constitution of Ukraine, if such draft law was re-introduced in the Verkhovna Rada in the same wording;

9) on the legal implications for existing legal relationships that may result from the adoption of amendments to the effective Constitution as provided for in the draft law;

10) on the completeness, clarity, objectivity and systemic regulation of the proposed draft law on public relations at the constitutional level; whether the introduced draft law will require adoption of proposals and amendments thereto, including clarifications and edits;

11) on the advisability (or necessity) of forwarding the draft law, after its inclusion in the session agenda, for a scientific, legal or other expert examination or for conducting scientific research prior to passage of a Verkhovna Rada resolution on forwarding the respective request (Article 148 of the Rules) to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine;

12) on the advisability of publishing the draft law for national discussion prior to passage of the Verkhovna Rada resolution on forwarding a respective request to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine;

13) on expedient timelines for an national referendum to consider the constitutional amendments if the draft law has been introduced in accordance with paragraph 1, Article 156 of the Constitution of Ukraine;

14) with regard to the issues mentioned in paragraph 3 of Article 91, paragraph 3 of Article 111 of the Rules of Procedure, and concerning draft laws procedures mentioned in paragraph 7 of Article 143 of the Rules, which provides for appropriation of funds from the State Budget of Ukraine in order to organize an national referendum;

15) on proposals concerning the procedure for consideration of introduced draft law proposing constitutional amendments – if there are any such proposals;

3. Assessments of any introduced alternative draft laws, if any, shall be prepared in accordance with paragraph 2 of this Article.

4. Associated draft laws which propose any constitutional amendments mentioned in paragraph 6 of Article 143 of the Rules shall be included in the Verkhovna Rada agenda to be considered as one item.

5. The lead committee commissioned to prepare a motion on inclusion of the draft law into the parliamentary session agenda and on the procedure for its further consideration shall submit to the Verkhovna Rada its recommendations, including the following:

- 1) to include or exclude a respective draft law into the parliamentary session agenda;
- 2) to recommend a certain draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment be included or excluded into the parliamentary session agenda (if there are alternative draft laws);

3) to recommend a period for adoption of a resolution by the Verkhovna Rada to forward a respective request to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine;

4) to recommend formation of a temporary special commission for further elaboration of the draft law be established after its has been included in the parliamentary session agenda.

6. Such recommendations submitted by the lead committee shall include the draft acts to be voted on by the Verkhovna Rada. Such draft acts shall be signed and submitted to the Verkhovna Rada by the lead committee. If the lead committee fails to submit draft acts together with its recommendations, the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall so submit the draft acts at a plenary meeting.

7. Conclusions, recommendations, and draft acts prepared by the committees and other necessary documents shall be distributed to the national deputies no later than 10 calendar days before the date for consideration of the motion on inclusion of a draft law which proposes a Constitutional amendment in the parliamentary session agenda and on procedure for its further consideration.

Article 146. Parliamentary Consideration of Motions on Including Draft Law which Proposes Constitutional Amendments in Parliamentary session Agenda and on Procedure of Its Further Consideration

1. Discussion of a motion on inclusion of a draft law proposing a constitutional amendment into the parliamentary session agenda and on the procedure of its further consideration shall be held in accordance with Article 30 of the Rules. The procedure for abbreviated discussion shall not be allowed.

2. If a draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment is introduced to the Verkhovna Rada by national deputies, the President or his authorized representative shall be entitled to the floor (for the same amount of time as the presenter) after presentations by the persons mentioned in sub-paragraph 4 of paragraph 1, Article 30 of the Rules. The President or his authorized representatives shall not answer questions.

3. The Verkhovna Rada at its plenary meeting shall discuss, among other things, issues mentioned in paragraphs 2-6 of Article 145 of the Rules.

4. The Verkhovna Rada shall include a draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment into the parliamentary session agenda in order to forward it with the respective request to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine for its opinion in accordance with Article 159 of the Constitution of Ukraine, vote on its preliminary approval and adopt it (paragraph 1 of Article 156 of the Constitution of Ukraine) or call a national referendum (Article 155 of the Constitution of Ukraine) or adopt and forward it to the President for him to call a national referendum (paragraph 1 of Article 156 of the Constitution of Ukraine) on this draft law in the same wording. A decision to include a draft law into the parliamentary session agenda shall be approved by a majority vote of the elected parliamentary assembly of the Verkhovna Rada.

5. After discussion of the resolution to include a draft law which proposes constitutional amendments in the parliamentary session agenda and on the procedure for its further consideration, the Verkhovna Rada may adopt a decision to:

1) include a draft law (one of the alternative) and any associated draft law in the parliamentary agenda;

2) include a draft law (one of the alternative) and any associated draft laws in the parliamentary session agenda with a concurrent request to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine asking for its opinion on the compliance of the draft law (both connected draft laws) with the requirements of Articles 157 and 158 of the Constitution of Ukraine;

3) suspend a resolution to include a draft law (alternative draft laws) and any associated draft laws in the parliamentary agenda.

6. In the event that none of the decisions mentioned in sub-paragraphs 1,2 and 3 of paragraph 5 of this Article fails to obtain the necessary vote of the Verkhovna Rada, a draft law shall be considered withdrawn from parliamentary consideration.

7. When resolving to include a draft law (on of alternative draft laws) and any associated draft laws into the parliamentary session agenda (sub-paragraph 1 of paragraph 5 of this Article), the Verkhovna Rada shall address the following:

1) a draft decision on passage of a Verkhovna Rada resolution to forward a respective request to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine;

2) publication of a draft law for a national discussion prior to parliamentary adoption of a resolution to forward it to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine;

3) forward the draft law for a scientific, legal or other expert examination or conducting scientific research prior to parliamentary adoption of a resolution to forward the draft laws to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine;

4) suspension of a resolution to forward the draft law to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine pending completion or arrangement of certain conditions;

8. If a resolution to publish a draft law for national discussion (sub-paragraph 2 of paragraph 7 of this Article) fails to receive the necessary support, a draft law shall be published in official printed media to inform the citizens; it may also be published in other media. Such publications shall mention all authors of a draft law and its sponsor.

9. After a draft law has been included in the parliamentary agenda, the Verkhovna Rada may adopt a decision to establish a temporary special commission that will be considered a lead commission for preparing the draft law which proposes the constitutional amendment.

Article 147. Preparation of a Draft Law which Proposes Amendment of the Constitution of Ukraine for Preliminary Approval or Passage by the Verkhovna Rada

1. Preparation of a draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment for preliminary approval by parliament (Article 155 of the Constitution of Ukraine) or passage (paragraph 1 of Article 156 of the Constitution of Ukraine) shall commence only after inclusion of the respective draft law in the parliamentary session agenda.

2. In the event that the Verkhovna Rada adopts a resolution to publish a draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment for national discussion, the publication shall contain the names of all authors of the draft law (or parts thereof) as well as its sponsor. Motions and proposals generated in the course of a national discussion shall be summarized and preliminarily considered by the Verkhovna Rada committees responsible for finalizing the draft law. The committees shall forward the summarized materials to the lead committee, which shall perform a final revision and report the results to the Verkhovna Rada (during a discussion of the motion to forward a respective request to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine at the Verkhovna Rada plenary session).

3. Having completed all measures provided for in paragraph 2 of this Article, subparagraphs 3 and 4 of paragraph 7, paragraph 9 of Article 146 of these Rules, the lead committee and other committees commissioned to finalize the draft law shall prepare necessary recommendations to enable the Verkhovna Rada to consider forwarding a respective request to the Constitutional Court as provided for in Article 148 of these Rules. Parliament shall concurrently prepare a draft law to appropriate funds from the State Budget of Ukraine to organize a national referendum for the first reading if a draft law proposes a constitutional amendment pursuant to paragraph 1 of Article 156 of the constitution of Ukraine. Such draft law and accompanying materials shall be distributed to national deputies not later than 10 days prior to its consideration in the Verkhovna Rada.

4. Parliamentary discussion of a motion to forward a respective request to the Constitutional Court shall follow the procedure in paragraph 1-3 of Article 146 of these Rules. The Verkhovna Rada shall concurrently consider a draft request to the Constitutional Court and first reading of a draft law on appropriation of funds from the State Budget of Ukraine to organize a national referendum if a draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment was submitted pursuant to paragraph 1 of Article 156 of the Constitution of Ukraine.

5. Associated draft laws that provide for complex amendments to various sections of the Constitution shall be discussed concurrently, and a resolution to forward them to the Constitutional Court for a respective opinion shall be adopted in a form of a single resolution.

6. In the event that the Verkhovna Rada fails to pass a resolution to forward a respective request to the Constitutional Court and to vote on withdraw the draft law from the parliamentary session agenda, the Verkhovna Rada shall adopt a decision on the content and timeline for further work on such draft law. In the event that the Verkhovna Rada fails to adopt a decision to forward a respective request to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine and set the content and timeline for further work on a draft law, such draft law shall be considered withdrawn from agenda.

7. A draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment shall be forwarded to the Constitutional Court for review in accordance with Article 159 of the Constitution of Ukraine if it was re-introduced in the Verkhovna Rada within the time frame provided for in paragraph two of Article 156 and paragraph 1 of Article 158 of the Constitution of Ukraine in the same wording and received a previous positive opinion of the Constitutional Court on its compliance with Articles 157 and 158 of the Constitution of Ukraine.

8. After adoption of a decision to submit a request to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine to review a draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment pursuant to paragraph 1 of

Article 156 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada shall vote on the draft law appropriating funds from the State Budget of Ukraine to organize a national referendum in the first reading.

9. Upon receipt of an opinion of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine on compliance of a draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment with Articles 157 and 158 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada shall immediately distribute the opinion to the national deputies and to the President of Ukraine. An officer presiding over the current plenary session shall immediately announce the receipt of the aforementioned opinion.

10. The opinion of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine in its deliberations on a draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment shall be considered by the Verkhovna Rada.

11. In the event that the Constitutional Court of Ukraine ruled on the general compliance of a draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment the Constitution with Articles 157 and 158 of the Constitution of Ukraine and made no comments as to its provisions, consideration of the motion on preliminary approval of the draft law (Article 155 of the Constitution of Ukraine) or passage (paragraph 1 of Article 156 of the Constitution of Ukraine), respectively, shall be included into the parliamentary plenary meeting agenda not earlier than after 7 calendar days after distribution of the opinion to the national deputies and recommendations of the lead committee or on another day designated by the Verkhovna Rada. The lead committee and other committees commissioned to elaborate the draft law shall render a conclusion and recommendations to this draft law.

Article 148. Verkhovna Rada Application to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine for an Opinion on Compliance of a Draft Law which Proposes an Amendment to Articles 157 and 158 of the Constitution of Ukraine

1. The Verkhovna Rada shall adopt a resolution to forward a request to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine for constitutional review of compliance of a draft law which proposes a Constitutional amendment to Articles 157 and 158 of the Constitution of Ukraine in the form of a Verkhovna Rada resolution.

A resolution concerning appeal to the Constitutional Court shall contain the following provisions:

1) the Verkhovna Rada application to the Constitutional Court concerning its review of the compliance of a specific draft law (or both connected draft laws) which proposes a Constitutional amendment (registration details and name of the sponsor) included into the parliamentary session agenda with requirements of Article 157 and 158 of the Constitution of Ukraine;

2) the forwarded resolution to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine (the draft law attached);

3) the effective date of the resolution.

2. The Verkhovna Rada application to the Constitutional Court shall have an attachment containing the text of the registered draft law which proposes the Constitutional amendment.

3. The Verkhovna Rada shall forward along with its application the following documents to the Constitutional Court:

1) a copy of the sponsor's registered application to the Verkhovna Rada (with certified signatures of national deputies);

2) an explanatory note submitted by the sponsor together with the draft law which proposes the Constitutional amendment;

3) the text of the Verkhovna Rada resolution to include the draft law into the parliamentary session agenda, where the resolution is adopted separately from the resolution to forward the application to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine;

4) any conclusions and recommendations of committees, documents and other materials distributed to the national deputies and related to the Verkhovna Rada's consideration of the following motions: on inclusion of the draft law into the parliamentary session agenda; and submission of the appeal to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine; and any adoption of motions and amendments to the draft law before a repeat submission with the Verkhovna Rada to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine (paragraph 3 of Article 146 of these Rules);

5) transcripts of any plenary meetings where the issues mentioned in previous subparagraph were considered.

4. The Verkhovna Rada shall vote on a single application to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine with regard to the any related draft laws mentioned in paragraph 6 of Article 143 of these Rules,.

5. The Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall immediately submit the application accompanied by additional materials specified in paragraph 3 of this Article to the Constitutional Court. The presiding officer shall announce submission at the current plenary meeting.

Article 149. Preliminary Approval or Passage of a Draft Law which Proposes a Constitutional Amendment Recognized by the Constitutional Court as Compliant with Articles 157 and 158 of the Constitution of Ukraine

1. The preliminary approval and passage of a draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment shall follow the requirements set forth in Article 155, paragraph 1 of Article 156, paragraph 2 of Article 158, Article 159 of the Constitution of Ukraine and paragraph 10 of Article 147 of these Rules.

2. A resolution concerning the preliminary approval of a draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment (Article 155 of the Constitution of Ukraine) shall not be considered by the Verkhovna Rada in the last session of its electoral term. A motion concerning preliminary approval and further consideration of such draft law shall be included in the parliamentary session agenda of the newly elected Verkhovna Rada without a vote.

3. The newly elected Verkhovna Rada may consider a a resolution on a draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment that was preliminarily approved by the prior Verkhovna Rada in accordance with Article 155 of the Constitution of Ukraine but that was not put to a

vote to be adopted as law. In this case, the draft law which proposes the constitutional amendment shall be considered not adopted by the previous assembly of the Verkhovna Rada and the with the requirements of paragraph 1 of Article 158 of the Constitution of Ukraine shall apply.

4. If the Verkhovna Rada failed to consider a resolution on a draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment pursuant to paragraph 1 of Article 156 of the Constitution of Ukraine conclusion of its term and has not yet considered a conclusion provided by the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, a resolution to consider the aforementioned draft law shall be included in the agenda of the first session of the newly elected Verkhovna Rada without a vote.

5. The Verkhovna Rada may consider a resolution and adopt a decision on preliminary approval pursuant to Article 155 of the Constitution of Ukraine or approve a draft law pursuant to paragraph 1 of Article 156 of the Constitution of Ukraine provided that such draft law has been recognized by the Constitutional Court of Ukraine as compliant with Articles 157 and 158 of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine and that the Constitutional Court of Ukraine has no comments as to the provisions of the draft law.

6. The Verkhovna Rada may pass a draft law provided for in Article 155 of the Constitutional Court provided that such draft law has been recognized by the Constitutional Court of Ukraine as compliant with Articles 157 and 158 of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, the Constitutional Court of Ukraine has no comments on the provisions of the draft law, and such draft law was not preliminarily approved by the then elected Verkhovna Rada at a previous regular or extraordinary parliamentary session.

7. Discussion in the plenary session of the Verkhovna Rada of a motion on preliminary approval (Article 155 of the Constitution of Ukraine) or passage (Article 155, paragraph 1 of Article 156 of the Constitution of Ukraine) of a draft law which proposes a Constitutional amendment shall follow the procedure set forth in Article 30 of these Rules which grants the floor to the President of Ukraine or his representative where in attendance at the plenary meeting. Submission and discussion of resolutions on and amendments to the draft law proposing a Constitutional amendment, as well as resolutions to suspend consideration of the draft law are disallowed, except for those related to coordination of the time frame for passage of draft laws mentioned in paragraph 10 of this Article.

8. After discussion of a draft law which proposes a Constitutional amendment the Verkhovna Rada shall vote on its preliminary approval (Article 155 of the Constitution of Ukraine) or adoption as law (Article 155, paragraph 1 of Article 156 of the Constitution of Ukraine), respectively. ~~Voting shall be done in the form of a roll call vote with submission of ballots with personal signatures and names of national deputies³³.~~ A draft law which does not obtain (in accordance with Article 155 or paragraph 1 of Article 156 of the Constitution of Ukraine, respectively) the requisite number of votes in support thereof shall be considered rejected.

