

CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Unofficial translation

In force since 13.07.1991.

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Preamble

We, the representatives of the Seventh Grand National Assembly, in our endeavor to express the will of the Bulgarian people,

by declaring our allegiance to universal human values: freedom, peace, humanism, equality, justice and tolerance;

by elevating the rights of the individual, their dignity and security as a supreme principle;

being aware of our irrevocable duty to preserve the national and state unity of Bulgaria,

We declare our determination to create a democratic, legal and social state,

for which we accept this

CONSTITUTION

Chapter One. BASIC PRINCIPLES

Article 1. (1) Bulgaria is a republic with a parliamentary government.

(2) All state power emanates from the people. It is exercised by them directly and through the bodies provided for in this Constitution.

(3) No part of the people, political party or other organization, state institution or individual may appropriate the exercise of popular sovereignty.



Art. 2. (1) The Republic of Bulgaria is a unitary state with local self-government. Autonomous territorial entities are not permitted in it.

(2) The territorial integrity of the Republic of Bulgaria is inviolable.



Article 3. The official language in the republic is Bulgarian.



Art. 4. (1) The Republic of Bulgaria is a state governed by the rule of law. It is governed according to the Constitution and the laws of the country.

(2) The Republic of Bulgaria guarantees the life, dignity and rights of the individual and creates conditions for the free development of man and civil society.

(3) (New - SG, issue 18 of 2005) The Republic of Bulgaria shall participate in the establishment and development of the European Union.



Article 5. (1) The Constitution is the supreme law and other laws may not contradict it.

(2) The provisions of the Constitution shall have immediate effect.

(3) No one may be convicted of any act or omission which was not declared a crime by law at the time it was committed.

(4) International treaties ratified in accordance with the constitutional procedure, promulgated and entered into force for the Republic of Bulgaria are part of the internal law of the country. They have priority over those norms of internal legislation that contradict them.

(5) All normative acts shall be published. They shall enter into force three days after their promulgation, unless they specify another term.



Article 6. (1) All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

(2) All citizens are equal before the law. No restrictions on rights or privileges based on race, nationality, ethnicity, sex, origin, religion, education, beliefs, political affiliation, personal and social status or property status shall be permitted.



Article 7. The State shall be liable for damages caused by unlawful acts or actions of its bodies and officials.



Article 8. State power is divided into legislative, executive and judicial.



Art. 9. (1) (Previous text of Art. 9 - SG, issue 12 of 2007, in force from 01.01.2008) The Armed Forces guarantee the sovereignty, security and independence of the country and protect its territorial integrity.

(2) (New - SG, issue 12 of 2007, effective 01.01.2008) The activities of the armed forces shall be regulated by law.



Article 10. Elections, national and local referendums shall be held on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.



Art. 11. (1) Political life in the Republic of Bulgaria is based on the principle of political pluralism.

(2) No political party or ideology may be declared or affirmed as state-owned.

(3) Parties shall assist in the formation and expression of the political will of citizens. The procedure for the formation and dissolution of political parties, as well as the conditions for their activities, shall be regulated by law.

(4) Political parties may not be formed on an ethnic, racial or religious basis, as well as parties that aim to seize state power by force.



Art. 12. (1) Citizens' associations serve to satisfy and protect their interests.

(2) Citizens' associations, including trade unions, may not set political goals and carry out political activities that are inherent only to political parties.



Article 13. (1) Religious confessions are free.

(2) Religious institutions are separated from the state.

(3) The traditional religion in the Republic of Bulgaria is the Eastern Orthodox faith.

(4) Religious communities and institutions, as well as religious beliefs, may not be used for political purposes.



Art. 14. The family, motherhood and children are under the protection of the state and society.



Art. 15. The Republic of Bulgaria ensures the protection and reproduction of the environment , the maintenance and diversity of living nature and the rational use of the country's natural wealth and resources.



Article 16. Labor is guaranteed and protected by law.



Article 17. (1) The right to property and inheritance shall be guaranteed and protected by law.

(2) Property is private and public.

(3) Private property is inviolable.

(4) The regime of state and municipal property shall be determined by law.

(5) Compulsory expropriation of property for state and municipal needs may only be carried out on the basis of law, provided that these needs cannot be satisfied in any other way and after prior and equivalent compensation.



Art. 18. (1) The underground resources, the coastal beach strip, the republican roads, as well as the waters, forests and parks of national importance, the natural and archaeological reserves, determined by law, are exclusive state property.

(2) The State exercises sovereign rights over the continental shelf and in the exclusive economic zone for the exploration, development, use, conservation and management of the biological, mineral and energy resources of these marine spaces.

(3) The State exercises sovereign rights over the radio frequency spectrum and the positions of the geostationary orbit, determined for the Republic of Bulgaria by international agreements.

(4) A state monopoly may be established by law over railway transport, national postal and telecommunications networks, the use of nuclear energy, the production of radioactive products, weapons, explosives and highly biologically active substances.

(5) The terms and conditions under which the state grants concessions for the sites and permits for the activities under the preceding paragraphs shall be regulated by law.

(6) State properties shall be managed and administered in the interest of citizens and society.



Article 19. (1) The economy of the Republic of Bulgaria is based on free economic initiative.

(2) The law creates and guarantees to all citizens and legal entities equal legal conditions for economic activity, preventing the abuse of monopoly, unfair competition and protecting the consumer.

(3) The investments and business activities of Bulgarian and foreign citizens and legal entities shall be protected by law.

(4) The law creates conditions for cooperation and other forms of association of citizens and legal entities to achieve economic and social progress.



Art. 20. The state creates conditions for balanced development of the individual regions of the country and supports territorial bodies and activities through financial, credit and investment policy.



Article 21. (1) Land is a fundamental national asset that enjoys the special protection of the state and society.

(2) Arable land shall be used only for agricultural purposes. A change in its purpose shall be permitted exceptionally in the event of proven need and under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure established by law.



Art. 22. (Amended - SG, No. 18/2005, effective 01.01.2007 (*)) (1) Foreigners and foreign legal entities may acquire ownership rights over land under the conditions arising from the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to the European Union or by virtue of an international treaty ratified, promulgated and entered into force for the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as through inheritance by law.

(2) The law on ratification of an international treaty under paragraph 1 shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority of all members of Parliament.

(3) The land regime shall be determined by law.



Art. 23. (Amended and supplemented - SG, No. 106/2023, amended by RCC No. 13/2024 - SG, No. 66/2024) The state creates conditions for the free development of science, education and the arts and supports them. It takes care of the preservation of the national historical and cultural heritage.



Article 24. (1) The foreign policy of the Republic of Bulgaria shall be implemented in accordance with the principles and norms of international law.

(2) The main objectives of the foreign policy of the Republic of Bulgaria are the national security and independence of the country, the prosperity and fundamental rights and freedoms of Bulgarian citizens, as well as assistance in establishing a just international order.

Chapter Two. **BASIC RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF CITIZENS**



Art. 25. (1) A Bulgarian citizen is anyone whose at least one parent is a Bulgarian citizen or who was born on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, if he does not acquire another citizenship by origin. Bulgarian citizenship may also be acquired by naturalization.

(2) Persons of Bulgarian origin shall acquire Bulgarian citizenship under a simplified procedure.

(3) A Bulgarian citizen by birth may not be deprived of Bulgarian citizenship.

(4) (Amended - SG, issue 18 of 2005) A citizen of the Republic of Bulgaria may not be extradited to another state or to an international court for the purposes of criminal prosecution, unless this is provided for in an international treaty ratified, promulgated and entered into force for the Republic of Bulgaria.

(5) Bulgarian citizens residing abroad are under the protection of the Republic of Bulgaria.

(6) The conditions and procedure for acquiring, retaining and losing Bulgarian citizenship shall be determined by law.



Article 26. (1) Citizens of the Republic of Bulgaria, wherever they may be, have all rights and obligations under this Constitution.

(2) Foreigners residing in the Republic of Bulgaria shall have all rights and obligations under this Constitution, with the exception of the rights and obligations for which the Constitution and the laws require Bulgarian citizenship.



Article 27. (1) Foreigners who reside in the country on legal grounds may not be expelled from it or transferred to another country against their will except under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by law.

(2) The Republic of Bulgaria grants asylum to foreigners persecuted for their beliefs or activities in defense of internationally recognized rights and freedoms.

(3) The conditions and procedure for granting asylum shall be regulated by law.



Art. 28. Everyone has the right to life. Encroachment on human life is punishable as the most serious crime.



Art. 29. (1) No one may be subjected to torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, or forcible assimilation.

(2) No one may be subjected to medical, scientific or other experiments without his or her voluntary written consent.



Article 30. (1) Everyone has the right to personal liberty and security.

