

# The Riksdag Act (2014:801)

## Chapter 1. Introductory provisions

### **The contents of the Riksdag Act**

Art. 1. This Act contains provisions about the Riksdag.

Provisions on elections to the Riksdag, the work of the Riksdag and the tasks of the Riksdag are laid down in the Instrument of Government.

The Act is divided into main provisions and supplementary provisions. Rules concerning the enactment and amendment of the provisions of the Riksdag Act are laid down in Chapter 8, Article 17 of the Instrument of Government.

### **The disposition of the Riksdag Act**

**Art. 2.** The Riksdag Act contains 14 chapters. These are:

- introductory provisions (Chapter 1);
- elections to the Riksdag (Chapter 2);
- Riksdag sessions (Chapter 3);
- direction and planning of the work of the Riksdag (Chapter 4);
- the members of the Riksdag (Chapter 5);
- the Chamber (Chapter 6);
- the Riksdag committees and the Committee on European Union Affairs (Chapter 7);
- interpellations and questions to ministers (Chapter 8);
- introduction of business (Chapter 9);
- preparation of business (Chapter 10);
- settlement of business (Chapter 11);
- elections within the Riksdag (Chapter 12);
- Riksdag bodies and boards (Chapter 13); and
- the Riksdag Administration (Chapter 14).

## **Definitions**

**Art. 3.** For the purposes of this Act, the following terms have the definitions set out in this article:

–*electoral period*: the time from the date on which the newly-elected Riksdag convenes to the date on which the Riksdag elected next thereafter convenes;

–*Riksdag session*: the period during which the Riksdag meets;

–*longest-serving member of those present in the Chamber*: if two or more members have served in the Riksdag for an equally long period, the eldest of them has precedence;

–*group leader*: the special representative appointed by a party group which has received at least four per cent of the national vote at the election to the Riksdag to confer with the Speaker under this Act;

–*plenary meeting*: a meeting of the Chamber at which committee reports and statements may be taken up for deliberation and settlement.

## **Chapter 2. Elections to the Riksdag**

### **Contents of the chapter**

**Art. 1.** This chapter contains provisions on elections to the Riksdag.

### **Time of ordinary elections**

**Art. 2.** Ordinary elections to the Riksdag are held in September.

### **Extraordinary elections**

*Supplementary provision 2.2.1* Provisions concerning extraordinary elections to the Riksdag are laid down in Chapter 3, Article 11, and Chapter 6, Article 5 of the Instrument of Government.

### **Further provisions on elections**

**Art. 3.** Further provisions on elections to the Riksdag are laid down in the Instrument of Government and in law.

## **Chapter 3. Riksdag sessions**

### **Contents of the chapter**

**Art. 1.** This chapter contains provisions on:

- Riksdag sessions after an election to the Riksdag (Articles 2–5),
- the opening of the Riksdag session (Article 6); and
- other provisions concerning Riksdag sessions (Articles 7–9).

## **Riksdag sessions after an election to the Riksdag**

### **Start of the Riksdag session**

**Art. 2.** A newly-elected Riksdag convenes for a new session in accordance with the provisions laid down in Chapter 3, Art. 10 of the Instrument of Government.

### **Time of first meeting after an election**

*Supplementary provision 3.2.1* The first meeting of the Chamber in a Riksdag session after an election starts at 11 a.m. The members shall be informed of the time of the meeting.

### **First meeting**

**Art. 3.** At the first meeting of the Chamber after an election to the Riksdag, the following shall take place in the order set out below:

1. a report from the Election Review Board concerning the examination of the election warrants of members and alternate members is presented;
2. a roll-call of members is taken;
3. a Speaker and First, Second and Third Deputy Speaker are elected for the electoral period; and
4. a Nominations Committee is appointed for the electoral period.

### **Chair of the first meeting after an election**

*Supplementary provision 3.3.1* The longest-serving member of those present in the Chamber presides over the meeting until the Speaker and Deputy Speakers have been elected.

### **Procedure for election of Speakers**

**Art. 4.** In accordance with Chapter 4, Article 2 of the Instrument of Government, the Riksdag elects a Speaker and First, Second and Third Deputy Speaker. The Speakers are elected individually in the above order. They are elected for the duration of the electoral period.

If the election of the Speaker is held by secret ballot in accordance with the provisions in Chapter 12, the candidate obtaining more than half of the votes is elected. If no such majority is obtained, a new election is held. If no candidate receives more than half of the votes on this occasion either, a third election is held between the two candidates obtaining the highest number of votes in the second election. The person receiving the most votes in the third election is elected.

### **Procedure for appointment of Nominations Committee**

**Art. 5.** Each party group which corresponds to a party which obtained at least four per cent of the national vote at the election to the Riksdag shall have a seat on the Nominations Committee. A further ten seats are distributed proportionately among the same party groups. The members are appointed on the basis of the procedure set out in Chapter 12, Article 14.

### **Number of members in the Nominations Committee**

*Supplementary provision 3.5.1* The Speaker determines how many members each party group shall appoint to the Nominations Committee. In making the proportional distribution, the basis of calculation set out in Chapter 12, Article 8, paragraph three, shall be applied.

### **The opening of the Riksdag session**

#### **Special meeting for the opening of the Riksdag session**

**Art. 6.** A special meeting of the Chamber for the formal opening of a Riksdag session takes place no later than the third day of the session. At the request of the Speaker, the Head of State declares the session open. If the Head of State is unable to attend, the Speaker declares the session open.

At this meeting, the Prime Minister delivers a statement of Government policy unless there are special grounds why he or she should refrain from doing so.

#### **Time of meeting for the opening of the Riksdag session**

*Supplementary provision 3.6.1* The formal opening of the session after an election to the Riksdag takes place at 2 p.m. on the second day of the session.

In years in which no election to the Riksdag has been held, the formal opening takes place on the first day of the session at the same time.

The Speaker may appoint another time for the meeting.

### **Other provisions concerning Riksdag sessions**

#### **Length of the Riksdag session**

**Art. 7.** A Riksdag session continues until the start of the next session.

#### **Other Riksdag sessions during the electoral period**

**Art. 8.** In years in which no ordinary election to the Riksdag is held, a new session starts on that date in September determined by the Chamber at the preceding session.

#### **Proposal regarding time of first meeting**

*Supplementary provision 3.8.1* The Riksdag Board presents a proposal to the Chamber ahead of decisions in accordance with Article 8.

#### **Roll-call at other Riksdag sessions**

*Supplementary provision 3.8.2* The Speaker may also determine that a roll-call of members is to take place at the first meeting of the Chamber at other sessions during the electoral period. If no roll-call is held, a list of all members at the start of the Riksdag session shall be attached to the record of the meeting.

#### **New Riksdag session after extraordinary election**

**Art. 9.** If an extraordinary election has been announced prior to the date appointed, a new session starts in accordance with the Article 8, provided the Riksdag convenes before 1 July the same year as a result of the extraordinary election.

## **Chapter 4. Direction and planning of the work of the Riksdag**

#### **Contents of the chapter**

**Art. 1.** This chapter contains provisions on direction and planning of the work of the Riksdag.

#### **The Speaker and Deputy Speakers**

**Art. 2.** The Speaker, or in his or her place one of the Deputy Speakers, directs the work of the Riksdag.

#### **Group leaders**

**Art. 3.** Each of the party groups under Chapter 3, Article 5 shall appoint a special representative (group leader) to confer with the Speaker concerning the work of the Chamber, in accordance with provisions laid down in this Act.

The party groups shall appoint a personal alternate for the group leader (deputy group leader).

### **Information about decisions made after conferral**

*Supplementary provision 4.3.1* Decisions made after conferral shall be made available for the members. This shall occur as determined by the Speaker.

### **The Riksdag Administration**

**Art. 4.** The Riksdag Administration is led by a Board.

Provisions concerning the tasks of the Riksdag Administration are laid down in Chapter 14.

### **The Riksdag Board**

*Supplementary provision 4.4.1* The Riksdag Board directs the Riksdag Administration and deliberates on the organisation of the work of the Riksdag.

The Riksdag Board consists of the Speaker as chair and ten other members whom the Riksdag appoints from among its members for the duration of the electoral period. The Riksdag also appoints ten deputies for the appointed members of the Riksdag Board.

### **Meetings of the Riksdag Board**

*Supplementary provision 4.4.2* The Riksdag Board convenes at a summons from the Speaker. If the Speaker is unable to attend a meeting, one of the Deputy Speakers will take his or her place as chair. The place of an absent member is taken by a deputy belonging to the same party group.

The Riksdag Board meets behind closed doors. If the Board wishes to obtain information from a person who is not a member of the Board, it may summon him or her to attend a meeting.

The Deputy Speakers, those of the group leaders who are not members of the Board, and the Secretary-General of the Riksdag may participate in the deliberations of the Board.

### **The Chairmen's Conference**

**Art. 5.** The Chairmen's Conference deliberates on matters of common concern for the activities of the Chamber, the Riksdag committees and the Committee on European Union Affairs.

### **Composition of the Chairmen's Conference**

*Supplementary provision 4.5.1* The Chairmen's Conference consists of the Speaker, acting as chair, and the chairs of the Riksdag committees and the Committee on European Union Affairs.

## **Chapter 5. The members of the Riksdag**

## **Contents of the chapter**

**Art. 1.** This chapter contains provisions on the mandate of members of the Riksdag.

Provisions regarding the mandate are also laid down in Chapter 4, Articles 10–13 of the Instrument of Government.

## **Remuneration**

**Art. 2.** A member of the Riksdag shall receive remuneration out of public funds. More detailed provisions regarding remuneration and economic conditions for members of the Riksdag and alternate members are laid down in law.

## **Registration of commitments and financial interests**

*Supplementary provision 5.2.1* Provisions regarding registration of members' commitments and financial interests are laid down in the Act concerning the registration of MPs' commitments and financial interests (1996:810).

## **Leave of absence**

**Art. 3.** A member of the Riksdag may be granted leave of absence from his or her duties. If a member has been granted leave of absence for at least one month, the member's duties shall be carried out by an alternate for the duration of his or her absence.

## **Examination of application for leave of absence**

**Art. 4.** An application for leave of absence is considered by the Speaker, with the restrictions set out in paragraph two.

An application for reasons other than illness or parental leave for a period of one month or more is considered by the Chamber.

If, however, an application is made during a break of more than one month in the work of the Chamber, the Speaker may determine whether leave shall be granted.

## **Contents of an application for leave of absence**

*Supplementary provision 5.4.1* An application for leave of absence shall be written, shall include the reasons for the application and shall relate to a specific period. Applications shall be submitted to the Riksdag Administration.

## **Alternates**

**Art. 5.** When an alternate member is to replace the Speaker, a member of the Riksdag who is a Government minister, or a member of the Riksdag who has been granted leave of absence, the Speaker shall summon the alternate to take up his or her duties. The Speaker shall follow the order of precedence between the alternates that is laid down in law. The Speaker may, however, depart from this order where special grounds exist.

### **Notification of alternates**

*Supplementary provision 5.5.1* An alternate member who is to exercise a mandate as a member of the Riksdag shall receive notification, indicating the member whom he or she will replace and the period of the appointment. An alternate may receive a separate notification of the date on which the appointment shall terminate.

### **Status of alternates in the case of resignation by a member of the Riksdag**

**Art. 6.** If a member of the Riksdag who is on leave of absence resigns his or her mandate, the alternate member who has been replacing that member shall continue to exercise the mandate until a new member has been appointed.

### **Prosecution or deprivation of liberty**

**Art. 7.** In certain cases under Chapter 4, Section 12, paragraph one of the Instrument of Government, legal proceedings may not be initiated against a member of the Riksdag and neither may a member of the Riksdag be deprived of his or her personal liberty without the consent of the Riksdag. The same applies to former members of the Riksdag.

An application for the consent of the Riksdag shall be submitted by a prosecutor, or any other person wishing to initiate legal proceedings, to the Speaker.

If the application is so incomplete that it cannot be used as a basis for consideration by the Riksdag, or if the applicant has failed to demonstrate that he or she is competent to raise charges or apply for such action to be taken by a public authority, the Speaker shall reject the application. In any other case, the Speaker shall notify the matter to a meeting of the Chamber.

### **Application for consent**

*Supplementary provision 5.7.1* An application under Article 7 shall be submitted in writing and shall contain the grounds for the application.

## **Chapter 6. The Chamber**

### **Contents of the chapter**

**Art. 1.** This chapter contains provisions on:

- planning and direction of meetings (Articles 2–6);
- meetings (Articles 7–14);
- the right to speak at meetings (Articles 15–19);
- legislative debates (Articles 20–22);
- special debates (Article 23); and
- common provisions (Articles 24–27).

## **Planning and direction of meetings**

### **Planning**

**Art. 2.** The Speaker determines the planning of the work of the Chamber and when the Chamber shall meet.

### **Conferral ahead of planning**

*Supplementary provision 6.2.1* Ahead of decisions under Article 2, the Speaker shall confer with the Riksdag Board.

### **The Speaker**

**Art. 3.** The Speaker presides over the meetings of the Chamber.

### **Assistance to the Speaker**

*Supplementary provision 6.3.1* When presiding over the meetings of the Chamber, the Speaker is assisted by a clerk of the Chamber.

### **Deputy Speaker**

**Art. 4.** The Speaker may delegate to a Deputy Speaker the duty of presiding over a meeting.

### **Longest-serving member in the Chamber**

**Art. 5.** If the Speaker and all the Deputy Speakers are unable to attend, the member among those present who has been a member of the Riksdag longest presides over the meeting.

### **Impartiality of the Speaker**

**Art. 6.** The Speaker is debarred from speaking on the substance of any matter under deliberation which has been entered in the order paper. The same shall apply to the Deputy Speaker or member presiding over a meeting of the Chamber.

## **Meetings**

### **Openness at meetings**

**Art. 7.** Meetings of the Chamber are open to the public in accordance with the provisions laid down in Chapter 4, Article 9 of the Instrument of Government.