9. A draft law which proposes a Constitutional amendment and which is not adopted as a law by the Verkhovna Rada, in accordance with Article 155 of the Constitution of Ukraine, may be passed on for further consideration by a majority vote of the elected parliamentary

³³ Law 2704-VI

assembly. If the Verkhovna Rada does not pass a resolution on the content and timing for further consideration of proposals not previously approved, such shall be considered not adopted. Draft laws which propose constitutional amendments and which are not approved by the Verkhovna Rada, shall be withdrawn from consideration. Such draft law shall be subject to provisions of Article 158 and paragraph 2 of Article 156 of the Constitution of Ukraine. 10. Preliminary approval and passage of associated draft laws proposing Constitutional amendments mentioned in paragraph 6 of Article 143 of these Rules shall be done in such a way that passage of both follows the provisions of Article 155 and paragraph 1 of Article 156 of the Constitution of Ukraine such that both draft laws along with an adopted law appropriating funds from the State Budget to organize a national referendum are concurrently forwarded to the President for his signature or designation of the referendum day, respectively. Passage of both associated draft laws shall be done by one vote.

11. A law which proposes a Constitutional amendment shall be adopted by the Verkhovna Rada pursuant to Article 155 of the Constitution of Ukraine, stating the date of preliminary approval and the date of its passage and other information shall be signed by the Verkhovna Rada Chairman and, pursuant to Article 94 of the Constitution of Ukraine, to the President of Ukraine for signature and execution into force.

12. After adoption of a draft law submitted pursuant to paragraph 1 of Article 156 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada shall vote on the draft law article-by-article approval and adoption in its final reading of the draft law approved in the first reading (paragraph 8 of Article 147 of these Rules), which appropriates funds from the State Budget to organize a national referendum to consider amendment of the Constitution of Ukraine.

13. A draft law which proposes a Constitutional amendment passed by the Verkhovna Rada pursuant to paragraph 1 of Article 156 of the Constitution of Ukraine shall be marked as such with the date of its passage and other information and signed by the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada and the law as mentioned in paragraph 12 of this Article shall be immediately forwarded to the President of Ukraine for designating the date of a national referendum to consider amendment of the Constitution of Ukraine and, respectively, signing and formal adoption of the law providing for appropriation of funds from the State Budget for organization of the national referendum.

Article 150. Submission and Consideration of Proposals and Amendments to Draft Law which Proposes Constitutional Amendments in the Lead Committee

1. In cases where the Constitutional Court of Ukraine deems a whole draft law or certain parts thereof not to be compliant with requirements of Articles 157 and 158 of the Constitution of Ukraine or if an opinion of the Constitutional Court contain comments concerning certain provisions of a draft law, the Verkhovna Rada shall, during further consideration of the law, determine:

- 1) the schedule for submission of proposals and amendments to a draft law by the parties mentioned in paragraph 2 of Article 142 of these Rules;
- 2) the timeline for finalization of proposal and amendments to a draft law by the lead and other committees;
- 3) the timeline for distribution of respective materials to national deputies;

4) the date for consideration of proposals and amendments to a draft law which proposes any Constitutional amendments.

2. Preparation of a draft law which proposes a Constitutional amendment for consideration of proposals and amendments thereto shall follow the procedure for preparation of a draft law for the second reading as provided in Section IV of these Rules. A comparative table to a draft law shall contain the text of the draft law proposing the Constitutional amendment designated by the Verkhovna Rada for review by the Constitutional Court of Ukraine (sub-paragraph 1 of paragraph 1 of Article 118 of these Rules), number and names of national deputies who initiated consideration and names of those who are authorized to present proposals and amendments (not more than three persons).

3. The lead committee and other committees commissioned to prepare consideration of proposals and amendments to a draft law shall prepare for each proposal, amendment and final wording of a draft law suggested by the lead committee pursuant to sub-paragraph 4 of paragraph 1 of Article 118 of these Rules, its recommendations regarding matters covered by sub-paragraphs 1 - 7, 9 – 12 and 14 of paragraph 2 of Article 145 of these Rules, taking into consideration any opinion issued by the Constitutional Court of Ukraine concerning the draft law proposing the Constitutional amendment. Any committee recommendations together with the ready comparative table to the draft law proposing the Constitutional amendment shall be provided to the national deputies within the time frame determined by the Verkhovna Rada.

Article 151. Consideration by the Verkhovna Rada of Proposals and Amendments to Draft Law which Proposes Constitutional Amendments

1. The Verkhovna Rada at its meeting shall discuss each proposal and amendment to a draft law which proposes a constitutional amendment in full scope and follow the requirements of paragraph 3 of Article 119, and Article 120 of these Rules.

2. A decision to include a proposal or an amendment to a draft law which proposes a Constitutional amendment shall be adopted by the Verkhovna Rada by the same number of votes required for preliminary approval of the respective draft law as provided for in Article 155 of the Constitution of Ukraine or for passage in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 156 of the Constitution of Ukraine, respectively.

3. After voting on a proposal and amendment to a draft law which proposes a Constitutional amendment, the Verkhovna Rada shall adopt a decision on cessation of passage of amendments to the draft law by a majority vote and move to consideration of a motion to forward a request to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine for an opinion on compliance of a the new wording of the draft law with the provisions of Articles 157 and 158 of the Constitution of Ukraine. Consideration of this motion shall follow the procedure provided for in paragraphs 1-3 of Article 146, 5 and 6 of Article 147 of these Rules. Provisions of paragraph 6 of Article 147 of the Rules shall also apply in the event that the Verkhovna Rada failed to pass any proposal or amendment to the draft law proposing the Constitutional amendment.

4. In the event that a draft law which proposes a Constitutional amendment is withdrawn from the agenda after consideration of proposals and amendments, it shall be subject to provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 156 of the Constitution of Ukraine.

Chapter 27

ADOPTION OF THE STATE BUDGET OF UKRAINE AND SUPERVISION OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION

Article 152. Adoption of Basic Budget Policies for Upcoming Budgetary Period

1. The Cabinet of Ministers shall develop a draft paper stating the basic budgetary policies for the upcoming budgetary period, taking into consideration the major estimated indicators for economic and social development of Ukraine for the upcoming budget period which indicate the amount of the gross domestic product, national income, aggregate balance of financial resources, balance of population's incomes and revenues, and balance of payments and monetary plan and submit it to the Verkhovna Rada no later than four working days before parliamentary consideration.

2. National deputies and parliamentary committees shall develop proposals to the basic budget policy for the upcoming budgetary period and forward them to the budgetary committee no later than three days before parliamentary consideration of the basic budgetary policy for the upcoming budgetary period.

3. A budgetary committee shall summarize the received proposals and develop a draft resolution for the Verkhovna Rada on approval or consideration of the basic budgetary policy for the upcoming budgetary period.

4. The Verkhovna Rada shall adopt a resolution on approval or consideration of the basic budgetary policy for the upcoming budgetary period no later than June 1 of the year preceding the regular or the first plenary day after this date.

5. The Verkhovna Rada shall approve, concurrent with approval of the basic budgetary policy for the upcoming budgetary period, the budget allocated to the Verkhovna Rada to maintain its activities in the upcoming year.

Article 153. Preparation of Draft Law on the State Budget of Ukraine for Consideration

1. Consideration of a draft law on the State Budget of Ukraine shall comply with provisions of the Budgetary Code of Ukraine and these Rules.

2. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine shall submit to the Verkhovna Rada a draft law on the State Budget for the following year no later than September 15 of the current year. Together with the draft law, it shall submit a report on implementation of the State Budget in the current year.

3. A draft law on the State Budget must be developed in accordance with the requirements of the Budgetary Code and the basic budgetary policy for the upcoming budgetary period.

4. A draft law on the State Budget for the following year may not contain provisions to cancel or suspend any effective laws.

5. A draft law on the State Budget for the following fiscal year submitted by the Cabinet of Ministers shall be distributed to national deputies no later than four days before its presentation to the Verkhovna Rada.

Article 154. Presentation of Draft Law on the State Budget of Ukraine

1. A draft law on the State Budget of Ukraine shall be presented to the Verkhovna Rada by the Minister of Finance not later than five days after its submission to the Cabinet of Ministers.

2. The chair of the budgetary committee or a designated representative thereof shall deliver a report on compliance of the draft law on the State Budget with the basic budget policy for the upcoming budgetary period and provisions of the Budget Code of Ukraine.

3. A draft law on the State Budget shall be presented in the Verkhovna Rada pursuant to the procedure for full consideration (Article 30 of these Rules).

4. After a discussion of a draft law on the State Budget, the Verkhovna Rada may adopt a resolution to approve the draft law for consideration or to reject the draft law on the following grounds:

1) the draft law on the State Budget was submitted without the necessary documents provided for in the Budget Code of Ukraine;

2) the draft law on the State Budget fails to comply with the basic budget policy for the upcoming budgetary period;

3) A draft law on the State Budget fails to comply with the norms of law-drafting established by the Budget Code of Ukraine.

5. If the Verkhovna Rada rejects a draft law on the State Budget, the Cabinet of Ministers must re-submit a draft law on the State Budget within seven days after its rejection, taking into consideration proposals of the Verkhovna Rada or providing well-grounded justification of their rejection.

Article 155. Procedure for Consideration of Draft Law on the State Budget of Ukraine

1. Consideration of a draft law on the State Budget shall follow the procedure for a third reading taking into consideration the specifics provided for in this Article.

2. In the event that the Cabinet of Ministers does not meet the deadline for submission of a draft law on the State Budget to the Verkhovna Rada or deadline for submission of the said draft law for the second reading, the period for consideration of a draft law on the State Budget shall be calculated from the day of its actual submission of a draft law by the Cabinet of Ministers.

3. In the event that the Cabinet of Ministers resigns before it has submitted a draft law on the State Budget for the upcoming year to the Verkhovna Rada, or after the Verkhovna Rada has rejected a submitted draft law, the period for consideration of such draft law shall be

stayed until after submission of the draft law on the State Budget for the upcoming year to the newly elected Cabinet of Ministers.

Article 156. Preparation of Draft Law on the State Budget for the First Reading

1. After the Verkhovna Rada has accepted a draft law on the following year's State Budget for consideration, the national deputies and parliamentary committees shall, no later than October 1 (October 6 if a draft law was accepted for consideration after re-submission, respectively) of the year preceding the fiscal year, propose any amendments and additions to this draft law and forward them to the budgetary committee. Proposals forwarded to the budgetary committee after October 1 (October 6, respectively) for the year preceding fiscal year, shall not be accepted.

2. A budgetary committee shall consider proposals of national deputies and parliamentary committees no later than October 15 (October 20, respectively) in collaboration with authorized representatives of the Cabinet of Ministers and authors of the respective proposals. Any reasons for rejection of proposals by the budgetary committee shall be substantiated by a committee conclusion thereto.

3. After consideration of a draft law on the State Budget for the upcoming year, the budgetary committee shall prepare its recommendations and proposals as well as a comparative table in accordance with Article 118 of these Rules and a respective draft resolution of the Verkhovna Rada.

4. The comparative table, draft resolution, and committee recommendations and proposals along with other accompanying materials shall be distributed to the national deputies no later than five days before the Verkhovna Rada is scheduled to consider the draft law on the State Budget of Ukraine for the upcoming year in the first reading.

Article 157. The First Reading of the Draft Law on the State Budget of Ukraine for the Preceding Year

1. The Verkhovna Rada shall conduct the first reading of the State Budget draft law no later than October 20 (October 25, respectively) of the year preceding the fiscal year.

2. In the event that a budgetary period does not coincide with the calendar year, the Verkhovna Rada shall adopt a procedural decision as to the timeline for consideration.

3. Consideration of the first reading of a draft law on the State Budget shall commence with a report of the chair of the budgetary committee on the committee's recommendations and proposals for the draft law.

4. Consideration of the first reading of a draft law on the State Budget shall follow the procedure for full discussion taking into consideration the specifics set forth in this Article.

5. During consideration a draft law on the State Budget, the floor shall be given to committee representatives on the basis of their written applications, as well as to the parliamentary factions, national deputies, representatives of the Cabinet of Ministers and the Accounting Chamber.

6. After consideration of the first reading of a draft law on the State Budget, the Verkhovna Rada shall vote on the budgetary committee's recommendations and proposals on budget as a whole.

7. Recommendations and proposals to a draft law on the State Budget shall be considered adopted where approved by a majority of votes of the Verkhovna Rada. Recommendations and proposals of the budgetary committee approved by the Verkhovna Rada shall acquire the status of the Budgetary Conclusions of the Verkhovna Rada.

8. If the Verkhovna Rada fails to pass a resolution approving the recommendations and proposals of the budgetary committee as a whole, such proposals shall be voted on article-by-article.

9. During the article-by-article vote, any proposals the budgetary committee recommended for rejection but the sponsors demanded for consideration thereof shall be voted on first.

10. In the event that the national deputies – sponsors of a proposal do not demand consideration of their proposal pursuant to a recommendation by the budgetary committee that the proposal be rejected, the Verkhovna Rada shall not vote on the proposal.

11. Proposals which the budgetary committee recommends be rejected but for which the sponsors demand be considered shall be voted on separately.

12. After consideration of proposals in accordance with paragraph 7 of this Article, an article-by-article vote shall be held on each proposal the budgetary committee recommends for inclusion.

If national deputies have no comments on a proposal the budgetary committee recommends for inclusion, such proposals shall be put to vote in its final reading.

13. In the event that during an article-by-article voting on proposals the balance of budget indicators contained in a draft law on the State Budget prepared for the first reading are preserved, the Verkhovna Rada may resolve to adopt it as a basis in the first reading.

14. In the event that the budget figures during an article by article vote shall become unbalanced, the Verkhovna Rada shall forward a draft law on the State Budget for the upcoming year to a lead committee to prepare it for a repeat first reading.

Article 158. Preparation and Consideration of Draft Law on the State Budget of Ukraine in the Second Reading

1. After adoption of a draft law on the State Budget for the upcoming year in the first reading, the Cabinet of Ministers shall within fourteen days but not later than November 3 (November 8) of the year preceding the fiscal year submit to the budgetary committee a draft law on the State Budget for the upcoming year (that is finalized in accordance with the Budgetary Conclusions of the Verkhovna Rada and amendments to the draft budget adopted as a basis in the first reading) and a comparative table prepared in accordance with the provisions of these Rules (Article 118) regarding Budgetary Conclusions of the Verkhovna Rada.

2. A budgetary committee shall, within three days of submission of a draft law on the State Budget for the upcoming year to the Cabinet of Ministers for the second reading, prepare its recommendations and substantiated justification thereto for all proposals and amendments which shall be subject to motion during the second reading by the Cabinet of Ministers.

3. A second reading of a draft law on the State Budget for the upcoming year shall end no later than November 20 of a year preceding the fiscal year.

4. The second reading of a draft law on the State Budget shall commence with a report by the Minister of Finance or and an officer acting on behalf of the Minister of Finance on the Cabinet's proposals to the draft law.

5. The chair of the budgetary committee shall report on the committee's conclusions regarding inclusion of the Verkhovna Rada's proposals in the version of the draft law prepared for the second reading.

6. After the reports of the Minister of Finance and the Chair of the budgetary committee, the floor shall be granted to representatives of parliamentary factions as provided for in these Rules.

7. After the presentations, the Verkhovna Rada shall call an article-by-article vote on the draft law submitted by the Cabinet of Ministers for the second reading.

8. As a result of an article-by-article vote on a draft law on the State Budget for the upcoming year, the Verkhovna Rada may adopt a resolution to adopt the draft law in the second reading or return it to the Cabinet of Ministers for a repeat second reading.

9. In the course of consideration of a draft law on the State Budget, the Verkhovna Rada shall approve the overall deficit (surplus), revenues and expenditures of the State Budget, minimum salaries and subsistence level for the upcoming budgetary period, and the amount of inter-budgetary transfers and other provisions necessary for formation of local budgets.