(2) No one may be detained, subjected to inspection, search or any other interference with his personal integrity except under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by law.

(3) In urgent cases expressly specified by law, the competent state authorities may detain a citizen, of which they shall immediately notify the judicial authorities. Within 24 hours of the detention, the judicial authority shall rule on its legality.

(4) Everyone has the right to legal protection from the moment of his arrest or his indictment as an accused.

(5) Everyone has the right to meet privately with the person who protects them. The confidentiality of their communications is inviolable.



Art. 31. (1) Everyone accused of a crime shall be brought before the judiciary within the legally established time limit.

(2) No one may be compelled to confess guilt, nor be convicted solely on the basis of his confession.

(3) The accused shall be presumed innocent until proven guilty by a final judgment.

(4) No restrictions on the rights of the accused shall be permitted, exceeding what is necessary for the administration of justice.

(5) Conditions shall be created for those deprived of their liberty to exercise their fundamental rights, which are not restricted by the effect of the sentence.

(6) The penalty of deprivation of liberty shall be executed only in the places determined by law.

(7) Criminal prosecution and execution of punishment for crimes against peace and humanity shall not be subject to statute of limitations.



Article 32. (1) The private life of citizens is inviolable. Everyone has the right to protection against unlawful interference with his private and family life and against attacks on his honor, dignity and good name.

(2) No one may be followed, photographed, filmed, recorded or subjected to other similar actions without his knowledge or despite his explicit consent, except in the cases provided for by law.



Art. 33. (1) The dwelling is inviolable. Without the consent of its occupant, no one may enter or remain therein except in the cases expressly specified in the law.

(2) Entry into or stay in the dwelling without the consent of its occupant or without permission of the judiciary shall be permitted only to prevent an imminent or commenced crime, to apprehend the perpetrator, as well as in cases of extreme necessity.



Article 34. (1) The freedom and secrecy of correspondence and other communications shall be inviolable.

(2) Exceptions to this rule shall be permitted only with the permission of the judiciary, when this is necessary for the detection or prevention of serious crimes.



Article 35. (1) Everyone has the right freely to choose his place of residence, to move within the territory of the country and to leave its borders. This right may be restricted only by law for the protection of national security, public health and the rights and freedoms of other citizens.

(2) Every Bulgarian citizen has the right to return to the country.



Art. 36. (1) The study and use of the Bulgarian language is a right and an obligation of Bulgarian citizens.

(2) Citizens for whom Bulgarian is not their mother tongue have the right, in addition to the mandatory study of the Bulgarian language, to study and use their own language.

(3) The cases in which only the official language is used shall be specified in the law.



Art. 37. (1) Freedom of conscience, freedom of thought and the choice of religion and of religious or atheistic views shall be inviolable. The State shall promote tolerance and respect between believers of different religions, as well as between believers and non-believers.

(2) Freedom of conscience and religion may not be directed against national security, public order, public health and morals or against the rights and freedoms of other citizens.



Article 38. No one may be persecuted or have their rights restricted because of their beliefs, nor be obliged or forced to provide information about their own or someone else's beliefs.



Art. 39. (1) Everyone has the right to express an opinion and to disseminate it through speech - written or oral, through sound, image or in any other way.

(2) This right may not be used to infringe upon the rights and good name of another person and to call for a violent change of the constitutionally established order, for the commission of crimes, for inciting enmity or for violence against the person.



Article 40. (1) The press and other mass media shall be free and not subject to censorship.

(2) The suspension and confiscation of a printed publication or other information carrier shall be permitted only on the basis of an act of the judiciary, when it violates good morals or contains calls for a violent change of the constitutionally established order, for the commission of a crime or for violence against the person. If confiscation does not follow within 24 hours, the suspension shall cease to have effect.



Article 41. (1) Everyone has the right to seek, receive and disseminate information. The exercise of this right may not be directed against the rights and good name of other citizens, as well as against national security, public order, public health and morals.

(2) Citizens have the right to information from a state body or institution on matters that are of legitimate interest to them, if the information is not a state or other secret protected by law or does not affect the rights of others.



Article 42. (1) Citizens who have reached the age of 18, with the exception of those placed under guardianship and those serving a sentence of deprivation of liberty, have the right to elect state and local bodies and to participate in referendums.

(2) The organization and procedure for holding elections and referendums shall be determined by law.

(3) (New - SG, issue 18 of 2005) The elections for members of the European Parliament and the participation of citizens of the European Union in elections for local authorities shall be regulated by law.



Article 43. (1) Citizens have the right to assemble peacefully and without weapons in meetings and demonstrations.

(2) The procedure for organizing and conducting meetings and demonstrations shall be determined by law.

(3) No permit is required for indoor meetings.



Article 44. (1) Citizens may freely associate.

(2) Organizations whose activities are directed against the sovereignty, territorial integrity of the country and the unity of the nation, towards inciting racial, national, ethnic or religious enmity, towards violating the rights and freedoms of citizens, as well as organizations that create secret or militarized structures or seek to achieve their goals through violence, are prohibited.

(3) The law shall determine the organizations subject to registration, the procedure for their termination, as well as their relations with the state.



Article 45. Citizens have the right to submit complaints, suggestions and petitions to state authorities.



Art. 46. (1) Marriage is a voluntary union between a man and a woman. Only civil marriage is legal.

(2) Spouses have equal rights and obligations in marriage and family.

(3) The form of marriage, the conditions and procedure for its conclusion and termination, the personal and property relations between the spouses shall be regulated by law.



Art. 47. (1) The upbringing and education of children until they reach the age of majority is the right and obligation of their parents and is supported by the state.

(2) The mother benefits from the special protection of the state, which provides her with paid leave before and after childbirth, free obstetric care, labor relief and other social benefits.

(3) Children born out of wedlock have equal rights with those born in wedlock.

(4) Children left without the care of their relatives are under the special protection of the state and society.

(5) The conditions and procedure for limiting or revoking parental rights shall be determined by law.



Article 48. (1) Citizens have the right to work. The State shall ensure the creation of conditions for the exercise of this right.

(2) The State shall create conditions for the exercise of the right to work of persons with physical and mental disabilities.

(3) Every citizen freely chooses his profession and place of work.

(4) No one may be compelled to perform forced labor.

(5) Workers and employees have the right to healthy and safe working conditions, to a minimum wage and to pay corresponding to the work performed, as well as to rest and leave under conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by law.



Art. 49. (1) Workers and employees have the right to associate in trade unions and associations to protect their interests in the field of labor and social security.

(2) Employers have the right to associate for the protection of their economic interests.



Article 50. Workers and employees have the right to strike to protect their collective economic and social interests. This right shall be exercised under conditions and in accordance with the procedure established by law.



Article 51. (1) Citizens have the right to social security and social assistance.

(2) Persons temporarily unemployed shall be socially insured under conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by law.

(3) Elderly people who have no relatives and cannot support themselves from their property, as well as persons with physical and mental disabilities, are under special protection of the state and society.



Article 52. (1) Citizens have the right to health insurance, guaranteeing them accessible medical care, and to free use of medical services under conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by law.

(2) The healthcare of citizens shall be financed by the state budget, by employers, by personal and collective insurance contributions and by other sources under conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by law.

(3) The state protects the health of citizens and promotes the development of sports and tourism.

(4) No one may be forcibly subjected to treatment and sanitary measures except in the cases provided for by law.

(5) The state exercises control over all healthcare institutions, as well as over the production of medicinal products, biological products and medical equipment and over the trade in them.



Article 53. (1) Everyone has the right to education.

(2) School education up to the age of 16 is compulsory.

(3) Primary and secondary education in state and municipal schools shall be free of charge. Under conditions determined by law, education in higher state schools shall be free of charge.

(4) Higher education institutions enjoy academic autonomy.

(5) Citizens and organizations may establish schools under conditions and in accordance with the procedure established by law. The education in them must comply with state requirements.

(6) The state promotes education by establishing and financing schools, supporting capable pupils and students, creating conditions for vocational training and retraining. It exercises control over all types and levels of schools.



Art. 54. (1) Everyone has the right to enjoy national and universal cultural values, as well as to develop their culture in accordance with their ethnic affiliation, which is recognized and guaranteed by law.

(2) Freedom of artistic, scientific and technical creativity shall be recognized and guaranteed by law.

(3) Inventive, copyright and related rights shall be protected by law.



Article 55. Citizens have the right to a healthy and favorable environment in accordance with established standards and norms. They are obliged to protect the environment .



Article 56. Every citizen has the right to defense when his rights or legitimate interests are violated or threatened. He may also appear before state institutions with a defense attorney.



Art. 57. (1) The fundamental rights of citizens are inalienable.

(2) Abuse of rights, as well as their exercise, is not permitted if it infringes the rights or legitimate interests of others.

