



CONSELL GENERAL
PRINCIPAT D'ANDORRA

REGULATIONS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

TITLE I. THE ORGANISATION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

CHAPTER ONE. *THE OPENING SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL*

Article 1

The General Council will be constituted at 12 noon on the fifteenth day after the election results are announced.

Article 2

1. The opening session of the General Council will be presided over by the oldest Councillor from the Parish of Canillo, assisted by the General Secretary of the General Council. The youngest Councillor will act as secretary.
2. The oldest Councillor from the Parish of Canillo, acting as provisional president, will declare the session open, after which the members of the Sindicatura will be elected, under the provisions of these Regulations.

CHAPTER TWO. *THE COUNCILLORS*

Article 3

Councillors acquire their status by public election. Councillors acquire full rights and duties after submitting their appropriate credentials to the Secretary of the General Council and taking an oath or giving an affirmation to abide by the Constitution, at the first session they attend.

Article 4

1. Councillors have the right and duty to attend all sessions of the General Council and of any committees on which they serve, and the right to vote in the plenum and in any committees on which they serve. They may speak, under these Regulations, after asking the Síndic General and receiving permission.

2. Councillors have the right and duty to belong to a committee. They may attend committees on which they do not serve, where they may debate but not vote. They may speak, under these Regulations, after asking the committee chairman for permission.

Article 5

1. In order to carry out their parliamentary activities, Councillors have the right to receive any data, reports or documents held by the Public Administration. The request for information will be made through the Síndic General.

2. When a request is made to the Administration, it will have thirty days to deliver the requested information or to allow the Councillor direct access to the documentation, justifying the reason for this procedure, or otherwise, to explain the legal reasons why delivery or direct access is refused.

3. If the information is deemed to be classified or secret, under applicable regulations, the documentation will be delivered or direct access granted according to the procedure established in the said regulations.

4. On expiry of this period, the Síndic General, at the request of the requesting Councillor, will order the Administration to fulfil the obligation deriving from this article.

5. If a Councillor considers that the requested documentation has not been delivered to him or delivery is incomplete, he may make a supplementary request. This will be made in writing directly to the Sindicatura, which will process it through the Síndic General. The requested Administration will have fifteen days to deliver the requested documentation or to allow the Councillor direct access to the documentation, justifying the reason for the procedure, or otherwise, to explain the legal reasons why delivery or direct access is refused.

6. When the nature of the requested documentation requires, the Administration may allow direct access to the requesting Councillor, so he may study it and take any notes he considers appropriate. In this case, the Councillor may access the documentation accompanied by his advisers, previously authorised by the General Council.

7. The advisers, for the purposes specified in the previous paragraph, must be authorised through a request from the Councillor to the Síndic General, who will inform the requested Administration.

8. The periods specified in this article shall be calculated from the relevant working days according to the administration from which the information is requested.

Article 6

Councillors have the duty to fulfil the functions and obligations required of them by these Regulations.

Article 7

Councillors have the obligation to observe due courtesy and respect the standards of order and discipline established in these Regulations. Compliance is ensured by the Síndic General, who will call to order any Councillor who does not comply. They also have the obligation to maintain secrecy on any proceedings or resolutions of that nature, under the Constitution and these Regulations.

Article 8

1. Councillors must submit their political and professional resumés and declare any public offices they hold and, if applicable, any positions from which they resign due to a conflict of interest, according to the guideline and in the manner approved by the Sindicatura. They must also declare any positions they hold in private businesses, and their professional activities.

2. If there is a change in the situation declared by Councillors in section 1 of this article, they must inform the Permanent Committee within one month of occurrence, so that the Permanent Committee can issue a report on the new situation, if appropriate, within eight days. If the declared change involves the

termination of any of the declared activities, the Committee need not prepare the report.

3. Councillors may not invoke or utilise their status to carry out commercial, industrial or professional activities.

Article 9

1. Councillors will receive a remuneration determined by the General Council and charged to its Budget.

2. If a Councillor, without sufficient justification or without authorisation from the Sindicatura, fails to attend three consecutive sessions of the General Council or five alternate sessions within one calendar year, he will lose the right to receive the remuneration for two quarters.

Article 10

1. Councillors cannot be subject to any judicial or disciplinary proceedings, nor can they be held liable outside the General Council for votes and opinions provided in the course of duty.

2. If a Councillor is arrested or detained, accused or prosecuted, the Síndic General will immediately inform the General Council.

Article 11

Councillors will lose their status for the following reasons:

a) at the end of their term, at the end of the General Council's term, except for members of the Permanent Committee, who will retain it until the next General Council is constituted;

b) a final decision voids their election or announcement;

c) death;

d) judicially-declared incapacity;

e) holding a public office that creates a conflict of interest with that of Councillor;

f) a final judgement banning the Councillor from public office for a period longer than his remaining term;

g) a written resignation to the Síndic General, personally ratified to the Sindicatura.

The loss of Councillor status due to the causes listed under b), d), e) and f) takes effect as soon as it is noted by the Permanent Committee.

Article 12

Councillor status is suspended:

a) by a final judgement banning him from public office for a period shorter than his remaining term;

b) due to being prosecuted or sentenced by a final judgement with penalties other than being banned from public office, when a three-fifth majority of the General Council decides it, based on the nature of the sentence or severity of the acts;

c) when the plenum of the General Council decides it, under the provisions of Chapter Ten of Title II of these Regulations.

Article 13

If a Councillor leaves his seat vacant for any of the causes in Art. 11, the vacancy will be filled according to the law.

CHAPTER THREE. *THE SÍNDIC GENERAL AND THE SINDICATURA*

Section one. The functions of the Síndic General and the Sindicatura

Article 14

1. The Sindicatura, as the governing body of the General Council, consists of the Síndic General, Deputy Síndic General and two Secretaries.

2. The Sindicatura is chaired, directed and co-ordinated by the Síndic General.

3. The Sindicatura passes resolutions by a majority. If there is a draw, the Síndic General has the casting vote.

4. The offices of Síndic General and Deputy Síndic General cannot be combined with any other public office or role.

Article 15

1. The Síndic General represents the General Council, ensures that its work is done, impartially orders and steers the debates of the Chamber, and complies with and enforces the Regulations, which he interprets in the event of doubt.

2. The Síndic General ensures that order is maintained throughout the precincts of the General Council. To this end, he is the highest authority within it and may take any measures he deems appropriate.

3. He also performs any other duties assigned to him by the Constitution, these Regulations or the law.

Article 16

1. The Deputy Síndic General substitutes the Síndic General in the event of vacancy, absence or impediment, in which case he will have the full rights, duties and powers of the Síndic General.

2. He may represent the General Council, by delegation from the Síndic General.

3. He must also perform any other duty assigned to him by the Síndic General or Sindicatura.

Article 17

The Secretaries:

a) authorise, in turn, with the approval of the Síndic General, the minutes of the plenum, the Sindicatura and the Board of Chairpersons, and issues certificates thereof;

b) read out the documents to be communicated to the General Council;

c) collaborate, under the guidance of the Síndic General, in carrying out the work of the General Council;

d) ensure that votes are called and counted correctly.

Article 18

1. The Sindicatura is responsible for:

a) implementing the Regulations; substituting them in the event of omission, after hearing the Board of Chairpersons;

b) taking any necessary decisions to carry out the work of the Consell General;

c) implementing the General Council's budget;

d) classifying statements and documents of a parliamentary nature, under the Regulations, declaring them admissible and deciding on their processing;

e) any other duties assigned to it by these Regulations.

2. If a Councillor disagrees with a decision of the Sindicatura relating to section d), he may make a written request for a review to the Sindicatura itself. Any decision must be reasoned and will be final.

Article 19

The Sindicatura meets when it is called by the Síndic General. It is advised by the General Secretary, who draws up the minutes and ensures execution of its resolutions, under the guidance of the Síndic General. The General Secretary is appointed by the Síndic General, after hearing the Sindicatura, from individuals with qualifications in Law, preferably from among the General Council's lawyers.

Section two. *Election of the Síndic General and the Sindicatura*

Article 20

The plenum elects the Síndic General and other members of the Sindicatura from among its members, in its opening session. Their term lasts for the whole legislative session. The Síndic General and Deputy Síndic General cannot hold office for more than two full consecutive terms.