The Chamber may determine that a meeting shall be held behind closed doors, if necessary, with regard to the security of the Realm, or otherwise, with regard to relations with another state or an international organisation.

If the Government is to provide information to the Riksdag at a meeting, the Government may also determine, on the grounds given in paragraph two, that the meeting shall be held behind closed doors.

### **Duty of confidentiality**

**Art. 8.** A member or official of the Riksdag may not, without authority, disclose anything that has occurred at a meeting held behind closed doors. The Chamber may waive the duty of confidentiality, in whole or in part, in a particular case.

## **Summons**

**Art. 9.** The Chamber convenes in response to a summons from the Speaker unless otherwise provided in the Instrument of Government or in this Act.

A summons shall be posted no later than 6 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting and at least fourteen hours in advance. In exceptional circumstances, a summons may be posted later. In such a case, the meeting shall take place only if more than half the members of the Riksdag consent to this.

### **Contents of a summons**

**Art. 10.** The summons shall indicate whether the meeting is a plenary meeting at which committee reports and statements may be taken up for settlement.

### **Other information in a summons**

*Supplementary provision 6.10.1* The summons shall indicate if an election is to be held at the meeting.

## **Break in the work of the Chamber after a decision to call an extraordinary election**

**Art. 11.** If the Government has decided to call an extraordinary election, the Speaker may determine in response to a request from the Government, that the work of the Chamber shall be suspended for the remainder of the electoral period.

## **Extraordinary meeting**

**Art. 12.** The Speaker may decide to convene a meeting of the Chamber during a break in the work of the Chamber. Such a decision shall be taken if requested by the Government or by at least one hundred and fifteen members of the Riksdag.

A meeting shall be held within ten days from the submission of such a request. A meeting may only be held after all the members have been given reasonable time to turn up after being notified of the summons.

During a period in which plenary meetings are not normally planned, a plenary meeting may be held in less than 48 hours from the time members are notified of the summons only if at least three quarters of those entitled to vote and more than half of the members of the Riksdag vote in favour of settling the matter.

## **Notification of time for extraordinary meeting**

*Supplementary provision 6.12.1* Notice of the time of the first such meeting under Article 12 shall be published.

## **Order paper**

**Art. 13.** The Speaker shall prepare an order paper for each meeting listing all matters on the table of the Chamber. An exception may be made for a matter which it is assumed will be dealt with behind closed doors. The order paper shall be made available for the members of the Riksdag.

The order paper shall indicate whether the meeting is a plenary meeting.

At the meeting, business and elections shall be dealt with in the order in which they appear on the order paper.

## **Motions that are to be entered as the first item on the order paper**

*Supplementary provision 6.13.1* A motion calling for a referendum on a matter of fundamental law, a vote on a Prime Minister in accordance with Chapter 6, Article 3 of the Instrument of Government, a proposal for a new Prime Minister or a motion calling for a declaration of no confidence is entered as the first item on the order paper. If there are several such matters, they are taken in the order indicated above. The Speaker may determine another order between a vote on a Prime Minister and a motion calling for a declaration of no confidence.

## **Contents of the order paper**

*Supplementary provision 6.13.2* In addition to the provisions laid down in Chapter 6, Article 13.1, the following shall be entered on the order paper:

1. elections;
2. Government bills and written communications from the Government, submissions and reports from Riksdag bodies, private members' motions and documents from the EU which are to be referred to a committee;
3. committee reports and statements which are to be tabled, debated or settled, or if a committee or the Speaker have proposed that a matter shall be taken up for settlement after a shorter period than that laid down in Chapter 11, Article 2, paragraph one;
4. decisions and information about any changes in the list of members;
5. other decisions to be taken by the Chamber;
6. notice of specially-arranged debates; and
7. other questions to the extent determined by the Speaker.

In addition, notice that a minister intends to deliver an oral statement at a meeting of the Chamber should be entered in the order paper. If possible, a motion calling for a draft law to be held in abeyance for twelve months shall be entered in the order paper.

## **Decision to terminate or adjourn a meeting**

**Art. 14.** A decision to terminate or adjourn a meeting in progress is taken by the Chamber without prior deliberation.

## **Right to speak at meetings of the Chamber**

### **Right to speak**

**Art. 15.** Every member of the Riksdag and every minister shall be entitled to speak freely at a meeting on all matters under deliberation and on the legality of all that takes place at the meeting, with the exceptions laid down in this Act.

### **Restrictions on the right to speak**

**Art. 16.** A person who has the floor shall confine his or her contribution to the matter under deliberation. Should anyone offend against this provision and fail to comply with the Speaker's

admonition, the Speaker may debar him or her from speaking for the remainder of the deliberations.

No speaker at a meeting may speak inappropriately of another person, use personally insulting language, or otherwise behave in word or deed in a way that contravenes good order. Should anyone offend against this provision, the Speaker may debar him or her from speaking for the remainder of the deliberations.

### **Rules for the Chamber**

*Supplementary provision 6.16.1* After conferring with the group leaders, the Speaker may decide to adopt rules for the Chamber.

### **Declaration of office by the Head of State**

**Art. 17.** The Head of State may deliver a declaration of office before the Chamber.

### **Oral information from the Government**

**Art. 18.** The Government may provide information to the Riksdag by means of an oral statement delivered by a minister at a meeting of the Chamber.

### **Disqualification**

**Art. 19.** No one may be present at a meeting when a matter is being deliberated which personally concerns himself or herself or a close associate.

A minister may however participate in the deliberation of a matter concerning the performance of his or her official duties.

### **Legislative debates**

#### **Arrangement of debates**

**Art. 20.** The Speaker shall confer with the group leaders concerning the arrangement of debates in the Chamber.

#### **Limitations during debates**

**Art. 21.** The Riksdag may prescribe a limit to the number of contributions a speaker may make during the deliberation of a matter and the duration of such contributions in a supplementary provision of this Act. A distinction may be made in this connection between different categories of speakers.

Such limitation of the right to speak as referred to in paragraph one may be made in conjunction with the deliberation of a particular issue in response to a proposal from the Speaker. The decision is taken without prior deliberation.

Every person wishing to speak on an issue shall however be entitled to speak for at least four minutes.

### **Notice of wish to speak in a debate**

*Supplementary provision 6.21.1* A contribution by a member who has not given prior notice of his or her wish to participate in a debate shall be limited to four minutes, unless the Speaker allows an extension. A further contribution by a member who has already spoken during the deliberation of a particular issue shall be limited to two minutes.

Notice is to be given to the Riksdag Administration no later than 4.30 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting at which the deliberations will commence. Such notice shall indicate the expected duration of the contribution.

The rules laid down in paragraphs one and two shall not apply when a reply is given to an interpellation or a question.

### **Order of speakers**

**Art. 22.** The Speaker shall determine the order of speakers from among those giving notice before the deliberation of a particular issue that they wish to speak. Members asking leave to speak during the deliberations shall speak in the order in which they give notice to this effect.

Irrespective of the order of speakers, and without prior notice, the Speaker may:

1. give the floor to a minister who has not previously spoken; and
2. give the floor to a minister or a member who has previously spoken for the purpose of making a rejoinder to the speech of a previous speaker.

After conferring with the group leaders, the Speaker may decide to give the floor to a minister or a member for a rejoinder before he or she has made his or her contribution. A distinction may be made in this connection between different categories of speakers.

### **Possibility for a minister to speak**

*Supplementary provision 6.22.1* Irrespective of the order of speakers and without having given prior notice, a minister who has not spoken previously in the deliberation of a particular issue may be given the floor for a contribution of no more than ten minutes.

### **Rejoinders**

*Supplementary provision 6.22.2* A rejoinder shall be requested during an ongoing contribution. The duration of a rejoinder may not exceed two minutes unless the Speaker permits an extension to four minutes on special grounds. Each speaker may make two rejoinders to the same contribution. If the Speaker has already given a member leave to make a rejoinder, he or she shall be allowed to make the rejoinder before a minister makes a contribution breaking into the order of speakers.

### **Concurrence**

*Supplementary provision 6.22.3* Irrespective of the order of speakers, a member may indicate his or her concurrence with a preceding speaker in the course of the deliberation of an issue without stating his or her reasons.

### **Special debates**

#### **Specially-arranged debates**

**Art. 23.** After conferring with the group leaders, the Speaker may determine that a debate shall take place at a meeting of the Chamber on matters unconnected with other business under consideration. Such a debate may be restricted to one particular subject or may be divided up according to subject.

#### **Time for contributions at a specially-arranged debate**

*Supplementary provision 6.23.1* After conferring with the group leaders, the Speaker shall determine the duration of contributions at a specially-arranged debate.

### **General provisions**

#### **Records**

**Art. 24.** A verbatim record shall be kept of proceedings in the Chamber. No one may speak off the record. A decision may not be altered when the record has been confirmed.

The record of meetings of the Chamber and associated documents shall be made publicly available, unless secrecy is required.

#### **Preliminary record**

*Supplementary provision 6.24.1* A statement made at a meeting shall be made available in readable form without delay (preliminary record). If the speaker has registered no complaint against the preliminary record by 12 noon of the third working day following the meeting, he or she shall be presumed to have approved it.

If the speaker adjusts the preliminary record, he or she should sign the adjustment.

## **Confirmation of the record**

*Supplementary provision 6.24.2* A record is confirmed by the Chamber within three weeks of the meeting. A record which cannot be confirmed within that period shall be confirmed within one month or at such time as the Speaker determines.

When a record is confirmed, a member is entitled to request correction of the record in respect of a statement which has been approved by another member under 6.24.1.

## **Seats in the Chamber**

**Art. 25.** Each member shall have his or her own appointed place in the Chamber. Special places shall also be provided for the Speaker, Deputy Speakers and ministers.

## **Placing in the Chamber**

*Supplementary provision 6.25.1* Members sit in order of constituency in the Chamber.

## **Place for speaking in the Chamber**

*Supplementary provision 6.25.2* A speaker shall address the Chamber from the rostrum or from his or her place in the Chamber.

## **The public**

**Art. 26.** Special places shall be provided in the Chamber for the general public.

## **Rules for visitors**

*Supplementary provision 6.26.1* A visitor to the public gallery shall surrender, on request, his or her outdoor clothing, carrying bags, and any objects capable of being used to create a disturbance in the Chamber. A person who fails to comply with such a request may be refused admission to the public gallery. Personal possessions thus surrendered shall be stored in special accommodation for the duration of the visit.

Rules concerning security controls are laid down in the Act on Security Controls in the Riksdag (SFS 1988:144).

## **Members of the public who create a disturbance**

**Art. 27.** A member of the public who creates a disturbance may be ejected immediately. In the event of disorder developing among the public, the Speaker may have all the members of the public ejected.

# Chapter 7. The Riksdag committees and the Committee on European Union Affairs

## Contents of the chapter

**Art. 1.** This chapter contains provisions on:

- appointments (Articles 2–4);
- responsibilities of the Riksdag committees and allocation of matters (Articles 5–11);
- EU business (Articles 12–14); and
- meetings (Articles 15–21).

## Appointments

### Riksdag Committees

**Art. 2.** The Riksdag shall appoint from among its members, for each electoral period, a Committee on the Constitution, a Committee on Finance, a Committee on Taxation and as many other committees as are necessary for the work of the Riksdag. The appointments apply for the duration of the electoral period.

The Riksdag may also appoint committees during the electoral period to serve no longer than the remainder of the electoral period.

### Appointment of committees

*Supplementary provision 7.2.1* The Riksdag shall appoint the following fifteen committees not later than the eighth day following the first meeting of the Chamber in the electoral period of the Riksdag in the order listed below:

1. a Committee on the Constitution;
2. a Committee on Finance;
3. a Committee on Taxation;
4. a Committee on Justice;
5. a Committee on Civil Affairs;
6. a Committee on Foreign Affairs;

7. a Committee on Defence;
8. a Committee on Social Insurance;
9. a Committee on Health and Welfare;
10. a Committee on Cultural Affairs;
11. a Committee on Education;
12. a Committee on Transport and Communications;
13. a Committee on Environment and Agriculture;
14. a Committee on Trade and Industry; and
15. a Committee on the Labour Market.

### **Appointments of additional committees**

*Supplementary provision 7.2.2* If the Riksdag appoints any additional committee, it shall indicate the committee's primary responsibilities.

### **Committee on European Union Affairs**

**Art. 3.** The Riksdag shall appoint from among its members for each electoral period a Committee on European Union Affairs (Committee on EU Affairs) for consultation with the Government under Chapter 10, Article 10 of the Instrument of Government.

### **Members of the Riksdag committees and the Committee on European Union Affairs**

**Art. 4.** The Riksdag committees and the Committee on EU Affairs shall consist of an odd number of members, but no fewer than fifteen.

At meetings of the Committee on EU Affairs, each party group represented on the Committee has the right to substitute for one member of the Committee a member of the Riksdag committee whose field of responsibility is affected by the issues under consideration. This right does not, however, apply to a party group which already has a member or deputy member on the Committee who is also a member of the Riksdag committee concerned.

### **Decisions regarding number of members**

*Supplementary provision 7.4.1* The number of members in the Riksdag committees and Committee on EU Affairs is determined by the Riksdag in response to a proposal from the Nominations Committee.

## **Responsibilities of the committees and allocation of matters**

### **Allocation of matters between the Riksdag committees**

**Art. 5.** In addition to the provisions laid down in Articles 8, 9 and 10, the Riksdag prescribes by means of a supplementary provision the principles according to which matters shall be allocated among the Riksdag committees. Matters falling within the same subject area shall be referred to the same committee.

The Riksdag may, however, determine that there shall be a committee for the preparation of matters concerning legislation under Chapter 8, Article 2, paragraph one of the Instrument of Government, irrespective of subject area.

### **Committees' subject areas**

*Supplementary provision 7.5.1* The appendix to this Act lays down the various subject areas for which the Riksdag committees are responsible, in addition to those laid down in Articles 8, 9 and 10.

### **Sharing of matters between Riksdag committees**

**Art. 6.** The Budget Bill may be shared between two or more Riksdag committees. Other matters may be shared only where special grounds so warrant.