10. The articles of the draft law on the State Budget which are not approved in the second reading shall be transferred for consideration in the third reading.

Article 159. Preparation and Consideration of Draft Law on the State Budget of Ukraine in Third Reading

1. After adoption of the draft law on the State Budget of Ukraine for the upcoming year in the second reading, the budgetary committee shall within five days prepare the draft law for the third reading, taking into consideration those proposals supported by the Verkhovna Rada in the second reading.

2. The budgetary committee shall prepare its recommendations and proposals and compile a comparative table concerning any discrepancies between estimated revenues, expenditures and deficit of the State Budget which are the cause of amendments and additions introduced in the course of the second reading. After passage of a draft law on the State Budget for the upcoming year in the second reading, any new proposals or amendments shall not be allowed or considered.

3. The third reading of a draft law on the State Budget shall commence with a report by the chair of a budgetary committee or a designated representative of this committee and a co-report by the Minister of Finance on:

1) Recommendations concerning any articles in the draft law which were modified after review of the articles but not included during the third reading, inclusion of which entailed changes to other articles of a draft law adopted in the second reading;

2) Proposals of the budgetary committee on clarifications to the articles of a draft law suggested for amendment in order to balance revenues and expenditures and achieve an approved deficit level of the State Budget for the upcoming year.

4. After the aforementioned report and co-report, the Verkhovna Rada shall vote on the proposals of the budgetary committee concerning the articles of a draft law on the State Budget for the upcoming year not adopted in the second reading and on adoption of a draft law as law.

5. In the event that the Verkhovna Rada does not resolve to adopt a draft law on the State Budget for the upcoming year with the budgetary committee's proposals, it shall call a vote on each proposal suggested by the committee on budget.

6. In the event the Verkhovna Rada does not adopt a draft law on the State Budget for the upcoming year as law, such draft law shall be forwarded for a repeat third reading by a Verkhovna Rada resolution, which shall state the time frame for the next consideration at a plenary meeting. If the Verkhovna Rada does not adopt such resolution, a draft law on the State Budget of Ukraine for the upcoming year shall be considered rejected. In such case and in the case when a draft law is rejected during the repeat third reading, the Verkhovna Rada shall adopt a resolution (identifying time frame) to request the Cabinet of Ministers to develop a new draft law on the State Budget of Ukraine.

Article 160. Procedure for Amending the Draft Law on the State Budget of Ukraine

1. During the fiscal year, the law on the State Budget may be amended at the request of the holders of the right of legislative initiative in accordance with the provisions of the Budgetary Code and these Rules.

2. Amendments to a law on the State Budget which call for immediate amendments to other legislative acts are not allowed. Should such a need arise, a respective law shall be amended first and after that a motion to amend the law on the State Budget of Ukraine may be considered pursuant to the Budget Code and these Rules.

3. A draft law on amending the law on the State Budget of Ukraine shall be considered by the budgetary committee which shall prepare a draft recommendation thereto. Consideration of motions to amend a draft law which proposes amendment to the State Budget of Ukraine shall follow the procedure provided for in Section IV of these Rules.

4. The Verkhovna Rada may not pass a draft law in its entirety where the draft law proposes reduction or revenues and/or increase of expenditures of the current budget without simultaneous amendments to respective articles of a law on the State Budget of Ukraine for a relevant year.

Article 161. Monitoring of Implementation of the State Budget of Ukraine

1. The Verkhovna Rada shall monitor implementation of the State Budget of Ukraine both immediately and with the help of the Accounting Chamber.

2. The Treasury of Ukraine shall submit to the Verkhovna Rada a monthly report on implementation of the State Budget of Ukraine each month no later than the fifteenth day of the month following the month under review.

3. The treasury of Ukraine shall submit its monthly report on implementation of an aggregate budget of Ukraine no later than on the twenty-fifth day of a month following the month under review.

4. The Treasury of Ukraine shall submit its quarterly report on implementation of the State Budget of Ukraine to the Verkhovna Rada no later than thirty-five (35) days after the end of the quarter under review.

5. The Cabinet of Ministers shall submit an annual report on implementation of the State Budget of Ukraine no later than May 1 of the year following the year under review.

6. The budgetary committee in conjunction with the Accounting Chamber shall consider a report on implementation of the state Budget of Ukraine submitted by the Cabinet of Ministers and thereafter prepare its recommendations on utilization³⁴ of funds to the State Budget within fifteen (15) days after submission of a report to the Verkhovna Rada.

Article 162. Approval of the Report on Implementation of Law of Ukraine in the State Budget of Ukraine

1. The Verkhovna Rada shall consider the annual report ~~on implementation of the State Budget of Ukraine~~³⁵ for the previous year no later than two weeks after receipt of conclusions provided by the Accounting Chamber regarding income and utilization of funds of the State Budget in the previous year.

2. During consideration of the annual report on implementation of the State Budget of Ukraine for the previous year, the Verkhovna Rada shall hear a presentation of the Cabinet of Ministers, presentations by representative of the accounting Chamber and budgetary committee. The Verkhovna Rada shall conduct a full discussion and adopt a resolution on approval of a report on implementation of the State Budget of Ukraine for the previous year.

³⁴ Law 2600-VI

³⁵ Law 2600-VI

Chapter 28

PROCEDURE OF THE CEREMONIAL MEETING OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE FOR INAUGURATION OF THE NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

Article 163. Legal Basis for Inauguration of the Newly Elected President of Ukraine

1. A person who has been elected the President of Ukraine pursuant to the procedure established in the Constitution of Ukraine and the Law “On Elections of the President of Ukraine” shall pledge allegiance to the Ukrainian nation.

2. Pledging allegiance to the people of Ukraine is a necessary requirement for the elected President to assume office as provided for in Article 104 of the Constitution of Ukraine.

Article 164. Location for Inauguration of the Newly Elected President of Ukraine

1. A ceremonial meeting of the Verkhovna Rada for inauguration of the newly elected President of Ukraine shall take place in the session hall of parliament, provided the Verkhovna Rada passes no decision otherwise on the basis of the presidential election results announced by the Central Election Commission.

Article 165. Date and Time of Ceremonial Meeting of the Verkhovna Rada

1. The Verkhovna Rada shall hold the ceremonial meeting of the Verkhovna Rada for the newly elected President to take an oath no later than thirty days after official pronouncement of a regular presidential election result and no later than five days after official pronouncement of the result of an extraordinary presidential election.

2. The Verkhovna Rada shall designate a date and time of a ceremonial meeting for inauguration of the newly elected President of Ukraine by a decision coordinated with the President elect. If the Verkhovna Rada fails to adopt the aforementioned resolution, the date and time of such ceremonial meeting shall be designated by the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada.

Article 166. Procedure for Swearing-in of Newly Elected President of Ukraine

1. A ceremonial meeting of the Verkhovna Rada for swearing in of the newly elected President of Ukraine shall be opened by the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada and in his absence – by the First Deputy Speaker or a Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

2. The Chair of the Central Election Commission, Head of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine and other persons agreed upon by the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada in consultation with the newly elected President and the Head of the Constitutional Court shall be invited to a ceremonial meeting for swearing in the newly elected President of Ukraine.

3. The presiding officer shall give floor to the Chair or a Deputy Chair of the Central Election Commission to announce the results of the presidential election.

4. An officer presiding over a ceremonial meeting of the Verkhovna Rada for inauguration of the newly elected President of Ukraine shall invite the Head of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine and give the floor in order to swear in the newly elected President of Ukraine.

5. The Head of the Constitutional Court shall announce compliance on the part of the President elect with all constitutional requirements concerning incompatibility with the position of the President of Ukraine and absence of other obstacles for swearing him in after which he shall invite the newly elected President of Ukraine to the rostrum and provide the President the text of the oath provided for in the Constitution of Ukraine.

6. The newly elected President of Ukraine shall read out the oath, sign the text and hand it over to the Head of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine.

7. After the newly elected President is officially sworn in, the Head of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine shall announce that the President elect pledged allegiance to the Ukrainian nation in accordance with Article 104 of the Constitution of Ukraine and thereby assumed office of the President of Ukraine. The Head of the Constitutional Court provide the presiding officer the text of the oath signed by the newly elected President.

8. The Chair of the Central Election Commission shall present an ID of the President of Ukraine to the President elect and the Head of the Constitutional Court – official symbols of power of the President of Ukraine.

9. The President shall address the people of Ukraine (deliver the inaugural speech) from the parliamentary rostrum.

10. On the day of a ceremonial meeting, the Verkhovna Rada shall not consider any other motions.

11. The opening and closing of a ceremonial meeting of parliament for swearing in the newly elected President of Ukraine shall be preceded by the National Anthem.

Chapter 29

HEARING THE ANNUAL AND SPECIAL ADDRESSES OF THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE IN THE VERKHOVNA RADA

Article 167. Date and Time for Hearing of Presidential Addresses

1. Pursuant to sub-paragraph 8 of paragraph 1 of Article 85 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada shall hold the annual and special presidential addresses on domestic and foreign policy.

The Verkhovna Rada Secretariat shall inform the national deputies of the date and time of the President's delivery of an address to the Verkhovna Rada no later than five days before the hearing of an address.

2. A regular annual presidential address to the Verkhovna Rada on domestic and foreign policy shall be delivered prior to March 31 of a current year.

Article 168. Invitees to the Verkhovna Rada to Hear Annual Special Presidential Address

The Verkhovna Rada invites the following persons to its meeting to hear the annual or special presidential address: the Prime Minister of Ukraine, members of the Cabinet of Ministers, head of other central executive bodies, the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights, Head of the Accounting Chamber, Chair of the Central Election Commission, Head of the High Council of Justice, Chairman of the Supreme Council and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Autonomous Republic of Crimea, heads of oblast councils, Kyiv and Sevastopol city councils, heads of oblast, Kyiv and Sevastopol local state administrations, Head and judges of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, Head of the Supreme Court of Ukraine, Head of the Security Service of Ukraine, Prosecutor General of Ukraine, in addition to heads of diplomatic missions of foreign states and other officials.

Article 169. Procedure for Hearing Presidential Addresses

1. After opening of a plenary session, the presiding officer shall invite the President to deliver his address.
2. After the end of President's speech there shall be no questions; a presiding officer shall close the plenary meeting or announce a break.

Chapter 30

PROCEDURE FOR EARLY RESIGNATION of the President of Ukraine Owing to Health Concerns Causing Inability to Perform AND IMPEACHMENT

Article 170. Procedure for Early Resignation of Authorities Due to His Inability to Perform His Duties for Health Reasons

1. In the event that the Verkhovna Rada discovers facts concerning the President's inability to perform his duties for health reasons, the Verkhovna Rada Chairman or a minimum of 45 national deputies shall introduce a resolution to establish a temporary investigative commission to inquire into the said facts.
2. A temporary investigation commission shall be created at a closed meeting of the Verkhovna Rada following the procedure established by the Law "On Temporary Investigative Commissions, Special Temporary Investigative Commission and Temporary Special Commission of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine" and these Rules.
3. The Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall immediately notify the President of Ukraine of formation of a temporary investigative commission.
4. On the basis of conclusions provided by the temporary investigative commission prepared with due regard to medical certificate concerning the president's state of health, The Verkhovna Rada may adopt a resolution requesting the Supreme Court of Ukraine to submit a written motion to terminate the authorities of the President of Ukraine for health reasons based on a recommendation from the temporary investigative commission made after consideration of a medical certificate concerning the President's state of health.

5. The Verkhovna Rada shall verify the President's inability to perform his duties for health reasons at its closed meeting on the basis of a written motion of the Supreme Court of Ukraine and a medical certificate which shall be supported by a resolution adopted by a majority vote of national deputies representing the elected parliamentary assembly.

6. The Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada ~~who shall assume and perform the responsibilities of the President pursuant to Article 112 of the Constitution of Ukraine,~~³⁶ shall immediately notify the President, the Prime Minister, the Head of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine and the Head of the Supreme Court of Ukraine in writing on the adopted resolution and publish the Verkhovna Rada resolution in the mass media.

Article 171. Legal Basis for Impeachment of the President of Ukraine

1. The Verkhovna Rada may impeach the President of Ukraine only in cases of treason or other criminal acts.

2. A resolution to impeach the President by the Verkhovna Rada shall comply with the provisions of Articles 85 and 111 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the laws "On Temporary Investigative Commissions, Special Temporary Investigative Commission and Temporary Special Commission of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine" and these Rules.

3. The basis for initiation of the motion to impeach the President and establish a special investigative commission shall be set forth in a written submission signed by the majority of the national deputies representing the elected parliament assembly. Any signatures made thereto may not be retracted.

Article 172. Initiation of a Motion to Impeach the President of Ukraine

1. Submission of a motion to impeach the President of Ukraine for consideration of the Verkhovna Rada shall be founded on a legal basis which requires creation of special investigative commission. The motion may also contain documents and materials related to the issue in question or certified copies of such documents and materials.

2. A written submission in accordance with in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be discussed in accordance with the procedure for a full discussion (Article 30 of the Rules) without a vote to include it in the parliamentary session agenda at the next meeting following the day when the motion was voted on at a plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada.

3. The Verkhovna Rada shall adopt a resolution by a majority of the national deputies representing the elected parliamentary assembly to initiate a motion to impeach the President of Ukraine and urgently include this motion in the agendas of the parliamentary session. The Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall immediately notify the President of Ukraine upon adoption of such resolution.

³⁶ Law 2600-VI

Article 173. Procedure for Establishing Special Investigative Commission, Election of Special Prosecutor and Special Investigators

1. If the motion to impeach the President of Ukraine is included into the parliamentary session agenda, the Verkhovna Rada shall create a special investigative commission pursuant to Article 111 of the Constitution of Ukraine and the provisions of the laws “On Temporary Investigative Commissions, Special Temporary Investigative Commission and Temporary Special Commission of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine” and these Rules, which purpose shall be to investigate the circumstances of the President’s act of treason or other criminal offense.

2. Members of a temporary investigative commission shall be national deputies elected in an amount which is representatively proportionate to the parliamentary factions, a special prosecutor and three special investigators. A national deputy elected to be a special prosecutor or a special investigator, shall be counted in the proportionate representation of a parliamentary faction in a special temporary investigative commission.

3. The position of special prosecutor or special investigator may be taken only by such individual who meets the following requirements:

- 1) is a citizen of Ukraine who has resided domestically for a minimum ten years;
- 2) has good command of the state language;
- 3) has a higher legal education;
- 4) has a minimum of ten years of experience working as an accredited prosecutor or investigator in law-enforcement bodies of Ukraine;
- 5) has no criminal record.

4. A candidate for special prosecutor shall submit to the Verkhovna Rada a personal record, declaration of income, financial liabilities and property status of himself and members of his family in the form established for public servants who assume offices within the first and second categories for public servants.

5. Candidates for special prosecutor and special investigators shall undergo a preliminary interview at a meeting of the committee responsible for respective issues and which shall submit recommendations on each candidate to the Verkhovna Rada.

6. A national deputy may be elected as a special prosecutor or special investigator where he/she meets the requirements set forth in paragraph 4 of this Article.

7. A person who is not a national deputy and is elected as a special prosecutor or a special investigator shall be placed for a detached service at the Verkhovna Rada for the period in which he/she shall perform his duties on the special temporary investigative commission. Such person shall perform all duties in accordance with the tasks he/she is charged and which are legally within the authorities of the special temporary investigation commission.

8. The materials and conclusions of a respective committee charged with consideration of candidates for special prosecutor and special investigators shall be handed out to national deputies no later than three days before consideration of formation of the special investigative commission.

9. A candidate for special prosecutor or special investigator may withdraw his/her candidacy at any time before the start of the vote thereto.

10. The Verkhovna Rada shall adopt a resolution to form a special temporary investigative commission by a majority vote of the national deputies representing the then elected parliamentary assembly

Article 174. Activities and Authorities of Special temporary Investigative Commission

1. A special temporary investigative commission shall perform its tasks in accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine, the Law “On Temporary Investigative Commissions, Special Temporary Investigative Commission and Temporary Special Commission of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine” and these Rules.

