

PROVISIONAL RULES FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS/ONLINE MEETINGS DURING THE CURRENT COVID19 PANDEMIC:

Article 1

Definitions; applicability of the existing OSCE PA Rules of Procedure

- a. The current OSCE PA Rules of Procedure apply mutatis mutandis to these emergency provisions, provided they do not contradict the purpose of the following simplified procedures.
- b. Definitions:
 - “Consensus Principle” refers to decision-making without a formal vote (no counting of for/against/abstentions). A consensus decision will be considered adopted if there is no objection raised.
 - “Silence Procedure” refers to a written form of decision-making by consensus. A subsidiary body proposes a decision to the main body in writing, setting a deadline. If – within the deadline – nobody objects, the decision will be considered as adopted.

Article 2

Meetings

- a. In principle, Assembly meetings as places for parliamentary interaction require the physical presence of members. Exceptionally, in a large-scale international emergency situation which prevents a significant number of members from travelling to the venue of a statutory meeting and/or prevents the host country from organizing the statutory meeting because of official security measures, the Standing Committee can declare an Emergency Situation by a consensus-minus one-decision of its members taken through the Silence Procedure. Once the decision is taken, the following rules apply to meetings of the bodies of the Assembly.
- b. Exceptional Session:
 - aa. An Annual Session that had to be cancelled shall be scheduled as an exceptional in-person meeting as soon as the obstacle for a physical meeting has been removed and based on the host Parliament's confirmation of its capacity to adapt in due time to all aspects deriving from this rescheduling, unless the next regular Annual Session is to take place less than six months after the removal of the obstacle.
 - bb. If such a Session cannot be held as an in-person meeting within six months after the decision it shall take place as a remote Session consisting of meetings of the Standing Committee, the three General Committees and one Plenary Session. The Agenda of the remote Session will consist of reports, topical debates and elections of Assembly and Committee Officers. Other decisions shall be limited to administrative issues and Questions of Urgency (Rule 26) with the following modification of Rule 26 Paragraph 1 Al. 2: Such questions of urgency must be pertinent to the OSCE process and relate to an event which has taken place or come to public knowledge less than twenty-four days before the date for which the regular Annual Session was scheduled or during the time of the emergency.
- c. Other meetings of the Standing Committee outside the Annual Session: The Bureau shall decide whether the Standing Committee can meet online in a video-conference.
- d. Bureau: If the Bureau is prevented from meeting physically because of the emergency, it may meet online at any time and take decisions through a show of hands. The same applies to the Bureaus of the General Committees.

- e. Other online events: In order to ensure the continuation of the inter-parliamentary dialogue, the Bureau may organize online events. These events shall not adopt political resolutions.

Article 3

Emergency Leadership and Internal Elections

- a. If an Assembly Officer or the Officer of a General Committee has reached the end of his/her term while the Assembly is prevented from meeting, the Standing Committee shall have to decide whether and for which period of time elected Officers remain in place as acting Officers until the following Annual Session. The Standing Committee may also decide to replace Assembly or Committee Officers by appointing other members as Officers ad interim for the same period of time. In case of a vacancy in a Committee Bureau, the President may appoint a Vice President to take care of the vacant Committee Office; Rule 36 Paragraph 5 Al. 7 does not apply.
- b. Elections for all vacant positions that would have been up for election/re-election during the regular Annual Session will be held during the exceptional Session. The period from this election to the next Annual Session will not be counted for the maximum term of any Assembly office.
- c. Any electronic election procedure shall be subject to safeguards which allow for appropriate legitimation and provide the possibility for audit, while preserving the secrecy of the vote.

Article 4

Emergency Decision-Making and Voting other than Elections

- a. Decisions shall be taken by the majorities provided for by the existing Rules of Procedure.
- b. The Silence Procedure is used where consensus (-Minus One) rules apply.
- c. Rule 34 (Quorum) applies. Electronic voting has to ensure that members from all participating States can participate during local daytime.
- d. Where the above emergency Rules provide for decision-making through a voting procedure, voting can take place by electronic means that are safe, allow for appropriate legitimation and provide a potential for audit.
- e. Upon request by ten percent of the members of the respective body, decisions taken through an emergency procedure require confirmation at the next in-person meeting of the same body.