### **Joint committees**

**Art. 7.** Two or more committees may decide to prepare a matter jointly through deputies on a joint committee.

### **Responsibilities and subject areas of the Committee on the Constitution**

**Art. 8.** The Committee on the Constitution shall prepare matters concerning the fundamental laws and the Riksdag Act.

The Committee shall monitor the application in the Riksdag of the principle of subsidiarity under Chapter 9, Article 20, paragraph two and report its observations to the Chamber once a year.

Further provisions concerning the responsibilities of the Committee are laid down in the Instrument of Government and in this Act.

### **Responsibilities and subject areas of the Committee on Finance**

**Art. 9.** The Committee on Finance shall prepare matters concerning:

1. general guidelines for economic policy and for the determination of the central government budget; and

2. the activities of the Riksbank.

The Committee shall also prepare proposals for decisions on the central government budget in accordance with Chapter 11, Article 18, paragraphs three and five. Furthermore, the Committee on Finance shall examine estimates of central government revenue and the central government annual report. The Committee shall coordinate the Riksdag's decisions concerning the central government budget.

Further provisions concerning the responsibilities of the Committee are laid down in the Instrument of Government and in this Act.

### **Subject areas of the Committee on Taxation**

**Art. 10.** The Committee on Taxation shall prepare matters concerning central government and local government taxation.

### **Departures from the allocation of matters**

**Art. 11.** The Riksdag may depart from the principles thus established for the allocation of matters among committees, with the exception of Article 8, paragraph one, if this is deemed necessary in a particular case, having regard to the interdependence of different matters, the particular nature of a matter, or working conditions.

Under the circumstances set out in paragraph one, a Riksdag committee may transfer a matter to another Riksdag committee, provided this committee consents. The committee transferring the matter may deliver an opinion in the matter to the receiving committee in conjunction with the transfer.

### **EU business**

#### **Government's deliberations with the committees in matters concerning EU business**

**Art. 12.** The Government shall deliberate with the committees in matters concerning European Union business decided by the committees.

If requested by at least five members of a committee, the committee shall decide to hold deliberations with the Government under paragraph one. The committee may reject such a request if deliberation would delay consideration of the matter so as to cause serious detriment. In such a case, the committee shall enter in the record its reasons for rejecting the request.

#### **Committees' obligation to monitor EU business**

**Art. 13.** The committees shall monitor the work of the European Union within their respective subject areas.

#### **Government's consultation with the Committee on EU Affairs**

**Art. 14.** The Government shall inform the Committee on EU Affairs of matters which are to be decided by the Council of the European Union. The Government shall also consult the Committee regarding the conduct of negotiations in the Council prior to decisions in the Council.

The Government shall deliberate with the Committee on EU Affairs concerning other matters associated with the work of the European Union, if so requested by the Committee on special grounds.

The Government shall consult the Committee prior to meetings and decisions of the European Council.

#### **Meetings**

##### **Time of meetings of the Riksdag committees and the Committee on EU Affairs**

**Art. 15.** The Riksdag committees and the Committee on EU Affairs convene as required by the work of the Riksdag.

#### **Summons**

*Supplementary provision 7.15.1* The Riksdag committees and the Committee on EU Affairs convene for the first time within two days from their appointment in response to a summons from the Speaker. Thereafter, the Riksdag committees and Committee on EU Affairs are convened by their chairs. The chair shall summon the members to a meeting if so requested by at least five members of the Riksdag committee or Committee on EU Affairs.

A summons shall be sent to all members and deputy members. The summons should be posted no later than 6 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting.

The Committee on Finance shall also be convened by the Speaker in response to a request from the Government, for purposes under Chapter 9, Article 5 of the Instrument of Government.

#### **Head of meeting pending the election of a chair**

*Supplementary provision 7.15.2* Pending the election of a chair, the member from among those present who has been a member of the Riksdag longest presides.

#### **Planning of committee meetings**

*Supplementary provision 7.15.3* If the committee has made a unanimous decision in advance, the committee may meet during a plenary meeting or an election in the Chamber. However, the committee may not hold such public meetings as are referred to in Article 17 concurrently with a plenary meeting or election in the Chamber.

## **Records**

*Supplementary provision 7.15.4* A record shall be kept of meetings of the Riksdag committees and meetings of the Committee on EU Affairs.

## **Committee on EU Affairs**

*Supplementary provision 7.15.5* A legible record shall be kept at meetings of the Committee on EU Affairs.

## **Meetings behind closed doors**

**Art. 16.** The Riksdag committees and the Committee on EU Affairs shall meet behind closed doors. The Riksdag committees and the Committee on EU Affairs may permit a person other than a member, deputy member or official of the Committee also to be present at a meeting behind closed doors. At meetings of the Committee on EU Affairs and deliberations in the Riksdag committees on EU business under Article 12, no decision is required for a minister or an official accompanying a minister to be present.

## **Meetings that are open to the public**

**Art. 17.** A Riksdag committee may decide that a meeting shall be open to the public, in respect of that part of it which relates to information-gathering or deliberations on EU business in accordance with Article 12.

The Committee on EU Affairs may decide that a meeting shall be open to the public, in whole or in part.

A representative of a central government authority shall not be obliged, during a public part of a meeting, to provide information which is subject to secrecy rules at the authority.

## **Sound or video recordings at meetings that are open to the public**

*Supplementary provision 7.17.1* Sound or video recordings may be made of a public part of a meeting of a Riksdag committee or the Committee on EU Affairs unless otherwise decided by the Committee.

## **The public**

**Art. 18.** Special seats shall be provided for the general public at a public part of a meeting of the Committee on EU Affairs.

### **Rules for visitors**

*Supplementary provision 7.18.1* Visitors shall, on request, surrender their outdoor clothing, bags and any objects capable of being used to create a disturbance at the meeting. A person who fails to comply with such a request may be refused admission to the meeting. Personal possessions thus surrendered shall be stored in special accommodation for the duration of the visit.

Rules concerning security controls are laid down in the Act on Security Controls in the Riksdag (SFS 1988:144).

### **Members of the public who create a disturbance**

**Art. 19.** A member of the public who creates a disturbance may be ejected immediately. In the event of disorder developing among the public, the chair may have all the members of the public ejected.

### **Duty of confidentiality**

**Art. 20.** No one who has attended a meeting of a Riksdag committee or the Committee on EU Affairs may, without authority, disclose any matter which the Government, a Riksdag committee or the Committee on EU Affairs has determined shall be kept secret, with regard to the security of the Realm or for any other reason of exceptional importance arising out of relations with another state or an international organisation.

### **Disqualification**

**Art. 21.** No one may be present at a meeting of a committee when a matter is being deliberated which personally concerns himself or herself or a close associate.

## **Chapter 8. Interpellations and questions to ministers**

### **Contents of the chapter**

Art. 1. This chapter contains provisions on:

- interpellations (Articles 2–4);
- written questions (Articles 5–7); and
- Question Time (Article 8).

## **Interpellations**

### **Contents of interpellations**

**Art. 2.** An interpellation shall be submitted in writing and addressed to a specific minister. It shall deal with a specific subject and shall include a statement of motivation.

### **Decisions concerning interpellations**

**Art. 3.** The Speaker determines whether an interpellation may be introduced. If the Speaker considers that an interpellation conflicts with fundamental law or with this Act, he or she shall refuse to allow the interpellation to be introduced, stating the reasons for the decision.

If the Chamber requests nevertheless that the interpellation be introduced, the Speaker shall refer the matter to the Committee on the Constitution for decision. The Speaker shall allow the interpellation if the Committee has declared that it does not conflict with fundamental law or with this Act.

### **The practical handling of interpellations**

*Supplementary provision 8.3.1.* An interpellation is submitted to the Riksdag Administration.

The Speaker notifies a meeting of the Chamber without delay of his or her decision whether or not to allow the interpellation to be introduced. If the Speaker allows the interpellation to be introduced, he or she forwards it to the minister without delay.

The interpellation shall be entered in the record of proceedings in the Chamber.

### **Withdrawal of interpellations**

*Supplementary provision 8.3.2.* An interpellation may be withdrawn until such time as the minister has given a reply.

### **Replies to interpellations**

**Art. 4.** An interpellation shall be answered by a minister within two weeks from its referral to the minister. If, as a result of the planning of the work of the Chamber, interpellations cannot be answered during a certain week, the period is extended until it is possible to deliver a reply. If no reply is given within the period indicated in paragraph one, or if no reply will be delivered, the minister shall inform the Chamber of his or her reasons for this. A statement of this nature shall not give rise to a debate.

An interpellation lapses if no reply is delivered during the electoral period in which it was introduced.

### **Times for delivery of replies**

*Supplementary provision 8.4.1* The Speaker determines the meeting at which a reply will be delivered, after conferring with the minister and the interpellant.

A draft reply to an interpellation may be distributed to members in advance.

### **Interpellation debate**

*Supplementary provision 8.4.2* An oral reply to an interpellation may be of no more than six minutes' duration. The minister shall be entitled to make three more contributions, of which the first two shall be of no more than four minutes' duration each, and the third of no more than two minutes' duration.

The interpellant shall be entitled to make no more than three contributions, of which the first two shall be of no more than four minutes' duration each, and the third of no more than two minutes' duration.

Other speakers shall be entitled to make no more than two contributions, of which the first shall be of no more than four minutes' duration, and the second of no more than two minutes' duration.

A member shall inform the Chamber of his or her wish to speak no later than the second round of contributions.

## **Written questions**

### **Content of written questions**

**Art. 5.** A written question to a minister may include a brief introductory explanation. The question shall deal with a specific subject.

### **Decisions concerning written questions**

**Art. 6.** The Speaker determines whether a written question may be introduced. If the Speaker considers that a written question conflicts with fundamental law or with this Act, he or she shall refuse to allow the question to be introduced, stating the reasons for the decision.

If the Chamber requests nevertheless that the question be introduced, the Speaker shall refer the matter to the Committee on the Constitution for decision. The Speaker shall allow the question if the Committee has declared that it does not conflict with fundamental law or with this Act.

### **The practical handling of written questions**

*Supplementary provision 8.6.1.* A written question is submitted to the Riksdag Administration.

The Speaker notifies a meeting of the Chamber without delay of his or her decision whether or not to allow the question to be introduced. If the Speaker allows the question to be introduced, he or she forwards it to the minister without delay.

### **Withdrawal of written questions**

*Supplementary provision 8.6.2.* A written question may be withdrawn until such time as the minister has given a reply.

### **Replies to written questions**

**Art. 7.** A written question receives a written reply from a minister. If no reply is delivered within the period specified in a supplementary provision, the minister shall inform the Riksdag Administration of when the question will receive a reply or that no reply will be given.

### **Deadline for replies to written questions**

*Supplementary provision 8.7.1* A written question that is submitted no later than 10 a.m. on Thursday shall receive a reply no later than 12 noon on the following Wednesday. Should the work situation of the Riksdag so require, the Speaker may determine, after conferring with the group leaders, that the reply shall instead be given within fourteen days after the question was submitted. The written reply is submitted to the Riksdag Administration, which forwards it to the member who submitted the question.

### **Record of written questions and replies**

*Supplementary provision 8.7.2* Written questions and ministers' replies to questions shall be entered in the record of proceedings in the Chamber.

## **Question time**

### **Oral questions**

**Art. 8.** An oral question to a minister is put forward at a special Question Time in the Chamber. The question shall deal with a specific subject. It shall receive an immediate reply from a minister. The Speaker determines who shall have the floor at Question Time and may decide to limit contributions to no more than one minute.

### **Planning of Question Time**

*Supplementary provision 8.8.1* Question Time is held every Thursday in weeks in which the Chamber meets.

Should the work situation of the Riksdag so require, the Speaker may determine that Question Time shall be held on some other day than Thursday or that it shall be cancelled.

The Government Offices shall inform the Riksdag Administration in good time which ministers will be attending Question Time. Notice to this effect shall be given in the manner determined by the Speaker.

## **Chapter 9. Introduction of business**

### **Contents of the chapter**

**Art. 1.** This chapter contains provisions on:

- business introduced by the Government (Articles 2–9);
- business introduced by members of the Riksdag (Articles 10–15);
- business introduced by Riksdag bodies (Articles 16–19);
- business introduced by means of documents from the EU (Article 20);
- information about the EU (Articles 21–23);
- other issues to be dealt with by the Riksdag (Articles 24 and 25); and
- certain general issues (Articles 26 and 27).

### **Business introduced by the Government**

#### **Government bills**

**Art. 2.** The Government submits a proposal to the Riksdag in the form of a Government bill.

A Government bill shall include the Government minutes in the matter, an account of the preparation of the matter and the reasons for the proposal. Bills containing proposals for legislation shall include the opinion of the Council on Legislation, if such exists.

#### **Submission of Government bills**

*Supplementary provision 9.2.1.* A Government bill is submitted to the Riksdag Administration. It is notified at a meeting of the Chamber after having been made available to members.

#### **Times for submission of bills**

**Art. 3.** In response to a proposal from the Speaker, the Riksdag determines the latest date on which bills which, in the Government's view, should be considered during the current electoral period may be submitted. If a particular date is prescribed in this Act, that date however applies.

A decision under paragraph one does not apply:

1. If, pursuant to law, the Government seeks the approval of the Riksdag for a statutory instrument which has already been issued; or
2. If the Government considers that exceptional grounds exist for submitting a bill at a later date.

### **Conferral in order to prevent accumulation of business**

**Art. 4.** The Government should time the submission of its bills so as to prevent an accumulation of business in the Riksdag. The Government shall confer with the Speaker in this connection.

### **The Budget Bill**

**Art. 5.** The Government shall submit a bill setting out proposals for central government revenue and expenditure for the budget year (Budget Bill). The central government budget year coincides with the calendar year.

The Budget Bill shall contain a budget statement and a budget proposal. Unless otherwise decided by the Riksdag by law, under Chapter 11, Article 18, the Budget Bill shall include an allocation of appropriations to the expenditure areas that have been determined.