2. A special temporary investigative commission shall:

1) inquire into the availability, completeness and relevance of evidence concerning the President’s act of treason or other criminal offense;

2) perform an investigation in the event that, during the period of its activity, the commission ascertains facts of the President’s acts of treason or other criminal offense without a special resolution adopted by the Verkhovna Rada. Where substantiating facts are ascertained, the commission shall prepare a respective proposal for a draft resolution of the Verkhovna Rada which shall charge the President of Ukraine;

3. To ensure a comprehensive, complete and objective investigation a special temporary investigation commission shall have the right to:

1) hear the President of Ukraine and his advocate(s);

2) require necessary documents, materials and other information related to the investigation from state authorities, local self-government bodies, legal entities and individuals;

3) if necessary, initiate an expert assessment and involve specialists to examine and evaluate evidence, appoint two or more representatives of the special temporary investigation commission and authorize them to attend the aforementioned expert assessments and examinations as well as during formation of their results;

4) follow the procedure established by law, invite and hear reports of any citizen of Ukraine (except for judges of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine and judges of general jurisdiction courts) who has information about the circumstances which form a basis for initiation of the motion to impeach the President of Ukraine.

4. Officers (except for the President and his advocate(s)), executives, experts and other persons invited by a special temporary investigative commission shall receive written notice on liability provided for in the Criminal Code of Ukraine for refusal to provide evidence or explanations or for refusal of an expert or interpreter to fulfill its duties without a valid reason during investigation carried out by a special temporary investigative commission as well as for willful provision of false evidence or explanations, expert's provision of a knowingly false testimony or for an interpreter's willful misinterpretation.

5. In the event that officers (except for the President and his advocate(s)), executives, experts and other persons invited by a special temporary investigative commission commit actions provided for in paragraph 4 of this Article, a special temporary investigative commission shall forward the respective materials to the state prosecutor for initiation of criminal proceedings.

Article 175. Participation of Observers from the Constitutional Court of Ukraine in Activities of Special Temporary Investigative Commission

1. In order to provide conditions for adoption of a resolution for the Constitutional Court of Ukraine as provided for in paragraph 2 of Article 151 of the Constitution of Ukraine, a special temporary investigative commission shall invite judges of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine to act as observers (not more than three) at its meetings related to investigation.

2. Upon their request, observers from the Constitutional Court of Ukraine shall take the floor at a meeting of the special temporary investigative commission to express their comments concerning any violation of the constitutional investigative procedure.

Article 176. Recommendations and Proposals of the Special Temporary Investigative Commission

1. A special temporary investigative commission shall prepare recommendations and proposals on the basis of the examined facts of the President's act of treason or other criminal offense and discuss them at a meeting to adopt a decision thereto.

2. Any and all recommendations and proposals must contain:

- 1) facts and circumstances which form the basis for initiation of the investigation;
- 2) information and facts established by the special temporary investigative commission and evidence of proof thereto;
- 3) information and circumstances which are unsubstantiated;
- 4) facts and circumstances that were not investigated and reasons therefore;
- 5) facts and circumstances that prove or disprove the authenticity of elements of treason or other criminal offense of the President.

3. If necessary grounds are identified, a special temporary investigative commission shall prepare a recommendation which shall charge the President of Ukraine and set forth the requirements for a charge provided for in the Code of Criminal Court Procedures of Ukraine.

Such recommendation shall be signed by a special prosecutor, special investigators, chair and secretary of the special temporary investigation commission.

4. The members of the special temporary investigative commission – national deputies – shall introduce the draft resolution accompanied by any related recommendations and proposals to the Verkhovna Rada.(Article 111 of the Constitution of Ukraine).

Article 177. Distribution of Recommendations and Proposals of the Special Temporary Investigative Commission

1. Recommendations and proposals of the special temporary investigative commission shall be submitted to the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada (in the event of his absence – to the First Deputy or Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada), who shall take into account proposals of the special temporary investigative commission with respect to confidentiality of information and make a decision to establish a special regime for access to documents submitted and information contained therein to national deputies in accordance with the rules set for security of documents that contain official state secret or other information protected by law.

2. A motion to consider any recommendations and proposals of the special temporary investigative commission shall be included in the parliamentary session agenda without a vote and considered immediately upon delivery to the President of Ukraine and distribution to national deputies.

3. Any recommendations or proposals accompanied by any related materials shall, not later than three days before commencement of parliamentary consideration, be delivered to the President of Ukraine or his counsel (advocates⁹). The aforementioned package shall also contain an invitation to the respective plenary session. The documents shall also be distributed to national deputies within the established timelines.

Article 178. Preparation and Initial Consideration of Recommendations and Proposals of the Special Temporary Investigative Commission in the Verkhovna Rada

1. The plenary meeting at which any recommendations and proposals of the special temporary investigative commission shall be considered open.

2. A closed plenary meeting may be held in the event that the recommendations and proposals of the special temporary investigative commission or documents and materials attached thereto contain information that is deemed official state secret or protected by law.

3. The Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall invite the President of Ukraine, justices of the Constitutional Court, the Head of the Supreme Court of Ukraine and any justices designated by the Supreme Court Head, the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights and the Prosecutor General of Ukraine to the parliamentary plenary meeting.

4. A plenary meeting shall commence with a presentation by the presiding officer, who shall state the contents of the recommendations and proposals concerning the charges brought against the President.

5. In the event that the national deputies – members of the special temporary investigation commission have submitted a draft resolution to charge the President of Ukraine, the presiding officer shall ask the President whether he admits the charges contained in the draft resolution.

6. If the President of Ukraine admits all charges brought against him, and the national deputies who initiated the impeachment proceedings have no objections to the aforementioned charges and no additions to them, there shall be no discussion and the presiding officer shall call a secret ballot on the charges (Article 180 of the Rules) and proceed with the following procedures.

7. An admission by the President of only certain charges or a denial of all the charges contained in the draft resolution introduced by the national deputies – members of the special temporary investigation commission shall be proceeded by a discussion of the charges denied by the President and charges not included in the draft resolution.

8. If the President of Ukraine fails to attend the plenary meeting or refuses to provide personal explanations or respond to any questioning, the Verkhovna Rada shall consider recommendations and proposals of the special temporary investigative commission without participation of the President of Ukraine following the procedure set forth in paragraphs 4, 6 and 7 of this Article.

Article 179. Discussion of Recommendations and Proposals of the Special Temporary Investigative Commission

1. Before commencement of the debate on the recommendations and proposals of the Special Temporary Commission, the presiding officer shall determine the time required by the presenters mentioned in paragraph 2 of this Article for their presentation. The Verkhovna Rada shall adopt a respective procedural resolution thereto.

The time allocated for the presentations mentioned in sub-paragraphs 2 and 3 of paragraph 2 of this Article shall be equal for all and may not be less than 90 minutes.

2. Such discussion shall include:

1) a report of the chair of the special temporary investigative commission or another presenter – commission member appointed by a decision of the special temporary investigative commission – on the investigation and its results; the presenter's responses to the responses of the persons who initiated the impeachment proceedings; presenter's responses to questions from the President of Ukraine and his advocate (s); and the presenter's responses to questions of national deputies;

2) explanations provided by the national deputies who have initiated the impeachment proceedings against the President of Ukraine on their objections (if any) to the recommendations of the special temporary investigative commission or provisions of the draft resolution to charge the President of Ukraine; their comments concerning the validity, comprehensiveness and impartiality of the commission's inquiry into certain circumstances; their motions to hear evidence, experts or to carry out additional investigation of certain facts by the special temporary investigation commission; their responses to questions of the

President of Ukraine and his advocate(s), presenter appointed by the special temporary investigation commission and special investigators as well as national deputies;

3) explanations provided by the President of Ukraine or his admission of the charges brought against him; comments of the President or his advocate(s) concerning the validity, comprehensiveness and impartiality of the of the commission's inquiry into certain circumstances; motions of the President of Ukraine or his advocate(s) to hear evidence, experts or to carry out additional investigation of certain facts by the special temporary investigation commission; responses of the President of Ukraine to questions of his advocate(s); national deputies who initiated the impeachment proceedings; and responses to questions of the presenter appointed by the special temporary investigation commission, special prosecutor and special investigators from the commission, and national deputies;

4) any clarifications to motions of the presenters referred to in sub-paragraphs 2, 3 and 1 of paragraph 2 of this Article, retaining the appropriate order of any applications on provision of specified materials, carrying out expert examinations, hearing evidence or experts. Such motions should expressly identify any facts requiring additional investigation or substantiation on the basis of such evidence or information; motions to undertake additional investigation by the special temporary investigative commission which shall indicate the subject of such investigation.

3. In case of any complaints or applications concerning unlawful actions of the special temporary investigative commission, appeals against its decision shall be adopted after consideration of any complaints or applications, which the presenters mentioned in sub-paragraphs 2 and 3 of paragraph 2 of this Article shall inform the Verkhovna Rada about and initiate respective motions to eliminate violations caused by the illegal actions and decision of the special temporary investigative commission.

4. The Verkhovna Rada may adopt a procedural decision to hear a report of a special prosecutor, special investigator and other individuals, announcements of information and documents.

Article 180. Decisions Adopted After Discussion of Recommendations and Proposals of the Special Temporary Investigative Commission

1. After a discussion of recommendations and proposals of the special temporary investigative commission, the Verkhovna Rada may pass one of the following decisions:

1) to hear witnesses and experts suggested by the presenters and responses to their questions;

2) to discontinue any discussion of the recommendations and consider the draft resolutions to charge the President of Ukraine.

2. In the event that the Verkhovna Rada adopts a resolution mentioned in sub-paragraph 1 of paragraph 1 of this Article, the Verkhovna Rada shall hear any witnesses and experts as motioned by the presenters and responses to their questions.

Article 181. Procedure for Witness and Expert Testimony

1. Witnesses and experts invited to the meeting as requested by the presenters of the motion mentioned in sub-paragraphs 2, 3, and 1 of paragraph 2 of Article 179 of these Rules shall be granted the floor in an established order in cases where the facts to be provided are not present in the investigative materials and recommendations of the special temporary investigative commission or where the available facts are incomplete or contradictory.

The time allocated for witness and expert testimony shall be equal and may not be less than 30 minutes.

2. Witnesses and experts shall in the established order answer the following questions:

1) from the persons who initiated a respective motion; the President of Ukraine and his advocate(s); a presenter from the special temporary investigative commission; the special prosecutor, special investigator; national deputies – to witnesses and experts invited as requested by the presenters mentioned in sub-paragraph 2 of paragraph 2 of Article 174 of these Rules;

2) from the President of Ukraine and his advocate(s); presenters mentioned in sub-paragraphs 2 and 1 of paragraph 2 of Article 174; the special prosecutor and special investigators – to witnesses and experts invited as requested by the President of Ukraine and his defender(s);

3) from the presenter appointed by the special temporary investigative commission; presenters mentioned in sub-paragraphs 2 and 1 of paragraph 2 of Article 174; the special prosecutor and special investigators – to witnesses and experts invited as requested by the presenter from the special temporary investigative commission.

3. Questions and responses thereto shall be brief and precise. The presiding officer shall have a right to withdraw a question, which is patently irrelevant or asked in an insulting manner; and if there are any objections to questions, the Verkhovna Rada may adopt a procedural decision to hear answers to such question. In order to clarify a response, the person asking the question shall have a right to ask one clarifying question.

4. Witnesses shall be questioned separately from witnesses who have not yet answered the questions. Measures shall be taken to ensure that witnesses who have yet to be questioned are not privy to what is going on at the meeting and have not had opportunity to talk to each other.

5. Before hearing a witness or an expert, the presiding officer shall warn each of them about administrative and criminal liability prescribed by law for a refusal to testify or provide explanations as well as for providing knowingly false expert testimony.

6. The Verkhovna Rada may adopt a procedural decision to hear other individuals or read additional documents.

Article 182. Concluding Remarks

1. The Verkhovna Rada shall, after a discussion of the recommendations of the special temporary investigation commission, hear any concluding remarks from the following:

- 1) a representative of national deputies who initiated the impeachment proceedings;
- 2) the presenter from the special temporary investigative commission;
- 3) the President of Ukraine and his advocate(s).

2. The time allocated for concluding remarks of each presenter shall not be less than 10 minutes.

Article 183. Consideration of Draft Resolutions to Charge the President of Ukraine

1. The Verkhovna Rada shall, after a discussion of any recommendations of the special temporary investigative commission, consider a draft resolution introduced by the national deputies – members of the special temporary election commission – to charge the President of Ukraine or a draft resolution to impeach the President of Ukraine.

2. The National deputies, the President of Ukraine and his advocate(s), the special prosecutor and special investigators – members of the special temporary investigative commission – may be present at a closed plenary meeting. Any persons mentioned in paragraph 3 of Article 178 of these Rules may also be in attendance.

3. Consideration of draft resolutions shall follow the procedure for a full discussion (Article 30 of these Rules). A presenter or a co-presenter shall be a representative of the special temporary investigative commission and sponsors of the motion (if any) to amend the draft resolution to charge the President of Ukraine. Only national deputies may take part in the discussion. Other persons mentioned in paragraph 2 of this Article may request the presiding officer to be granted the floor to present factual information or comments within the officer's competence. The floor shall be granted to the President of Ukraine and his advocate(s) to present any facts thereto.

4. If facts emerge that the President obstructed the activities of the special temporary investigative commission in the course of its inquiry into the circumstances of the President's act of treason or other criminal offense, or his failure to take necessary measures with regard to state authorities subordinate to him or officers responsible for such obstruction after having received information about such facts, at any stage of consideration of a draft resolution to charge the President of Ukraine, the national deputies who initiated the impeachment proceedings may introduce a substantiated motion to include a respective charge in the draft resolution.

5. After a discussion, the presiding officer shall call a vote on the text of the Verkhovna Rada resolution to charge the President of Ukraine for treason or such other criminal offense that will be included in the secret vote ballot.

Article 184. Requirements for a Draft Resolution to Charge the President of Ukraine

1. A draft resolution of the Verkhovna Rada introduced by the national deputies – members of the special temporary investigative commission which brings charges against the President of Ukraine shall be based only on any information contained in the recommendations and proposals of the special temporary investigative commission. Each charge against the President of Ukraine shall be stated in the draft resolution separately for each criminal offense following the procedure provided for in paragraph 1 of Article 62 of the Constitution of Ukraine.

2. The national deputies –members of the special temporary investigative commission shall have a right to introduce their own revised draft resolution which shall bring charges against the President of Ukraine, and which shall be based on the results of a discussion of the recommendations and proposals of the special temporary investigative commission, as well as any proposals of the national deputies who initiated the impeachment proceedings.

3. In the event that a draft resolution introduced by the national deputies – members of the special temporary investigative commission which brings charges the President of Ukraine contains proposals of the national deputies who initiated the impeachment proceedings, the Verkhovna Rada shall vote separately on each proposals included into the draft resolution.

A proposal to bring charges against the President of Ukraine shall be considered included into the revised draft resolution if approved by a majority of national deputies representing the elected parliamentary assembly.

4. In the event that the proposal included into the draft resolution fails to obtain the necessary number of votes, the text of the draft resolution which bring charges against the President of Ukraine shall remain unchanged and be included into the secret vote ballot.

Article 185. Procedure for Adoption of a Resolution to Charge the President of Ukraine

1. A resolution of the Verkhovna Rada to bring charges against the President of Ukraine shall be adopted by submission of secret vote ballots (Articles 37, 38 and 39 of these Rules) in accordance with the special procedures set forth in this Article. A secret ballot regarding a draft resolution to bring charges against the President of Ukraine shall include one of draft resolutions mentioned in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 184 of the Rules.

2. A secret vote on the draft resolution to bring charges against the President of Ukraine which is included in the secret vote ballot shall be held for each charge separately.

The Verkhovna Rada resolution to bring charges against the President of Ukraine shall be considered adopted as a whole for all charges if approved by no less than two thirds of the national deputies of the elected parliamentary assembly pursuant to paragraph 5 of Article 111 of the Constitution of Ukraine.