(3) Upon declaration of war, martial law or other state of emergency, the exercise of individual rights of citizens may be temporarily restricted by law, with the exception of the rights provided for in Art. 28 , 29 , 31, para. 1, 2 and 3 , Art. 32, para. 1 and Art. 37 .



Art. 58. (1) Citizens shall be obliged to observe and implement the Constitution and the laws. They shall be obliged to respect the rights and legitimate interests of others.

(2) Religious and other beliefs shall not be grounds for refusal to fulfill the obligations established in the Constitution and the laws.



Art. 59. (1) The defense of the Fatherland is a duty and honor for every Bulgarian citizen. Treason and betrayal of the Fatherland are the most serious crimes and are punished with the full severity of the law.

(2) (Amended - SG, issue 12 of 2007, effective 01.01.2008) The preparation of citizens for the defense of the fatherland shall be regulated by law.



Article 60. (1) Citizens are obliged to pay taxes and fees established by law, in accordance with their income and property.

(2) Tax reliefs and burdens may be established only by law.



Article 61. Citizens are obliged to provide assistance to the state and society in the event of natural and other disasters under conditions and in accordance with the procedure established by law.

Chapter Three. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



Article 62. (1) (Previous text of Article 62 - SG, issue 12 of 2007) The National Assembly shall exercise legislative power and exercise parliamentary control.

(2) (New - SG, issue 12 of 2007) The National Assembly shall have an independent budget.



Article 63. The National Assembly shall consist of 240 members of parliament.



Article 64. (1) The National Assembly shall be elected for a term of four years.

(2) (Amended - SG, issue 106 of 2023) In the event of war, martial law or other state of emergency occurring during the mandate of the National Assembly, the term of its powers shall be extended until the cessation of these circumstances.

(3) (Amended - SG, issue 106 of 2023) Elections for a new National Assembly shall be held no later than one month before the expiration of the term of office of the current National Assembly.

(4) (New - SG, issue 106 of 2023) With the taking of the oath of the newly elected members of the National Assembly, the powers of the previous National Assembly shall be terminated.



Art. 65. (1) (Supplemented - SG, issue 106 of 2023) A Bulgarian citizen who does not have any other citizenship, has reached the age of 21, is not under guardianship and is not serving a sentence of imprisonment may be elected as a Member of Parliament. A Bulgarian citizen who also has another citizenship may be elected as a Member of Parliament if he has lived in the country for the last eighteen months.

(2) Candidates for members of parliament who hold civil service positions shall suspend their performance even after their registration.



Article 66. The legality of elections may be challenged before the Constitutional Court in accordance with the procedure established by law.



Art. 67. (1) The representatives of the people represent not only their voters, but also the entire people. Binding by a mandatory mandate is invalid.

(2) The representatives of the people shall act on the basis of the Constitution and the laws in accordance with their conscience and convictions.



Article 68. (1) Members of Parliament may not perform any other public service or engage in any activity that, according to the law, is incompatible with the position of a Member of Parliament.

(2) A Member of Parliament elected as a Minister shall terminate his powers for the period during which he is a Minister. In such case, he shall be replaced in accordance with the procedure established by law.



Article 69. Members of Parliament shall not bear criminal liability for the opinions they express and for their votes in the National Assembly.



Art. 70. (1) (Previous text of Art. 70, amended - SG, No. 27/2006) Members of Parliament may not be detained and no criminal prosecution may be initiated against them except for crimes of a general nature, and with the permission of the National Assembly, and when it is not in session - of the President of the National Assembly. A permission for detention shall not be requested in the event of a serious crime, but in such a case the National Assembly shall be immediately notified, and if it is not in session - the President of the National Assembly.

(2) (New - SG, issue 27 of 2006) Permission to initiate criminal prosecution shall not be required with the written consent of the Member of Parliament.



Article 71. Members of Parliament shall receive a remuneration, the amount of which shall be determined by the National Assembly.



Art. 72. (1) The powers of a Member of Parliament shall be terminated early in the following cases:

1. submitting resignation to the National Assembly;
2. entry into force of a sentence imposing a penalty of imprisonment for an intentional crime, or when the execution of the penalty of imprisonment has not been postponed;
3. establishment of ineligibility or incompatibility;
4. death.

(2) In the cases of items 1 and 2, the decision shall be adopted by the National Assembly, and in the cases of item 3 - by the Constitutional Court.



Article 73. The organization and activities of the National Assembly shall be carried out on the basis of the Constitution and the rules of procedure adopted by it.



Article 74. The National Assembly is a permanent body. It alone determines the time during which it is not in session.



Article 75. The newly elected National Assembly shall be convened for its first session by the President of the Republic no later than one month after the election of the National Assembly. If the President fails to convene the National Assembly within the specified period, it shall be convened by one-fifth of the members of the National Assembly.



Article 76. (1) The first sitting of the National Assembly shall be opened by the oldest Member of Parliament present.

(2) At the first session, the representatives of the people shall take the following oath: "I swear in the name of the Republic of Bulgaria to abide by the Constitution and the laws of the country and in all my actions to be guided by the interests of the people. I have sworn."

(3) At the same session of the National Assembly, a Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons shall be elected.



Article 77. (1) The President of the National Assembly:

1. represents the National Assembly;
2. proposes a draft agenda for the meetings;

3. opens, directs and closes the sessions of the National Assembly and ensures order during their conduct;
4. certifies with his signature the content of the acts adopted by the National Assembly;
5. promulgates the decisions, declarations and addresses adopted by the National Assembly;
6. organizes the international relations of the National Assembly.

(2) The Deputy Speakers of the National Assembly shall assist the Speaker and carry out the activities assigned to them by him.



Article 78. The National Assembly shall be convened for meetings by the President of the National Assembly:

1. on his initiative;
2. at the request of one fifth of the members of parliament;
3. at the request of the President;
4. at the request of the Council of Ministers.



Article 79. (1) The National Assembly shall elect from its composition permanent and temporary committees.

(2) The standing committees shall support the activities of the National Assembly and exercise parliamentary control on its behalf.

(3) Temporary committees shall be elected for studies and inquiries.



Article 80. Officials and citizens, when invited, are obliged to appear before parliamentary committees and provide them with the information and documents requested by them.



Art. 81. (1) (Amended - SG, issue 12 of 2007) The National Assembly shall open its sessions and adopt its acts when more than half of the National Representatives are present.

(2) The National Assembly shall adopt laws and other acts by a majority of more than half of the members of the National Assembly present, except when the Constitution requires another majority.

(3) Voting shall be personal and open, except when the Constitution provides or the National Assembly decides that it shall be secret.



Article 82. The sessions of the National Assembly shall be open. Exceptionally, the National Assembly may decide to close individual sessions.



Article 83. (1) The members of the Council of Ministers may participate in the meetings of the National Assembly and of the parliamentary committees. At their request, they shall be heard with priority.

(2) The National Assembly and the parliamentary committees may oblige ministers to appear at their meetings and answer questions put to them.



Article 84. The National Assembly:

1. adopts, amends, supplements and repeals laws;
2. adopts the state budget and the report on its implementation;
3. (amended - SG, issue 12 of 2007) establishes taxes and determines the amount of state taxes ;
4. schedules elections for the President of the Republic;
5. adopts a decision to hold a national referendum;
6. elects and dismisses the Prime Minister and, upon his proposal, the Council of Ministers; makes changes in the government upon the proposal of the Prime Minister;
7. establishes, transforms and closes ministries upon the proposal of the Prime Minister;
8. elects and dismisses the heads of the Bulgarian National Bank and other institutions designated by law;
9. gives consent to the conclusion of contracts for state loans;
10. decides on the issues of declaring war and concluding peace;
11. authorizes the sending and use of Bulgarian armed forces outside the country, as well as the residence of foreign troops on the territory of the country or their passage through it;
12. declares martial law or other state of emergency on the entire territory of the country or on part of it upon the proposal of the President or the Council of Ministers;
13. grants amnesty;
14. establishes orders and medals;
15. determines official holidays;
16. (new - SG, issue 27 of 2006, amended - SG, issue 12 of 2007, supplemented - SG, issue 100 of 2015, supplemented - SG, issue 106 of 2023, amended by RCC No. 13 of 2024 - SG, issue 66 of 2024) hears and adopts the annual reports of the Supreme Court of Cassation, the Supreme Administrative Court and the Prosecutor General, submitted by the Supreme Judicial Council, on the implementation of the law and on the activities of the courts, the prosecutor's office and the investigative bodies. The National Assembly may also hear and adopt other reports of the Prosecutor General on the activities of the prosecutor's office in the implementation of the law, combating crime and implementing penal policy;
17. (new - SG, issue 12 of 2007) hears and adopts reports on the activities of bodies which are fully or partially elected by the National Assembly, when this is provided for by law.



