

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

AMENDMENTS
TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CHAMBER
OF DEPUTIES APPROVED
AT THE PLENARY SITTING OF 25 SEPTEMBER 2012

Rules 14, 15, 15-ter and 153-quater

C_D
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

12 OCTOBER 2012

Amendments and additions are indicated in bold in the text.

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TEXT OF ARTICLES 14, 15, 15-*TER* AND 153-*QUATER* OF THE
RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES AS
AMENDED BY THE HOUSE AT THE SITTING
OF 25 SEPTEMBER 2012 (*)

RULE 14

01. Parliamentary Groups are associations of Deputies established pursuant to the provisions set forth in this Rule. Inasmuch as Parliamentary Groups are entities necessary for the functioning of the Chamber of Deputies, pursuant to the Constitution and Rules of Procedure, they shall receive funds from the Chamber of Deputies budget to carry out their activities.

1. A minimum of twenty Deputies shall be required to establish a Parliamentary Group.
2. The Bureau may authorise the establishment of a Group with less than twenty members provided that it represents a nationally organised party that has presented its own lists of candidates, under the same emblem and in at least twenty constituencies, which have obtained at least one quotient in

(*) The amendments to the Rules of Procedure approved on 25 September 2012 were published in the Official Journal no. 226 of 27 September 2012. Rule 153-*quater* regulates the coming into force of the amendments to Rule 15 and the provisions contained in Rule 15-*ter*. The amendments to Rule 14 and the provisions contained in Rule 153-*quater* came into effect on 12 October 2012.

one constituency and national electoral returns of at least three hundred thousand valid list votes.

3. Within two days of the first sitting, the Deputies must declare to the Secretary General of the Chamber the Group to which they belong.

4. Those Deputies who have not made the declaration required by paragraph 3, or who do not belong to any Group, shall form a Mixed Group.

5. Deputies belonging to the Mixed Group may ask the President of the Chamber to form political groupings within it, on condition that each consists of at least ten Deputies. Smaller groupings may also be formed, as long as they include not less than three Deputies. These Deputies must represent a party or political movement the existence of which can be demonstrated, on the date of the elections to the Chamber of Deputies, by precise and unequivocal features, and which must, alone or jointly with others, have presented lists of candidates or individual candidates in the single-member constituencies. Not less than three Deputies belonging to linguistic minorities protected by the Constitution and referred to in an Act of Parliament may also form a single political grouping within the Mixed Group. These Deputies must have been elected, in areas in which these minorities are protected, from, or in connection with, lists which reflect these minorities.

RULE 15

1. Within four days of the first sitting, the President of the Chamber shall convene, simultaneously but separately, the Deputies belonging to each Parliamentary Group and those to be registered in the Mixed Group.

2. At its first meeting each Group shall appoint a Chairperson, one or more Vice-Chairpersons and a steering committee. From within these bodies the Group shall appoint the Deputy or Deputies, numbering three at most, to whom to entrust, in cases where the Chairperson is absent or unable to discharge his or her duties, the exercise of the powers attributed to the Chairperson by the Rules. The President of the Chamber shall be informed of the composition of these bodies, and of any subsequent changes to them.

2-bis. Within thirty days of its establishment, each Group shall approve a statute, to be transmitted to the President of the Chamber of Deputies within the following five days. The statute shall in any case vest the Group Assembly with the power to approve, by means of a majority vote, the financial statement as referred to in Rule 15-ter. The statute shall also designate a body that shall be responsible for the Group's administrative and accounting management.

2-ter. The statute shall prescribe the manner in which the body responsible for the administrative and accounting management of the Group allocates resources to achieve the aims described in paragraph 4. The statute shall be published on the website of the Chamber of Deputies.

2-quater. The statute shall identify the manner of disclosure of documents relating to the internal organisation of the Group, including the remuneration of staff.

3. To enable Parliamentary Groups to fulfil their functions, they shall be allocated premises and equipment in a manner determined by the Bureau that takes account of the basic common requirements of all Groups and the size of their membership. To cover all the costs, including staff costs, as indicated in paragraph 4, each Group shall be guaranteed a single all-inclusive annual contribution from the budget of the Chamber in the manner determined by the Bureau. The contribution shall be calculated with reference to each Group's numerical strength. The facilities and contributions allocated to the Mixed Group shall reflect the number and size of the political groupings therein established so that they may be apportioned among such political groupings with reference both to the common requirements of all members and to the numerical strength of each political grouping.

4. The contributions referred to in paragraph 3 shall be used by the Parliamentary Groups exclusively for institutional aims connected with their parliamentary activities and to cover associated research, publishing and communication functions, as well as costs, including staff remuneration, pertaining to the administration of their internal bodies and structures.

RULE 15-ter

- 1. Each Group shall approve an annual financial report structured according to a common model approved by the Bureau. The financial report must always disclose, in separate accounting entries, the resources transferred to the Group by the Chamber of Deputies, and specify the purpose of the transfer.**
- 2. In order to ensure transparency and probity in their financial and accounting management, the Groups shall use an independent auditing company chosen by the Bureau through a public selection process. The auditors shall verify the soundness of the bookkeeping in the course of the fiscal year, verify the accurate financial reporting of operations, and give an assessment of the financial statement referred to in paragraph 1.**
- 3. The financial statement shall be forwarded to the President of the Chamber. It shall be accompanied by a declaration from the Chairperson of the Group, certifying that it has been approved by the competent statutory body of the Group, and by the report of the independent auditors referred to in paragraph 2. The financial statements of the Groups shall be published in an annex to the accounts of the Chamber.**
- 4. In accordance with procedures and methods laid down by the Bureau, the College of Quaestors shall review the compliance of the financial reports of the Groups with the Rules of Procedure.**

5. The disbursement of financial resources from the budget of the Chamber in favour of Parliamentary Groups shall be authorised by the College of Quaestors provided that the review referred to in paragraph 4 has produced a favourable result.

6. The College of Quaestors shall apprise the Bureau of the outcome of the activities carried out pursuant to paragraphs 4 and 5.

7. If a Group fails to submit its financial report within the deadline prescribed in paragraph 8, it shall forfeit for the current year its right to receive the resources referred to in paragraph 5. If the College of Quaestors finds that the statements or any accompanying documents do not comply with the provisions of this Rule, it shall invite the Chairperson of the Group, within ten days of receipt of the report, to ensure the necessary rectification within a time limit that it shall set. If the Group fails to rectify its accounts within the set time limit, it shall forfeit its right to receive the resources referred to in paragraph 5 for the current year. The forfeiture referred to in this paragraph shall be determined by resolution of the Bureau upon a proposal of the College of Quaestors, and shall also entail the reimbursement, in a manner determined by Bureau, of unreported funds received from the Chamber's budget.

8. The Bureau shall stipulate the terms and procedures for the enforcement of this Rule, including the procedures to be followed in the event of the dissolution of a Group. Special provisions shall be laid down for the Mixed Group.

RULE 153-*quater*

1. The amendments to Rule 15 and the provisions of Rule 15-*ter* shall enter into force as soon as the Bureau that is in office at the date of their approval adopts the resolutions necessary for their application, and in any case no later than the beginning of the 17th Parliament.

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