3. If a resolution to bring charges against the President of Ukraine for an act of treason or other criminal offense is adopted, the Verkhovna Rada shall pass a resolution by a majority vote which shall request:

1) the Constitutional Court of Ukraine to examine the case and issue an opinion concerning compliance with the constitutional procedure for investigation and consideration of impeachment of the President of Ukraine;

2) the Supreme Court of Ukraine to issue an opinion on characteristics of treason or other criminal offense for which the President of Ukraine is accused of.

4. In the event that the Verkhovna Rada fails to adopt a resolution bringing charges against the President of Ukraine, the presiding officer shall announce termination of the impeachment proceedings and take other steps provided for in Article 183 of these Rules.

Article 186. Consideration of Opinions of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

1. After the receipt of an opinion from the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court, the presiding officer shall immediately announce the said opinion at the next plenary meeting. Such opinion shall be distributed to national deputies.

2. Where the Supreme Court of Ukraine rules that the acts the President of Ukraine is accused of contain elements of treason or other criminal offenses, and the Constitutional Court of Ukraine affirms the constitutionality of the investigation and consideration of the impeachment motion, the national deputies – members of the special temporary investigative commission – shall urgently draft and introduce a resolution on impeachment of the President of Ukraine.

3. The draft resolution to impeach of the President of Ukraine shall indicate the paragraph numbers which contain the respective charges adopted in the resolution to charge the President of Ukraine.

4. The draft resolution to impeach the President of Ukraine shall be distributed to the national deputies and delivered to the President or his advocate(s). The resolution shall be considered at the plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada no later than two days after announcement of the judiciary opinions mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article.

5. If the Supreme Court rules that the acts the President of Ukraine is accused of do not constitute treason or another criminal offense, the Verkhovna Rada shall pass a resolution to terminate the impeachment proceedings.

6. In the event that the opinion of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine identifies violations of constitutional procedure during the investigation or in consideration of the impeachment motion, the Verkhovna Rada shall pass respective resolutions to eliminate the following violations:

1) non-inclusion of provisions or paragraphs numbers identifying the established violations of constitutional procedure in the draft resolution on impeachment of the President of Ukraine;

2) specific investigative steps or procedures taken by the special temporary investigative commission, including possible revision of a previously adopted decision;

3) a repeat or additional inquiry into facts or circumstances which resulted in any violations mentioned in the opinion of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine.

7. The Verkhovna Rada may change the membership of the special temporary investigative commission in order to perform a repeated or additional inquiry into the facts or circumstances described in the opinion of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine.

8. The Verkhovna Rada shall, after taking action to remedy any violations of constitutional procedure during the investigation and consideration of the impeachment motion, pass a resolution requesting the Constitutional Court of Ukraine for a new opinion.

9. The Verkhovna Rada may amend the resolution on impeachment of the President of Ukraine after conducting any repeat or additional investigation.

10. A resolution to amend the Verkhovna Rada resolution to charge the President of Ukraine shall be adopted by secret ballot by two thirds of the national deputies of the then elected parliamentary assembly.

11. In the event of an amendment to the Verkhovna Rada resolution to charge the President of Ukraine which changes to the paragraphs containing the charges against the President, the Verkhovna Rada shall adopt a resolution to request the Supreme Court of Ukraine for a new opinion.

Article 187. Adoption of a Resolution to Impeach the President of Ukraine

1. After the receipt of the judicial opinions from the Constitutional Court of Ukraine and the Supreme Court of Ukraine concerning compliance with the constitutional procedure for investigation, consideration of the motion to impeach and the validity of the elements of treason or other criminal offense, which the President of Ukraine is accused of, the Verkhovna Rada shall call a secret vote to adopt a resolution on impeachment of the President of Ukraine.

2. Consideration of the draft resolution to impeach the President of Ukraine shall follow the procedure for full discussion.

3. The text of a draft resolution to impeach the President of Ukraine shall be included in the secret vote ballot.

4. A secret vote to adopt a draft to impeach the President of Ukraine as a whole shall follow the procedure provided for in Articles 37, 38 and 41 of these Rules.

5. The Verkhovna Rada resolution to impeach the President of Ukraine shall be considered adopted if approved by no less than three quarters of national deputies representing the then elected parliamentary assembly of the Verkhovna Rada.

6. A report on the vote-counting commission shall be presented at an open plenary meeting and broadcast live on radio and TV.

7. The Verkhovna Rada resolution to impeach the President of Ukraine shall enter into force from the moment of announcement of its adoption at a plenary meeting.

8. The Prime Minister of Ukraine³⁷ shall be acting President of Ukraine as provided for in Article 112 of the Constitution of Ukraine from the moment the presiding officer announces the pre-term removal of the presidential authorities due to impeachment until a new president is elected and assumes office.

9. The Verkhovna Rada Chairman shall immediately notify the President of Ukraine on his/her impeachment, notify the Prime Minister of Ukraine, the Head of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine and the Head of the Supreme Court of Ukraine and publish the Verkhovna Rada act in the mass media without delay.

Article 188. Consequences of the Verkhovna Rada's Failure to Adopt a Resolution on Impeachment of the President of Ukraine

In the event that the Verkhovna Rada fails to adopt a resolution to impeach the President of Ukraine, the presiding officer shall:

- 1) announce termination of the impeachment proceedings and order this announcement be published in the *Holos Ukrainy* newspaper;
- 2) announce dissolution of the special temporary investigative commission;
- 3) on behalf of the Verkhovna Rada apologize to the President of Ukraine.

Chapter 31

CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO APPROVE PRESIDENTIAL DECREES ON INSTITUTING A STATE OF MARTIAL LAW IN UKRAINE OR CERTAIN AREAS THEREIN, ON GENERAL OR PARTIAL MOBILIZATION, STATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY IN DESIGNATED AREAS, DECLARATIONS OF WAR OR PEACE, APPROVAL OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE ON USE OF ARMED FORCES OF UKRAINE AND OTHER MILITARY BRANCHES IN EVENT OF ARMED AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

Article 189. Procedure for Approving Presidential Decrees

1. Pursuant to sub-paragraph 31 of paragraph 1 of Article 85 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada shall approve presidential decrees to institute a state of martial law or a state of emergency in Ukraine or certain regions therein, on general or partial mobilization, or on state of environmental emergency in designated areas within two days of receipt of the presidential decree thereto

2. After signing the respective decree to institute a state of martial law or a state of emergency in Ukraine or certain regions therein, general or partial mobilization, or a state of environmental emergency in designated areas, the President of Ukraine shall immediately request the Verkhovna Rada to approve it and introduce the necessary draft law.

3. The Verkhovna Rada shall consider a motion to approve the presidential decree to institute a state of martial law or a state of emergency in Ukraine or certain regions therein,

³⁷ Law 2600-VI

general or partial mobilization, or a state of environmental emergency in designated areas within two days of receipt of the respective request and a presidential decree that shall be distributed to the national deputies together with a respective draft law.

4. A motion to approve a presidential decree to institute a state of martial law or a state of emergency in Ukraine or certain regions therein, general or partial mobilization, or a state of environmental emergency in designated areas shall be considered by the Verkhovna Rada without a vote to include them in a parliamentary session agenda, schedule of the plenary meetings or weekly agenda of Verkhovna Rada plenary meetings. Such motion may be submitted for Verkhovna Rada consideration without preliminary preparation in the committees.

5. A draft law which shall approve a presidential decree to institute a state of martial law or a state of emergency in Ukraine or certain regions therein, general or partial mobilization, or a state of environmental emergency in designated areas shall be considered in accordance with the procedure established for the first reading and passage of a law in its final reading.

Article 190. Procedure for Approval / Rejection of Presidential Decrees

1. The Verkhovna Rada may adopt a draft law which shall approve a presidential decree instituting a state of martial law or a state of emergency in Ukraine or certain regions therein, general or partial mobilization, or a state of environmental emergency in designated areas in its final reading or in part with recommendations and/or comments or reject the aforementioned draft law.

2. If the Verkhovna Rada approves a presidential decree which institutes a state of martial law or a state of emergency in Ukraine or certain regions therein, general or partial mobilization, or a state of environmental emergency in designated areas in part with any recommendations and/or comments made thereto, the provisions of the respective decree approved by the Verkhovna Rada shall apply as law. The presidential decree shall enter into force after its approval by the Verkhovna Rada and be published in the mass media or by other means.

3. If the Verkhovna Rada rejects a draft law to approve a presidential decree which institutes a state of martial law or a state of emergency in Ukraine or certain regions therein, general or partial mobilization, or a state of environmental emergency in designated areas, such decree shall not enter into legal force.

4. The Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall immediately notify the President and announce in mass media the adoption of a resolution hereunder.

Article 191. Procedure for Declaring War and Peace, Approval of Presidential Decrees on Use Armed Forces of Ukraine upon Submission of the President of Ukraine

1. Pursuant to sub-paragraph 9 of paragraph 1 of Article 85 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada shall, upon submission by the President of Ukraine, declare war or peace, approve a presidential decree on use the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other military activities in the event of armed aggression against Ukraine.

2. The Verkhovna Rada shall consider a presidential submission to declare war or peace, a motion to approve a presidential decree to using the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other military activities in the event of armed aggression against Ukraine and adopt a decision thereto in accordance with the procedure provided for in Articles 184 and 185 of these Rules.

Chapter 32

VERKHOVNA RADA RATIFICATION OF AND WITHDRAWAL FROM INTERNATIONAL TREATIES OF UKRAINE; OFFICIAL DELEGATION OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE

Article 192. Legal Foundation for Ratification of and Withdrawal from International Treaties of Ukraine by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

1. The Verkhovna Rada shall ratify an international treaty of Ukraine through adoption of a law (on ratification, initiation or accession) or withdraw from an international treaty of Ukraine in accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine, the Law of Ukraine “On International treaties of Ukraine”, the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties as signed in 1969 and these Rules.

Article 193. Adoption of Decisions by the Verkhovna Rada

1. A draft law which ratifies an international treaty of Ukraine shall be introduced to the Verkhovna Rada by the President of Ukraine and the Cabinet of Ministers.

2. To ensure fulfillment of duties provided for in sub-paragraphs 5 and 32 of paragraph 1 of Article 85 and paragraph 1 of Article 9 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada may adopt a resolution on:

- 1) the necessity to initiate conclusion or enter into an international treaty on certain conditions and require submission of respective documents for consideration;
- 2) ratification of an international treaty of Ukraine;
- 3) withdrawal from an international treaty of Ukraine.

Article 194. List of Attachments to Draft Laws on Ratification of International Treaties of Ukraine

1. A draft law which ratifies an international treaty of Ukraine introduced at the Verkhovna Rada shall contain the following attachments:

- 1) a signed copy of the international treaty;
- 2) an explanatory note;
- 3) the text of comments to the treaty, if available;

4) the comments of the other signatory parties to this treaty, and any objections or agreement with these objections, if available;

5) the draft laws to amend the laws that will require amendment pursuant to the international treaty;

6) the opinion of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine on compliance of the international treaty with the Constitution of Ukraine, if available.

2. The draft laws shall also contain attachments with any financial and economic evaluations and forecasts concerning the possible implications of ratification of the treaty in question.

Article 195. Procedure for Submission of Proposals Concerning Implementation of International Treaties of Ukraine

1. A person with the right of legislative initiative shall submit proposals on an international treaty of Ukraine, any relevant draft laws or proposals on adoption or amendment of laws to ensure implementation of an international treaty of Ukraine pursuant to the general legislative procedures established by these Rules. The same procedure shall apply to discussion, adoption and enforcement.

Article 196. Recommendations Concerning Amendments to Laws to Ensure Implementation of International Treaties of Ukraine

1. Draft laws to amending laws, proposals to adopt new laws and other draft acts of the Verkhovna Rada concerning implementation of Ukraine's international treaties shall be introduced at the Verkhovna Rada together with any recommendations from the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

Article 197. Preliminary Consideration of a Draft Law on Ratification of an International Treaty of Ukraine

1. A draft law on ratification of an international treaty of Ukraine introduced at the Verkhovna Rada shall be subject to preliminary consideration by the committee responsible for the fundamental principles of Ukraine's foreign policy, and any respective committee(s) responsible for issues contained in the draft law.

2. The committees mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article may receive additional information about the draft law on ratification of an international treaty of Ukraine introduced at the Verkhovna Rada from the respective executive bodies.

3. The lead committee responsible for preparation of the draft law on ratification of an international treaty of Ukraine for consideration by the Verkhovna Rada may invite a representative of the President of Ukraine or the Cabinet of Ministers as well as representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other state authorities to present at a committee meeting.

Article 198. Requirements for Texts of International Treaties Submitted for Consideration of the Verkhovna Rada

1. Certified copies of official texts of bilateral international treaties of Ukraine shall be submitted for ratification by the Verkhovna Rada in the state language and in the language of the other signatory party. These texts must be original. Treaty texts in a third language shall prevail in the event of discrepancies between the first two texts, a certified copy of the third language text shall also be attached.

2. Certified copies of official texts of multilateral international treaties of Ukraine shall be submitted for ratification to the Verkhovna Rada in the original language and with an official translation in the state language. If available, comments or objections to comments of other signatory parties shall be submitted together with such copies.

3. The original texts of international treaties, comments or objections to comments of other signatory parties shall be forwarded to a committee responsible for the fundamental principles of foreign policy and the respective committee(s) responsible for matters contained in international treaties.

4. A draft law on ratification of an international treaty of Ukraine shall be ~~introduced at the Verkhovna Rada as urgent and~~³⁸ included into the parliamentary session agenda without voting.

Article 199. Consideration of Draft Laws on International Treaties by the Verkhovna Rada

1. The Verkhovna Rada shall consider concurrent with any conclusions of respective committees (if available) a draft law submitted by the President or the Cabinet of Ministers on ratification of an international treaty of Ukraine and any reservations made by Ukraine or other signatory parties, Ukraine's objections to such reservations or agreement thereto, and any draft laws on amendments to laws which are required by these international treaties and/or draft acts of the Verkhovna Rada. The Verkhovna Rada shall adopt a respective decision on each draft law considered.

2. The Verkhovna Rada shall adopt a resolution to postpone consideration on ratification of an international treaty of Ukraine until it receives an opinion from the Constitutional Court of Ukraine.

Article 200. Ratification of International Treaties of Ukraine by the Verkhovna Rada

1. A draft law on ratification of an international treaty of Ukraine shall be considered in accordance with the procedure for consideration of draft laws provided for in these Rules, and with the special specifics set forth in this Article.

2. The Verkhovna Rada, when ratifying an international treaty, shall formally confirm the reservations made by Ukraine at the moment of signing of the treaty, or withdraw its consent or object to any reservations made by other signatory parties. Parliament may also express its

³⁸ Law 2600-VI

own reservations in accordance with the provisions of 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

3. A draft law on ratification of an international treaty shall contain provisions on the procedure and conditions for implementation of a treaty in Ukraine pursuant to the provisions of this treaty and the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

4. On the basis of the law on ratification of an international treaty of Ukraine, the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall sign a ratification instrument that shall be counter-signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in cases where the treaty envisages exchange of such documents.

Article 201. Submission of Proposals on Reservations to International Treaties of Ukraine

1. Proposals on reservations to international treaties of Ukraine (except for bilateral treaties) shall be introduced by national deputies according to the procedure established for introduction of proposals to draft laws.

Article 202. Withdrawal from International Treaties of Ukraine

1. A draft law to withdraw from an international treaty of Ukraine shall be introduced to the Verkhovna Rada by the President of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers or national deputies.

2. The Verkhovna Rada shall adopt a resolution to withdraw from an international treaty ratified by the Verkhovna Rada to ensure fulfillment of its authorities provided for in paragraph 1 of Article 9, sub-paragraph 5 and 32 of paragraph 1 of article 85 of the Constitution of Ukraine.

3. A draft law to withdraw from an international treaty shall be submitted to the Verkhovna Rada together with any documents provided for in laws and these Rules and with any draft acts which shall be passed as a requirement to withdraw from an international treaty of Ukraine. These documents shall be considered in accordance with the procedure provided for in these Rules and in consideration of the specifics set forth in this Article.