A bill relating to central government revenue or expenditure for the coming budget year may be submitted subsequent to the Budget Bill only if the Government considers that exceptional economic policy grounds exist for such action.

A bill containing proposals for a new or significantly increased appropriation, or guidelines under Chapter 9, Article 6 of the Instrument of Government for central government activities covering a period exceeding that to which the appropriation for the activity relates, should contain an estimate of future costs connected with the activity to which the proposal relates. If a proposal concerning an appropriation is based on a plan covering a period exceeding the period for which the appropriation has been calculated in the bill, the plan should be described.

### **Submission of the Budget Bill**

*Supplementary provision 9.5.1* The Budget Bill shall be submitted no later than 20 September.

In years in which an election to the Riksdag is held in September, the Budget Bill shall instead be submitted no later than two weeks after the opening of the Riksdag session. If this is impossible due to a change of Government, the Budget Bill shall be submitted within three weeks from the date on which a new Government takes office, but no later than 15 November.

### **Spring Fiscal Policy Bill**

*Supplementary provision 9.5.2* The Government shall submit a bill no later than 15 April each year setting out proposals for guidelines for future economic and budgetary policy (the Spring Fiscal Policy Bill).

### **Expenditure areas**

*Supplementary provision 9.5.3* State expenditure shall be referred to the following expenditure areas: 1 Governance; 2 Economy and financial administration; 3 Taxes, customs and enforcement; 4 Justice; 5 International cooperation; 6 Defence and contingency measures; 7 International development cooperation; 8 Migration; 9 Health and medical care, social services; 10 Financial security for the sick and disabled; 11 Financial security for the elderly; 12 Financial security for families and children; 13 Integration and gender equality; 14 The labour market and working life; 15 Financial support for students; 16 Education and academic research; 17 Culture, media, religious communities, leisure; 18 Community planning, housing provision, construction and consumer policy; 19 Regional development; 20 General environmental protection and nature conservation; 21 Energy; 22 Transport and communications; 23 Agricultural sciences, rural areas and food; 24 Industry and trade; 25 General grants to local government; 26 Interest on central government debt, etc.; and 27 The contribution to the European Union.

Decisions relating to the purposes and activities to be included in an expenditure area are taken in conjunction with decisions relating to the Spring Fiscal Policy Bill.

### **Further provisions on the budget process**

*Supplementary provision 9.5.4* Further provisions concerning the budget process are laid down in the Swedish Budget Act (2011:203).

### **Government bills with proposals for amendments to the central government budget**

**Art. 6.** With the exceptions laid down in paragraph two, the Government may submit a bill with proposals for amendments to the central government budget at the most on two occasions during the budget year.

Bills with proposals for amendments to the central government budget may only be submitted on other occasions if the Government finds special grounds for doing so.

### **Submission of Government bills with proposals for amendments to the central government budget**

*Supplementary provision 9.6.1* Such bills as are referred to in Article 6, paragraph one shall be submitted in connection with the Budget Bill or the Spring Fiscal Policy Bill.

### **Written communications**

**Art. 7.** The Government may submit information to the Riksdag in the form of written communications.

### **Submission of written communications**

*Supplementary provision 9.7.1* A written communication from the Government shall be submitted to the Riksdag Administration. It is notified at a meeting of the Chamber after having been made available to members

### **Written communications about measures taken in response to Riksdag decisions**

**Art. 8.** Each year the Government shall submit to the Riksdag a written communication presenting the measures taken by the Government in response to communications submitted by the Riksdag to the Government.

### **Written communications concerning the work of commissions appointed by Government decision**

**Art. 9.** The Government shall report to the Riksdag in a written communication submitted each year concerning the work of the commissions appointed by Government decision.

### **Business introduced by members**

#### **Private members' motions**

**Art. 10.** Members of the Riksdag submit proposals to the Riksdag in the form of private members' motions. Proposals on matters of varying nature shall not be combined in one and the same private member's motion.

### **Submission of private members' motions**

*Supplementary provision 9.10.1* A private member's motion shall be submitted to the Riksdag Administration no later than 4.30 p.m. on the last day on which motions may be submitted. It should indicate the party to which the member submitting the motion belongs.

Private members' motions are notified at a meeting of the Chamber.

### **General private members' motions period**

**Art. 11.** Once a year, private members' motions may be introduced on any question falling within the jurisdiction of the Riksdag (the general private members' motions period).

Unless otherwise determined by the Riksdag in response to a proposal from the Speaker, the general private members' motions period runs from the start of a Riksdag session which opens in August, September or October, and continues as long as private members' motions may be introduced on account of the Budget Bill.

### **Private members' motions arising out of Government bills etc.**

**Art. 12.** Private members' motions arising out of a Government bill, a written communication from the Government, a submission or a report from a Riksdag body other than a committee may be introduced within fifteen days from the date on which the matter was notified to the Chamber.

### **Amended period during which private members' motions may be introduced**

**Art. 13.** If a bill or submission must be dealt with promptly, the Riksdag may, if it finds that there are exceptional grounds for so doing, decide to curtail the period during which private members' motions may be introduced, in response to a proposal from the Government or the Riksdag body which made the submission.

If there are special grounds, the Riksdag may decide, in response to a proposal from the Speaker, to extend the period during which private members' motions may be introduced.

### **Proposal to extend the period during which private members' motions may be introduced**

*Supplementary provision 9.13.1* a proposal to extend the period during which private members' motions may be introduced must be submitted not later than the second meeting following the meeting at which the bill, written communication, submission or report was notified to the Chamber. A decision in favour of an extension is taken no later than the next following meeting.

### **Private members' motions arising out of a deferral**

**Art. 14.** If consideration of a Government bill, a written communication from the Government or a submission or report has been deferred from one electoral period to the next, private members' motions arising therefrom may be introduced within seven days from the start of the new electoral period.

### **Private members' motions arising out of an occurrence of major significance**

**Art. 15.** Private members' motions arising out of an occurrence of major significance may be introduced jointly by at least ten members, if the event could not have been foreseen or taken into account during the general private members' motions period or any other period for the introduction of private members' motions set out in this Chapter.

### **Business introduced by Riksdag bodies**

### **Committee initiatives**

**Art. 16.** A Riksdag committee is entitled to introduce proposals in the Riksdag on any subject falling within its remit (committee initiative). A committee initiative takes the form of a committee report, in accordance with the provisions that apply to committee reports in general. The Committee on Finance is entitled, for purposes of economic policy, to introduce proposals in the Riksdag also on a matter falling within the remit of another committee.

### **Submissions and reports from Riksdag bodies**

**Art. 17.** The Riksdag Board, the General Council and Executive Board of the Riksbank, the Parliamentary Ombudsmen and the National Audit Office may make submissions to the Riksdag in matters affecting the competence, organisation, personnel or working procedures of the body concerned.

The Riksdag may prescribe that the Riksdag Board, the General Council and Executive Board of the Riksbank and the Parliamentary Ombudsmen may make submissions to the Riksdag also in other cases.

Special provisions concerning reports to the Riksdag from a Riksdag body are laid down in law. The provisions of paragraph one apply also to each individual Auditor General at the National Audit Office. Further provisions concerning such submissions are laid down in law.

### **Submission of submissions or reports**

*Supplementary provision 9.17.1* A submission or report from a Riksdag body is submitted to the Riksdag Administration. It is notified at a meeting of the Chamber after having been made available to members.

### **Submissions from the Riksdag Board**

*Supplementary provision 9.17.2* The Riksdag Board may make submissions to the Riksdag on issues concerning the conduct of Riksdag business, issues coming within the Board's remit or concerning economic-administrative legislation relating to the Riksdag Administration, Parliamentary Ombudsmen or the National Audit Office.

Before the Riksdag Board makes a submission concerning economic-administrative legislation relating to the Riksdag Administration, Parliamentary Ombudsmen or the National Audit Office, the authorities concerned shall be given the opportunity to comment on the matter.

The Board may also in other cases make submissions to the Riksdag on issues concerning the Riksdag or Riksdag bodies, if the submissions are based on proposals emanating from commissions appointed by the Board on instructions from the Riksdag.

### **Reports about measures taken in response to Riksdag decisions**

*Supplementary provision 9.17.3* Each year the Riksdag Board shall submit to the Riksdag a written communication presenting the measures taken by the Board in response to communications from the Riksdag submitted to the Board.

### **Submissions from the General Council and Executive Board of the Riksbank**

*Supplementary provision 9.17.4* The General Council and Executive Board of the Riksbank may make submissions to the Riksdag within their areas of competence.

### **Submissions from the Parliamentary Ombudsmen**

*Supplementary provision 9.17.5* Each individual Parliamentary Ombudsman may make submissions to the Riksdag on account of an issue which has arisen in their supervisory activities. Further provisions concerning such submissions are laid down in the Act with Instructions for the Parliamentary Ombudsmen (1986:765).

### **Reports from the Auditors General**

*Supplementary provision 9.17.6* Each individual Auditor General may submit reports to the Riksdag on account of the audit statements relating to the annual report of central government, the Riksbank and the Riksbank Tercentenary Foundation.

### **Audit reports from the Auditors General**

**Art. 18.** Each individual Auditor General submits his or her audit reports on the performance audit to the Riksdag. The Auditors General submit the annual report with the most significant observations from the performance audits and the annual report to the Riksdag.

The reports shall be submitted to the Riksdag Administration. They are notified at a meeting of the Chamber after having been made available to members.

The annual reports and audit reports relating to the activities of the Riksdag Administration and public authorities under the Riksdag are submitted in the form of a report.

Other reports are submitted by the Speaker to the Government or the Riksdag committee concerned.

### **Written communications from the Government arising out of reports from the Auditors General**

**Art. 19.** The Government shall submit a written communication to the Riksdag for each audit report submitted to the Government, giving an account of the measures the Government has taken or intends to take in response to the observations of the report. If the Government has taken or intends to take similar measures in response to several audit reports, however, the Government may submit a written communication covering several audit reports to the Riksdag.

The written communication from the Government shall be submitted to the Riksdag within four months of the Government receiving the report. When calculating the respite, July and August shall not be counted.

### **Business introduced by means of documents from the EU**

#### **EU business**

**Art. 20.** Green and white papers that are forwarded to the Riksdag by the European Commission shall be considered by the Riksdag. The same applies to other documents from the European Union, other than draft legislative acts, whose consideration in this manner shall be determined by the Speaker, after consultation with the group leaders.

The Riksdag shall examine whether draft legislative acts conflict with the principle of subsidiarity. The Riksdag shall approve or reject initiatives from the European Council to decide on an authorisation for the Council to amend the decision-making procedure in a particular area or in a particular case from unanimity to a qualified majority or from a special legislative procedure to the ordinary legislative procedure. In the same manner, the Riksdag shall approve or reject proposals from the European Commission to specify aspects of family law that have cross-border consequences and that can be the subject of legislative acts adopted in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure.

#### **Information about the EU**

#### **Information from the Government about the work of the EU**

**Art. 21.** In accordance with Chapter 10, Article 10 of the Instrument of Government, the Government shall keep the Riksdag continuously informed concerning developments within the framework of European Union cooperation.

The Government shall account to the Riksdag concerning its actions in the European Union and shall submit a written communication annually to the Riksdag reporting activities in the European Union.

#### **Information from the Government about documents from the EU**

**Art. 22.** The Government shall inform the Riksdag of its position regarding the documents put forward by the institutions of the European Union to the Riksdag and which the Government deems significant.

#### **Information about the work of the European Union from the Union's institutions**

**Art. 23.** The Riksdag receives written information about work in the European Union from the Union's institutions in accordance with treaties and the protocols to the treaties.

#### **Other business dealt with by the Riksdag**

#### **Notification of decisions held in abeyance and exceptions from a respite**

**Art. 24.** The Committee on the Constitution shall notify to the Chamber for final approval decisions on matters of fundamental law or relating to the Riksdag Act which have been held in abeyance over an election. If, under provisions of the Instrument of Government, the procedure laid down for the amendment of fundamental law or of the Riksdag Act shall be applied in any other case, the decision which is being held in abeyance shall be notified by the committee within whose remit the matter falls.

The Committee on the Constitution shall furthermore notify the Chamber of a decision concerning an exception from the respite prescribed for the introduction of a proposal which shall be taken in accordance with the procedure laid down in Chapter 8, Article 14 of the Instrument of Government.

#### **Motions calling for a referendum on a matter of fundamental law or for a declaration of no confidence**

**Art. 25.** A motion calling for a referendum on a matter of fundamental law or for a declaration of no confidence shall be put forward at a meeting of the Chamber. The motion shall be submitted in writing as soon as it has been put forward.

#### **Certain general issues**

##### **Withdrawals**

**Art. 26.** A Government bill, written communication from the Government, submission, report or private member's motion may be withdrawn until such time as a committee report has been presented on the matter. A draft law held in abeyance for a minimum of twelve months under Chapter 2, Article 22, paragraph one of the Instrument of Government may be withdrawn until a new committee report has been presented under Chapter 10, Article 6, paragraph three of this Act. If a Government bill, written communication, submission or report has been withdrawn, private members' motions arising out of these documents shall lapse.

If a Government bill, written communication, submission or report has been withdrawn, private members' motions arising out of the withdrawal may be introduced within seven days from the date on which the withdrawal was notified to the Chamber.

##### **Handling of the withdrawal**

*Supplementary provision 9.26.1* Withdrawal of a Government bill, written communication, submission or report shall take the form of a written communication which is submitted to the Riksdag Administration.

A withdrawal of a private member's motion is submitted in writing to the Riksdag Administration. The Speaker cancels Government bills, written communications, submissions, reports and private members' motions which have been withdrawn, or which have lapsed as a result of a withdrawal. The Speaker's decision is notified to the Chamber.

#### **Calculation of statutory time limits**

**Art. 27.** The provisions generally applying to the calculation of statutory time limits shall apply also to time limits within which action shall be taken under a provision of this Chapter.