Art. 85. (1) The National Assembly shall ratify and denounce by law the international treaties which:

1. have a political or military nature;
 2. relate to the participation of the Republic of Bulgaria in international organizations;
 3. provide for the adjustment of the border of the Republic of Bulgaria;
 4. contain financial obligations for the state;
 5. provide for the participation of the state in arbitration or judicial settlement of international disputes;
 6. relate to fundamental human rights;
 7. relate to the operation of the law or require measures of a legislative nature for their implementation;
 8. explicitly provide for ratification;
 9. (new - SG, issue 18 of 2005) grant to the European Union powers arising from this Constitution.
- (2) (New - SG, issue 18 of 2005) The law on ratification of an international treaty under paragraph 1, item 9 shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority of all members of Parliament.
- (3) (Previous para. 2 - SG, issue 18 of 2005) Treaties ratified by the National Assembly may be amended or denounced only in accordance with the procedure specified in the treaties themselves, or in accordance with the generally recognized norms of international law.
- (4) (Previous para. 3 - SG, issue 18 of 2005) The conclusion of international treaties that require amendments to the Constitution must be preceded by the adoption of these amendments.



Article 86. (1) The National Assembly shall adopt laws, decisions, declarations and addresses.

(2) The laws and decisions of the National Assembly are binding on all state bodies, organizations and citizens.



Article 87. (1) Every Member of Parliament and the Council of Ministers shall have the right to legislative initiative.

(2) The draft law on the state budget shall be prepared and submitted by the Council of Ministers.



Art. 88. (1) Laws shall be debated and adopted by two votes, which shall be held at separate sittings. Exceptionally, the National Assembly may decide to hold both votes at one sitting.

(2) The other acts of the National Assembly shall be adopted by a single vote.

(3) The adopted acts shall be published in the " State Gazette " no later than 15 days after their adoption.



Art. 89. (1) One fifth of the members of the National Assembly may propose to the National Assembly a vote of no confidence in the Council of Ministers. The proposal shall be adopted when more than half of all members of the National Assembly have voted in favor of it.

(2) When the National Assembly votes no confidence in the Prime Minister or the Council of Ministers, the Prime Minister shall submit the resignation of the Government.

(3) When the National Assembly rejects the motion for a vote of no confidence in the Council of Ministers, a new motion for no confidence on the same grounds may not be made in the following six months.



Article 90. (1) The Members of Parliament shall have the right to ask questions and to submit inquiries to the Council of Ministers or to individual ministers, who shall be obliged to respond.

(2) Upon the proposal of one-fifth of the National Representatives, a debate shall be held on the question and a decision shall be adopted.



Article 91. (1) The National Assembly shall elect a Court of Accounts, which shall exercise control over the implementation of the budget.

(2) The organization, powers and procedure for the activities of the National Audit Office shall be regulated by law.



Art. 91a. (New - SG, issue 27 of 2006) (1) The National Assembly shall elect an Ombudsman who shall advocate for the rights and freedoms of citizens.

(2) The powers and activities of the Ombudsman shall be regulated by law.



Art. 91b. (New - SG, issue 106 of 2023, declared unconstitutional by RCC No. 13 of 2024 - SG, issue 66 of 2024) (1) **The National Assembly shall observe the principles of openness, transparency, publicity and justification in the election of members of bodies that are wholly or partially elected by it, in order to guarantee their independence.**

(2) **Election decisions shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority of all members of parliament, when so provided by law.**

Chapter Four. PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC



Art. 92. (1) The President is the head of state. He embodies the unity of the nation and represents the Republic of Bulgaria in international relations.

(2) The President shall be assisted in his activities by a Vice-President.



Article 93. (1) The President shall be elected directly by the voters for a term of five years in accordance with a procedure determined by law.

(2) (Amended - SG, issue 106 of 2023) A Bulgarian citizen by birth, who has reached the age of 40, who has no other citizenship, is not under guardianship, is not serving a sentence of imprisonment and has lived in the country for the last five years may be elected President.

(3) The candidate who received more than half of the valid votes is elected if more than half of the voters participated in the voting.

(4) If none of the candidates is elected, a new election shall be held within seven days, in which the two candidates who received the most votes shall participate. The candidate who received the most votes shall be elected.

(5) The election of a new president shall be held no earlier than three months and no later than two months before the expiration of the term of office of the incumbent president.

(6) Disputes regarding the legality of the presidential election shall be resolved by the Constitutional Court within one month after the elections.



Article 94. The Vice President shall be elected simultaneously and on the same list as the President under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure for electing a President.



Article 95. (1) The President and the Vice-President may be re-elected to the same office for only one more term.

(2) The President and the Vice-President may not be members of parliament, perform other state, public and economic activities and participate in the leadership of political parties.



Art. 96. The President and the Vice-President shall take the oath under Art. 76, para. 2 before the National Assembly .



Art. 97. (1) The powers of the President and the Vice-President shall be terminated early in the following cases:

1. submitting a resignation to the Constitutional Court;
2. permanent inability to perform their duties due to serious illness;
3. under the conditions of Article 103 ;
4. death.

(2) In the cases of items 1 and 2, the powers of the President and the Vice-President shall be terminated upon the establishment by the Constitutional Court of the circumstances specified therein.

(3) In the cases of para. 1, the vice-president shall assume the office of president until the end of the term.

(4) If the Vice-President is unable to assume office, the powers of the President shall be exercised by the Speaker of the National Assembly until the election of the President and Vice-President. In such a case, elections for the President and Vice-President shall be held within two months.



Article 98. The President of the Republic:

1. schedule elections for the National Assembly and local self-government bodies and determine the date for holding a national referendum, when there is a decision of the National Assembly to this effect;
2. addresses the people and the National Assembly;
3. concludes international treaties in the cases specified by law;
4. promulgates laws;
5. approves changes to the borders and centers of the administrative-territorial units upon proposal of the Council of Ministers;
6. appoints and dismisses the heads of diplomatic missions and permanent representatives of the Republic of Bulgaria to international organizations upon proposal of the Council of Ministers and accepts the letters of credence and recall of foreign diplomatic representatives in the country;
7. appoints and dismisses from office other civil servants, as determined by law;
8. awards orders and medals;
9. grants and restores Bulgarian citizenship and releases and deprives of it;
10. provides asylum;
11. exercises the right of pardon;
12. forgives uncollectible state receivables;
13. names sites of national importance and settlements;
14. informs the National Assembly on key issues within its powers.



Article 99. (1) The President, after consultations with the parliamentary groups, shall assign a candidate for Prime Minister, nominated by the largest parliamentary group, to form a government.

(2) When the candidate for Prime Minister fails to propose a composition of the Council of Ministers within 7 days, the President shall assign this to a candidate for Prime Minister nominated by the second largest parliamentary group.

(3) If in this case too no composition of the Council of Ministers is proposed, the President shall, within the term under the preceding paragraph, assign a subsequent parliamentary group to nominate a candidate for Prime Minister.

(4) When the exploratory mandate has been successfully completed, the President shall propose to the National Assembly to elect the candidate for Prime Minister.

(5) (Amended and supplemented - SG No. 106/2023) If no agreement is reached on the formation of a government, the President, after consultations with the parliamentary groups and upon the proposal of the candidate for acting Prime Minister, shall appoint an acting government and schedule new elections within two months. The acting Prime Minister shall be appointed from among the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Governor or Deputy Governor of the Bulgarian National Bank, the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson of the Court of Audit and the Ombudsman or his deputy.

(6) The procedure for forming a government under the preceding paragraphs shall also apply in the cases of Article 111, paragraph 1 .

(7) (Amended - SG, No. 106/2023, amended by RCC No. 13/2024 - SG, No. 66/2024) In the cases of paras. 5 and 6, the President may not dissolve the National Assembly during the last three months of his mandate. If the Parliament is unable to form a government within this period, the President shall appoint a caretaker government.



Art. 100. (1) The President is the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Bulgaria.

(2) The President shall appoint and dismiss the senior command staff of the Armed Forces and award them with senior military ranks upon the proposal of the Council of Ministers.

(3) The President shall head the National Security Advisory Council, the status of which shall be determined by law.

(4) The President shall declare general or partial mobilization upon a proposal from the Council of Ministers in accordance with the law.

(5) The President shall declare a state of war in the event of an armed attack against the country or in the event of urgent fulfilment of international obligations, a state of war or other emergency, when the National Assembly is not in session. In such cases, it shall be convened immediately to decide on the decision.



Art. 101. (1) Within the term under Art. 88, para. 3, the President may, with a reasoned submission, return the law to the National Assembly for a new discussion, which may not be refused.

(2) The National Assembly shall re-adopt the law with a majority of more than half of all members of the National Assembly.