Article 203. Publication of International Treaties of Ukraine

1. International treaties ratified by the Verkhovna Rada shall be published in Ukrainian in official printed media.

Article 204. Official Delegations of the Verkhovna Rada

1. The Verkhovna Rada shall annually approve a plan for cooperation with foreign parliaments. A draft plan shall be drawn up by the foreign policy committee taking into consideration proposals of the Verkhovna Rada Chairman, parliamentary committees and deputy factions.

2. The official parliamentary delegation of Ukraine shall submit to the Verkhovna Rada their reports within 15 days after the end of visit; and such reports shall be distributed to national deputies.

Chapter 33

APPOINTMENT OR ELECTION, DISMISSAL, GRANTING CONSENT TO APPOINTMENT OR DISMISSAL OF OFFICIALS, AND VOTING NO-CONFIDENCE IN THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL OF UKRAINE IN CASES ENVISAGED BY THE CONSTITUTION OF UKRAINE³⁹

Article 205. Granting Consent to Appointment of the Prime Minister of Ukraine by the President of Ukraine⁴⁰

1. A written submission of the President of Ukraine for granting consent by the Verkhovna Rada to appointment the Prime Minister of Ukraine by the President of Ukraine shall be considered by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in compliance with the Constitution of Ukraine, the law “On the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine” and these Rules.

2. A written submission for granting consent by the Verkhovna Rada to appointment the Prime Minister of Ukraine shall be accompanied with the following information: citizenship, education; employment record; autobiography; declaration of property status and income, financial obligations for the year preceding the year of submission; membership in a managing body or board of a for-profit enterprise or organization, and criminal record of a nominee. All data shall be executed in the official language and signed by a candidate for the Prime Minister of Ukraine. The Verkhovna Rada may require submission of additional documents.

3. The Verkhovna Rada shall consider submission of the President of Ukraine for granting consent to appointment the Prime Minister of Ukraine no later than five days after submission of a respective motion to the Verkhovna Rada. The candidate for the Prime Minister of Ukraine shall meet with parliamentary factions (parliamentary groups) and answer their questions upon proposal of the parliamentary factions (parliamentary groups) prior to consideration of the issue at a plenary session of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. The candidate for the Prime Minister of Ukraine shall be previously considered by the Committee responsible for the relevant issue, which Committee shall give its resolution to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine no later than in four days after making the appropriate submission by the President of Ukraine.

4. The President of Ukraine shall take part in the plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine during consideration of the issue of granting consent by the Verkhovna Rada to appointment the Prime Minister of Ukraine by the President of Ukraine.

5. A discussion of the candidacy for the Prime Minister in the Verkhovna Rada shall take an hour of the session time, including the time for a presentation by a candidate which may be up to 20 minutes.

6. The Verkhovna Rada may adopt a procedural decision to allocate more time for a consideration of a candidate for the Prime Minister.

³⁹ Law 2600-VI

⁴⁰ Law 2600-VI

7. After a presentation, a candidate for the Prime Minister shall deliver a speech describing the main platform for the future actions of the Cabinet of Ministers and respond to questions of national deputies.

8. Representatives of the parliamentary factions (parliamentary groups, parliamentary committees (if any) and national deputies shall conduct a discussion of the candidacies for the Prime Minister of Ukraine.

9. A candidate for the Prime Minister of Ukraine shall be appointed to office by an open roll-call vote in the Verkhovna Rada.

10. A candidate for the Prime Minister shall be considered appointed whereupon the candidate obtains votes from more than a half of national deputies representing the elected parliamentary assembly.

11. The results of voting on a candidate for the Prime Minister of Ukraine shall be presented in the form of a Verkhovna Rada's resolution.

Article 206. Procedure for Appointment of Members of the Cabinet of Ministers Nominated by the Prime Minister of Ukraine

~~—1. A motion to appoint the members of the Cabinet of Ministers nominated by the Prime Minister of Ukraine upon proposal of the coalition shall be considered by the Verkhovna Rada pursuant to paragraph 8 of Article 83; sub-paragraph 12 of paragraph 1 of Article 85; paragraph 3 of Article 114 of the Constitution of Ukraine.~~

~~—2. The Prime Minister shall submit, together with any cabinet of minister nominations to the Verkhovna Rada, official information about each candidate for office (paragraph 2 of Article 205 of the Rules).~~

~~—3. The Prime Minister shall present the proposed nominations for each member of the Cabinet of Ministers in the Verkhovna Rada. During the consideration of the motion, the candidates shall have an opportunity to respond to questions of representatives of parliamentary factions and individual deputies at the Verkhovna Rada plenary meeting.~~

~~—4. A roll-call vote on the membership of the Cabinet of Ministers shall be called on the list of proposed candidates if the Verkhovna Rada does not decide otherwise. The results of the adopted resolution shall be formalized in the form of the Verkhovna Rada resolution.⁴¹~~

Article 207. Procedure for Appointment to and Dismissal from Office of the Head of the National Bank of Ukraine Nominated by the President of Ukraine⁴²

1. The Verkhovna Rada shall consider appointment to and dismissal from office of the Head of the National Bank of Ukraine pursuant to the procedure set forth in sub-paragraphs 18 of paragraph 1 of Article 85 of the Constitution of Ukraine upon submission of the President of Ukraine announced by an authorized representative. Submission for the Head of the National

⁴¹ Law 2600-VI

⁴² Law 2600-VI

Bank of Ukraine shall be accompanied with data indicated in paragraph 2 of Article 205 of the present Rules.

2. The committees responsible for matters concerning the activities of the National Bank of Ukraine shall have a right to the floor in order for their representatives to present the results of consideration of the motion to appoint or dismiss a candidate for the Head of the National Bank of Ukraine nominated by the President.

3. The Verkhovna Rada shall adopt a resolution on appointment or dismissal of the Head of the National Bank of Ukraine by an open vote after a debate of the candidate (or results of his/her activities). Such decision shall be adopted in the form of a resolution of the Verkhovna Rada.

Article 208. Procedure for Appointment to and Dismissal from Office of the Head of the Accounting Chamber, the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights, Judges of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine and Members of the High Council of Justice

1. Pursuant to sub-paragraphs 16, 17 and 26 of paragraph 1 of Article 85 and paragraph 2 of Article 131 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada shall appoint to and dismiss from office the Head of the Accounting Chamber, the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights, judges of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine and appoint members of the High Council of Justice.

2. The candidates for positions mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article, shall be nominated by the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada in accordance with the provisions of laws “On Accounting Chamber”, “On Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights”, “On the Constitutional Court of Ukraine” and “On the High Council of Justice”.

3. Committees responsible for respective matters shall submit recommendations on candidates for the Head of the Accounting Chamber, the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights, judges of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine and appoint members of the High Council of Justice. Any recommendations of the committees and information on the candidates for Head of the Accounting Chamber, Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights, judges of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine and members of the High Council of Justice prepared in compliance with the requirements for information about a candidate (paragraph 2 of Article 200 of the Rules) shall be distributed to national deputies no later than in three days before consideration of the respective issue by the Verkhovna Rada.

4. Information about the suggested candidates for the office of the Verkhovna Rada Commission for Human Rights (paragraph 2 of Article 200 of the Rules) shall be published in the *Holos Ukrainy* newspaper no later than in ten days before consideration of the appointment.

5. Consideration of candidates for positions mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article shall follow the procedures provided for in paragraph 8 of Article 200 of these Rules.

6. Dismissal of any officers mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article from their offices (except for the judges of the Constitutional Court and members of the High Council of Justice) shall be done on the basis of a motion introduced by the Speaker of the Verkhovna

Rada and a recommendation provided by respective committees. The Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights may also be dismissed upon demand of no less than one fourth of the national deputies of the elected parliamentary assembly and confirmed by the signatures of these national deputies (such signatures shall be put on the party signature lists submitted in the original form; a signature may not be retracted).

7. Candidates mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be appointed to offices by secret ballot and shall be dismissed by open ballot, except for the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights, who shall be dismissed by a secret vote by submitting ballots in accordance with the Law of Ukraine “On Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights” (776/97-VR). The results of voting shall be published in the Verkhovna Rada resolution.

Article 209. The Procedure for Appointment to and Dismissal from office of members of the Central Election Commission Nominated by the President of Ukraine

1. Pursuant to sub-paragraph 21 of paragraph 1 of Article 85 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the appointment to and dismissal of members of the Central Election Commission from their offices shall be conducted after a submission by the President of Ukraine with due regard to the requirements for information about the candidates (paragraph 2 of Article 205 of the Rules), which shall be presented at a plenary meeting by an authorized representative of the President.

2. Candidates for members of the Central Election Commission shall answer questions from the representatives of the parliamentary factions and individual national deputies.

3. Candidates for members of the Central Election Commission shall be appointed by an open vote for each individual candidate. A candidate shall be considered appointed to office if he/she receives a majority of the votes of the national deputies representing the elected parliamentary assembly for the position.

4. If a candidate for a position on the Central Election Commission fails to receive the required number of votes from the national deputies, the Verkhovna Rada shall offer the President to nominate new candidates for these positions.

5. The Verkhovna Rada shall consider dismissal of members of the Central Election Commission on the basis of a submission by President of Ukraine announced at a plenary meeting by an authorized representative of the President. The respective members of the Central Election Commission shall be granted the floor for a presentation and answers to questions of representatives of deputy factions and individual national deputies.

6. The committee responsible for preparation of recommendations concerning candidates nominated by the President shall be granted the floor for its representative during consideration of appointment or dismissal of members of the Central Election Commission.

7. A member of the Central Election Commission shall be considered dismissed whereas more than a half of national deputies of the elected parliamentary assembly adopt a motion by open roll-call vote.

8. A decision to appoint to or dismiss members of the Central Election Commission from their offices shall be adopted in the form a resolution of the Verkhovna Rada.

Article 210. The Procedure for Appointment to and Dismissal from Office of Members of the Accounting Chamber, Members of the National Bank Board and Members of the National Council of Ukraine on TV and Radio Broadcasting

1. Pursuant to sub-paragraphs 16, 19 and 20 of paragraph 1 of Article 85 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada shall appoint to and dismiss from offices members of the Accounting Chamber, half of the members of the National Bank Board, half of the members of the National Council of Ukraine on TV and Radio Broadcasting in accordance with the procedures provided for in Article 208 of the Rules and the requirements set forth in the laws “On the Accounting Chamber”, “On the National Bank of Ukraine” and “On the National Council on TV and Radio Broadcasting”.

2. The Verkhovna Rada shall adopt a resolution on appointment and dismissal of the officers mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article (except for members of the Accounting Chamber) by an open vote by a majority of the national deputies of the elected parliamentary assembly in the form of a respective resolution of the Verkhovna Rada.

Article 211. Granting Consent to Appointment to and Dismissal from Office of the Head of the Antimonopoly Committee of Ukraine, Head of the State Property Fund of Ukraine and Head of the State Committee on TV and Radio Broadcasting by the President of Ukraine

1. Pursuant to sub-paragraph 24 of paragraph 1 of Article 85 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada shall grant a consent to appointment to and dismissal from office of the Head of the Antimonopoly Committee of Ukraine, the Head of the State Property Fund of Ukraine and the Head of the State Committee on TV and Radio Broadcasting by the President of Ukraine.

2. A written submission for granting consent for appointment to offices of the Head of the Antimonopoly Committee of Ukraine, the Head of the State Property Fund of Ukraine and the Head of the State Committee on TV and Radio Broadcasting shall be accompanied with official information about candidates for offices (paragraph 2 of Article 205 of the Rules).

3. Committees responsible for relevant issues shall prepare and submit their resolutions on suggested candidates for the Head of the Antimonopoly Committee of Ukraine, the Head of the State Property Fund of Ukraine and the Head of the State Committee on TV and Radio Broadcasting.

4. A submission of the President of Ukraine concerning grating consent to appointment of the nominated candidates to office and dismissal from the office shall be presented in the Verkhovna Rada by the authorized representative. During consideration of the motion of appointment to office, the candidates shall have an opportunity to answer questions of the parliamentary factions and individual national deputies.

5. A committees which has previously considered a candidate for the Head of the State Antimonopoly Committee of Ukraine, the Head of the State Property Fund or the Head of the State Committee on TV and Radio Broadcasting in accordance with their respective

competencies shall be granted the floor for their representatives during consideration of the motion on appointment or dismissal of the aforementioned officers.

6. In the event of a dismissal, the officer who is subject to dismissal shall be granted the floor to make a presentation and answer questions from the parliamentary factions and individual national deputies.

7. A decision to appoint or dismiss the Head of the Antimonopoly Committee of Ukraine, Head of the State Property Fund of Ukraine or the Head of the State Committee on TV and Radio Broadcasting shall be considered adopted if approved by more than a half of national deputies of the elected parliamentary assembly. Such decision shall be adopted in the form of a respective resolution of the Verkhovna Rada.

Article 212. Procedure for Approving Appointment to or Dismissal from Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine by the President of Ukraine

1. Pursuant to sub-paragraph 25 of paragraph 1 of Article 85 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada shall approve the appointment or dismissal of the Prosecutor General by the President of Ukraine.

2. The President shall introduce a written request which seeks approval for appointment or dismissal of the Prosecutor General with information on the candidate (paragraph 2 of Article 205 of the Rules).

3. The Verkhovna Rada shall consider a Presidential submission no later than within ten days of the receipt of such submission.

4. The President of Ukraine shall attend a plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada during consideration of a candidate for the Prosecutor General or a resolution on his/her dismissal.

5. A candidate for the Prosecutor General shall be granted the floor to answer questions from representatives of the parliamentary factions and individual national deputies. Time allocated for discussion of the candidate and any answers to questions shall be determined by the Verkhovna Rada, but may be no less than one hour.

6. A committee responsible for preliminary consideration of candidates for the Prosecutor General shall be granted the floor for a presentation by its representative during consideration of the motion which approves appointment of the Prosecutor General.

8. A resolution to appoint the Prosecutor General by the President of Ukraine shall be adopted by an open roll-call vote by a majority of national deputies of the elected parliamentary assembly.

9. Consent to appointment of the Prosecutor General by the President of Ukraine shall be adopted in the form of a Verkhovna Rada resolution.

Article 213. A Vote of No-Confidence in the Prosecutor General of Ukraine

1. Pursuant to sub-paragraph 25 of paragraph 1 of Article 85 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada may adopt a vote of no-confidence in the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, which shall result in his dismissal from office.

2. A vote of no-confidence in the Prosecutor General shall be included in the parliamentary session agenda upon proposal by at least one third of the national deputies of the elected parliamentary assembly supported by more than a half of national deputies of Ukraine from the elected parliamentary assembly. Signatures of the national deputies who introduced the vote of no-confidence in the Prosecutor General may not be retracted.

3. Consideration of a vote of no-confidence in the Prosecutor General shall include:

1) a presentation by the sponsors of the motion and responses by the presenter to questions from representatives of parliamentary factions and individual national deputies – up to 30 minutes;

2) a co-presentation of the lead individual responsible for preparation of the issue for consideration and answers of the co-presenter – up to 20 minutes;

3) a presentation of the Prosecutor General and answers to questions from representatives of parliamentary factions and individual national deputies – up to 30 minutes;

4) a debate on the vote of express no-confidence in the Prosecutor General shall take time allocated for it by the Verkhovna Rada.

4. The Verkhovna Rada shall adopt a resolution on no-confidence in the Prosecutor General by an open roll-call vote adopted by a majority of the national deputies of the elected parliamentary assembly, which shall result in the dismissal of the Prosecutor General from office.

Article 214. Procedure for Election of Judges for an Indefinite Term by the Verkhovna Rada

1. Pursuant to sub-paragraph 27 of paragraph 1 of Article 85 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Law of Ukraine “On Procedure for Election and Dismissal of Professional Judges by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine”, the Verkhovna Rada shall elect judges for indefinite tenure.

2. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 88 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada shall prepare issues of election of judges by the Verkhovna Rada for indefinite tenure for consideration; in case of his/her absence, an issue shall be prepared by the First Deputy Chairman or the Deputy Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada.