Article 21

1. First, the joint election of the Síndic General and Deputy Síndic General is called. One fifth of the Councillors may submit candidatures within twenty-four hours of the start of the session. Each candidature shall contain the names and acceptance of the two persons therein. Each Councillor may only sign one candidature.

2. Immediately after reading out the names in each of the submitted candidatures, the vote is held, which is secret and on paper. Each Councillor votes for one candidature and the one that receives the absolute majority of the General Council is elected. If no candidature succeeds, a second vote is held between the two candidatures with the most votes, and the one with the most votes will be elected. If there is a draw, a new vote will be held but if this is also inconclusive, the one in which the candidate for Síndic General is older will be elected.

3. Once the result of the joint vote for Síndic General and Deputy Síndic General is announced, the General Council immediately proceeds to elect the Secretaries of the Sindicatura. Each Councillor votes for one name and the two who achieve most votes are elected. If there is a draw, the same procedure as above will be used, but if inconclusive, the youngest will be elected Secretary.

Article 22

Once all the votes and counting have been completed, without interruption, to fill the offices of the Sindicatura, the elected Síndic General takes an oath or gives an affirmation to abide by the Constitution and immediately takes his place. Then the Deputy Síndic General and the two Secretaries take an oath or give an affirmation, immediately taking their place. Finally, after the other Councillors present have taken an oath or given an affirmation, the Síndic General closes the opening session.

Article 23

If, during the legislative session, the office of Síndic General or Secretary falls vacant, a new election will be held according to the procedure in article 21. If the vacancy arises for the office of Deputy Síndic General, the Síndic General will propose a candidate who must be elected by the plenum.

CHAPTER FOUR. *PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS AND THE BOARD OF CHAIRPERSONS*

Section one. *Parliamentary groups*

Article 24

1. Within the first five working days after constitution of the General Council, a minimum of three Councillors may form a parliamentary group, through a declaration signed by its members indicating the name of the parliamentary group, which will be delivered to the Síndic General. Once this term ends, it will not be possible to create new parliamentary groups during the legislative session.

2. Each Councillor may only join one parliamentary group.

3. Councillors who do not join a parliamentary group within the term defined in section 1, may join one of them, on acceptance by its chairman, within the first six days of each period of sessions, with the same rights and duties as the Councillors who formed it.

4. Councillors who are not members of a parliamentary group are independent Councillors. When there are more than two Councillors who are not members of a parliamentary group, all those in a similar situation will be included in a mixed group. The participation of the mixed group in the General Council's activities is equal to that of the other parliamentary groups, without prejudice to the particularities established in this section.

Article 25

1. The General Council will place at the disposal of the parliamentary groups the material means and financial resources for carrying out their duties, through an identical fixed subsidy to each of them and a variable subsidy based on the number of Councillors in each group. The amount assigned to the fixed subsidy may not be less than 50% of the total subsidy assigned to the parliamentary groups.

The transferred financial resources must be assigned exclusively to financing the activities and other expenses related to parliamentary duties.

2. Parliamentary groups must keep specific accounts on the management of the subsidies received from the General Council, which must be delivered to the Sindicatura, to be delivered to the Court of Auditors, before 1 April of the year following closure of the financial year, for auditing.

3. The Sindicatura, after hearing the Board of Chairpersons, establishes the rules governing the accounts of the parliamentary groups, in relation to the subsidies received from the General Council.

4. Without prejudice to the provisions of section 2 of this article, at the end of each legislative session, parliamentary groups must submit settled accounts relating to the subsidies received from the General Council. This submission must be made through a compliance statement from the chairman of the parliamentary group. The settled accounts will be published in the Bulletin of the General Council and delivered to the Court of Auditors for auditing.

5. The General Council will also place at the disposal of the independent Councillors the material means and financial resources to carry out their parliamentary duties, in proportion to the resources assigned to the parliamentary groups. They must keep specific accounts on the management of the received subsidies, on the terms regulated by this article.

6. Any remainder of subsidies received by the parliamentary groups and independent Councillors, once the legislative session ends, must be returned to the General Council.

Article 26

1. Each parliamentary group sends the list of its member Councillors to the Sindicatura, within the term indicated in section 1 of article 24, indicating the name of the chairman and vice-chairman, and also its internal rules. The chairman informs the Sindicatura of any membership changes that occur within the parliamentary group.

2. If a mixed group appears at the end of the term indicated in section 1 of article 24 for the voluntary creation of parliamentary groups, its members will have an additional period of ten days to indicate the name of the chairman and vice-chairman in writing to the Síndic General, and also its internal rules, which must respect the principles of plurality and proportionality.

If this term ends and the mixed group has not approved its internal rules, the Sindicatura, after hearing the Board of Chairpersons, will issue the operating rules for the group. Equally, until the chairman and vice-chairman of the mixed group have been appointed, their powers of representation will be exercised by rotation for each period of sessions. In any case, the mixed group may later adopt any provisions it deems appropriate in relation to its representation and organisation.

3. Any changes in the composition of the mixed group will result in the removal of the chairman and vice-chairman, and expiry of the internal rules, and the duty to communicate to the Síndic General any changes that occur in both the chairmanship and internal rules under the new composition, within ten days following the change. If this term expires and the communication has not been received, the provisions of the previous section shall apply.

4. Until the mixed group appoints its representatives, any General Council bodies in which it serves, especially the Board of Chairpersons, may take any appropriate decisions to guarantee the normal operation of the General Council.

Article 27

Any Councillor who enters office after the opening session must join a parliamentary group within five days of taking an oath or giving an affirmation, with the acceptance of its chairman. If he does not join a group, he will become an independent Councillor or, if applicable, join the mixed group.

Article 28

Withdrawal of a Councillor from a parliamentary group also means withdrawal from any committees in which he has served.

Article 29

If, as a result of the changes in membership, the parliamentary group has two or less Councillors, the parliamentary group will be automatically dissolved and its members will become independent Councillors or, if applicable, join the mixed group.

Section two. *The Board of Chairpersons*

Article 30

The chairmen of the parliamentary groups form the Board of Chairpersons, presided over by the Síndic General, assisted by a Secretary of the Sindicatura. The General Secretary draws up minutes of the sessions. The chairmen of parliamentary groups may be substituted by the vice-chairmen. Other members of the Sindicatura and a representative of the Government may attend and will be notified of its meetings for that purpose. The Síndic General may summon the chairmen of the committees, if appropriate.

Article 31

The Board of Chairpersons is called by the Síndic General at the request of two parliamentary groups or on his own initiative. The Board of Chairpersons will meet at least once every month during the periods of sessions.

Article 32

If there is a vote, the votes will be counted using the weighted system, so each chairman of a parliamentary group will have the same number of votes as Councillors within his parliamentary group.

Article 33

Without prejudice to the other powers granted by these Regulations, the duties of the Board of Chairpersons are:

- a) to establish the criteria for ordering and enabling the General Council's debates and duties;
- b) to decide on the appropriate committee for considering parliamentary initiatives;
- c) to set the number of members of each parliamentary group in the committees;
- d) to assign the seats for each parliamentary group in the Chamber.

CHAPTER FIVE. *THE PLENUM*

Article 34

The plenum is the supreme body of the General Council. It is called by the Síndic General on his own initiative or at the request of the Head of Government, two parliamentary groups or one fifth of the Councillors.

Article 35

1. The Councillors always sit in the same place in the Chamber. The members of Government will have a specially designated place and may speak according to these Regulations.

2. Only Councillors, members of Government, General Council officials in the course of their duties and persons expressly authorised by the Síndic General have access to the Chamber.

Article 36

The General Council is constituted when the Councillors are called together by the Síndic General to discuss an agenda according to the Constitution and these Regulations. The list of Councillors present will be included in the minutes of the session.

CHAPTER SIX. *THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE*

Article 37

1. The General Council appoints a permanent committee to supervise the Chamber's powers when it is dissolved or in the period between sessions. The Permanent Committee consists of the Síndic General, three Councillors elected by the Councillors elected nationally and three elected by the Councillors elected in parish elections.

2. The Permanent Committee ensures compliance with the rules on conflict of interest for Councillors. They order Councillors to declare any positions they hold and, if applicable, from which positions they resign, and may demand any documentation necessary for the purpose.