(3) The law re-adopted by the National Assembly shall be promulgated by the President within 7 days of its receipt.



Article 102. (1) In the exercise of his powers, the President shall issue decrees, address addresses and messages.

(2) The decrees shall be countersigned by the Prime Minister or by the relevant minister.

(3) Decrees by which the President:

1. appoints a caretaker government;
2. assigns an exploratory mandate for the formation of a government;
3. (repealed - SG, issue 106 of 2023)
4. returns a law voted by the National Assembly for reconsideration;
5. determines the organization and order of activities of the services of the Presidency and appoints the staff;
6. schedules elections and referendums;
7. promulgates laws.



Article 103. (1) The President and the Vice President shall not be liable for actions committed in the performance of their functions, with the exception of treason and violation of the Constitution.

(2) The accusation shall be raised upon a proposal of at least one quarter of the members of the National Assembly and shall be supported by the National Assembly if more than two thirds of the members of the National Assembly have voted in favor thereof.

(3) The Constitutional Court shall examine the indictment against the President or the Vice-President within one month of the filing of the indictment. If it is established that the President or the Vice-President have committed treason or have violated the Constitution, their powers shall be terminated.

(4) The President and the Vice President may not be detained and no criminal prosecution may be initiated against them.



Art. 104. The President may delegate to the Vice President his powers under Art. 98, items 7, 9, 10 and 11 .

Chapter Five. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS



Article 105. (1) The Council of Ministers shall direct and implement the domestic and foreign policy of the country in accordance with the Constitution and the laws.

(2) The Council of Ministers shall ensure public order and national security and shall exercise the general leadership of the state administration and the Armed Forces.

(3) (New - SG, issue 18 of 2005) The Council of Ministers shall inform the National Assembly on issues relating to the obligations arising for the Republic of Bulgaria from its membership in the European Union.

(4) (New - SG, issue 18 of 2005) When participating in the development and adoption of acts of the European Union, the Council of Ministers shall inform the National Assembly in advance and report on its actions.



Art. 106. The Council of Ministers shall supervise the implementation of the state budget; organize the management of state property; conclude, ratify and denounce international treaties in the cases provided for by law.



Article 107. The Council of Ministers shall repeal unlawful or incorrect acts of ministers.



Article 108. (1) The Council of Ministers shall consist of the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Ministers and Ministers.

(2) The Prime Minister shall direct and coordinate the general policy of the Government and shall be responsible for it. He shall appoint and dismiss the Deputy Ministers.

(3) Ministers shall head individual ministries, unless the National Assembly decides otherwise. They shall be responsible for their actions.



Art. 109. The members of the Council of Ministers shall take the oath under Art. 76, para. 2 before the National Assembly .



Art. 110. (Amended - SG, No. 106 of 2023, amended by RCC No. 13 of 2024 - SG, No. 66 of 2024) Only Bulgarian citizens who meet the conditions for election to the National Assembly may be members of the Council of Ministers.



Art. 111. (1) The powers of the Council of Ministers shall be terminated:

1. by a vote of no confidence in the Council of Ministers or the Prime Minister;
2. by accepting the resignation of the Council of Ministers or the Prime Minister;
3. upon the death of the Prime Minister.

(2) The Council of Ministers shall submit their resignation to the newly elected National Assembly.

(3) In the cases under the preceding paragraphs, the Council of Ministers shall perform its functions until the election of a new Council of Ministers.



Art. 112. (1) The Council of Ministers may request the National Assembly to vote of confidence in it on the overall policy, on the program or on a specific occasion. The decision shall be adopted by a majority of more than half of the members of the National Assembly present.

(2) When the Council of Ministers does not receive the required confidence, the Prime Minister shall submit the resignation of the government.



Article 113. (1) Members of the Council of Ministers may not hold positions or perform activities that are incompatible with the position of a member of parliament.

(2) The National Assembly may also determine other positions and activities that members of the Council of Ministers may not hold or perform.



Art. 114. On the basis of and in implementation of the laws, the Council of Ministers shall adopt decrees, orders and decisions. By means of decrees, the Council of Ministers shall also adopt regulations and ordinances.



Article 115. Ministers shall issue regulations, ordinances, instructions and orders.



Article 116. (1) Civil servants are executors of the will and interests of the nation. In the performance of their duties, they are obliged to be guided solely by the law and to be politically neutral.

(2) The conditions under which civil servants are appointed and dismissed from office and may be members of political parties and trade union organizations, as well as exercise their right to strike, shall be determined by law.

Chapter Six. JUDICIAL AUTHORITY



Article 117. (1) The judiciary shall protect the rights and legitimate interests of citizens, legal entities and the state.

(2) (Amended and supplemented - SG No. 106/2023) The judiciary is independent and its main carrier is the court. The prosecutor's office and the investigative bodies are in the system of the judiciary. In carrying out their functions, judges, jurors, prosecutors and investigators shall be subject only to the law.

(3) The judiciary shall have an independent budget.



Art. 118. Justice is administered in the name of the people.



Article 119. (1) The administration of justice shall be carried out by the Supreme Court of Cassation, the Supreme Administrative Court, appellate, district, military and regional courts.

(2) Specialized courts may also be established by law.

(3) Extraordinary courts shall not be permitted.



Article 120. (1) The courts shall exercise control over the legality of acts and actions of administrative bodies.

(2) Citizens and legal entities may appeal all administrative acts that affect them, except those expressly specified by law.



Art. 121. (1) The courts shall ensure equality and conditions for adversarial proceedings for the parties in the legal process.

(2) The proceedings in the cases ensure the establishment of the truth.

(3) The hearing of cases in all courts shall be public, except where the law provides otherwise.

(4) The acts of the administration of justice shall be motivated.



Art. 122. (1) Citizens and legal entities have the right to protection at all stages of the process.

(2) The procedure for exercising the right of defense shall be determined by law.



Article 123. In cases specified by law, jurors shall also participate in the administration of justice.



Article 124. The Supreme Court of Cassation exercises supreme judicial supervision over the accurate and uniform application of laws by all courts.



Article 125. (1) The Supreme Administrative Court shall exercise supreme judicial supervision over the accurate and uniform application of laws in administrative justice.

(2) The Supreme Administrative Court shall rule on disputes regarding the legality of the acts of the Council of Ministers and the ministers, as well as other acts specified in the law.



Art. 126. (1) (Supplemented - SG, issue 106 of 2023) The structure of the prosecutor's office shall be in accordance with that of the courts hearing criminal cases.

(2) (Amended - SG, issue 106 of 2023, amended by RCC No. 13 of 2024 - SG, issue 66 of 2024) The Prosecutor General shall exercise supervision over the legality and methodological guidance of the activities of all prosecutors.

(3) (New - SG, issue 106 of 2023, declared unconstitutional by RCC No. 13 of 2024 - SG, issue 66 of 2024) **The Prosecutor General, upon a proposal from the Supreme Prosecutor's Office, shall approve general methodological rules for the activities in the pre-trial proceedings of prosecutors, investigators and other investigative bodies, which are subject to appeal before the Supreme Administrative Court in accordance with the procedure specified by law.**



Art. 127. The Prosecutor's Office shall monitor compliance with the law by:

1. (new - SG, issue 27 of 2006) directs the investigation and exercises supervision over its lawful conduct;
2. (new - SG, issue 27 of 2006) may conduct an investigation;
3. (previous item 1 - SG, issue 27 of 2006) holds accountable the persons who have committed crimes and upholds the prosecution in criminal cases of a general nature;
4. (previous item 2 - SG, issue 27 of 2006) exercise supervision over the implementation of punitive and other coercive measures;
5. (previous item 3 - SG, issue 27 of 2006, amended - SG, issue 106 of 2023) undertake actions to challenge unlawful acts before the court in the cases provided for by law;
6. (previous item 4 - SG, issue 27 of 2006, amended - SG, issue 106 of 2023) in addition to criminal cases of a general nature, in the cases provided for by law, participate in other cases in defense of a significant public interest or in the interest of persons who need special protection.



Article 128. (Amended - SG, No. 27/2006, amended - SG, No. 106/2023) The investigative bodies shall conduct investigations into criminal cases in the cases provided for by law.



Art. 129. (Amended - SG, No. 106 of 2023, amended by RCC No. 13 of 2024 - SG, No. 66 of 2024)
(1) (Amended - SG, No. 100 of 2015) Judges, prosecutors and investigators shall be appointed, promoted, demoted, transferred and dismissed from office by the judicial and prosecutorial colleges of the Supreme Judicial Council, respectively.

(2) (Supplemented - SG No. 100/2015) The President of the Supreme Court of Cassation, the President of the Supreme Administrative Court and the Prosecutor General shall be appointed and dismissed by the President of the Republic upon a proposal of the plenum of the Supreme Judicial Council for a term of seven years without the right to re-election. The President may not refuse the appointment or dismissal upon a second proposal.