Article 215. Procedure for consideration of transfer of judges, elected indefinitely to another court by the Verkhovna Rada

1. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine shall consider issues of transfer of judges elected for indefinite tenure to the court of the same level and the same jurisdiction or to the court of another jurisdiction and make a resolution on the issues under the procedure established by the Law of Ukraine On Judicial System and Status of Judges and the present Rules for election of judges for indefinite tenure.

Article 216. Dismissal of Judges of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine and Judges Elected for Indefinite Tenure

1. The Verkhovna Rada shall dismiss judges of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine from their offices and judges elected for indefinite tenure following the procedure provided for in paragraphs 5 and 6 of Article 126 of the Constitution of Ukraine, Article 23 of the law “On the Constitutional Court of Ukraine”, and the law “On Judicial System and Status of Judges.

2. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 88 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada shall prepare issues of dismissal of judges of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine from their offices and judges elected for indefinite tenure for consideration; in case of his/her absence, an issue shall be prepared by the First Deputy Chairman or the Deputy Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada.

Chapter 34

PROCEDURE FOR INAUGURATION OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, MEMBERS OF THE HIGH COUNCIL OF JUSTICE, JUDGES OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF UKRAINE AND MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Article 217. Inauguration Procedure

1. The Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights, members of the High Council of Justice, judges of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine and members of the Central Election Commission shall take an oath in the Verkhovna Rada in accordance with the period of time and form provided for in laws “On the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights”, “On the Constitutional Court of Ukraine” and “On the Central Election Commission”.

2. An oath shall be taken by the aforementioned officers in person at a plenary meeting held in the Verkhovna Rada session hall.

3. A motion on inauguration of the officers mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be included into the parliamentary session agenda in accordance with the established procedure without adoption of a special resolution. A parliamentary committee responsible for organization of in the inauguration shall submit a motion which sets the date and time for each officer to take an oath. Such motion shall be introduced within a week of the committee’s receiving the materials on the appointed person.

4. If a committee fails to adopt a necessary resolution or consider the submitted inauguration materials, the motion on inauguration shall be included in the parliamentary session agenda no later than within two weeks.

5. A person appointed as the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights, a member of the High Council of Justice, a judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine or a member of the Central Election Commission, respectively, shall take an oath no later than one month after appointment to the office.

6. A person appointed as Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights, a member of the High Council of Justice, a judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine or a member of the Central Election Commission, respectively, after being presented to the Verkhovna Rada Chairman, shall read out an oath from the rostrum.

7. A person who at the time of his/her oath submits an application stating his/her refusal to take an oath or where other circumstances make inauguration of such officer impracticable, the committee responsible for this issue shall introduce a respective motion at the Verkhovna Rada.

8. If an officer whose presence is required for inauguration of the persons mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article is absent at a plenary meeting, the oath may not be taken.

Chapter 35

PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO HOLD LIABLE, DETAIN OR ARREST A NATIONAL DEPUTY, JUDGE OR JUDGE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF UKRAINE

Article 218. Submission of Motions Which Approve a Finding of Liability, Detention or Arrest

1. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article 80 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada shall approve a charge of liability, detention or arrest of a national deputy; and pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article 126, Article 149 of the Constitution of Ukraine – the Verkhovna Rada shall approve detention or arrest of a judge of a general jurisdiction court or a judge of the Constitutional Judge of Ukraine.

2. A motion which approves a charge of a criminal liability, detention or arrest of a national deputy, judge of a general jurisdiction court or judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine shall be initiated by a pre-trial investigative body and court body, respectively. A separate motion shall be introduced for each mode of pre-trial measure above. Motions concerning a national deputy shall be supported and introduced to the Verkhovna Rada by the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, and motions concerning judges of general jurisdiction courts or a judge of the Constitutional Court – by the Head of the Supreme Court of Ukraine.

3. A motion which approves a charge of criminal liability, detention or arrest of a national deputy, judge of a general jurisdiction court or judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine shall be well-founded and complete, contain specific facts and evidence which confirm the commission of a socially harmful act by the person mentioned in the motion as provided for

in the Criminal Code of Ukraine. A motion concerning detention or arrest shall contain a clear justification of the need of a detention or arrest.

4. The Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall return a motion that fails to satisfy these requirements to the Prosecutor General or the Head of the Supreme Court of Ukraine and advise the Verkhovna Rada on this fact at the next plenary meeting.

Article 219. Written Explanations Provided by National Deputies

1. The Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall offer a national deputy who is the subject of a motion which approves a charge of criminal responsibility, detention or arrest an opportunity to submit a written explanation within five days to the committee responsible for the issues and commission the said committee with preparation of recommendations concerning the motion which approves a charge of criminal liability, criminal responsibility, detention or arrest in accordance with the law.

Article 220. Recommendations of the Committee to Approve Charges of Criminal Liability Detention or Arrest

1. The committee charged with preparing recommendations on charges of criminal liability, detention or arrest shall, pursuant to the law, determine the completeness, legality and sufficiency of the motion as well as the legality of the discovery of evidence and establish the existence of any relevant complaints. The committee shall promptly prepare its recommendations but no longer than twenty days. The committee shall invite the person who is to be charged to its meetings. The absence of the aforementioned person at the committee meeting absent a valid reason shall not be considered an obstacle for consideration and adoption of a resolution by the committee.

2. The Prosecutor General (an officer acting as the Prosecutor General) or the Head of the Supreme Court of Ukraine (an officer acting as the Head of the Supreme Court of Ukraine) shall participate in a committee meeting for which he/she submitted a motion.

3. If deemed necessary, the committee may demand additional materials for consideration of the case or hear testimony of other individuals where so requested by the person who is the subject of the motion.

4. If there is no sufficient evidence to justify a motion, the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada may return it together with well-founded recommendation of the committee to the Prosecutor General or the Head of the Supreme Court with a proposal to submit further evidence. In such case, the committee shall terminate its inquiry and notify the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada who shall inform the Verkhovna Rada on this fact.

5. The committee shall discontinue consideration of a motion until receipt of the said materials or the required well-founded response.

Article 221. Consideration of a Motion to Approve Charges of Criminal Liability, Detention or Arrest in the Verkhovna Rada

1. The Verkhovna Rada shall consider at its plenary meeting a motion which is introduced and seeks approval to bring charges of criminal liability against, detain or arrest a national

deputy, a judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine or a judge of a general jurisdiction court on the day set for consideration of the motion but not later than on the seventh day after receipt of respective recommendations from the committee.

2. Consideration of a motion which approves charges of criminal liability detention or arrest shall commence with a report by the presiding officer who shall present information about the received motion, and on work performed in preparing any committee recommendations. The presiding officer shall read out the text of the motion which approves the charges of criminal liability against, or detention or arrest of a national deputy, a judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine or a judge of a general jurisdiction court.

3. After the text of a motion has been read, the presiding officer shall grant the floor (up to 30 minutes each) to:

1) the Prosecutor General or the Head of the Supreme Court of Ukraine, respectively, to answer questions asked by representatives of parliamentary factions and individual deputies;

2) the national deputy, a judge of the Constitutional Court or a judge of a general jurisdiction court who is the subject of the motion in order to provide any response thereto .

4. If the Verkhovna Rada determines at its meeting that the person subject of the motion refuses to provide explanations, it shall consider the motion without such explanation.

5. The committee recommendations shall be announced by the committee chair or an authorized representative of the committee.

6. A discussion of a matter under this Article shall follow the procedure for full discussion (Article 30 of these Rules).

7. In accordance with the motion, the presiding officer shall call a separate vote to approve:

1) charging a national deputy with criminal liability;

2) detention of a national deputy, a judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine or a judge of a general jurisdiction court;

3) arrest of a national deputy, a judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine or a judge of a general jurisdiction court.

8. The Verkhovna Rada shall adopt a resolution to approve charges of criminal liability, detention or arrest by an open majority vote of the elected parliamentary assembly. Such resolution may not be revised except in cases where additional evidence is found that was not available during consideration of the respective motion.

9. The Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall immediately notify the Prosecutor General or the Head of the Supreme Court of Ukraine about the accepted decision.

Chapter 36

PROCEDURE FOR EARLY DISMISSAL OF A NATIONAL DEPUTY OF UKRAINE

Article 222. Consideration of Motion on Early Dismissal of National Deputy of Ukraine

1. The Verkhovna Rada shall consider a motion on early removal of a national deputy in the cases provided for in ⁴³the Constitution of Ukraine.
2. The Verkhovna Rada shall, at the request of the committee charged with matters concerning these Rules, pass a resolution on early dismissal of a national deputy by a majority vote of the elected parliamentary assembly and charge the Central Election Commission with appointing the next candidate for a national deputy on a list of a political party (election bloc of political parties) as provided for in the Law of Ukraine “On Elections of National Deputies of Ukraine”. This resolution shall be published in the *Holos Ukrainy* newspaper.
3. A Verkhovna Rada resolution on early dismissal of a national deputy once approved may not be revised.
4. The Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada shall announce early dismissal of a national deputy on grounds provided for in paragraph 4 of Article 223 of the Rules of Procedure at the plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.
5. The Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada shall issue an order of termination of respective payments of a national deputy whose office was terminated ahead of time, and notify the Central Election Commission that, pursuant to the law “On Elections of National Deputies of Ukraine”, the Central Election Commission shall recognize authorities of a next candidate for a national deputy on a list of a political party (election bloc of political parties). This notification shall be published in the *Holos Ukrainy* newspaper. ⁴⁴

Article 223. Failure of National Deputy to Comply with Requirements Concerning Incompatibility of a Deputy Mandate with Other Activities of the Committee

1. If a national deputy fails to comply with the requirements of ~~sub-paragraph 5 of paragraph 2 of Article 81 of~~⁴⁵ the Constitution of Ukraine concerning the incompatibility of his/her deputy’s mandate with other activities of the Committee, the committee responsible for these Rules shall examine the respective materials and submit recommendation to the Verkhovna Rada Chairman, which shall within ten days take the case to court to terminate authorities of a national deputy or return the materials to the committee with a well-founded justification to reject the motion to take legal action.
2. If the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada returns the materials with a well-founded justification to reject the motion to take legal action, the committee responsible for the Rules issues shall discuss its justification, whether it disagrees, and introduce a motion to consider them at the Verkhovna Rada meeting.

⁴³ Law 2600-VI

⁴⁴ Law 2600-VI

⁴⁵ Law 2600-VI

3. The Verkhovna Rada may pass a resolution by an open vote, according to which the Speaker of Verkhovna Rada shall take legal action to authorities of such national deputy. This decision shall be passed in a form of a resolution.

4. A court decision on early dismissal of a national deputy based on his/her failure to comply with the requirement concerning incompatibility of his/her deputy mandate with other activities that entered into legal force shall be final and not subject to approval by the Verkhovna Rada.

SECTION VI

CONSIDERATION OF OVERSIGHT AUTHORITIES OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA

Chapter 37

CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES RELATED TO DEPUTY INQUIRIES

Article 224. Submission of Deputy Inquiries and their Announcement at the Verkhovna Rada Plenary Meeting

1. National deputies and parliamentary committees shall prepare and submit deputy inquiries in accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine, Laws of Ukraine “On the Status of National Deputy of Ukraine”, “On Committees of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine” and these Rules.

2. A brief content description of the properly drafted and submitted deputy inquiry shall be announced by the Chairman at the closest relevant plenary meeting after its submission

Article 225. Consideration of Forwarded Deputy Inquiries by the Verkhovna Rada

1. One national deputy may submit no more than two deputy inquiries to be announced at a plenary meeting.

2. Following the announcement of a brief summary of a deputy inquiry, a presiding officer shall vote on a motion to forward the inquiry to the President of Ukraine.

3. A motion to forward a deputy inquiry to the President of Ukraine pursuant to a request from a national deputy, a group of national deputies or a committee s shall be preliminary supported by the signatures of no fewer than one third of the national deputies of the elected parliamentary assembly or, if this number of signatures is unavailable – by a roll-call vote in support of the inquiry by not fewer than one third of national deputies representing the nationally elected parliamentary assembly.

4. A decision to forward a preliminarily approved inquiry to the President of Ukraine shall be considered adopted if supported by the majority of the national deputies of the nationally elected parliamentary assembly.

5. The Verkhovna Rada Secretariat shall forward the text of the inquiry to the President of Ukraine after adoption of the motion to forward the deputy inquiry as such.

Article 226. Consideration of Response to Deputy Inquiry

1. The presiding officer shall announce receipt of a deputy inquiry at a plenary meeting if the sponsor of this inquiry so insists.

2. After announcement of a response to his/her deputy inquiry, a national deputy may have the floor to comment and elaboration. The time allocated for it shall not exceed 3 minutes.

3. In accordance with a Verkhovna Rada resolution which is adopted based on a proposal of a national deputy who initiated an inquiry, or in cases where such proposal received not fewer than one fifth of signatures of the elected parliament assembly of the Verkhovna Rada, a discussion shall be held on the response to a deputy inquiry at a plenary meeting.

4. In cases provided for in paragraph 3 of this Article, a motion to discuss the response to a deputy inquiry at a plenary meeting shall be included into the parliamentary session agenda without a vote. The date of such discussion shall be set in accordance with Article 25 of these Rules. A national deputy who submitted a deputy inquiry shall submit to the Verkhovna Rada the text of the received response with his/her signature and a respective draft resolution no later than three days before consideration of this issue at a plenary meeting. The Verkhovna Rada may adopt a decision to form a lead committee to prepare a recommendation concerning the response to the deputy inquiry. Such conclusion shall also be distributed to the national deputies within the aforementioned timeline.

5. The Verkhovna Rada Secretariat shall invite officers to whom a deputy inquiry was addressed to a plenary session for discussion of the response thereto.

6. Discussion of the response to a deputy inquiry shall include:

1) the presentation of the national deputy who submitted the deputy inquiry for justification of the motion – up to 3 minutes;

2) a presentation of a representative of the body or an officer to whom the inquiry was addressed – up to 3 minutes;

3) a presentation of the chair or a representative of the lead committee if such committee was charged with preparation of a recommendation concerning the response to the deputy inquiry – up to 3 minutes;

4) presentations of two national deputies in support of every motion introduced and two national deputies against – not more than 3 minutes for each.

7. After a discussion of the response, the Verkhovna Rada shall pass a resolution.

Chapter 38

CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS RELATED TO PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT OVER THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CABINET OF MINISTERS OF UKRAINE

Article 227. Consideration of a Motion to Approve the Government Program of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine

1. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Government Program for the period of its authorities shall be introduced to the Verkhovna Rada within a month after formation of the Cabinet of Ministers. The Government Program shall be accompanied by a draft resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on its approval.

2. The Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall no later than the day following receipt of the Cabinet of Ministers Government Program forward it to the parliamentary committees and parliamentary factions for discussion.

3. A motion to approve the Cabinet of Ministers Government Program shall be considered at a plenary session within 15 days after its receipt by the Verkhovna Rada. Such motion shall be included in the parliamentary session agenda through voting.

4. A discussion of the motion to approve the Cabinet of Ministers Government Program shall follow the procedures provided for in sub-paragraphs 1, 5, 6 and 7 of Article 30 of these Rules and shall allow for presentations made by one representative from each committee.

5. The Prime Minister of Ukraine shall present the Cabinet of Ministers Government Program in person at the plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada and respond to any questions of the national deputies.

6. After consideration of the Cabinet of Ministers Government Program, the Verkhovna Rada may:

1) approve the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Government Program;

2) charge the Cabinet of Ministers with revising the Government Program in view of the comments and proposals expressed during the discussion;

7. The Verkhovna Rada may adopt a resolution to charge the Cabinet of Ministers with revising the Government Program only once. Consideration of a revised Government Program shall follow the procedure set forth in this Article.

8. In case the Verkhovna Rada, after discussion of the Government Program, fails to adopt any resolution provided for in paragraph 6 of this Article, the Government Program shall be considered not approved and may not be re-introduced by the same Cabinet of Ministers for a period of one year.

9. If the Verkhovna Rada rejects the Cabinet of Ministers Government Program, the Government Program may be re-introduced at the Verkhovna Rada no earlier than a year from the date of its rejection.