3. The Permanent Committee exercises any powers assigned to it by law.
4. The Permanent Committee accompanies the Síndic General in receiving any oaths and affirmations of ownership that need to be made before him.
5. The Permanent Committee is called by the Síndic General on his own initiative or at the request of three Councillors or the Head of Government.
6. The Permanent Committee is accountable to the General Council for any matters that have been handled and any decisions taken, in the first session that it meets.

CHAPTER SEVEN. *COMMITTEES*

Article 38

Committees of the General Council consist of a number of Councillors established by the Sindicatura, in concert with the Board of Chairpersons, pro rata the number of Councillors in each parliamentary group. The Councillors will be chosen by the parliamentary groups.

Article 39

Committee members may be substituted by Councillors from the same parliamentary group, after its chairman communicates the fact to the Síndic General. If the substitution is only once, this need only be communicated to the committee chairman at the start of the meeting, and the substitutes will be admitted as members of the Committee.

Article 40

Committees may call members of the Government to its meetings. Members of Government may request to attend them. In both cases, they have the right to speak and to obtain a copy of the minutes recording their attendance.

Article 41

Committees must elect a chairman and a vice-chairman. The vice-chairman substitutes the chairman in the event of absence, vacancy or impossibility.

Both must be elected at the first ordinary meeting of the committee after the vacancy arises.

Article 42

The committee chairmanships are allocated among the parliamentary groups by the Sindicatura, in concert with the Board of Chairpersons, proportionally and based on the number of Councillors in each one.

Article 43

Members of the Sindicatura may not chair any committee, except the Síndic General who is the legitimate chairman of them all.

Article 44

The chairman calls the committee meetings on his own initiative, at the request of two parliamentary groups or two fifths of its members, with an agenda. Committees may not meet at the same time as the plenum. To deal with matters of legislative procedure that are submitted as urgent, committees may be called in the periods between sessions, without needing the agreement of the Permanent Committee.

Article 45

Committees act on all matters, projects or proposals that are assigned to it by the Sindicatura, in concert with the Board of Chairpersons, under the Regulations. They must carry out their work within three months, unless the Sindicatura authorises them to extend this period, based on the specifics of the task or volume of activity.

Article 46

There will be eight permanent Legislative Committees: 1) Justice, the Interior and Institutional Affairs, 2) Foreign Policy, 3) Economy (Agriculture, Industry, Commerce and Tourism), 4) Finance and Budget, 5) Territorial Policy, Land Planning and the Environment, 6) Health, 7) Social Affairs and Equality, 8) Education, Research, Culture, Youth and Sports.

Each permanent Legislative Committee will have at least five Councillors. Each Councillor may be a member of up to three permanent Legislative Committees.

Article 47

The permanent Legislative Committees examine all legislative proposals whose subject matter relates to them and which are delivered to them by the Sindicatura, in concert with the Board of Chairpersons. They also examine any non-legislative proposals, information or matters delivered to them by the Síndic General, based on the subject matter.

Article 48

1. The General Council may, in every legislative session, create study or inquiry committees on any matter of public interest, at the proposal of the Sindicatura, two parliamentary groups or one fifth of the Councillors. The debate on the proposal to create them will be carried out under the provisions for resolution proposals. Parliamentary groups may submit amendments up to 24 hours before the arranged time for starting the sessions.

2. Legislative Committees of a legislative or special type may be created through the same procedure.

3. Both the proposal and the resolution to create the committees referred to in the previous two paragraphs must specify at least:

- a) The type and composition of the committee.
- b) The specific focus of the work assigned to it and its goal, and also any directives with which the committee must align its work. In any case, the object of these committees may not touch on specific issues that are subject to legal proceedings.
- c) The specific operating rules and the general system for passing resolutions which, in any case, must always observe the general operating principles for committees established by these Regulations.
- d) The secret or public status of the committee in applying the provisions of article 53.2. This status may be amended during the course of the committee's work.
- e) The possibility of involving specialists or experts to take part in the work and attend the meetings in an advisory capacity.
- f) The deadline for concluding the committee's work.

4. At the start of proceedings, committees must prepare and approve a work plan and, if appropriate, the list of expected appearances. Equally, both the work plan and the list of appearances may be amended if new requirements that justify it arise during their proceedings.

5. The committees' conclusions will be recorded in a report which must be published in the Bulletin of the General Council and debated by the General Council.

6. The conclusions approved by the General Council must be reported to the Government, without prejudice to the Síndic General, in concert with the Sindicatura, informing the Public Prosecutor's Office.

Article 49

Committees, through the Síndic General, may:

a) request from the Government and any other authority or public official any information and documentation they deem necessary for carrying out their task, which must be provided to them, under the provisions of article 5 of these Regulations.

b) request members of the Government, the elected authorities and any public officials under them to appear before them and report on any issues relating to the matters they are dealing with, under article 47, excluding members of the Judiciary and Constitutional Court.

c) by law, they may also require the appearance of any citizen. However, individuals who are subject to legal proceedings directly linked to the issue for which they are summoned or who have been detained cannot be required to appear.

The appearances of authorities, officials or other persons, relating to matters declared secret or confidential by law, may only take place before the committee if it has previously been declared secret.

TITLE II. OPERATION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

CHAPTER ONE. *SESSIONS*

Article 50

The General Council meets annually during two ordinary session periods, between 1 March and 15 July, and between 1 September and 31 January.

Article 51

1. The Síndic General calls all the plenary sessions of the General Council, whether traditional, ordinary or extraordinary. Committee sessions are called by their chairmen.
2. Extraordinary sessions may only be called by a resolution of the Permanent Committee, on its own initiative, at the request of the Head of Government, of two parliamentary groups or one fourth of the Councillors. In the case of extraordinary committee sessions, they may also be called at the request of the committee itself. In the resolution or request must appear the agenda, which cannot be expanded or reduced.

Article 52

One session includes all the meetings necessary to deal with an agenda. The Síndic General opens and closes the sessions and decides the content of the meetings.

Article 53

1. Plenary sessions of the General Council and committee sessions are public. Committee sessions are only not public when they prepare reports to present to the plenum or deal with issues relating to organisation of its work.
2. At the initiative of the Sindicatura, of two parliamentary groups or of one fourth of the Councillors, the plenary sessions of the General Council may decide, by an absolute majority of its members, to hold secret sessions of the General Council plenum or of a committee.

Article 54

1. Minutes are drawn up of all plenary sessions and all committee sessions of the General Council, containing a concise account of the matters debated, who has spoken, any incidents and any resolutions passed.
2. Minutes are signed by the Síndic General and one of the Secretaries of the Sindicatura or, where applicable, by the appropriate chairman and vice-chairman, to be deposited with the General Council and delivered to the Councillors. If no written complaint is made within fifteen days following deposit, the minutes are considered to be approved. In the case of a written complaint, the Sindicatura may decide to submit the final decision to the first ordinary session of the plenum or the committee.
3. When a session is secret, it is drawn up as one set of minutes and held by the Síndic General or, where applicable, by the chairman of the relevant committee. The approval procedure is the same as in the previous section.

Article 55

Members of the public who attend the sessions of the General Council must remain silent and maintain order, and are not permitted any expression of approval or disapproval.

The Sindicatura decides on the procedure and conditions for managing public attendance at sessions, based on the availability of places and the circumstances of each session, or for security reasons.

CHAPTER TWO. *THE AGENDA*

Article 56

1. The General Council's agenda is set by the Síndic General, in concert with the Board of Chairpersons. The agenda may be amended or changed by a resolution of the General Council plenum, at the proposal of the Síndic General, of two parliamentary groups or one fifth of the Councillors.

2. Committee agendas are set by their chairman, who informs the Síndic General. Committee agendas may be changed or amended by a resolution of the committee, at the proposal of the chairman or one fifth of the Councillors.

3. If anyone wishes to introduce a new matter to the plenum or a committee, it must undergo the regulatory procedure.

Article 57

The Government may ask for a matter to be included in a session as a matter of priority, if it has undergone the regulatory procedure. For this purpose, the Síndic General must be informed.