## **Chapter 10. Preparation of business**

#### **Contents of the chapter**

**Art. 1.** This chapter contains provisions on the Riksdag committees' preparation and consideration of business.

#### **Mandatory preparation of business and tabling**

**Art. 2.** Government bills, written communications from the Government, submissions, reports from a Riksdag body other than a committee, private members' motions and EU documents indicated in Chapter 9, Article 20 shall be referred by the Chamber to a committee for preparation. The same applies to applications under Chapter 5, Article 7, for consent to prosecution or deprivation of liberty which have been notified in the Chamber.

Before a matter is referred to a committee for preparation, it shall be tabled at a meeting of the Chamber, unless the Chamber decides on immediate referral.

#### **Mandatory consideration of business**

**Art. 3.** The committees shall deliver reports to the Chamber on Government bills, written communications from the Government, submissions, reports from a Riksdag body other than a committee and private members' motions which have been referred to them, or have been submitted from another committee.

The committees shall deliver statements on the EU documents indicated in Chapter 9, Article 20, paragraphs one and three and which have been referred to them or have been submitted from another committee.

Concerning matters relating to subsidiarity under Chapter 9, Article 20, paragraph two, if a committee considers that the draft conflicts with the principle of subsidiarity, it shall deliver a statement to the Chamber with a proposal that the Riksdag should send a reasoned opinion to the Presidents of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission. The committee shall also deliver a statement to the Chamber if no fewer than five members of the committee so request. Otherwise the Committee is to report to the Chamber by means of an extract from the record that the draft legislation does not conflict with the principle of subsidiarity.

#### **Preparation of matters arising in the Riksdag**

**Art. 4.** Before a committee either completely or partially supports a motion that the Riksdag should approve a law, or raises such a proposal through a committee initiative, the committee should gather all the necessary information and comments, provided there are no exceptional reasons against

doing so. This also applies to proposals affecting the central government budget. If the committee has not gathered information or comments, the committee shall in its committee report give reasons for this.

Before a committee either completely or partially supports a motion or raises a proposal through a committee initiative, the Committee on Finance shall be given the opportunity to give an opinion if the proposal can entail substantial future repercussions on public expenditures and revenues.

### **Statement from the Council on Legislation**

**Art. 5.** Provisions concerning the committees' obligation to obtain the opinion of the Council on Legislation are laid down in Chapter 8, Article 21 of the Instrument of Government.

If the committee has not obtained an opinion from the Council on Legislation, the committee shall in its committee report give reasons for this.

The Committee on the Constitution may provide an explanation to the effect that Chapter 2, Article 22, paragraph one of the Instrument of Government is not applicable concerning a specific legislative proposal only after the Council on Legislation has submitted its comments.

### **Consideration of deferred matters or matters held in abeyance**

**Art. 6.** Committee reports on matters that have been deferred to the next electoral period in accordance with the provisions in Chapter 11, Articles 15, 16 and 20 shall be delivered by the committees appointed by the newly elected Riksdag.

When notifying the Chamber of a decision held in abeyance under Chapter 9, Article 24, a committee shall append an opinion in the matter.

If a draft law has been held in abeyance for a minimum of twelve months under Chapter 2, Article 22, paragraph one of the Instrument of Government, the committee shall deliver a new report on the matter.

### **Decisions by the Committee on Finance**

*Supplementary provision 10.6.1* A decision of the Committee on Finance on a question under Chapter 9, Article 5 of the Instrument of Government shall be reported to the Government in a written communication from the committee.

### **Cooperation between committees**

**Art. 7.** A committee may give another committee the opportunity to state its opinion in a matter falling within the remit of another committee.

### **Obligation of a State authority to furnish information and deliver opinions to a committee**

**Art. 8.** A central government authority shall furnish information and deliver opinions to a committee that so requests, unless it follows otherwise from Chapter 7, Article 17, paragraph three. An authority which is not an authority under the Riksdag may refer a request from a committee to the Government for decision.

The Government's obligation under this Article to furnish information and deliver opinions to a committee is limited to both issues on work in the European Union, and audit reports on the performance audit from the Auditors General which have been submitted to the Government.

### **Protection of minorities in committees**

**Art. 9.** A committee shall obtain information or an opinion under Articles 4, 7 or 8, if, during the consideration of a matter, at least five of its members so request. If the matter relates to European Union activities or such reports from the Auditors General as mentioned in Chapter 9, Article 18, such a request may be put forward unconnected with the consideration of a matter.

If requested by at least five members of a committee, a committee that has been given the opportunity to state its opinion to another committee under Article 7 shall produce an opinion. The committee may reject a request for information or an opinion under the first or second paragraph, if it is put forward during the consideration of a matter and the committee concludes that the action requested would so delay consideration of the matter that serious detriment would result. The committee shall state in its report or opinion its reasons for rejecting such a request. If a request under the second paragraph has been rejected, the committee shall give the reasons in its record.

#### **Information necessary in certain EU matters**

**Art. 10.** When preparing a statement under Article 3, paragraph two, the committee shall obtain the necessary information from the Government.

Within two weeks from the day the committee so requests, the Government shall inform the committee of its assessment regarding the application of the principle of subsidiarity to the current draft legislative act under Article 3, paragraph three.

#### **Voting at a committee meeting and the right to append a reservation**

**Art. 11.** Voting in a committee shall be by open ballot. In the event of a tied vote, the opinion of the chair shall prevail.

A member who loses a vote in a committee may append a reservation, with a motion, to the committee's report or statement. If the vote relates to the committee's position in a statement of opinion to another committee, the member may append a dissenting view to the statement of opinion. The report, statement or statement of opinion may not, however, be delayed as a result.

#### **Special statements of opinion**

**Art. 12.** In a report, statement or opinion delivered to another committee, a member may explain his or her position in a special statement of opinion.

## **Chapter 11. Settlement of business**

#### **Contents of the chapter**

**Art. 1.** This chapter contains provisions on:

- necessary conditions for settlement of business (Articles 2–6);
- procedure for decisions in the Chamber (Articles 7–14);
- when matters are to be settled (Articles 15–17);
- special procedures for certain business (Articles 8–20);
- communications on Riksdag decisions (Article 21).

#### **Necessary conditions for settlement of business**

#### **Availability of committee reports and statements**

**Art. 2.** A report or statement from a committee shall be available for members no later than two days before the matter in question is to be considered.

The committee report shall be notified to the Chamber and tabled at a meeting before it is settled.

The Riksdag may decide, in response to a proposal from the committee or the Speaker, that the matter may be settled despite it having been available for less time than stated in the first paragraph.

#### **Time at which committee reports and statements shall be made available**

*Supplementary provision 11.2.1.* The committee report or statement shall be available for members no later than 3 p.m. on the day stated in Article 2, paragraph one.

#### **Proposal for settlement of a matter that has been available for a shorter time**

*Supplementary provision 11.2.2.* A proposal under Article 2, paragraph three shall be notified to the Chamber in connection with the consideration of the report or statement. Before the Speaker raises such a proposal, he or she shall consult the chair and deputy chair of the committee.

#### **Tabling and time for settlement of certain matters**

**Art. 3.** A motion calling for a referendum on a matter of fundamental law or a declaration of no confidence shall be tabled at the meeting at which it is put forward and subsequently at one other meeting before it is settled. The matter shall be settled no later than the third meeting after the motion was put forward.

A proposal from the Speaker for a new Prime Minister shall be tabled at the meeting at which it is put forward and then at one further meeting before it may be settled. The matter shall, in accordance with the provisions in Chapter 6, Article 4, paragraph two of the Instrument of Government be decided on the fourth day after the day the proposal was put forward.

#### **Introduction of motions**

**Art. 4.** A committee moves adoption of a proposal in a matter by means of a committee report or statement.

A member who wishes to move adoption or rejection of a proposal or proposed decision which is considered in a committee report or a statement shall introduce the motion during the deliberations.

#### **Referral back and referral to another committee**

**Art. 5.** A matter on which a committee has delivered a report or a statement shall be referred back to the committee by the Chamber for further preparation if at least one third of those voting concur in a motion to this effect. The same matter may not be referred back more than once under this Article.

The Chamber may also refer the matter to another committee for further preparation. If a motion for referral to another committee and a motion for referral back to the same committee are put forward concurrently, the motion for referral back shall be considered first. If the motion for referral back is approved, the motion for referral to another committee lapses.

#### **Necessary conditions for settlement of matters**

**Art. 6.** A matter under deliberation may not be taken up for settlement until the Chamber has declared the debate closed, in response to a proposal from the Speaker.

A report or statement from a committee may be taken up for settlement only at a meeting which has been notified in the summons and entered in the order paper as a plenary meeting.

#### **Procedure for decisions in the Chamber**

##### **Putting questions for decision**

**Art. 7.** The Speaker puts the questions for decision, based on the motions which have been put forward during deliberations.

If the Speaker considers that a motion conflicts with fundamental law or with this Act, he or she shall decide not to put the question, stating the reasons for the decision. If the Chamber requests the question be put, the matter shall be referred to the Committee on the Constitution for decision. If

the committee has declared that a motion does not conflict with fundamental law or with this Act, the Speaker shall put the question.

The provisions set out in paragraph two concerning examination of the constitutionality of a motion shall not apply to the question whether Chapter 2, Article 22, paragraph one of the Instrument of Government is applicable to a particular draft law.

### **Settlement**

**Art. 8.** A matter is settled by acclamation or, if a member so requests, by holding a vote.

If a special procedure rule is to be applied under Article 14, the matter must always be settled by means of a vote.

If necessary, settlement of a matter shall be divided up into separate part-decisions.

### **Settlement by acclamation**

**Art 9.** When a matter is to be settled by acclamation, the Speaker shall put to the question the motions that have been put forward in the course of the deliberations, and which can be weighed up against each other. The question shall be worded in such a way that it can be answered with a 'Yes' or 'No'. The Speaker declares what he or she understands to be the result, and confirms the decision by striking his or her gavel, unless a member calls for a vote.

### **Settlement by means of a vote**

**Art 10.** When a matter is to be settled by means of a vote, the motions that have been put forward during the deliberations shall be weighed up against each other. The motion which in the Speaker's view has been adopted by acclamation, or the motion determined by the Speaker, constitutes the principal proposal for the vote. A second motion is put up against this principal proposal to act as a counter-proposal.

If there is more than one motion which can be put up against the principal proposal, the Riksdag shall first in one or more preparatory decisions determine which motion shall constitute the counter-proposal in the main vote.

Voting is by open ballot. Under the rule laid down in Chapter 4, Article 7 of the Instrument of Government, the proposal which obtains the support of more than half the members voting constitutes the decision of the Riksdag, unless otherwise provided in the Instrument of Government or in this Act. The Speaker announces the result of the vote and confirms the decision by striking his or her gavel.

### **Voting procedure**

*Supplementary provision 11.10.1* A vote is carried out at a previously established point in time or after due warning.

When a vote is taken, the Speaker formulates the proposal on which the vote will be taken. If a special procedure rule under Article 14 is to be applied in a particular case, this shall be stated in the proposal put to the vote. The proposal which is to be put to the vote is read out and submitted to the Chamber for approval.

The vote shall be taken electronically or, when this cannot be done, by means of a call of names.

### **Count of votes when a vote is taken electronically**

*Supplementary provision 11.10.2* When a vote is taken electronically, the way each member votes is registered.

### **Count of votes when a vote is taken by a call of names**

*Supplementary provision 11.10.3* When a vote is taken by means of a call of names, the Speaker calls upon two members to record the vote. The Deputy Speakers are called up first, followed by

the other members according to constituency. Responses must be one of the following: 'Yes', 'No', 'Abstain'. When a vote is taken, the way each member votes is registered.

#### **Voting by having the members rise in their places**

*Supplementary provision 11.10.4* If the Speaker deems it appropriate, a vote may instead be taken by having the members rise in their places. If the result of such a vote is unclear or if a member calls for a count, a new vote shall be taken electronically or by means of a call of names.

#### **Procedure when a vote is taken by having the members rise in their places**

*Supplementary provision 11.10.5* When a vote is taken by having the members rise in their places, the Speaker calls first on those members wishing to vote 'Yes' to rise and calls thereafter on members wishing to vote 'No' to rise.

#### **A tied vote when a preparatory vote is taken**

**Art. 11.** If the vote is tied in a preparatory vote concerning which motion shall constitute the counter-proposal, the outcome is determined by lot.

#### **A tied vote in a principal division**

**Art. 12.** If the vote is tied in a principal division, the matter shall be tabled in its entirety for a new vote to be decided on the next occasion a decision is to be taken.

If the vote is tied at the next vote, the Speaker shall put the proposal that the matter be referred back to the committee for further preparation. The matter shall be referred back if at least half of those voting concur. If the matter is not referred back, it shall be determined by lot.

After the matter has been referred back, it shall be taken up again in its entirety for consideration. If the vote is tied in the principal division, the matter shall be determined by lot.

#### **Referral back of a legislative matter settled by means of part-decisions**

**Art. 13.** If the settlement of a legislative matter has been divided up into two or more part-decisions, the Chamber may decide immediately, after the last part-decision, and in response to a proposal from the Speaker or from a member, that the matter shall be referred back to the committee for further preparation. If the Riksdag decides to refer the matter back, the part-decisions are null and void.

The same matter may not be referred back more than once under this Article.

#### **Settlement under a special procedure rule**

**Art. 14.** If more than one proposal has been put forward for decisions, for which another procedure applies than for decisions in general, the Chamber shall first select one of the proposals in accordance with the rules generally in force. A decision is taken thereafter as to whether the chosen proposal shall be adopted or rejected, in accordance with the procedure rule that applies to the proposal. This procedure is applied even when there are several measures of draft legislation which are mutually incompatible and a motion has been put forward for one of them to be held in abeyance for a minimum of twelve months under Chapter 2, Article 22, paragraph one of the Instrument of Government.

If two or more motions are put forward concurrently which call for a referendum on the same measure of fundamental law which is being held in abeyance over an election, or which call for a declaration of no confidence in respect of the same minister, only one vote is taken.