Article 228. Consideration of Reports and Information of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine

1. The Verkhovna Rada shall organize an annual hearing of a report by the Cabinet of Ministers on the course and results of implementation of the Government Program, which shall be submitted by the Cabinet of Ministers within 45 days after expiry of the calendar year.

2. The Cabinet of Ministers shall submit together with a report on implementation of the State Budget, any reports on the course and results of implementation of the approved national programs on economic, scientific, technical, social, national and cultural development and protection of environment for consideration of the Verkhovna Rada. The Verkhovna Rada may pass a resolution sponsored by its Chairman or a committee responsible for the respective subject matter to hear reports on the course and results of implementation of such programs at a plenary meeting of the parliament.

3. The Verkhovna Rada may adopt a resolution at any time to organize a special hearing of a report by the Cabinet of Ministers on an issue mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article, provided the resolution is motioned by the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, not less than three committees, or not less than one third of the national deputies.

4. An annual report of the Cabinet of Ministers on the course and results of implementation of the Government Program shall be distributed to the committees and national deputies no less than 15 days, and a special report – no less than three days before the date of its consideration at a plenary meeting of the parliament.

5. A report of the Cabinet of Ministers on the course and results of implementation of the Government Program shall be presented at a plenary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada by the Prime Minister or, in his absence, the First Deputy Prime Minister.

6. After a hearing of the report by the Cabinet of Ministers on the course and results of implementation of the Government Program and co-reports by the committees, the Verkhovna Rada shall commence a discussion after which the Verkhovna Rada shall vote on a resolution thereto.

7. If the Verkhovna Rada deems the activities of the Cabinet of Ministers to be insufficient, it may adopt a resolution of no-confidence without including such motion into the plenary meeting agenda, provided such vote of no-confidence complies with the provisions of Article 87 of the Constitution of Ukraine.

Article 229. Organization of the Question Hour

1. A question hour shall be held on a weekly basis during the plenary weeks of the Verkhovna Rada, on Fridays from 10 to 11 a.m.

2. All Members of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine shall attend the Question Hour, except for those Members which cannot attend for a valid reason.

3. Questions shall be restricted to the subject matter set for the Question Hour. Parliamentary factions (parliamentary groups)⁴⁶ which are not part of the governing coalition shall submit proposals concerning the subject matter of the Question Hour to the Conciliation Commission on a weekly basis during plenary weeks.

4. The Question Hour shall include:

1) questions to the Members of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine from parliamentary factions (parliamentary groups)⁴⁷ which are not included in the coalition, and answers thereto — up to 30 minutes;

2) questions from the national deputies to the Members of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, and answers thereto — up to 30 minutes.

5. Oral or written questions to the Members of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine shall be clear and brief.

6. A parliamentary faction (parliamentary group)⁴⁸ may inform Members of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on questions to be given in advance. Any written questions from parliamentary factions (parliamentary groups)⁴⁹ which are not part of the coalition shall be submitted to the Office of the Verkhovna Rada no later than 2 p.m. on the Tuesday preceding the Question Hour. If the respective Tuesday is a holiday or another day-off, the written questions from the parliamentary factions (parliamentary groups)⁵⁰, shall be submitted by 2 p.m. on the subsequent working day.

7. The Office of the Verkhovna Rada shall send written questions to the Members of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine submitted by a parliamentary faction (parliamentary group)⁵¹ which is not part of the coalition by 6p.m. on the last working day allocated for submission for written questions.

Article 230. Conduct of the Question Hour

1. Prior to commencement of the Question Hour the Presiding Chairman shall record the absent Members of Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and reasons for their absence.

2. The Question Hour shall commence with the oral or written questions to the Members of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine submitted by representatives of parliamentary factions which are not part of the governing coalition.

3. Each parliamentary faction which is not part of the governing coalition shall have a guaranteed right to make one oral or written question to Members of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

⁴⁶ Law 2600-VI

⁴⁷ Law 2600-VI

⁴⁸ Law 2600-VI

⁴⁹ Law 2600-VI

⁵⁰ Law 2600-VI

⁵¹ Law 2600-VI

4. Members of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine shall respond to any oral or written questions of representatives of parliamentary factions which are not part of the governing coalition within time limit allocated for their presentations and in the order defined by the present Rules for registration of deputies willing to give questions. An answer to a question must be accurate and concise.

5. After Members of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine complete responses to the questions posed by the representatives of the non-coalition parliamentary factions, time shall be allocated for questions from the national deputies to members of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and answers thereto.

6. Within the time allocated for questions to Members of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, representatives of non-coalition parliamentary factions shall have an equal opportunity to put the same number of oral or written questions.

7. Representatives of non-coalition parliamentary factions shall be registered for giving oral questions or announcing written questions to Members of the Cabinet of Ukraine in accordance with the procedure provided for herein for registration for making presentation on behalf of a deputy faction (paragraph 1 of Article 33 of the Rules).

Article 231. Preparation for Consideration of a Motion to Consider Accountability of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine

1. A motion to impose accountability on the Cabinet of Ministers may be introduced to the Verkhovna Rada⁵² by no less than one third of national deputies signatures verified thereto. Such motion shall be included in the parliamentary session agenda without a vote.

2. After introduction of a motion to impose liability on the Cabinet of Ministers, the committees shall prepare and forward questions within their competence and which they would like to be answered, through the Verkhovna Rada Secretariat to the Cabinet of Ministers within seven days before the date the motion is to be considered.

3. Within ten days of receipt of the questions from the committees as provided for in paragraph 2 of this Article, the Cabinet of Ministers shall return any responses thereto. Any generalized information prepared by the Cabinet of Ministers, together with its responses to the questions from the committees shall be forwarded to the Verkhovna Rada Secretariat, which shall immediately distribute the responses to the national deputies. One copy of the text provided by the Cabinet of Ministers shall be officially forwarded to the Accounting Chamber which shall provide its recommendations thereto.

4. The committees upon receipt of the responses to their questions shall discuss the imposition of liability on the Cabinet of Ministers at their meetings.

5. An imposition of liability of the Cabinet of Ministers shall be considered at a plenary meeting within thirty days from its introduction.

⁵² Law 2600-VI

Article 232. Procedure for Imposition of Accountability of the Cabinet of Ministers in the Verkhovna Rada

1. The imposition of accountability on the Cabinet of Ministers shall commence with a report by ⁵³a national deputy authorized by the group of national deputies which introduced the motion to impose accountability on the Cabinet of Ministers. The report may be up to 45 minutes. After the presentation, 45 minutes shall be given for a response to any questions from the representatives of parliamentary factions and individual national deputies. After the questions and responses thereto, the floor shall be given to the Prime Minister; and in his/her absence for valid reason– the First Deputy Prime Minister.

2. A parliamentary faction or parliamentary committee may file a motion to hear reports by individual members of the Cabinet of Ministers. Each such member shall have floor to present the requested information for a period of up to 15 minutes, after which a member of the Cabinet of Ministers shall have 15 minutes to respond to the questions from representatives of deputy factions.

3. After the reports, questions and responses the floor shall be given to representatives of committees and parliamentary factions for up to 3 minutes for each representative or parliamentary faction.

4. A vote on no-confidence in the Cabinet of Ministers pursuant to the discussion provided for in paragraph 3 of this Article,

5. A vote of non-confidence shall be considered adopted if supported by the majority of the elected parliamentary assembly of the Verkhovna Rada.

6. A motion to impose accountability on the Cabinet of Ministers may not be introduced to the Verkhovna Rada more than once during a regular session after approval of the Cabinet of Ministers Government Program⁵⁴.

Chapter 39

ORGANIZATION OF PARLIAMENTARY HEARINGS IN THE VERKHOVNA RADA

Article 233. Frequency of Parliamentary Hearings

1. Parliamentary hearings in the Verkhovna Rada are organized to examine issues of public concern and which require legislative regulation.

2. Parliamentary hearings shall be held during session periods, as a rule, not more than once a month on weeks for work in committees and factions.

⁵³ Law 2600-VI

⁵⁴ Law 2600-VI

Article 234. Procedure for Setting the Date for a Parliamentary Hearing

1. A motion to hold a parliamentary hearing may be introduced on the basis of a motion approved by a committee in the form of a draft resolution stating the subject and date of the hearing. Any discussion during the hearing shall be limited to one subject.

2. A motion to hold a parliamentary hearing shall be included in the parliamentary session agenda without a vote.

3. The Verkhovna Rada shall adopt a resolution on the subject, date and time of the hearing no later than 30 days prior to the hearing. A resolution to hold a parliamentary hearing shall also identify a committee or committees responsible for preparation of the hearing, and the state authorities which shall submit necessary information and analytical materials to the Verkhovna Rada and present a report on the matter to be discussed during the hearing as well as the procedure for the coverage of the parliamentary hearing in the mass media.

4. The Verkhovna Rada resolution to hold a parliamentary hearing shall be published in the Holos Ukrainy newspaper within ten days of its adoption.

5. A motion to hold a parliamentary hearing on a matter that has already been discussed by the current elected parliamentary may be introduced no earlier than a year after the previous parliamentary hearing on the same subject.

Article 235. Preparation for Parliamentary Hearings

1. Parliamentary hearings shall involve representatives of state authorities, local self-government bodies, political parties, other citizen organizations, research institutions and public representatives who express their willingness to participate in the hearing and submit an application to the committee responsible for preparation of the hearing no later than five days before the hearing.

2. The committee responsible for preparation of the hearing shall compile a list of invitees, the agenda and order of presentations. The list of invitees and agenda of the hearing shall be approved by the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada no later than three days before the hearing.

3. The Cabinet of Ministers, other state authorities, local self-government bodies and committees within the scope of their competence shall provide the national deputies no later than five days prior to the hearing with any analytical and information materials on the matter which is to be discussed during the parliamentary hearing. Other participants in the hearing shall receive relevant materials upon registration.

Article 236. General Provisions Concerning Procedure for Holding Parliamentary Hearings

1. Parliamentary hearings shall normally be held in the session hall of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. Hearings shall be opened and presided over by the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada, First Deputy Chairman or Deputy Chairman.

2. During the parliamentary hearings, reports on the relevant subject matter and responses thereto shall be given and subject to discussion. A report shall take up to 20 minutes, and the presenter's responses to oral or written questions – up to 15 minutes.

3. Subsequent to a presentation, questions and responses thereto, the floor may be given in cases deemed necessary for a co-report to a representative of a committee responsible for preparation of the parliamentary hearing for up to 15 minutes, after which the co-presenter shall have 10 minutes to respond to any questions.

4. After a report and a co-report, questions and responses thereto, a general discussion shall be held for up to two hours. Each presenter during the discussion shall have up to 5 minutes. The presiding officer may decide to continue the discussion if deemed necessary.

5. After the discussion, the presiding officer shall summarize the results of the parliamentary hearing.

6. A parliamentary hearing shall be transcribed in accordance with the established procedure. The transcript shall be posted on the Verkhovna Rada official web-site and published as a separate appendix to the stenographic bulletin of plenary meetings of the Verkhovna Rada.

7. Parliamentary hearings shall be open and public and broadcast live on radio and – if deemed necessary – on TV.

8. Based on the results of parliamentary hearings, the Verkhovna Rada shall, at its plenary meeting, pass a resolution approving respective recommendations.

Chapter 40

CONSIDERATION OF EARLY DISSOLUTION OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF CRIMEA BY THE VERKHOVNA RADA

Article 237. Submission of Motions on Early Dissolution of of the Supreme Council of Autonomous Republic of Crimea

1. A motion to dissolve the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea prior to term may be introduced by the Verkhovna Rada Chairman or by a minimum of 45 national deputies.

2. A motion on early dissolution of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea may be introduced only where the Constitutional Court finds a violation by the Supreme Council of the Constitution of Ukraine or Ukrainian legislation. The text of such opinion shall be attached to the respective motion.

3. A motion on early dismissal of authorities of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea shall be introduced in the form of a respective draft resolution of the Verkhovna Rada.

Article 238. Organization of Consideration of a Motion on Early Dissolution of the Supreme Council of Autonomous Republic of Crimea

1. A motion to dissolve the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea early shall be included in the parliamentary session agenda without a vote.
2. The Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada shall determine the date for consideration of the motion on early dissolution of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea at the plenary meeting no later than seven days after receipt the motion introduced in accordance with Article 232 of these Rules.
3. Preparation and preliminary consideration of a motion on early dissolution of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea shall be carried out by the committee responsible for the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.
4. The Verkhovna Rada shall invite representatives of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea to the plenary meeting where the motion on early dissolution of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea will be considered.

Article 239. Consideration of a Motion on Early Dissolution of the Supreme Council of Autonomous Republic of Crimea at a Plenary Meeting

1. Discussion of a motion on early dissolution of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea at a plenary meeting shall follow the procedure for full discussion (Article 30 of these Rules). A representative of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea shall be granted the floor for a presentation for up to 20 minutes and time to respond to any questions from national deputies for up to 20 minutes.
2. The Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea shall be considered dissolved if such dissolution was supported by more than one-half of the national deputies from the elected parliamentary assembly.
3. The Verkhovna Rada shall, concurrent with a resolution to dismiss early the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, adopt a resolution to hold an extraordinary election of national deputies of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the date for which shall be set in accordance with the law.
4. If a motion to dismiss the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea early does not obtain the requisite number of votes of the national deputies, the motion shall be considered rejected. In such a case, a motion on early dismissal of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea on the same grounds is disallowed.

Article 240. Consideration of Information and Reports of Officers Appointed by or With Consent of the Verkhovna Rada

1. Annual written reports and information provided by officers appointed or elected by or with the consent of the Verkhovna Rada (except for the judges of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine and judges of general jurisdiction courts) shall be submitted to the Verkhovna Rada

and distributed to the national deputies as provided for by law or in order to implement a special resolution of the Verkhovna Rada.

2. A motion to consider a report or information of an officer at a plenary meeting as mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be included into the parliamentary session agenda after receipt of the report or information, where such consideration is provided for by law. Such a motion may be included into the parliamentary session agenda where introduced by the possessor of the right of legislative initiative. The date for consideration of such a report or information shall be set in accordance with a general procedure provided for in these Rules.

3. If necessary, the Verkhovna Rada may charge a respective committee with preparation of a report or information of an officer mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article for consideration at a plenary meeting.

4. Any opinions from the Accounting Chamber, and other written materials related to consideration of such a motion at a plenary session of a report or information of an officer mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be distributed to national deputies no later than three days before the date of consideration.

5. Consideration at a plenary meeting of a report or information of an officer provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article shall include:

1) presentation of a report or information which may last up to 20 minutes, and responses to any questions asked by the national deputies – up to 20 minutes;

2) if deemed necessary – presentations by a representative of the committee responsible for preparation of the matter for consideration and by an invited representative of the Accounting Chamber, which may last up to 10 minutes;

3) discussion of a report, presentation or information if the Verkhovna Rada has adopted a resolution to have such discussion;

6. The Verkhovna Rada shall vote on a respective draft resolution following discussion of the relevant subject matter therein.

GLOSSARY OF UKRAINIAN TERMS OR CONCEPTS INCORPORATED INTO THE ENGLISH TEXT
(First Referenced in Article Number)

“Verkhovna Rada”, translated meaning the Supreme Council, is the parliamentary body of Ukraine’s legislative branch. (Article 1)

“Parliamentary faction” shall mean a political party which has achieved representation in Parliament. (Article 1)

“Temporary Investigative Commission” shall have the meaning provided in Chapter 17 of these Rules and the Law of Ukraine on Temporary Investigative Commissions. (Article 1)

“Temporary Special Commission” shall have the meaning provided in Chapter 17 of these Rules and the Law of Ukraine on Temporary Special Commissions. (Article 1)

“Elected parliamentary assembly” literally ‘constitutional composition’ means the constitutionally mandated number of national deputies which form the elected parliament. (Article 2)

“Abbreviated discussion” means a shorter procedure for review of a resolution or draft law, absent full deliberation and passage through a comprehensive multi-staged reading as described herein. (Article 4)