CHAPTER THREE. *DEBATES*

Article 58

Unless a resolution of the Sindicatura orders otherwise, no discussion or debate on a specific issue may commence unless the documentation relating to the subject of discussion or debate has been distributed to each Councillor, at least three days before. Equally, the Sindicatura may reduce this period if there are sufficiently proven reasons of urgency or need.

The same procedure governs committee discussions.

Article 59

1. Under these Regulations, Councillors must ask the Síndic General for permission to speak. If a Councillor is called to speak by the Síndic General and is not present, he will be deemed to waive his right.

2. Equally, the Head of Government and Ministers must ask the Síndic General for permission to speak.

3. As a general rule, Councillors speak from their seat and the Head of Government and Ministers from their designated place. The Board of Chairpersons decides when Councillors, the Head of Government and Ministers will speak from the speakers' tribune.

Article 60

The Councillors, the Head of Government and Ministers may not be interrupted while they speak. Only the Síndic General has the power to do so, to advise the speaker that his time has ended, to withdraw permission to speak or to call for order. Councillors are called to stay on topic, whenever they stray from it.

Article 61

If, in a session of the General Council, allusions are made to the person or conduct of a Councillor or the Head of Government or a Minister, the Síndic General may allow that person to speak so that he may respond to the allusions, without delving into the matter and for a brief period of time. A response to allusions may only be given within the same session.

Article 62

The General Council may end a discussion or debate, at the initiative of the Síndic General and without a debate, when it is deemed that the matter has been duly addressed. At the request of a parliamentary group, the Síndic General may grant one opportunity to speak for and one against, each of five minutes, and put the matter to an immediate vote.

Article 63

1. Unless these Regulations state otherwise, at each debate there will be an opportunity to speak for and one against. If a speech for has been made, the right to an opportunity to speak against remains, even if the proposal has been withdrawn.

2. Speeches by parliamentary groups and the Government cannot exceed ten minutes. Speeches by independent Councillors cannot exceed three minutes. Speeches by the mixed group are of the same length as those of other parliamentary groups and the time is shared between its members pro rata the number of political forces within it, without prejudice to its internal rules dictating otherwise.

Article 64

In debates on the entirety, speeches are fifteen minutes per parliamentary group. Independent Councillors may speak for five minutes.

Article 65

In each debate, any Councillor or member of Government who is contradicted by one or more speakers will have the right to respond, once, for a maximum of five minutes.

Article 66

At any point in the debate, a Councillor may call on the Síndic General for compliance with the Regulations and he must define precisely the article he demands should be applied. The Speaker will settle the matter and his decision must be respected.

Article 67

In any case, the Síndic General has full powers to conduct the debate.

Article 68

The chairmen of committees, in their sessions, have the same powers to conduct debates as the Síndic General.

CHAPTER FOUR. *VOTING*

Article 69

If the moment for a vote arrives or the vote is taken when less than half the Councillors are present, the Síndic General will postpone the vote and announce a time for the vote within the same session. If that time arrives and there is still not sufficient quorum for the vote, it shall be adjourned to the next plenum, but the debate will not be repeated.

Article 70

1. Resolutions are valid when approved by a simple majority of the Councillors present, without prejudice to the special majorities defined by the Constitution, the laws or these Regulations.
2. There is a simple majority when votes for exceed votes against. There is an absolute majority when the number of votes in favour is greater than half the total number of full members of the General Council.

Article 71

1. Votes are personal and cannot be delegated. Each Councillor has a single vote. No one can take part in a vote that affects their personal status as a Councillor.
2. In the case of pregnancy, maternity, serious illness or hospitalisation, preventing the Councillor from travelling during the normal parliamentary process, if there are sufficient concurrent circumstances to justify it, the Sindicatura may authorise Councillors, through a reasoned letter, to cast their vote in plenary sessions by absentee voting.

For this purpose, the Councillor will deliver the appropriate written request to the Sindicatura, which will communicate its decisions to him, specifying, where applicable, the votes and the time period in which he may cast his vote through the specified procedure. The vote cast by this procedure must be verified personally through the system which the Sindicatura chooses for this purpose, and shall be deposited with the Síndic General prior to the relevant vote.

Article 72

1. Public votes may be ordinary, oral and called out. Under the Regulations and at the proposal of the Síndic General, voting may be by assent. Secret votes are on paper.
2. If, once the ordinary vote has ended, a Councillor states that an error has occurred in his choice of vote, he may, immediately and before passing to the following issue, ask for rectification.

Article 73

In oral public votes, the Sindicatura calls on the Councillors to vote, who answer yes, no or declare that they abstain.

Elections of the Head of Government, censure motions and motions of no confidence are always oral votes.

Article 74

In ordinary public voting, the Síndic General will ask the Councillors present for their votes for and against and any abstentions.

Article 75

Proposals made by the Speaker will be considered approved by assent when no objection or opposition is raised after they are announced.

Article 76

In a secret vote, Councillors are called by name and papers are put into an urn. The vote is secret when required by these Regulations or when the General Council decides, at the proposal of two parliamentary groups or one fifth of the Councillors.

Article 77

If a vote results in a draw, it will be repeated, and if there is another draw, the motion will be considered defeated.

Article 78

In the case of ordinary public votes, whether oral or by assent, once voting has ended, the result has been announced and the corresponding point on the agenda has been closed, parliamentary groups may briefly explain their vote. Also, any Councillor who has voted differently from his parliamentary group may do so and, if they have not spoken in the debate, the independent Councillors. The Síndic General may also allow this when a debate is subdivided into various different parts and one of these has ended.

CHAPTER FIVE. TIME PERIODS

Article 79

The calculation of time periods not established in the Constitution and regulated by these Regulations is based on the working days comprised in the ordinary periods of sessions, unless the matter at hand is included in the agenda of an extraordinary session. The Sindicatura sets the days to be allowed, so there is enough time to complete the procedures enabling that session to be completed. As an exception, the Sindicatura may declare the days in the periods between sessions to be working days for specific purposes, for reasons of urgency.

Article 80

The Sindicatura, at its own initiative, that of a parliamentary group or of one fifth of the Councillors, may decide to extend or reduce the time periods established in these Regulations. Extensions will be of an equal length to the fixed time period, except in special cases.

Article 81

Parliamentary documents addressed to the General Council or to any body of the Chamber must be delivered to the General Secretariat's Registry on the days and at the times specified by the Síndic General. In any case, registration must be guaranteed within the established periods of days and hours.

CHAPTER SIX. *DECLARATION OF URGENCY*

Article 82

1. At the request of the Government, of two parliamentary groups or one fifth of the Councillors, the Sindicatura may decide that a matter be handled by the urgent procedure, following the stage in progress.

2. A declaration of urgency means a reduction in all time periods and priority processing. Unless the Sindicatura indicates otherwise, the time periods will be halved.

CHAPTER SEVEN. *EXPIRY OF PARLIAMENTARY INITIATIVES AND PROCESSES*

Article 83

1. All parliamentary initiatives and processes carried out on unconcluded matters expire at the end of the legislative sessions.

2. Reports from the Ombudsman (*Raonador del Ciutadà*) and any statements and reports from the Court of Auditors will be transferred to the following legislative session. The relevant legislative committee may, by an absolute majority, decide to continue the procedure at the same stage as when the General Council was dissolved.

3. If a legislative initiative, presented according to letter d) of article 102, is undergoing parliamentary process when the legislative session ends, it will not expire but may be predated to a stage decided by the Sindicatura, after hearing the Board of Chairpersons, with no requirement to present a new certificate proving that the minimum required number of signatures has been collected.

CHAPTER EIGHT. *ELECTION OF INDIVIDUALS*

Article 84

For the elections of individuals assigned by the Constitution or by law to the General Council and not expressly envisaged in these Regulations, parliamentary groups may present to the Registry of the General Secretariat, up to four days before the plenum in which the vote is to take place, any candidatures which meet the requirements established in each case, together with the resumés of the proposed candidates. The Síndic General will inform the Councillors on the following day, and they may present any objections within the following twenty-four hours. The day before the plenum, the Sindicatura will announce the candidates.