#### **When matters are to be settled**

### **Time frame for settlement of matters**

**Art. 15.** A matter shall be settled in the electoral period in which it is introduced. The Riksdag may, however, decide that consideration of the matter may be deferred to the first parliamentary session of the next electoral period.

A matter relating to the central government budget for the next following budget year shall be settled before the start of the budget year, if settlement cannot be deferred without detriment to adoption of the central government budget.

### **Decisions concerning deferral**

*Supplementary provision 11.15.1* A decision that the consideration of a matter may be deferred to the first parliamentary session of the next electoral period is taken by the Riksdag as proposed by the relevant Riksdag committee. The Riksdag may also decide on deferral without any such proposal.

### **Deferral with settlement in special cases**

**Art. 16.** A matter that is introduced during the period when the Chamber is not meeting that continues until the first parliamentary session of the next electoral period shall be regarded as being deferred to the first parliamentary session of the next electoral period. The same applies if the Chamber is not meeting as a result of a decision by the Speaker in connection with the calling of an extraordinary election.

### **Final settlement of a matter held in abeyance over an election**

**Art. 17.** A matter which has been held in abeyance over an election under the rules laid down in Chapter 8, Articles 14-17 of the Instrument of Government shall be settled at the first parliamentary session of the electoral period within which a final decision may first be taken under the rules, provided the matter has not already been rejected. The Riksdag may decide to defer settlement to another parliamentary session. The matter shall be settled finally before the next ordinary election to the Riksdag.

In the case of deferral due to an extraordinary election, the rules laid down in Article 16, paragraph one shall be applied.

If a proposal for an amendment of fundamental law held in abeyance over an election, or any other decision which shall be taken in accordance with the same procedure is rejected in a referendum, the relevant committee shall notify the matter to the Chamber.

### **Proposal for a decision on deferral of a matter held in abeyance over an election**

*Supplementary provision 11.17.1.* A decision concerning deferral of a final decision on a matter held in abeyance over an election in accordance with the provisions in Article 17, paragraph one shall be taken on the basis of a proposal from the relevant committee.

### **Special procedures for certain matters**

#### **Decisions relating to the central government budget**

**Art. 18.** Decisions relating to the central government budget shall be made in accordance with paragraphs two to five, unless otherwise laid down in law by the Riksdag.

The central government budget for the next following budget year is determined in two stages.

In the first stage a single decision is taken to establish:

1. an estimate of revenues under the central government budget;
2. the highest figure to which the expenditure falling within each expenditure area may amount (expenditure limit);

3. an estimate of other payments that effect State borrowing requirements; and
4. decisions relating to the budget policy objectives decided on by the Riksdag.

After a decision has been taken under paragraph 3, a single decision is taken in a second stage to establish appropriations for each expenditure area as well as authorisations of financial commitments.

Amendments to the central government budget are determined by means of a single decision. Only in the case of very extensive amendments are decisions taken in two stages, in accordance with paragraphs three and four.

### **Preliminary estimates of revenue and expenditure limits**

*Supplementary provision 11.18.1.* In the case of decisions under Section 18, paragraph three, preliminary estimates of revenue and expenditure limits are established for the second and third budget years thereafter.

### **A motion calling for a draft law to be held in abeyance**

**Art. 19.** A motion under Chapter 2, Article 22, paragraph one of the Instrument of Government calling for a draft law to be held in abeyance for a minimum of twelve months may be put forward when the committee report on the draft law has been tabled.

If at the same time a motion has been put forward under paragraph one and a motion that the proposal shall be rejected, the motion calling for the proposal to be rejected shall be examined before the proposal is put to a vote for immediate approval.

### **A motion in writing calling for a draft law to be held in abeyance**

*Supplementary provision 11.19.1* A motion calling for a draft law to be held in abeyance for at least twelve months shall be put forward in writing.

### **A vote on whether a draft law is to be held in abeyance**

*Supplementary provision 11.19.2* If a motion has been put forward calling for a draft law to be held in abeyance for at least twelve months, and when put to the vote the majority necessary for immediate adoption is not obtained, the proposal shall be referred to the Committee on the Constitution for examination in accordance with Chapter 2, Article 22, paragraph three of the Instrument of Government, provided the Committee on the Constitution has not already delivered an opinion on the matter.

If the Committee on the Constitution has declared the procedure to be applicable, the Riksdag reconsiders whether the proposal can be rejected or adopted immediately. In any other case the matter shall be referred back to the committee which prepared it

### **Settlement of draft law held in abeyance**

**Art. 20.** A draft law that has been held in abeyance for twelve months under Chapter 2, Article 22, paragraph one of the Instrument of Government shall be examined before the end of the following calendar year.

If another draft law is closely connected with legislation held in abeyance under the first paragraph of the above mentioned provision, the Riksdag may, on the basis of a proposal from the relevant committee, determine that it shall be settled within the time applying to the examination of the draft law held in abeyance.

If a matter under this Article cannot be settled within the time prescribed due to the calling of an extraordinary election, it shall be settled as soon as possible after the newly-elected Riksdag convenes.

## **Notice of Riksdag decisions**

### **Written communications from the Riksdag**

**Art. 21.** If a Riksdag decision calls for executive action, the body responsible for executing the decision is informed by means of a written communication. Riksdag decisions on account of a Government bill or a submission shall always be communicated to the Government or the Riksdag body putting forward the submission by means of a written communication.

The Riksdag shall inform the Presidents of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission of its decision to provide a reasoned opinion concerning the principle of subsidiarity by means of a written communication.

The Riksdag shall inform the Presidents of the European Council, the Commission and the Council of its decision to reject an initiative or a proposal by means of a written communication in accordance with Chapter 9, Article 20, paragraph three.

### **Signing of written communications from the Riksdag**

*Supplementary provision 11.21.1* Written communications from the Riksdag are signed by the Speaker.

## **Chapter 12. Elections in the Riksdag**

### **Contents of the chapter**

**Art. 1.** This chapter contains provisions on:

- conditions for election and eligibility (Articles 2–5);
- forms of election (Articles 6–10);
- appeals (Articles 11 and 12);
- what happens if an MP's period of service is terminated (Articles 13–15); and
- elections in Riksdag committees and other Riksdag bodies (Articles 16 and 17).

### **Conditions for election and eligibility**

#### **Nominations committee**

**Art. 2.** Elections in the Riksdag shall be prepared by a special Nominations Committee appointed from within the Riksdag, unless otherwise prescribed.

#### **Elections not to be prepared by the Nominations Committee**

*Supplementary provision 12.2.1.* The Nominations Committee does not prepare the election of a Regent, a Deputy Regent, a person who shall hold office as a Regent ad interim, the Speaker or the Deputy Speakers. Nor does the Nominations Committee prepare any election which according to any provision in this Act shall be prepared in accordance with a special procedure.

#### **Summons to meetings**

*Supplementary provision 12.2.2.* The Nominations Committee meets the same day as it is appointed by the Speaker. Thereafter, the Nominations Committee meets when summoned by the Chair.

The provisions in Chapter 7, Article 16, supplementary provisions 7.15.1, paragraph two and 7.15.2–7.15.4 are also applied to the Nominations Committee.

#### **Requirement for Swedish citizenship**

**Art. 3.** Only a Swedish citizen may hold a post appointed by election of the Riksdag.

## **Obligation to remain in service**

**Art. 4.** A person elected to such a post may not leave it without the Riksdag's consent.

## **Times and validity of elections**

**Art. 5.** An election relating to a period corresponding to the electoral period of the Riksdag shall be held as soon as possible after the start of the electoral period and be valid until the Riksdag holds a new election in the next electoral period, unless otherwise prescribed.

## **Forms of election**

### **Election of incumbent of a particular post**

**Art. 6.** If the incumbent of a particular post is to be elected separately, the election shall be held by acclamation.

The election shall be held by secret ballot, however, if a member so requests. If only one person is to be elected, that person is elected who obtains the most votes, unless otherwise prescribed in this Act. In the event of a tied vote, the election is decided by lot. Provisions on the procedure for election by secret ballot are to be found in supplementary provisions.

If the body or group responsible for preparing the election has put forward a unanimous proposal, the election by secret ballot shall not be held until a later meeting.

### **Election of several persons on an agreed list**

**Art. 7.** At elections of two or more persons, the Nominations Committee may present an agreed list. The list shall contain as many names as there are persons to be elected and shall be approved by all the members participating in the meeting of the Nominations Committee or by all save one. The Speaker shall present the agreed list to the Chamber and, if it is adopted, declare the persons listed to be elected.

Election shall be by secret ballot, if so requested by at least as many members as correspond to the figure obtained if the sum total of members entitled to vote is divided by the number of persons to whom the election relates, increased by one. If the figure obtained is not a whole number, it is rounded up to the next higher whole number. This election shall be held at a later meeting.

### **Election by secret ballot**

**Art. 8.** Elections shall be held by secret ballot unless otherwise prescribed in Article 6 or 7 or some other principal provision of this Act.

If two or more persons are to be elected by means of secret ballot, the seats are distributed proportionately among all the groups of Riksdag members participating under a particular designation in the election (proportional election).

The seats are distributed between the groups by allocating them one by one to the group with the highest comparison figure on each occasion. The comparison figure is identical with the number of votes obtained by the group as long as it has not been allocated a seat. The comparison figure is calculated thereafter by dividing the votes obtained by the group by the number of seats the group has already been allocated, increased by one. When the comparison figures are tied, the matter is decided by lot.

### **Procedure for election by secret ballot**

*Supplementary provision 12.8.1* At an election by secret ballot, the Speaker shall call upon three members to assist at the opening and examination of the ballot papers and two to record the votes.

The members are called up in the manner prescribed in supplementary provision 11.10.3 and hand their ballot paper to the Speaker.

When all the ballot papers found to be valid have been read out by the Speaker and have been recorded by the Clerk of the Chamber and the two members, their notes are compared.

The Speaker establishes the result of the election and announces it to the Chamber.

### **Procedure for several elections by secret ballot**

*Supplementary provision 12.8.2* If two or more elections are to be held by secret ballot, the Speaker may determine that the ballot papers for all the elections shall be delivered before a count is taken in any of the elections, unless otherwise requested by a member.

### **The form of ballot papers and when they are invalid**

*Supplementary provision 12.8.3* Ballot papers shall be single sheets, folded and unmarked, and shall be identical in size, material and colour. They may include information concerning the election to which they apply.

A ballot paper is invalid if it carries any distinguishing mark clearly placed upon it with deliberate intent.

If a member submits more than one ballot paper in an election, these ballot papers are invalid. If, however, the ballot papers are identical in content, one ballot paper shall be deemed valid in the count.

### **Ballot papers at proportional elections**

*Supplementary provision 12.8.4* At a proportional election, the ballot paper shall designate in words a particular group of Riksdag members. The names are listed consecutively, one after the other, following this designation.

A ballot paper is invalid if it:

1. lacks a designation of a member's group;
2. carries more than one such designation; or
3. lacks the name of an eligible candidate.

A name on a ballot paper shall be regarded as null and void if:

1. the candidate is not eligible;
2. the name has been crossed out;
3. it is not clear who is intended; or
4. the order of precedence between that name and another name on the ballot paper is not clearly apparent.

The order of precedence between candidates' names in each members' group shall be determined by calculating comparison figures for the candidates applying the method laid down in Chapter 14, Article 10 of the Elections Act (SFS 2005:837). If several candidates obtain the same comparison figure, the election is decided by lot.

### **Ballot papers for the election of one person**

*Supplementary provision 12.8.5* When one person is to be elected, there shall be one name on the ballot paper.

A ballot paper is invalid if:

1. it contains the names of two or more candidates;
2. it contains the name of a candidate who is not eligible;
3. the name has been crossed out;
4. it is not clear who is intended; or
5. it contains the designation of a group of members of the Riksdag.

### **Election of deputy members**

**Art. 9.** If two or more persons are to be elected, at least as many deputy members as there are ordinary members shall also be elected, unless otherwise prescribed. The provisions relating to the election of ordinary members apply also to elections of deputy members.

After election for a Riksdag body, the Riksdag may approve a change in the number of deputy members, provided the deputy members are no fewer in number than the ordinary members.

An alternate member of the Riksdag who has been summoned to take up duty may be appointed a deputy member of a committee of which the absent member is a member, without increasing the number of deputy members of the committee. In such a case, the procedure laid down in Article 14 still applies.

### **Election of an increased number of deputy members**

*Supplementary provision 12.9.1* Matters concerning the election of an increased number of deputy members that exceeds the number originally elected are prepared by the Nominations Committee. Elections of deputy members necessitated by an increase in the number of deputy members shall be held as soon as possible.

### **Number of deputy members**

*Supplementary provision 12.9.2* The same number of deputy members shall be appointed as there are ordinary members, unless otherwise prescribed or specially determined.

### **Attendance by deputy members**

**Art. 10.** An elected member of a Riksdag body shall be replaced in his or her absence by a deputy member belonging to the same party group, unless otherwise prescribed. If this is not possible, deputy members have precedence in the order in which they were elected, or, if the election was held using an agreed list, in the order in which their names were listed.

## **Appeals**

### **Appeals against elections by secret ballot**

**Art. 11.** Appeals against elections by secret ballot may be lodged by a member of the Riksdag with the Election Review Board. The election is valid irrespective of any appeal.

### **Procedures for appeals**

*Supplementary provision 12.11.1* An appeal shall be made in writing and be addressed to the Election Review Board, but it shall be submitted to the Riksdag Administration. The appeal shall be submitted to the Riksdag Administration within five days from the day on which the result of the election was announced in the Chamber.

When the appeal period has expired, the Speaker shall notify a meeting of the Chamber of all the appeals received. The Speaker shall determine when comments concerning the appeals may be submitted to the Election Review Board.

When the period during which comments may be submitted has expired, the Speaker forwards the appeal documents to the Election Review Board immediately. The Speaker should submit promptly to the Election Review Board his or her own opinion concerning the appeals.

### **Decision by the Election Review Board**

*Supplementary provision 12.11.2* If it finds in its examination of an appeal that a provision of Article 6, paragraph two or of supplementary provisions 12.8.1 to 12.8.5 has been set aside in the election, the Election Review Board shall declare an election null and void and order a re-election.