(3) (Amended - SG, No. 85/2003, supplemented - SG, No. 100/2015) Upon completion of five years of service as a judge, prosecutor or investigator and after an attestation, by a decision of the judicial, respectively prosecutorial collegium of the Supreme Judicial Council, judges, prosecutors and investigators shall become irremovable. They, including the persons under para. 2, shall be dismissed from office only in the following cases:

1. reaching the age of 65;
2. resignation;
3. entry into force of a sentence imposing a penalty of imprisonment for an intentional crime;
4. permanent factual inability to perform their duties for more than one year;
5. serious violation or systematic failure to perform official duties, as well as actions that harm the prestige of the judiciary.

(4) (New - SG, issue 27 of 2006, declared unconstitutional by RCC No. 7 of 2006 - SG, issue 78 of 2006) **In the cases under para. 3, item 5, the President of the Supreme Court of Cassation, the President of the Supreme Administrative Court and the Prosecutor General shall be dismissed by the President of the Republic upon a proposal of one quarter of the Members of Parliament, adopted by a majority of two thirds of the Members of Parliament. The President may not refuse the dismissal upon a second proposal.**

(5) (New - SG, issue 85 of 2003, previous para. 4 - SG, issue 27 of 2006) The acquired irremovability shall be restored upon subsequent occupation of the position of judge, prosecutor or investigator in the cases of dismissal under para. 3, items 2 and 4.

(6) (New - SG, issue 85 of 2003, in force from 01.01.2004, previous para. 5 - SG, issue 27 of 2006) The administrative heads in the bodies of the judicial system, with the exception of those under para. 2, shall be appointed to the managerial position for a term of five years with the right to reappointment.



Art. 130. (Amended - SG, No. 106/2023, amended by RCC No. 13/2024 - SG, No. 66/2024) (1) The Supreme Judicial Council shall consist of 25 members. The President of the Supreme Court of Cassation, the President of the Supreme Administrative Court and the Prosecutor General shall be its members by right.

(2) Lawyers with high professional and moral qualities, who have at least fifteen years of legal experience, shall be elected as members of the Supreme Judicial Council who are not its members by right.

(3) (Supplemented - SG No. 100/2015) Eleven of the members of the Supreme Judicial Council shall be elected by the National Assembly with a two-thirds majority of the members of the National Assembly and eleven - by the bodies of the judiciary. The members of the Supreme Judicial Council shall be elected under the conditions of Art. 130a, paras. 3 and 4 and in accordance with the procedure determined by law.

(4) The term of office of the elected members of the Supreme Judicial Council shall be five years. They may not be re-elected immediately after the expiration of this term.

(5) (Repealed - SG, issue 100 of 2015)

(6) (New - SG, issue 12 of 2007, repealed - SG, issue 100 of 2015)

(7) (New - SG, issue 12 of 2007, repealed - SG, issue 100 of 2015)

(8) (New - SG, issue 12 of 2007) The mandate of an elected member of the Supreme Judicial Council shall be terminated upon:

1. resignation;
2. a court decision that has entered into force for a crime committed;
3. permanent factual inability to perform one's duties for more than one year;
4. disciplinary dismissal from office or deprivation of the right to practice the legal profession or activity.

(9) (New - SG, issue 12 of 2007) Upon termination of the mandate of an elected member of the Supreme Judicial Council, another member from the relevant quota shall be elected in his place, who shall complete the mandate.



Art. 130a. (New - SG, issue 100 of 2015, amended - SG, issue 106 of 2023, amended by RCC No. 13 of 2024 - SG, issue 66 of 2024) (1) The Supreme Judicial Council shall exercise its powers through a plenum, a judicial and prosecutorial college.

(2) The Plenum shall consist of all members of the Supreme Judicial Council. The Plenum of the Supreme Judicial Council:

1. adopts the draft budget of the judiciary;
2. adopt a decision to terminate the mandate of an elected member of the Supreme Judicial Council under the conditions of Article 130, paragraph 8 ;
3. organizes the qualification of judges, prosecutors and investigators;
4. resolves organizational issues common to the judiciary;
5. hears and adopts the annual reports under Article 84, item 16 ;
6. manages the real estate of the judiciary;
7. makes a proposal to the President of the Republic for the appointment and dismissal of the President of the Supreme Court of Cassation, the President of the Supreme Administrative Court and the Prosecutor General;
8. also exercises other powers determined by law.

(3) The Judicial College of the Supreme Judicial Council shall consist of 14 members and shall include the Presidents of the Supreme Court of Cassation and the Supreme Administrative Court, six members elected directly by the judges, and six members elected by the National Assembly.

(4) The Prosecutorial College of the Supreme Judicial Council shall consist of 11 members and shall include the Prosecutor General, four members elected directly by the prosecutors, one member elected directly by the investigators, and five members elected by the National Assembly.

(5) The Colleges, in accordance with their professional focus:

1. appoint, promote, transfer and dismiss judges, prosecutors and investigators;
2. conduct periodic attestations of judges, prosecutors, investigators and administrative heads in the bodies of the judicial power and decide on issues of acquisition and restoration of irremovability;
3. impose disciplinary sanctions, including demotion and dismissal from office, of judges, prosecutors, investigators and administrative managers in the bodies of the judiciary;
4. appoint and dismiss administrative heads in the judicial authorities;
5. resolve issues regarding the organization of the activities of the relevant system of judicial authorities;
6. exercise other powers determined by law.



Art. 130b. (New - SG, No. 100 of 2015, amended - SG, No. 106 of 2023, amended by RCC No. 13 of 2024 - SG, No. 66 of 2024) (1) The sessions of the plenum of the Supreme Judicial Council shall be chaired by the Minister of Justice. He shall not participate in the voting.

(2) The Judicial College of the Supreme Judicial Council shall be chaired by the President of the Supreme Court of Cassation. The Prosecutorial College of the Supreme Judicial Council shall be chaired by the Prosecutor General. The Minister of Justice may attend the meetings but shall not participate in the voting.

(3) The Chief Inspector may attend the meetings of the plenum of the Supreme Judicial Council and the meetings of the judicial and prosecutorial colleges of the Supreme Judicial Council, but shall not participate in the voting.



Art. 130c. (New - SG, issue 27 of 2006, previous Art. 130a - SG, issue 100 of 2015) The Minister of Justice:

1. (amended - SG, issue 100 of 2015, amended - SG, issue 106 of 2023, amended by RCC No. 13 of 2024 - SG, issue 66 of 2024) proposes a draft budget of the judiciary and submits it to the Supreme Judicial Council;
2. (repealed - State Gazette, issue 100 of 2015)
3. may make proposals for the appointment, promotion, demotion, transfer and dismissal of judges, prosecutors and investigators;
4. (amended - SG, issue 106 of 2023) participates in the management of judicial training.
5. (repealed - SG, issue 12 of 2007)



Art. 131. (Amended - SG, No. 85 of 2003, amended - SG, No. 12 of 2007, repealed - SG, No. 100 of 2015)



Art. 132. (Amended - SG, No. 85/2003) (1) In exercising the judicial power, judges, prosecutors and investigators shall not bear criminal or civil liability for their official actions and for the acts issued by them, unless the act committed is an intentional crime of a general nature.

(2) (Repealed - SG, issue 12 of 2007)

(3) (Repealed - SG, issue 12 of 2007)

(4) (Repealed - SG, issue 12 of 2007)



Art. 132a. (New - SG, issue 12 of 2007) (1) An Inspectorate shall be established under the Supreme Judicial Council, which shall consist of a Chief Inspector and ten inspectors.

(2) The Chief Inspector shall be elected by the National Assembly by a two-thirds majority of the members of the National Assembly for a term of five years.

(3) The inspectors shall be elected by the National Assembly for a term of four years in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraph 2.

(4) (Amended - SG, issue 106 of 2023, amended by RCC No. 13 of 2024 - SG, issue 66 of 2024) The Chief Inspector and the inspectors may be re-elected to the same position for only one more term.

(5) The budget of the Inspectorate shall be adopted by the National Assembly within the framework of the budget of the judiciary.

(6) (Amended and supplemented - SG No. 100/2015) The Inspectorate shall inspect the activities of the bodies of the judiciary, without prejudice to the independence of judges, jurors, prosecutors and investigators in the performance of their functions. The Inspectorate shall carry out inspections for integrity and conflict of interest of judges, prosecutors and investigators, of their property declarations, as well as for the establishment of actions that harm the prestige of the judiciary and those related to the violation of the independence of judges, prosecutors and investigators. The Chief Inspector and the inspectors shall be independent in the performance of their functions and shall be subject only to the law.