CHAPTER NINE. *PARLIAMENTARY RESOLUTION CALLING A REFERENDUM*

Article 85

When the Head of Government, exercising the power granted to him in article 76 of the Constitution, wishes to call a referendum on a matter of political order, he will ask for a resolution of the General Council. To this end, he will ask the Sindicatura to call the plenum to hold a debate on the entirety of the matter. At the end of the debate, the motion will be put to the vote, which will be public and oral.

CHAPTER TEN. *PARLIAMENTARY ORDER*

Article 86

1. Throughout the precincts of the General Council, Councillors, the Head of Government, Ministers and the public are subject to the disciplinary powers of the Síndic General, who exercises them according to these Regulations.

2. Anyone who promotes grave disorder while within the precincts of the General Council will be immediately removed. Should this be a Councillor, the Sindicatura will temporarily suspend him for a period of up to one month, without prejudice to the General Council extending the sanction at the proposal of the Sindicatura.

3. On the initiative of the Sindicatura, the plenum may temporarily suspend any Councillor who creates the situation in the previous paragraph or who continuously and seriously refuses to abide by a final decision of the Síndic General or the bodies of the General Council.

4. If a Councillor or a member of Government, after being called to order for speaking offensively to the public institutions, to another Councillor, the Government, or any other person, persists in their behaviour, they may be expelled from the Chamber for the remainder of the session. If their behaviour is corrected, the Councillor or member of Government may withdraw the statements referred to in the previous section and request that they be not recorded in the minutes.

Article 87

The Síndic General may suspend the session of the General Council in the case of disorder or persistent disobedience by a Councillor or member of Government, without prejudice to imposing any penalties applicable by law, whether in the same session or the next. Before suspending the session, the Síndic General will warn of the possibility of adopting these measures.

Article 88

The Síndic General may order the immediate expulsion of any members of the public who do not abide by the provisions of art. 55. If a member of the public commits a serious offence, he will be brought before the competent

authority. In the event of disorder, the Síndic General may order the removal of the public present in the Chamber.

CHAPTER ELEVEN. *PUBLICATIONS*

Article 89

The *Diari Oficial del Consell General*, the official journal of the Consell General, publishes all speeches, incidents and resolutions passed at the public sessions of the General Council.

Article 90

The Bulletin of the General Council publishes all the public and private bills, amendments ordered by the rapporteur, and the report of the legislative committees with the amendments and dissenting votes to be debated in the plenum, the resolutions of the committees and the plenum, resolution proposals, questions and answers, communications and resolutions that the Government delivers to the General Council, and any other text or document required by these Regulations or ordered by the Síndic General, in view of his interest in the parliamentary process.

Article 91

For reasons of urgency, so that the documents referred to in the previous paragraph may be debated and voted on, the Síndic General may order them to be reproduced by another mechanical means and distributed to the members of the body of the General Council that needs to consider them. In any case, they must be published in the Bulletin of the General Council.

TITLE III. LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE

CHAPTER ONE. *ORDINARY LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE*

Section one. *Public bills*

Article 92

1. Public bills approved by the Government, with the relevant preamble, are delivered to the General Council by the Head of Government, together with a supporting and financial report, a report proving that the legislative initiative has adequately considered the gender perspective, and any documentation and background necessary for the General Council to be able to formulate an opinion.

2. The Sindicatura will order their publication in the Bulletin of the General Council and initiate a period of fifteen days for the submission of amendments. These may be presented by Councillors and parliamentary groups, in writing, to the Sindicatura.

Article 93

1. Amendments may be to the bill in its entirety or to the articles.

2. Amendments to the entirety are those which postulate returning the bill to the Government and those in which an alternative text is presented. They may only be presented by parliamentary groups or by one Councillor with the signatures of two more. When a parliamentary group presents an amendment to the entirety, its members may not support amendments to the entirety presented by individual Councillors, as they are considered to have already collectively exercised their right to the initiative.

3. Amendments to the articles may be for deletion, addition or modification. In the latter two cases, they must contain the exact text proposed as an addition or modification, which must be consistent with the subject matter of the legislative initiative. Specifically:

a) Amendments for addition are those that propose the addition of a new article, section or heading under which the article or legislative initiative is ordered. In these cases, the new text that is intended for insertion and the place where it is to appear must be precisely indicated.

b) Amendments for modification are those that propose the modification of an article, whether in part or in its entirety. In these cases, the text resulting from approval of the amendment must be transcribed, indicating precisely the article, section or heading affected by the amendment.

c) Amendments for deletion are those that propose the deletion of an article, section or heading. In these cases, the intended deletion must be precisely indicated.

4. Additional, transitional, derogatory or final provisions are considered to be articles for the purpose of presenting amendments, as are the Title of the Law, the Preamble, the Appendices and the headings of the different parts into which the text is arranged.

5. The amendment may not include other written material. The reasoning, where applicable, will be clearly differentiated.

6. Amendments that are drawn up that do not refer to an article, section or heading under which the Law is structured will not be admitted.

7. Amendments may be admitted, which refer to several articles, sections or headings and propose the modification, addition or deletion of a text that is repeated throughout the entire legislative initiative.

Article 94

Where amendments to the entirety are submitted, the Síndic General will include them on the agenda of the next plenary session. The debate will be on the entirety and will proceed according to these Regulations. At the end, the Síndic General will put to a vote the presented amendments to the entirety, starting with those that propose returning the bill to the Government.

Article 95

1. If the plenum resolves to return the bill, the Síndic General will communicate this to the Government. Otherwise, after hearing the Board of Chairpersons, he will transfer the bill to the corresponding committee, together with the amendments to the articles, for processing.
2. If the plenum should approve an amendment to the entirety with an alternative text, the legislative procedure will continue and the Síndic General will initiate a period for amendments to this new text, which may only be to the articles.

Article 96

If the presented amendments only affect the articles, the Síndic General will deliver them to the relevant committee, together with the text of the bill.

Article 97

1. The committee stage starts with the election of a rapporteur who orders the amendments so that they can be examined by the committee within fifteen days.
2. The rapporteur is responsible for receiving the proposals on legislative technique and on compliance with the rules and formal and language uses of the General Council regarding all legislative initiatives, prepared by the Chamber's legal services, and presenting them to the committee.

Article 98

1. After examination of the amendments and the text of the bill, the chairman summons the committee again and those proposing the amendments, to debate the presented amendments and vote on them and the text of the bill.
2. Voting is article by article. Amendments to an article are debated and voted on before voting on the whole article. For each amendment there will be an opportunity to speak for and an opportunity to speak against. Any proposed amendments to the appendices, preamble and title are debated and voted after proposed amendments to the articles.

Article 99

1. During the committee debate, the chairman may admit compromise amendments intended to align those already presented with the text of the article. Their presentation shall lead to withdrawal of the amendments subject to compromise.

2. Approval of a compromise amendment not only requires the majority of votes of committee members but also the favourable vote of the Councillor withdrawing the amendment subject to compromise. If the amendment subject to compromise has been presented by a Councillor from the parliamentary group with the absolute majority of committee members, it will also require acceptance by a Councillor who does not belong to his parliamentary group.

3. During the committee debate, the chairman may also admit technical amendments, whose purpose is to remove from the text any inaccuracies, inconsistencies and errors in legislative, terminological or grammatical technique.

Article 100

1. The committee resolutions constitute the report, to be signed by the committee chairman and vice-chairman, for submission to the plenum by the rapporteur. The Councillors and parliamentary groups, within forty-eight hours after completion of the committee's work, may reserve any amendments they have presented and express any dissenting votes for the plenum through a letter addressed to the Síndic General.

2. The Síndic General will order the immediate publication in the parliamentary Bulletin of the report, dissenting votes, amendments and, where applicable, the request from the Government under Art. 62 of the Constitution.

Article 101

1. The debate on the bill in the plenum will start with the rapporteur presenting the report produced by the committee. The presentation may not exceed fifteen minutes.

2. Voting is article by article. Before proceeding to vote on the article, each of the reserved amendments and dissenting votes are debated, with an opportunity to speak for and an opportunity to speak against. Then, each of them are voted on in the same order. Once voting on an article is complete, the next is voted on. When voting on all the articles is complete, the Appendices, Preamble and the Title of the Law are voted on.

3. If the nature of the text allows, the Síndic General may propose votes to be ordered by groups of articles or paragraphs, or put the entire text to a vote.