A re-election shall however be ordered only if it can be assumed with justification that what occurred has affected the result of the election.

If the error can be rectified by means of a recount or any other less radical measure, the Election Review Board shall instead direct the Speaker to effect the necessary rectification.

### **Storage of ballot papers, etc.**

*Supplementary provision 12.11.3* Ballot papers and other election material shall be held in safe keeping until the election result takes effect.

### **Re-election after appeal**

**Art. 12.** If a new member has taken his or her seat in the Riksdag due to the revision of a Riksdag election result on appeal, elections held by the Riksdag earlier in the electoral period shall be held again if so requested by at least ten members of the Riksdag.

### **What happens if the appointment as a member of the Riksdag terminates**

#### **Ineligibility**

**Art. 13.** A person elected by the Chamber to a post for which membership of the Riksdag is a prerequisite shall resign the appointment if he or she leaves the Riksdag or is appointed Speaker of the Riksdag or a minister, unless otherwise prescribed.

#### **Election of successor to a body**

**Art. 14.** If a person who has been elected to a body which at the start of the electoral period was appointed by means of an election of two or more persons resigns his or her appointment ahead of time, the party group or groups for which he or she was elected shall notify the Speaker of the name of a successor. The Speaker shall declare the person nominated as a successor to be elected. If no name is put forward, or if more than one person is nominated, the Speaker appoints a successor.

#### **Supplementary election**

**Art. 15.** If a seat becomes vacant ahead of time and the original election related to only one person, an election shall be held for the remaining period. The same procedure is applied for a supplementary election as for the original election.

### **Elections in parliamentary committees and other Riksdag bodies**

#### **Election of chair to a Riksdag body**

**Art. 16.** A body whose members are appointed by the Riksdag in whole or in part shall elect from among its members a chair and one or more deputy chairs, unless otherwise prescribed.

#### **Elections within Riksdag bodies**

**Art. 17.** Elections within a body under Article 16 are held by acclamation or by secret ballot, if a member so requests. In the event of a tied vote, the election is decided by lot.

#### **The form of ballot papers**

*Supplementary provision 12.17.1.* Ballot papers shall be single sheets, folded and unmarked, and shall be identical in size, material and colour.

# Chapter 13. Riksdag bodies and boards

## Contents of the chapter

**Art. 1.** This chapter contains provisions on:

- the Parliamentary Ombudsmen (Articles 2–4);
- the National Audit Office (Articles 5–8);
- the Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs and the War Delegation (Articles 9–12);
- boards (Articles 13–17);
- delegations to international organisations (Articles 18 and 19);
- other assignments appointed by election in the Riksdag (Articles 20–23); and
- prosecution (Article 24).

## The Parliamentary Ombudsmen

### Organisation and responsibilities of the Parliamentary Ombudsmen

**Art. 2.** The Riksdag elects Ombudsmen under Chapter 13, Article 6 of the Instrument of Government to supervise the application of laws and other statutes in public activities.

The Parliamentary Ombudsmen shall be four in number, one Chief Parliamentary Ombudsman and three Parliamentary Ombudsmen. The Chief Parliamentary Ombudsman shall act as administrative director and shall determine the main focus of the Ombudsmen's activities. The Riksdag may in addition elect one or more Deputy Ombudsmen. A Deputy Ombudsman shall have held office previously as a Parliamentary Ombudsman.

### The Committee on the Constitution's conferral with the Ombudsmen

*Supplementary provision 13.2.1* The Committee on the Constitution shall confer with a Parliamentary Ombudsman on working procedures and other matters of an organisational nature, either on its own initiative, or at the request of one of the Parliamentary Ombudsmen.

### Election of Ombudsmen

**Art. 3.** The Parliamentary Ombudsmen and Deputy Ombudsmen are elected individually. When an Ombudsman is elected by secret ballot, the same procedure is applied as for the election of Speakers.

A Parliamentary Ombudsman is elected for the period from the date of his or her election, or a later date as determined by the Riksdag, until a new election has been held in the fourth year thereafter and the person then elected has assumed office. The election shall never be valid beyond the end of that year.

A Deputy Ombudsman is elected for a period of two years from the date of his or her election, or a later date determined by the Riksdag.

### Preparation of election of Ombudsmen

*Supplementary provision 13.3.1* The Committee on the Constitution shall prepare the election of the Parliamentary Ombudsmen or Deputy Ombudsmen.

### Removal from office of Ombudsmen

**Art. 4.** In response to a proposal from the Committee on the Constitution, the Riksdag may remove an Ombudsman or Deputy Ombudsman from office who has forfeited the confidence of the Riksdag.

If a Parliamentary Ombudsman retires ahead of time, the Riksdag shall elect a successor without delay to serve for a new four-year period.

## **The National Audit Office**

### **Organisation and responsibilities of the National Audit Office**

**Art. 5.** In accordance with Chapter 13, Article 8 of the Instrument of Government, the Riksdag shall elect three Auditors General. One of the Auditors General shall be Auditor General with administrative responsibility and shall be responsible for the administrative direction of the authority. The Riksdag determines which of the Auditors General shall have this responsibility.

An Auditor General may not be an undischarged bankrupt, debarred from trading or placed under administration under Chapter 11, Section 7 of the Parental Code. Nor may an Auditor General hold any employment or appointment or engage in any activity which might affect his or her independent status.

### **Election of Auditors General**

**Art. 6.** The Auditors General are elected individually. When an Auditor General is elected by secret ballot, the same procedure is applied as for the election of Speakers under Chapter 3, Section 4, paragraph two.

An Auditor General is elected for the period from the date of his or her election, or a later date determined by the Riksdag, until a new election has been held in the seventh year thereafter and the person then elected has assumed office. The election shall never be valid beyond the end of that year. An Auditor General may not be re-elected.

### **Preparation of election of Auditors General**

*Supplementary provision 13.6.1* Elections of the Auditors General are prepared by the Committee on the Constitution.

### **Auditor General's duty to report**

*Supplementary provision 13.6.2* An Auditor General shall report in writing the following circumstances to the Riksdag:

1. any ownership and changes regarding ownership of financial instruments under Chapter 1, Section 1 of the Financial Instruments Trading Act (SFS 1991:980);
2. any agreement of a financial nature with a former employer, such as an agreement relating to salary or pension benefits paid during a period covered by his or her appointment at the National Audit Office;
3. any paid employment which is not of a purely temporary nature;
4. any independent income-generating activity pursued alongside his or her appointment as an Auditor General;
5. any appointment at a municipality or county council, if the appointment is not of a purely temporary nature; and
6. any other employment, appointment or ownership which might be presumed to affect the performance of his or her duties.

### **Removal from office of Auditors General**

**Art. 7.** The Riksdag may remove an Auditor General from office in response to a request from the Committee on the Constitution.

If an Auditor General retires ahead of time, the Riksdag shall elect a successor without delay to serve for a new seven-year period.

### **Parliamentary Council of the National Audit Office**

**Art. 8.** The Riksdag elects the Parliamentary Council of the National Audit Office for the electoral period of the Riksdag.

The Council consists of one member from each party group under Chapter 3, Article 5. No deputy members shall be appointed.

The Riksdag elects a chair and one or more deputy chairs from among the members of the Council. The chair and each deputy chair are elected individually.

## **Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs and War Delegation**

### **The Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs**

**Art. 9.** Elections of members of the Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs under Chapter 10, Article 12 of the Instrument of Government are valid for the electoral period of the Riksdag.

A Deputy Speaker shall act as deputy for the Speaker on the Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs. Nine deputy members shall be elected.

### **Meetings of the Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs**

**Art. 10.** The Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs meets behind closed doors. The Prime Minister may permit also a person other than a member, deputy member, minister or official to be present.

### **Record of meetings of the Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs**

*Supplementary provision 13.10.1* A record shall be kept of meetings of the Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs. The Secretary of the Council is appointed by the Government.

Deputy members of the Advisory Council shall always be notified of meetings of the Council.

### **Duty of confidentiality**

*Supplementary provision 13.10.2* A member, deputy member or official present for the first time at a meeting of the Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs shall affirm that he or she will abide by the duty of confidentiality under Chapter 10, Article 12 of the Instrument of Government.

## **War Delegation**

**Art. 11.** In accordance with Chapter 15, Article 2 of the Instrument of Government, the Riksdag shall elect a War Delegation from among its members.

The War Delegation consists of the Speaker as chair and fifty other members whom the Riksdag appoints from among its members for the duration of the electoral period. The Delegation elects a deputy chair from among its members in accordance with Chapter 12, Article 16. A member of the Riksdag is eligible to be a member of the War Delegation irrespective of whether he or she is also a member of the Government. No deputy members shall be appointed for the War Delegation.

If a member is permanently prevented from attending after the War Delegation has replaced the Riksdag, another member of the Riksdag is appointed to replace him or her as laid down in Chapter 12, Article 14.

### **Preparation of the activities of the War Delegation**

*Supplementary provision 13.11.1* The chair and deputy chair of the War Delegation prepare the activities of the Delegation in the event of the Delegation replacing the Riksdag.

### **Meetings of the War Delegation**

*Supplementary provision 13.11.2* The provisions laid down in Chapter 7, Article 16 and supplementary provisions 7.15.1, paragraph two and 7.15.3–7.15.4 apply to the War Delegation when the Delegation is not acting in place of the Riksdag.

## **Summons ordering War Delegation to replace the Riksdag**

**Art. 12.** The Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs convenes in response to a summons from the Speaker, or in his or her absence, a Deputy Speaker, or in response to two other members of the Council, for the purpose of ordering the War Delegation to replace the Riksdag under Chapter 15, Article 2 of the Instrument of Government.

The proceedings are conducted by the Speaker, a Deputy Speaker, or if none is present, by the member among those present who has been a member of the Riksdag the longest.

In the event of a tied vote, the opinion of the chair shall prevail.

## **Boards**

### **The Election Review Board**

**Art. 13.** The Riksdag shall have an Election Review Board and shall elect the chair and members of the Board in accordance with Chapter 3, Article 12 of the Instrument of Government.

The Riksdag appoints a deputy for the chair by means of a separate election. The provisions laid down in Chapter 3, Article 12 of the Instrument of Government concerning the chair also apply to the deputy.

When a chair or deputy chair is elected by secret ballot, the same procedure is applied as for the election of Speakers, in accordance with Chapter 3, Article 4, paragraph two.

### **The Ministerial Remunerations Board**

**Art. 14.** The Ministerial Remunerations Board consists of a chair and two other members. These are elected individually by the Riksdag after each ordinary election to the Riksdag and serve until a new election for the Board has been held. No deputy members are appointed.

If, for reasons of ill health or for any other reason, a member is prevented from performing his or her duties, the Riksdag elects a replacement to serve in his or her place for as long as the problem persists.

### **Preparation of elections to the Ministerial Remunerations Board**

*Supplementary provision 13.14.1* Elections of members of the Ministerial Remunerations Board are prepared by the Committee on the Constitution.

### **The Riksdag Remunerations Board**

**Art. 15.** The Riksdag Remunerations Board consists of a chair and two other members. These are elected by the Riksdag after each ordinary election to the Riksdag and serve until a new election for the Board has been held.

### **Preparation of elections to the Riksdag Remunerations Board**

*Supplementary provision 13.15.1* Elections of members of the Riksdag Remunerations Board are prepared by the Committee on the Constitution.

### **The Board for the Remuneration of the Parliamentary Ombudsmen and the Auditors General**

**Art. 16.** The Board for the Remuneration of the Parliamentary Ombudsmen and the Auditors General consists of a chair and two other members. These are elected individually by the Riksdag and serve until a new election for the Board has been held. No deputy members are appointed.

If, for reasons of ill health or for any other reason, a member is prevented from performing his or her duties, the Riksdag elects a replacement to serve in his or her place for as long as the problem persists.

### **Preparation of elections to the Board for the Remuneration of the Parliamentary Ombudsmen and the Auditors General**

*Supplementary provision 13.16.1* Elections of members of the Board for the Remuneration of the Parliamentary Ombudsmen and the Auditors General are prepared by the Committee on the Constitution.

### **The Riksdag Appeals Board**

**Art. 17.** The Riksdag Appeals Board consists of a chair, who shall hold currently, or shall have held previously, an appointment as a permanent salaried judge, and who is not a member of the Riksdag, and four other members elected by the Riksdag from among its members. The chair is elected separately. Elections for the Appeals Boards are valid for the electoral period of the Riksdag.

The chair shall have a deputy. Provisions applying to the chair also apply to the deputy chair. When a chair or deputy chair is elected by secret ballot, the same procedure is applied as for the election of Speakers, in accordance with Chapter 3, Article 4, paragraph two.

### **Delegations to international organisations**

#### **Delegations elected by the Riksdag**

**Art. 18.** If an international agreement has been concluded with effect that the Riksdag shall appoint a delegation to an international organisation from among its members, rules concerning this may be laid down in a supplementary provision to this Article.

#### **The Nordic Council**

*Supplementary provision 13.18.1* Each year, the Riksdag elects twenty members of the Swedish Delegation to the Nordic Council. They are elected after the start of the new Riksdag session and serve until a new election for a delegation has been held.

The delegation shall report annually to the Riksdag on its activities.

#### **The Council of Europe**

*Supplementary provision 13.18.2* The Riksdag elects six members of the Swedish Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The delegation is elected for the period from 1 November of the year in which an election to the Riksdag has been held until the corresponding date following the next election.

A member or a deputy member of the delegation who has left the Riksdag in conjunction with an election to the Riksdag may continue to serve for the remainder of the delegation's term of office. The delegation shall report annually to the Riksdag on its activities.

#### **The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

*Supplementary provision 13.18.3* The Riksdag elects eight members of the Swedish Delegation to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The delegation is elected for the electoral period of the Riksdag.

The delegation shall report annually to the Riksdag on its activities.

### **Delegations appointed by the Speaker**

**Art. 19.** The party groups nominate members of the delegations to the Inter-parliamentary Union and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean.