(7) The Inspectorate shall act ex officio, at the initiative of citizens, legal entities or state bodies, including judges, prosecutors and investigators.

(8) The Inspectorate shall submit an annual report on its activities to the Supreme Judicial Council.

(9) The Inspectorate shall send signals, proposals and reports to other state bodies, including the competent bodies of the judiciary. The Inspectorate shall provide public information on its activities.

(10) The conditions and procedure for the election and dismissal of the Chief Inspector and the inspectors, as well as the organization and activities of the Inspectorate shall be regulated by law.



Art. 133. (Supplemented - SG, No. 106/2023, amended by RCC No. 13/2024 - SG, No. 66/2024) The organization and activities of the Supreme Judicial Council, the courts, the prosecutorial and investigative bodies, the status of judges, prosecutors and investigators, the conditions and procedure for the appointment and dismissal of judges, jurors, prosecutors and investigators, as well as for the exercise of their responsibility shall be regulated by law.



Art. 134. (1) The Bar Association shall be free, independent and self-governing. It shall assist citizens and legal entities in the protection of their rights and legitimate interests.

(2) The organization and procedure of the activities of the Bar shall be regulated by law.

Chapter Seven. LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATION



Article 135. (1) The territory of the Republic of Bulgaria shall be divided into municipalities and districts. The territorial division and the powers of the capital municipality and other large cities shall be determined by law.

(2) Other administrative-territorial units and self-government bodies within them may be established by law.



Art. 136. (1) The municipality is the main administrative-territorial unit in which local self-government is implemented. Citizens participate in the management of the municipality both through the local self-government bodies elected by them and directly through a referendum and a general meeting of the population.

(2) The boundaries of the municipalities shall be determined after consultation with the population.

(3) The municipality is a legal entity.



Art. 137. (1) Self-governing territorial communities may associate to resolve common issues.

(2) The law creates conditions for the association of municipalities.



Article 138. The local self-government body in the municipality is the municipal council, which is elected by the population of the respective municipality for a term of four years in accordance with the procedure established by law.



Article 139. (1) The mayor shall be the executive authority in the municipality. He shall be elected by the population or by the municipal council for a term of four years in accordance with the procedure established by law.

(2) In his activities, the mayor shall be guided by the law, the acts of the municipal council and the decisions of the population.



Art. 140. The municipality has the right to its own property, which it uses in the interest of the territorial community.



Article 141. (1) The municipality shall have an independent budget.

(2) The permanent financial sources of the municipality shall be determined by law.

(3) (New - SG, issue 12 of 2007) The Municipal Council shall determine the amount of local taxes under conditions, in accordance with the procedure and within the limits established by law.

(4) (New - SG, issue 12 of 2007) The Municipal Council shall determine the amount of local fees in accordance with the procedure established by law.

(5) (Previous para. 3 - SG, issue 12 of 2007) The state shall support the normal activities of the municipalities through funds from the budget and in other ways.



Art. 142. The district is an administrative-territorial unit for conducting regional policy, for implementing local government and for ensuring compliance between national and local interests.



Art. 143. (1) The administration of the district shall be carried out by a district governor, assisted by a district administration.

(2) The regional governor shall be appointed by the Council of Ministers.

(3) The regional governor shall ensure the implementation of state policy, shall be responsible for the protection of national interests, legality and public order and shall exercise administrative control.



Article 144. The central state bodies and their local representatives shall exercise control over the legality of the acts of local government bodies only when this is provided for by law.



Art. 145. Municipal councils may challenge before the court the acts and actions that violate their rights.



Article 146. The organization and procedure for the activities of local self-government bodies and local administration shall be determined by law.

Chapter Eight. CONSTITUTIONAL COURT



Article 147. (1) The Constitutional Court shall consist of 12 judges, one third of whom shall be elected by the National Assembly, one third shall be appointed by the President, and one third shall be elected at a general meeting of the judges of the Supreme Court of Cassation and the Supreme Administrative Court.

(2) The term of office of the judges of the Constitutional Court shall be 9 years. They may not be re-elected to this office. The composition of the Constitutional Court shall be renewed every three years from each quota in accordance with the procedure established by law.

(3) Lawyers with high professional and moral qualities, with at least fifteen years of legal experience, shall be elected as judges of the Constitutional Court.

(4) The judges of the Constitutional Court shall elect a President of the Court by secret ballot for a term of three years.

(5) The position of a member of the Constitutional Court is incompatible with a representative mandate, with holding a state or public office, with membership in a political party or trade union and with the exercise of a freelance, commercial or other paid professional activity.

(6) The members of the Constitutional Court shall enjoy the immunity of members of parliament.



Art. 148. (1) The mandate of a judge of the Constitutional Court shall be terminated upon:

1. expiration of the specified period;
2. submitting a resignation to the Constitutional Court;
3. entry into force of a sentence imposing a penalty of imprisonment for an intentional crime;
4. actual inability to perform his/her duties for more than one year;
5. incompatibility with positions and activities under Article 147, paragraph 5 ;
6. death.

(2) The Constitutional Court shall lift the immunity and establish the factual impossibility of the judges to perform their duties by secret ballot and by a majority of at least two-thirds of all judges.

(3) Upon termination of the mandate of a judge of the Constitutional Court, another judge from the relevant quota shall be elected in his place within one month.



Article 149. (1) The Constitutional Court:

1. gives binding interpretations of the Constitution;

2. shall rule on a request to establish the unconstitutionality of laws and other acts of the National Assembly, as well as of acts of the President;
 3. resolves disputes over competence between the National Assembly, the President and the Council of Ministers, as well as between local self-government bodies and central executive bodies;
 4. pronounces on the conformity of international treaties concluded by the Republic of Bulgaria with the Constitution prior to their ratification, as well as on the conformity of laws with the generally recognized norms of international law and with international treaties to which Bulgaria is a party;
 5. rules on disputes regarding the constitutionality of political parties and associations;
 6. decides on disputes regarding the legality of the election of the President and Vice President;
 7. rule on disputes regarding the legality of the election of a member of parliament;
 8. pronounces on charges raised by the National Assembly against the President and the Vice President.
- (2) No powers may be granted or taken away from the Constitutional Court by law.



Art. 150. (1) The Constitutional Court shall act upon the initiative of at least one fifth of the members of the National Assembly, the President, the Council of Ministers, the Supreme Court of Cassation, the Supreme Administrative Court and the Prosecutor General. Disputes regarding competence under item 3 of para. 1 of the preceding article may also be raised by municipal councils.

(2) (Amended - SG No. 106/2023) Any court, at the request of a party to the case or on its own initiative, may refer to the Constitutional Court a request for establishing an inconsistency between a law applicable to the specific case and the Constitution. The proceedings in the case shall continue, and the court whose decision is final shall issue the judicial act after the conclusion of the proceedings before the Constitutional Court.

(3) (New - SG, issue 106 of 2023, declared unconstitutional by RCC No. 13 of 2024 - SG, issue 66 of 2024) **The Prosecutor General may refer a request to the Constitutional Court under Art. 149, para. 1, items 2, 5, 6 and 7 .**

(4) (New - SG, issue 27 of 2006, previous para. 3 - SG, issue 106 of 2023) The Ombudsman may refer to the Constitutional Court a request for establishing the unconstitutionality of a law that violates the rights and freedoms of citizens.

(5) (New - SG, issue 100 of 2015, previous para. 4 - SG, issue 106 of 2023) The Supreme Bar Council may refer the matter to the Constitutional Court with a request to establish the unconstitutionality of a law that violates the rights and freedoms of citizens.



Article 151. (1) The Constitutional Court shall issue its decisions by a majority of more than half of all judges.

(2) The decisions of the Constitutional Court shall be published in the "State Gazette" within 15 days of their adoption. The decision shall enter into force three days after its promulgation. The act declared unconstitutional shall not be applied from the day the decision enters into force.

(3) The part of the law that has not been declared unconstitutional shall remain in force.



Article 152. The organization and procedure of the activities of the Constitutional Court shall be determined by law.

Chapter Nine. **AMENDMENT AND SUPPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSTITUTION. ADOPTION OF A NEW CONSTITUTION**



Art. 153. The National Assembly may amend and supplement all provisions of the Constitution, with the exception of those granted to the powers of the Grand National Assembly.



Article 154. (1) The right of initiative to amend and supplement the Constitution belongs to one quarter of the members of the National Assembly and to the President.

(2) The proposal shall be considered by the National Assembly no earlier than one month and no later than three months after its receipt.



Article 155. (1) The National Assembly shall adopt a law amending or supplementing the Constitution by a majority of three-quarters of all members of the National Assembly in three votes on different days.