4. During the debate in the plenum, the Síndic General may admit technical amendments, to remove from the text any inaccuracies and errors in legislative, terminological or grammatical technique and consistency.

5. If, once the debate on the private or public bill has ended and, as a result of approval of a dissenting vote, of an amendment or voting on the articles, any point in the resulting text is incongruous or inconsistent, the Sindicatura, on its own initiative or at the request of the committee, may return the text approved by the plenum to the committee, solely for it to prepare a uniform draft that does not contradict the plenum's resolutions, within fifteen days. This report must be submitted to the plenum for a final decision, to approve it or reject it in its entirety, in one vote.

Section two. *Private bills*

Article 102

Private bills may be processed on the initiative of:

- a) a parliamentary group.
- b) three Councillors.
- c) three parish governments (*comuns*), jointly.
- d) one tenth of the national electoral roll, in accordance with the law.

Article 103

1. Private bills, with the corresponding explanatory notes, are presented in writing to the Sindicatura, together with a supporting report and, whenever possible, a financial report and a report proving that the legislative initiative has adequately considered the gender perspective, and any necessary background to be able to formulate an opinion.
2. Following this initiative, the Sindicatura orders publication of the bill and sends it to the Government, to return its comments within fifteen days.

Article 104

1. Fifteen days after publication, the bill may be included on the agenda of the plenum for consideration by the General Council. The debate will be on the entire bill, starting with a reading of any comments from the Government. After the debate, the Síndic General will ask the General Council whether or not it will consider the bill.
2. If the answer is affirmative, a period for amendments begins, which cannot be of the entire bill. Private bills follow the process provided for public bills.

Section three. Request by the Government under Art. 62.2 of the Constitution

Article 105

The chairman of the legislative committee in charge of examining a public or private bill, through the Síndic General, delivers the presented amendments to the Government, which has ten days in which to request, in a document addressed to the Síndic General, that there be no debate on those involving an increase in the expenditure or a reduction in the revenue envisaged in the General Budget Law. If the Government uses the request provided in Art. 62.2 of the Constitution, the Síndic General will communicate this to the committee chairman and order publication of the request in the Bulletin of the General Council. In this case, the committee will abstain from dealing with the amendments concerned.

Article 106

If the Government makes the request mentioned in the previous article, a parliamentary group or one Councillor with the signatures of two more may propose, through a document addressed to the Síndic General and up to two days before the plenum, that the request be rejected by a reasoned motion passed by absolute majority. If the motion is passed, the amendment concerned will be debated in the plenum.

Article 107

Within the same deadline provided in Art. 103, the Government may request that a private bill be not discussed if it involves an increase in the expenditure or a reduction in the revenue envisaged in the General Budget Law. If the Government presents the request, the procedure will be as in Art. 106.

Section four. *Withdrawal of public and private bills*

Article 108

1. The Government may withdraw any public bill from the General Council, provided that discussion of the report has not been included on the plenum agenda.
2. Private bills may be withdrawn on the initiative of the proposer before a resolution to consider it is passed. Once this occurs, it may only be withdrawn on agreement of the plenum.

CHAPTER TWO. *SPECIAL PROCEDURES*

Section one. *The General Budget Law*

Article 109

1. Ordinary legislative procedure applies to the examination and approval of the bill for the General Budget Law, except as established in this section.
2. The bill for the General Budget Law is processed with priority over other matters and works of the Chamber.
3. Once the bill for the General Budget Law is admitted, the Sindicatura initiates two periods for amendments which start on the same day: one non-extendable period, of no less than ten days, for presenting amendments to the entirety, and another period, of no less than eight days, for presenting amendments to articles.

Article 110

Amendments to the bill for the General Budget Law that propose an increase in borrowing in any entry will only be admitted if they also propose a reduction of an equal or higher amount in another entry in the same section. Budgetary section means each of the ministries into which the Government's political and administrative management are divided.

Article 111

The debate on the entire bill for the General Budget Law may be held in the plenum before the end of the period for amendments to the articles and any processing by a committee. In this debate, the estimated revenue and maximum global expenditure will be set. Turns for speaking will be thirty minutes per parliamentary group and nine minutes per independent Councillor.

Section two. *Qualified laws*

Article 112

1. Public and private bills for qualified laws, once the Sindicatura has classified them as such under the Constitution, are processed through the ordinary legislative procedure. Once this ends, a final vote is taken in the plenum on the entire text, announced in advance by the Síndic General. Approval will require the favourable vote of the absolute majority of the Councillors, except for laws which, under Art. 57.3 of the Constitution, require the absolute majority of Councillors elected by the parishes and the absolute majority of Councillors elected nationally. In this case, voting will be public and oral.

2. In the case of legislative amendments that are qualified in part, the final vote envisaged in section 1 is limited to the qualified part. For the other parts of the text, the favourable vote of the simple majority of Councillors is sufficient for approval.

3. If amendments are presented to a public or private bill of ordinary law, relating to matters reserved for qualified law, the Sindicatura cannot admit them unless the bill has previously been classified as such, without prejudice to the Sindicatura, on its own initiative or at the request of a committee in the case of compromise amendments, reconsidering the initial classification in view of the presented amendments.

Section three. *Legislation for extreme urgency and need*

Article 113

1. When the Government presents to the General Council a text of articles to be approved as a law under article 60.1 of the Constitution, its status of extreme urgency and need will be indicated, and also justification, so that the Sindicatura may decide on it. Matters reserved for qualified law cannot be subject to this procedure. Once the document is classified by the Sindicatura, the Síndic General will call the plenum directly within forty-eight hours after receipt.

2. The debate will start with presentation of the text of articles by a member of the Government and will be ordered as a debate on its entirety. The entire text will be put to a single vote.

3. If one fifth of the Councillors or a parliamentary group disagrees with the status of extreme urgency and need of the text proposed by the Government, they may present a motion for this purpose before the plenum starts. In this case, an incidental debate will take place with an opportunity to speak for and another to speak against. Once the debate ends, the presented motion will be voted on. If approved, the text of articles will be processed by the ordinary legislative procedure, unless the Government withdraws it. If not approved, the debate will proceed according to paragraph two.

4. If the Sindicatura does not grant the status of extreme urgency and need, one third of the Councillors may request the incidental debate regulated in section 3 of this article, within 48 hours. In this case, once the deadline expires, the Síndic will call the plenum immediately.

Section four. *Laws voted on a single reading*

Article 114

When the nature of a public or private bill makes it advisable, the simplicity of the drafting allows for it, and no amendments to the text have been presented, the General Council, at the proposal of the Síndic General, after hearing the Board of Chairpersons, may agree for the initiative to be delivered directly to the plenum for discussion and voting on a single reading. In this case, the debate will be on the entirety of the bill and the whole text will be put to a single vote

Section five. *Constitutional reform*

Article 115

1. The Co-Princes jointly, or one third of the members of the General Council, may present proposals for constitutional reform. These will be delivered to the Sindicatura in writing and, once admitted, processed as bills through the ordinary procedure.

2. If the General Council considers the proposal, a special committee will be set up, on which the chairmen of the parliamentary groups will serve, to prepare the report to be debated in the plenum. Once the debate and voting on amendments, dissenting votes and the text of the report end, the Síndic General will announce in advance the vote on the entire reform, which will be public and oral. The reform will be deemed approved by the General Council if it obtains the favourable vote of two thirds of the members of the Chamber.

Section six. *Procedure for consolidating current legislation*

Article 116

1. The aim of the procedure for consolidating laws is to prepare a new legal text that combines current legislation on a specific matter, in order to simplify the legal system, improve quality and help to ensure legal certainty through better knowledge of current law.

2. The legislative consolidation procedure is applicable to a matter when partial legal changes have occurred which, owing to their frequency, diversity or complexity, make it advisable to consolidate the current legislation into one text.

3. The consolidation procedure leads to a new text with legal force, which substitutes and derogates the laws it consolidates, but cannot modify the substantive regulation of the matter concerned.

4. Consolidated texts are promulgated and published as laws, under the provisions of article 63 of the Constitution. Publication of the consolidated text must indicate its nature in the title.

5. The initiative for the consolidation procedure can only be proposed by the Government, a parliamentary group or three Councillors.