After conferring with the group leaders, the Speaker determines the composition of the delegations. The decision applies for the period determined by the Speaker.

### **Other assignments appointed by elections within the Riksdag**

#### **The Regent**

**Art. 20.** At an election by secret ballot of a Regent, Deputy Regent, or a person qualified to hold office as a Regent ad interim under Chapter 5, Articles 5 and 7 of the Instrument of Government, the same procedure is applied as for the election of Speakers, in accordance with Chapter 3, Article 4, paragraph two. The election is valid until the Riksdag determines otherwise.

#### **The General Council of the Riksbank**

**Art. 21.** Elections of members of the General Council of the Riksbank under Chapter 9, Article 13 of the Instrument of Government are valid for the electoral period of the Riksdag.

#### **Obstacles to being a member of the General Council of the Riksbank**

*Supplementary provision 13.21.1* A member of the General Council of the Riksbank may not:

1. be a minister;
2. be a member of the Executive Board of the Riksbank;
3. be a board member or deputy board member of a commercial bank or other undertaking coming under the supervision of the Financial Supervisory Authority; or
4. hold any other employment or appointment which renders him or her unsuitable for appointment as a member of the General Council.

Nor may a member of the General Council be a minor, an undischarged bankrupt, debarred from trading or placed under administration under Chapter 11, Article 7 of the Parental Code.

If a member accepts any employment or appointment that may conflict with the rules of paragraph one, the Riksdag shall remove the member from his or her appointment to the General Council in response to a proposal from the Committee on Finance. Any employment or appointment accepted by a member of the General Council shall be reported to the Riksdag.

#### **Members of a convention for treaty amendments within the European Union**

**Art. 22.** From among its members the Riksdag shall appoint members and alternates for these members to conventions set up to prepare treaty amendments in the European Union. The Riksdag is to elect new members and deputy members to the convention if a Riksdag election takes place while a convention is deliberating. Otherwise the provisions of Chapter 3 Article 5 and Chapter 12, Articles 6-8 and 11 apply to the election of convention members and the provisions of Chapter 12 Article 10 apply to the duties of their deputies.

Convention members are to give an account of the convention's deliberations during their meetings with the Chamber.

#### **Further provisions**

**Art. 23.** The Riksdag may adopt more detailed provisions concerning Riksdag bodies and appoint representatives in certain cases.

#### **The Riksbank Tercentenary Foundation**

*Supplementary provision 13.23.1* The Riksdag determines statutes for the Riksdag Tercentenary Foundation and elects twelve members of the Board of the Foundation in accordance with Article 3 of the Foundation's statutes (RFS 1988:1).

The Foundation shall report annually to the Riksdag on its activities.

### **The Judges Proposals Board**

*Supplementary provision 13.23.2* In accordance with Section 4 of the Act on the appointment of permanent salaried judges (2010:1390), the Riksdag elects two members to represent the public in the Judges Proposals Board and one personal substitute for each of them.

### **Prosecution**

**Art. 24.** Prosecution of officials listed below in respect of offences committed in the exercise of their assignment or employment may be decided:

1. only by the Committee on Finance in the case of prosecution of a member of the General Council of the Riksbank or a member of the Executive Board of the Riksbank; and
2. only by the Committee on the Constitution in the case of prosecution of a member of the Riksdag Board, the Election Review Board or the Riksdag Appeals Board, or one of the Parliamentary Ombudsmen, of one of the Auditors General or of the Secretary-General of the Riksdag.

The provisions laid down in paragraph one concerning prosecution of a member of the Executive Board of the Riksbank shall not apply in respect of an offence committed in the exercise of the Riksbank's decision-making powers under the Act on Exchange Control and Regulation of Credit (SFS 1992:1602).

## **Chapter 14. The Riksdag Administration**

### **Contents of the chapter**

**Art. 1.** This chapter contains provisions on:

- the Riksdag Administration (Articles 2 and 3);
- the direction of the Riksdag Administration (Articles 4–7); and
- prosecution (Article 8).

### **The Riksdag Administration**

#### **The tasks of the Riksdag Administration**

**Art. 2.** The Riksdag Administration shall provide support to the work of the Chamber, the Riksdag committees and the Committee on European Union Affairs, as well as assist the members of the Riksdag and Riksdag bodies with factual information for their work in the Riksdag.

In addition, the Riksdag Administration shall, in respect of the Riksdag and authorities under the Riksdag, and to the extent determined by the Riksdag:

1. be responsible for central negotiations with the trade union organisations and represent the authorities under the Riksdag in the case of such disputes;
2. draw up proposals for appropriations under the central government budget, but not in respect of the National Audit Office;
3. deal with questions relating to the administration of the Riksdag in general, and questions concerning the financial administration of authorities under the Riksdag other than the Riksbank; and
4. adopt regulations and recommendations concerning questions under points 1 to 3.

### **Secretariats of the Riksdag committees and the Committee on European Union Affairs**

*Supplementary provision 14.2.1* The Riksdag committees and the Committee on European Union Affairs are assisted by secretariats which form part of the Riksdag Administration.

The head of such a secretariat shall be a Swedish citizen.

### **Instructions for the Riksdag Administration**

**Art. 3.** The Riksdag determines instructions for the Riksdag Administration.

### **Direction of the Riksdag Administration**

#### **Secretary-General of the Riksdag**

**Art. 4.** The Secretary-General of the Riksdag is head of the Riksdag Administration, ensures that a record is kept of meetings of the Chamber, dispatches the decisions of the Riksdag, is Secretary of the War Delegation and assists the Speaker in the work of the Riksdag in other respects.

#### **Election of the Secretary-General**

**Art. 5.** The Riksdag elects the Secretary-General of the Riksdag. The election is held at the start of the parliamentary session following an ordinary election to the Riksdag. It is valid from the time of the election, or another time determined by the Riksdag, until a new election of the Secretary-General has been held and he or she has taken up the appointment.

If the election is held by secret ballot, then the candidate who receives three quarters or more of the votes cast is elected. If no such majority is obtained, a new election is held. If no candidate receives three quarters or more of the votes cast on this occasion either, the election will be prepared again.

#### **Preparation of election of the Secretary-General of the Riksdag**

*Supplementary provision 14.5.1* The election of the Secretary-General of the Riksdag shall be prepared by a group consisting of the Speaker and the group leaders.

#### **Dismissal of the Secretary-General**

**Art. 6.** At the request of the Riksdag Board, the Riksdag may dismiss a Secretary-General of the Riksdag who has grossly neglected his or her commitments to the Riksdag.

#### **Acting Secretary-General**

**Art. 7.** If the Riksdag is without a Secretary-General, the Riksdag shall elect a Secretary-General for such time until an ordinary Secretary-General has been elected and has taken up the appointment.

### **Appeals**

#### **Appeals against decisions by the Riksdag Administration**

**Art. 8.** Decisions by a Riksdag body in an administrative matter against which appeals may be lodged under special provisions are examined by an administrative court in cases determined by the Riksdag, and by the Riksdag Appeals Board in other cases.

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1. This Act comes into force on 1 September 2014, when the Riksdag Act (1974:153) will cease to apply.

2. If a law or other statute refers to provisions in the Riksdag Act (1974:153) which have been superseded with provisions in this Act, the new provisions shall apply.

3. Regulations communicated pursuant to the Riksdag Act (1974:153) and which apply when this Act comes into force shall be considered to be communicated in accordance with this Act.

4. Decisions made pursuant to the Riksdag Act (1974:153) shall be considered to be made pursuant to this Act.
5. Elections that are carried out pursuant to the Riksdag Act (1974:153) shall be considered to be carried out pursuant to this Act.
6. Matters that are introduced within the Riksdag before 1 September 2014, but which have not yet been settled shall be dealt with in accordance with this Act.

#### **Appendix (Supplementary provision 7.5.1)**

1. The Committee on the Constitution shall prepare matters concerning
  - a. legislation of a constitutional and general administrative nature;
  - b. legislation concerning radio, television and film;
  - c. freedom of expression, formation of public opinion and freedom of worship;
  - d. financial support for the press and the political parties;
  - e. the National Audit Office, in respect of the election of an Auditor General, the removal of an Auditor General from office and the prosecution of an Auditor General;
  - f. the Riksdag, and authorities under the Riksdag in general, except for the Riksbank;
  - g. the county administration and the division of the country into administrative units;
  - h. local self-government;
  - i. the consent of the Riksdag to the prosecution of a member of the Riksdag or interference with the personal liberty of a member; and
  - j. appropriations falling within expenditure area 1 Governance.
2. The Committee on Finance shall prepare matters concerning
  - a. monetary, credit, currency and central government debt policy;
  - b. the credit and finance markets;
  - c. the commercial insurance market;
  - d. the National Audit Office, insofar as these matters do not fall to the Committee on the Constitution to prepare;
  - e. local government finance;
  - f. the State as employer, national statistics, accounting, audits and administrative efficiency;
  - g. State property and public procurement in general;
  - h. other questions of administrative finance not solely concerned with a particular subject area;

i. budgetary questions of a technical nature; and

j. appropriations falling within expenditure areas 2 Economy and financial administration, 25 General grants to local government, 26 Interest on central government debt, etc. and 27 The contribution to the European Union.

3. The Committee on Taxation shall prepare matters concerning

a. tax assessment and tax collection;

b. the population registers;

c. the enforcement service; and

d. appropriations falling within expenditure area 3 Taxes, customs and enforcement.

4. The Committee on Justice shall prepare matters concerning

a. the law courts;

b. the leasehold and rent tribunals;

c. the public prosecution service;

d. the police service;

e. forensic medicine;

f. the correctional care system;

g. the Penal Code, the Code of Judicial Procedure and acts of law which supersede or are closely associated with provisions of these Codes; and

h. appropriations falling within expenditure area 4 Justice.

5. The Committee on Civil Affairs shall prepare matters concerning

a. the Marriage, Parental, Inheritance, Commercial, Land, and Enforcement Codes and acts of law which supersede or are related to provisions of these Codes, insofar as these matters do not fall to any other committee to prepare;

b. insurance contract law;

c. company and association law;

d. law of torts;

e. transport law;

f. bankruptcy law;

g. consumer policy;

- h. international private law;
  - i. legislation on other matters having the nature of general private law;
  - j. housing policy;
  - k. water rights;
  - l. land development planning;
  - m. building and construction;
  - n. physical planning;
  - o. expropriation, the formation of property units and land survey; and
  - p. appropriations falling within expenditure area 18 Community planning, housing provision, construction and consumer policy.
6. The Committee on Foreign Affairs shall prepare matters concerning
- a. relations and agreements of the Realm with other states and with international organisations;
  - b. development assistance to other countries;
  - c. other foreign trade and international economic cooperation; and
  - d. appropriations falling within expenditure areas 5 International cooperation, and 7 International development cooperation.
7. The Committee on Defence shall prepare matters concerning
- a. military and civil defence;
  - b. emergency and rescue services;
  - c. measures to reduce the vulnerability of society;
  - d. nuclear safety and protection against radiation;
  - e. maritime rescue and coastguard services; and
  - f. appropriations falling within expenditure area 6 Defence and contingency measures.
8. The Committee on Social Insurance shall prepare matters concerning
- a. national insurance;
  - b. national pensions;
  - c. occupational injury insurance;
  - d. financial support for families with children;

e. Swedish citizenship;

f. migration; and

g. appropriations falling within expenditure areas 8 Migration, 10 Financial security for the sick and disabled, 11 Financial security for the elderly and 12 Financial security for families and children.

9. The Committee on Health and Welfare shall prepare matters concerning

a. care and welfare services for children and young people insofar as these matters do not fall to any other committee to prepare;

b. care and welfare of the elderly and disabled;

c. measures to combat drug and alcohol abuse, and other social services questions;

d. alcohol policy measures;

e. health and medical care;

f. social welfare questions in general; and

g. appropriations falling within expenditure area 9 Health and medical care, social services.

10. The Committee on Cultural Affairs shall prepare matters concerning

a. cultural and educational purposes in general;

b. popular education;

c. youth activities;

d. international cultural cooperation;

e. sports and outdoor activities;

f. religious communities, insofar as these do not fall to the Committee on the Constitution to prepare;

g. radio and television, insofar as these do not fall to the Committee on the Constitution to prepare; and

h. appropriations falling within expenditure area 17 Culture, media, religious communities, leisure.

11. The Committee on Education shall prepare matters concerning

a. the school system, certain special types of education and other educational activities;

b. higher education and research;

c. financial support for students; and

d. appropriations falling within expenditure areas 15 Financial support for students and 16 Education and academic research.

12. The Committee on Transport and Communications shall prepare matters concerning

a. roads and road transport;

b. railways and rail transport;

c. ports and shipping;

d. airports and civil aviation;

e. postal services;

f. electronic communications;

g. IT policy; and

h. appropriations falling within expenditure area 22 Transport and communications.

13. The Committee on Environment and Agriculture shall prepare matters concerning

a. agriculture, forestry, horticulture, hunting and fishing;

b. meteorological services;

c. nature conservation;

d. other environmental protection questions not falling to any other committee to prepare; and

e. appropriations falling within expenditure areas 20 General environmental protection and nature conservation and 23 Agricultural sciences, rural areas and food.

14. The Committee on Industry and Trade shall prepare matters concerning

a. general guidelines for industry and trade policy and associated research questions;

b. industry and handicrafts;

c. trade;

d. intellectual property law;

e. energy policy;

f. regional development policy;

g. state-owned enterprises;

- h. price and competition conditions in the business sector; and
- i. appropriations falling within expenditure areas 19 Regional development, 21 Energy and 24 Industry and trade.

15. The Committee on the Labour Market shall prepare matters concerning

- a. labour market policy;
- b. working life policy, including labour law;
- c. integration;
- d. measures to combat discrimination, insofar as these matters do not fall to any other committee to prepare; and
- e. equality between women and men, insofar as these matters do not fall to any other committee to prepare.
- f. appropriations falling within expenditure areas 13 Integration and gender equality and 14 The labour market and working life.