(2) If the proposal receives less than three-quarters, but not less than two-thirds of the votes of all the members of the National Assembly, the proposal shall be submitted for new consideration not earlier than two and not later than five months. During the new consideration, the proposal shall be adopted if not less than two-thirds of all the members of the National Assembly have voted for it.



Article 156. The law amending or supplementing the Constitution shall be signed and promulgated by the President of the National Assembly in the " State Gazette " within seven days of its adoption.



Article 157. The Grand National Assembly shall consist of 400 members of parliament elected by universal suffrage.



Article 158. The Grand National Assembly:

1. adopts a new Constitution;

2. resolves the issue of amending the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and ratifies international treaties providing for such amendments;
3. resolves issues regarding changes in the form of state structure and state administration;
4. decides on issues of amending Art. 5, paras. 2 and 4 and Art. 57, paras. 1 and 3 of the Constitution;
5. decides on issues of amendment and supplement to Chapter Nine of the Constitution.



Article 159. (1) The right of initiative under the preceding article shall be held by at least one-half of the members of the National Assembly and the President.

(2) The draft for a new Constitution or for amending the current one, as well as for changes in the territory of the country under Article 158, shall be considered by the National Assembly no earlier than two months and no later than five months after its submission.



Article 160. (1) The National Assembly shall decide to hold elections for a Grand National Assembly by a majority of two-thirds of the total number of members of the National Assembly.

(2) The President shall schedule elections for the Grand National Assembly within three months of the decision of the National Assembly.

(3) With the holding of elections for the Grand National Assembly, the powers of the National Assembly shall be terminated.



Article 161. The Grand National Assembly shall adopt a decision on the submitted projects by a two-thirds majority of all national representatives in three votes on different days.



Art. 162. (1) The Grand National Assembly shall decide only those issues of the Constitution for which it was elected.

(2) In urgent cases, the Grand National Assembly shall also perform the functions of a National Assembly.

(3) The powers of the Grand National Assembly shall be terminated after it has made a final decision on the issues for which it was elected. In such case, the President shall call elections in accordance with the procedure established by law.



Article 163. The acts of the Grand National Assembly shall be signed and promulgated by its President within seven days of their adoption.

Chapter Ten. COAT OF ARMS, SEAL, FLAG, HYMN, CAPITAL



Art. 164. The coat of arms of the Republic of Bulgaria is an upright golden lion on a dark red field in the shape of a shield.



Article 165. The state seal shall depict the coat of arms of the Republic of Bulgaria.



Article 166. The flag of the Republic of Bulgaria is tricolor: white, green and red, placed horizontally from top to bottom.



Article 167. The order in which the state seal is affixed and the national flag is raised shall be determined by law.



Art. 168. The anthem of the Republic of Bulgaria is the song "Mila Rodino".



Article 169. The capital of the Republic of Bulgaria is the city of Sofia.

Transitional and Final Provisions

§ 1. (1) After the adoption of the Constitution, the Grand National Assembly shall dissolve itself.

(2) The Grand National Assembly shall continue to perform the functions of the National Assembly until the election of a new National Assembly. During this period, it shall adopt laws for the election of the National Assembly, the President, local self-government bodies, as well as other laws. During the same period, the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Judicial Council shall be established.

(3) At the first sitting of the National Assembly after the entry into force of the Constitution, the Members of Parliament, the President, the Vice-President and the members of the Council of Ministers shall take the oath provided for in this Constitution.

§ 2. Until the election of the Supreme Court of Cassation and the Supreme Administrative Court, their powers under Art. 130, para. 3 and Art. 147, para. 1 of the Constitution shall be exercised by the Supreme Court of the Republic of Bulgaria.

§ 3. (1) The provisions of existing laws shall apply if they do not contradict the Constitution.

(2) Within one year of the entry into force of the Constitution, the National Assembly shall repeal those provisions of existing laws which have not been repealed by virtue of the direct effect under Article 5, Paragraph 2 of the Constitution.

(3) The National Assembly shall, within a period of three years, adopt the laws that are explicitly specified in the Constitution.

§ 4. The organization of the judiciary determined by the Constitution shall enter into force after the adoption of the new structural and procedural laws, which must be adopted within the period under § 3, para. 2 .

§ 5. Judges, prosecutors and investigators shall become irremovable if, within three months of the formation of the Supreme Judicial Council, it does not rule that the necessary professional qualities are not present.

§ 6. Until a new legislative framework is established for the Bulgarian National Television, the Bulgarian National Radio and the Bulgarian Telegraph Agency, the National Assembly shall exercise the powers that the Grand National Assembly has with respect to these national institutions.

§ 7. (1) Elections for the National Assembly and for local self-government bodies shall be held within three months after the dissolution of the Grand National Assembly. The date of the elections shall be determined by the President in accordance with his powers under Article 98, item 1 of the Constitution.

(2) The elections for President and Vice-President shall be held within three months after the election of the National Assembly.

(3) Until the election of a President and Vice-President, the Chairman (President) and the Vice-Chairman (Deputy President) shall perform the functions of President and Vice-President under this Constitution.

§ 8. The Government shall continue to perform its functions under this Constitution until a new Government is formed.

§ 9. This Constitution shall enter into force on the day of its promulgation in the State Gazette by the Chairman of the Grand National Assembly and shall repeal the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria , adopted on May 18, 1971 (promulgated, State Gazette, No. 39 of 1971; amended, No. 6 of 1990; amended and supplemented, No. 29 of 1990; amended, Nos. 87, 94 and 98 of 1990; amended, No. 98 of 1990).

Transitional and Final Provisions
TO THE LAW ON AMENDMENT AND SUPPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

(PROMOTED - SG, No. 85 OF 2003)

§ 4. (1) The National Assembly shall, within three months from the entry into force of the Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria, adopt the laws relating to the implementation of these amendments and supplements.

(2) The Supreme Judicial Council shall, within three months from the entry into force of § 1, item 3, appoint the administrative heads in the bodies of the judiciary.

§ 5. Administrative managers in the bodies of the judiciary who have held the relevant managerial position for more than five years prior to the entry into force of this law may be appointed to the same position for only one term.

§ 6. Judges, prosecutors and investigators who, at the time of entry into force of this law, have not completed three years of service in the position they hold, shall become irremovable under the conditions of § 1, item 1 of this law.

§ 7. Paragraph 1, item 3 shall enter into force on January 1, 2004.

Final provisions
TO THE LAW ON AMENDMENT AND SUPPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

(PROMOTED - SG, No. 18 OF 2005)

§ 7. Paragraph 2 shall enter into force from the date of entry into force of the Treaty of Accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to the European Union and shall not apply to existing international treaties.

Final provisions
TO THE LAW ON AMENDMENT AND SUPPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

(PROMOTED - SG, No. 12 OF 2007)

§ 12. The National Assembly shall, within one year from the entry into force of the Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria, adopt the laws relating to the implementation of these amendments and supplements.

§ 13. Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall enter into force on January 1, 2008.

Transitional and Final Provisions
TO THE LAW ON AMENDMENT AND SUPPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

(PROMOTED - SG, No. 100 OF 2015)

§ 9. The National Assembly shall, within three months from the entry into force of this law, adopt the laws relating to the implementation of Articles 130a and 130b .

§ 10. The elected members of the Supreme Judicial Council shall complete their term of office on the date of entry into force of this law .

§ 11. (1) Within one month of the entry into force of the laws relating to the implementation of Articles 130a and 130b , the Supreme Judicial Council shall assign the members of the council, elected by the National Assembly, to the judicial and prosecutorial colleges of the Supreme Judicial Council.

(2) In case the Supreme Judicial Council fails to allocate the members elected by the National Assembly to the judicial and prosecutorial colleges within the term under paragraph 1, the National Assembly shall allocate them by decision.

Transitional and Final Provisions
TO THE LAW ON AMENDMENT AND SUPPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

(PROMULGATED - SG, NO. 106 OF 2023, AMENDED - SG, NO. 66 OF 2024)

§ 22. (1) The National Assembly shall, within six months from the entry into force of this Act amending and supplementing the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria, adopt the laws relating to the implementation of these amendments and supplements.

(2) The employment relationships of the employees of the administration of the Supreme Judicial Council shall be preserved and shall be regulated under the terms and conditions of the current legislation upon transfer to another employer.

§ 23. (1) The elective members of the Supreme Judicial Council and the Supreme Prosecutorial Council shall be elected within three months after the entry into force of the laws relating to the implementation of Art. 129 - Art. 130b .

(2) Until the election of the Supreme Judicial Council and the Supreme Prosecutorial Council, the Judicial College and the Prosecutorial College of the former Supreme Judicial Council shall perform the functions of the Supreme Judicial Council and the Supreme Prosecutorial Council, respectively, under this Constitution, with the exception of the powers under Art. 130b, para. 2, item 2 and para. 3, item 2 .