6. Public or private consolidation bills, as well as the requirements of articles 92.1 and 103 respectively, must have an appendix of a list of the laws they consolidate, which must be derogated on approval of the consolidated text. Once admitted, the Síndic General will order their publication in the parliamentary Bulletin.

If, during the following month, no Councillor or parliamentary group raises objections, the consolidation bill will be deemed approved. If, on the other hand, a Councillor or parliamentary group raises an objection, this will be delivered in writing to the Sindicatura, who will deliver it to the competent legislative committee under the provisions of articles 45 and 47.

7. Objections may only serve to:

- a) Eliminate inconsistencies;
- b) Eliminate contradictions;
- c) Eliminate redundancies;
- d) Harmonise language, names and structure in the text;
- e) Edit possible grammatical errors.

8. The committee proposes recommendations to amend the text, when appropriate, based on the presented objections and always within the inherent limits of the consolidation procedure.

9. The consolidated text is debated and approved at the plenum through the single reading procedure.

CHAPTER THREE. *INTERNATIONAL TREATIES*

Article 117

International treaties that must be approved by the General Council are processed as bills, with the particularities in this Chapter, and will be deemed approved according to the provisions of the Constitution.

Article 118

Proposals presented by Councillors and parliamentary groups are deemed to be amendments of the entirety for return, when they refuse to approve the treaty or when they propose reservations or declarations not provided in it.

Article 119

In the cases of denunciation provided in Art. 64.3 of the Constitution, the same procedure will be used as in article 118.

Article 120

The General Council will suspend discussion of approval of a treaty if it is subject to a demand for prior judgement of unconstitutionality provided in Art. 101 of the Constitution, and the Constitutional Court admits it. A decision upholding unconstitutionality will cause the process to lapse.

TITLE IV. PROMOTION AND CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT POLITICAL ACTIVITY

CHAPTER ONE. *ELECTION OF THE HEAD OF GOVERNMENT*

Article 121

Whenever the General Council is renewed or the office of Head of Government falls vacant, he will be elected under the provisions of this Chapter.

Article 122

1. Proposals of candidates for Head of Government must be presented to the Sindicatura, by one fifth of the Councillors, within five days following the opening session. The written proposal must contain the candidate's name and acceptance, and the signatures of the supporting Councillors. Each Councillor may only support one candidate. Once proposals that meet the requirements are admitted, the Sindicatura announces the candidates for Head of Government.

2. The plenary session to elect the Head of Government is held within eight days, following the opening session, to which candidates who are not Councillors will be called.

3. If the office of Head of Government falls vacant, the above periods count from the day on which the vacancy arises.

Article 123

1. The session starts with a secretary reading the declared candidates and the Councillors who support them.

2. Next, each candidate presents his programme in turn, with no time limit. The speeches are ordered according to the number of supporting Councillors, from the largest number to the smallest. In the case of an equal number, they will be ordered according to the time of presentation of the candidate. Once the candidates' presentations have ended, the parliamentary groups speak for thirty minutes, in order from the smallest number of Councillors to the largest. Then, independent Councillors may speak for up to nine minutes each.

3. If candidates request, they may again speak for fifteen minutes and, in this case, another turn of ten minutes is given to each parliamentary group, and three minutes to each of the independent Councillors.

Article 124

1. Voting for candidates for Head of Government takes place within twenty-four hours after the end of the debate. The Síndic General announces the time of voting in the plenum after the last speech.

2. Voting is public and oral, and each Councillor states the name of the candidate for whom he votes or his abstention. Once counting has ended, the candidate who obtains the absolute majority in the General Council is proclaimed Head of Government by the Síndic General, who communicates the name of the elected candidate to the Co-Princes.

Article 125

1. If none of the candidates obtains an absolute majority, the Síndic General sets a date to hold a second vote, which must take place within the following seven days. For this purpose, he announces as candidates the two who obtained the best results in the first vote.

2. The two candidates present their programme to the plenum, with no time limit. Then, the parliamentary groups and independent Councillors state their position over fifteen and five minutes respectively. Once the debate ends, the vote is held, which is public and oral. The candidate who achieves the most votes is proclaimed Head of Government. The Síndic General communicates the name of the elected candidate to the Co-Princes.

3. If no candidate obtains a majority of votes, the procedure established in articles 122 and subsequent articles of these Regulations recommences.

CHAPTER TWO. *CENSURE MOTION*

Article 126

1. The censure motion must be presented by at least one fifth of the Councillors in a reasoned letter to the Sindicatura, stating the reasons for the motion.

2. The Sindicatura, after verifying that the proposal meets the requirements, admits it, informs the Head of Government and parliamentary groups and Councillors within twenty-four hours, and calls a session of the General Council, between the third and fifth day after presentation, with the sole point on the agenda being the discussion and vote on the censure motion.

Article 127

1. The debate on the motion starts with its defence by one of the signatories in a thirty-minute statement, followed by a speech by the Head of Government, also of thirty minutes. The Síndic General may suspend the session for no longer than twenty-four hours before allowing the speeches by the parliamentary groups, which may not exceed fifteen minutes. The Síndic General allows any independent Councillors who ask to speak for up to five minutes.

2. At the end of the debate, the vote is held, which is public and oral. The favourable vote of the absolute majority of the General Council is required for the censure motion to be passed. If the censure motion is passed, the Head of Government resigns.

3. No censure motion can be presented until six months have passed since the last election of the Head of Government. Councillors who have presented a censure motion may not sign another until one year has passed.

CHAPTER THREE. *VOTE OF CONFIDENCE*

Article 128

The vote of confidence must be presented by the Head of Government through a reasoned letter to the Sindicatura, together with the programme, general statement of policy or the decision of special importance to be submitted to the General Council. Once admitted, the Síndic General will inform the parliamentary groups and Councillors. The plenary session for discussion and voting is held between the third and fifth day following communication.

Article 129

1. The debate on the vote of confidence starts with a statement by the Head of Government, with no time limit, after which the Síndic General may decide to suspend the session, for no longer than twenty-four hours. The debate continues with the speeches of the parliamentary groups, for a period of fifteen minutes. The Síndic General allows any independent Councillors who ask to speak, for up to five minutes.

2. Once the debate ends, the vote of confidence is held. The vote must be public and oral. Confidence is deemed to be upheld on obtaining a simple majority. If this majority is not obtained, the Head of Government must offer his resignation.

CHAPTER FOUR. *QUESTIONS*

Article 130

1. Councillors may address questions to the Government on matters of general policy or relating to a fact, situation or specific information, to find out whether it knows about it, and what position it holds towards it.

2. Questions must be presented in writing to the Sindicatura, indicating whether an oral or written response is requested. It is understood that the response must be written unless otherwise stated. The Government must deliver its written response within thirty days after publication. If an oral response is requested, it is understood that this must be given in the plenum.

3. In no case will questions be admitted solely for the private interests of the questioner or any individual.

4. Questions are admitted by the Sindicatura, which will order their immediate publication.

Article 131

1. In each ordinary period of sessions, at least four special sessions of questions are held, with an oral response from the Government.

2. Questions that request an oral response must be included in the agenda of the plenum from the seventh day after publication. Questions are posed in the same order as they were presented.

3. At question time, the Councillor will pose the question which will be answered by a member of Government. The Councillor has the opportunity to respond and, in this case, the member of Government will respond. The total time for a question cannot exceed eight minutes, divided into equal parts. Once the member of Government has finished his response, if the Councillor requests it, the Síndic General will allow him to speak for one minute per supplementary question so that he may pose up to four supplementary questions strictly on the same matter. The Síndic General will allow any other Councillors who request it to speak for one minute, so they can pose up to two supplementary questions strictly on the same matter. The member of Government will have the same time to reply.

4. Once a speech ends, the Síndic General will give the floor immediately to whoever should speak next, or continue to the next question.

Article 132

In each period of sessions, each parliamentary group has the right to obtain a declaration of urgency for as many questions requiring oral response in the plenum as there are Councillors in the group. Independent members have the same right if there is no mixed group. Questions for which a declaration of urgency is required may be presented up to twenty-four hours before the plenum starts. Circulation is ensured by distribution at the start of the session, without prejudice to later publication in the Bulletin of the General Council.

Article 133

1. Questions with an oral response may lead to a motion related to the question, in which the General Council declares its position. This motion will not in any event be of censure against the Government

2. The motion will be presented to the Sindicatura by the Councillor who posed the question and two more Councillors, or a parliamentary group, on the day after the question was posed, and will be included on the agenda of the next session. The debate and vote will be as established for resolution proposals.

3. Councillors may present amendments up to 24 hours before the time set for starting the next session.

CHAPTER FIVE. *DEBATES ON THE POLITICAL ORIENTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT*

Article 134

1. Each year, the General Council will hold a debate on the overall political orientation of the Government. The debate starts with a speech by the Head of Government, who presents the relevant report to the plenum.

2. After the speech by the Head of Government, the Síndic General may suspend the session for no longer than twenty-four hours. Then the parliamentary groups have the opportunity to speak in turns, for thirty minutes each. Independent Councillors may speak in the debate for up to nine minutes each. The Head of Government and the Ministers may speak as often as they require. Each speech entails an opportunity to respond for a proportional time.

3. Once the debate ends, the Síndic General fixes a deadline of no more than twenty-four hours for parliamentary groups or a Councillor with the signatures of two more to present resolution proposals, which must be consistent with the matter under debate and cannot include a censure motion.

4. Proposals that are admitted will be discussed according to the order of presentation. They may be defended for a period of no more than ten minutes per parliamentary group. Independent Councillors may defend the admitted resolution proposals, for no longer than three minutes each. At the end of each turn, each parliamentary group and the independent Councillors may state their position on the other proposals presented and specify the text they put to a vote.

5. Once the discussion ends, each proposal will be put to a vote in the same order as they were put forward. When a proposal is approved, all the others will only be voted on insofar as they refer to points that are not identical or do not contradict it.

Article 135

1. At the request of the Head of Government, debates may be held on political and government action. These debates may also be requested by one fifth of the Councillors, each of whom may only propose one in each period of sessions. The Síndic General will call the plenum for this purpose within the following fifteen days. These debates may also take place if decided by the Sindicatura, in concert with the Board of Chairpersons, at the initiative of a parliamentary group.

2. The debate will always start with the speech of a member of Government and will proceed under the provisions of the previous article. If the debate is not requested by the Head of Government, the requestors will first have a turn to speak of ten minutes.

CHAPTER SIX. *GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES, PLANS AND COMMUNIQUEÉS*

Article 136

1. If the Government sends to the General Council a programme, plan or communication on which it wishes the General Council to give an opinion, the Sindicatura will order its publication or distribution among the Councillors and will include it on the relevant agenda to be debated in the plenum.

2. The debate will start with a speech by a member of the Government. Then, the parliamentary groups may speak for fifteen minutes, as may any independent Councillors who ask to, for five minutes.

3. Once the debate ends, the parliamentary groups or a Councillor with the signatures of two members of the Chamber may present resolution proposals to be dealt with according to the rules in Chapter Nine of this title.

4. When a law establishes that an appointment by the Government is subject to ratification by the General Council, the Sindicatura will order its publication or distribution among the Councillors and will include it on the agenda of the relevant plenum. The list subject to ratification will be submitted to a vote on its entirety.

5. When a law establishes that an administrative action by the Government is subject to a prior resolution of the General Council, the subsequent proposal will be processed in the plenum according to the rules on ordinary legislative procedure.

CHAPTER SEVEN. *INFORMATIVE SESSIONS*

Article 137

1. At the request of the General Council or a committee, or on his own initiative, the Head of Government or any of the Ministers will appear for an informative session in the General Council or a committee, after including the matter in the agenda.

2. The session consists of a statement by the Head of Government or one of the Ministers. Councillors may pose questions or make observations. The session closes with the response from the Head of Government or the Minister.

CHAPTER EIGHT. *CONTROL OF DELEGATED LEGISLATION*

Article 138

1. When the Government approves a legislative decree, pursuant to Art. 59 of the Constitution, this will be delivered to the Sindicatura, which will order its publication in the Bulletin of the General Council.

2. If, during the following month, no Councillor or parliamentary group raises objections to it, it will be understood that the Government has correctly exercised the legislative power delegated to it by the General Council. If, on the other hand, a Councillor or parliamentary group raises an objection, this will be delivered to the Sindicatura, which will deliver it to the competent legislative authority to issue a report. This will be debated and voted in the plenum.

3. This control procedure will not apply when the delegation law provides a specific procedure.

CHAPTER NINE. *RESOLUTION PROPOSALS*

Article 139

1. A parliamentary group or a Councillor with the signatures of two members of the Chamber may present resolution proposals to the plenum on non-legislative matters.

Proposals will be delivered in writing to the Sindicatura which, once admitted, will order their publication and deliver a copy to the Government. Once the proposal is published, a period of fifteen days commences in which the parliamentary groups and Councillors may present amendments. Once this period expires, it will be included in the agenda of the plenum.

2. The debate on the resolution proposals will start with an explanation from one of the proposers for a maximum of ten minutes. Then there will be an exclusive opportunity to speak for the parliamentary groups and Councillors that have presented amendments, and another for those that have not. Once these speeches have ended, the proposing parliamentary group or Councillors will indicate the amendments they accept and the final text will be put to a vote.

TITLE V. TRANSPARENCY IN PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY

CHAPTER ONE. *GENERAL PRINCIPLES*

Article 140

The General Council must publish updated information about its organisation, its operation, its activities and its financial system, objectively and in a manner that is easily accessible and comprehensible.

Article 141

1. The General Council must provide the information in formats that allow for data processing.
2. The information may be reused for any legal purpose on the condition that the meaning is not altered or distorted and with the obligation of citing the source of the data and the date it was last updated.

CHAPTER TWO. INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION SUBJECT TO TRANSPARENCY

Article 142

The General Council must publish, observing the principle of transparency, updated information about:

- a) The organisation of the General Council.
- b) All parliamentary initiatives and their processing status.
- c) The fulfilment of Councillors' obligations, under these Regulations, and also any payments received as Councillors, for any purpose.
- d) Any financial donations received by parliamentary groups.
- e) The political and professional resumés of the Councillors, including any positions they hold in private businesses, and their professional activities.
- f) The resumés of the individuals proposed for public office, to be appointed by the General Council.
- g) The General Council's budget and management of finance, accounts, budget and assets.
- h) Any contracts published under current legislation, tenders and agreements signed by the General Council.
- i) In general, any documentation relating to activities subject to administrative law.

TITLE VI. REFORM OF THE REGULATIONS

Article 143

Reform of these Regulations will be carried out exclusively on the initiative of the General Council, at the proposal of two parliamentary groups or one fifth of the Councillors, who must present a text of articles with any proposed amendments to the Sindicatura.

The reform of the Regulations will be processed according to the procedure for private bills, with no possibility of intervention by the Government.

If the plenum takes it into consideration, a special committee will be created, chaired by the Síndic General and formed of the members of the Sindicatura and the Councillors appointed by the parliamentary groups under the provisions of article 38 of these Regulations, so that the proportional representation of the Chamber is respected. In the event of a vote, votes will be counted by the weighted system.

Approval of the reform will require the absolute majority of members of the General Council in a vote on its entirety.

Additional provision. Treatment of gender in names referring to persons or offices

In these Regulations of the General Council, the masculine of names referring to persons or offices is understood to include women and men, unless otherwise deduced from the context.

Final provisions

One

The General Council will be governed exclusively by the rules of the Constitution, of these Regulations and those contained in the laws.

Two

The rights, duties, situations, roles and competences of officials in the service of the General Council are those in the General Council's Staff Regulations.

Three

The Sindicatura, in concert with the Board of Chairpersons, shall prepare and submit a code of conduct for Councillors to the plenum of the General Council, within 18 months after these Regulations come into force.

Four

These Regulations will enter into force the day after publication in the *Butlletí Oficial del Principat d'Andorra* (Official Gazette).

Casa de la Vall, 7 February 2019

Vicenç Mateu Zamora
Síndic General

We, the Co-Princes, sanction and promulgate it and order it to be published in the *Butlletí Oficial del Principat d'Andorra* (Official Gazette).

Joan Enric Vives Sicília
Bishop of Urgell
Co-Prince of Andorra

Emmanuel Macron
President of France
Co-Prince of Andorra