

The Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria

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We, the national representatives of the Seventh Grand National Assembly, aspiring to express the will of the Bulgarian people,

declaring our loyalty to the universal human values: liberty, peace, humanism, equality, justice and tolerance;

raising to the highest [level] the principle of rights of the individual, his dignity and security;

aware of our irrevocable duty to protect the national and state integrity of Bulgaria,

proclaim our resolve to create a democratic, law-governed and social state, for which we adopt this

CONSTITUTION

Chapter One
FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Article 1

(1) Bulgaria is a republic with a parliamentary system of government.

(2) The entire state power emanates from the people. It is exercised by the people directly and through organs provided by this Constitution.

(3) No part of the people, political party or other organization, state institution, or individual person may assume the exercise of the people's sovereignty.

Article 2

(1) The Republic of Bulgaria is a unitary state with local self-administration. No autonomous territorial formations are permitted in it.

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

Article 3

The official language of the Republic is Bulgarian.

Article 4

(1) The Republic of Bulgaria is a law-governed state. It is governed in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the country.

(2) The Republic of Bulgaria guarantees the life, dignity, and rights of the person (личността) and creates conditions for free development of the human (човека) and civil society.

Article 5

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

(2) The provisions of the Constitution have a direct effect.

(3) No one may be convicted for action or inaction that did not constitute a crime according to law at the time when it was done.

(4) International agreements ratified according to the constitutional procedure, promulgated, and having entered force in the Republic of Bulgaria are a part of the internal law of the country. They supersede those norms of internal legislation which contradict them.

(5) All normative acts are published. They enter force three days after their publication unless a different time frame is determined within them.

Article 6

(1) All people are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

(2) All citizens are equal before the law. No limitation of their rights or privileges is permitted on the grounds of race, nationality, ethnic affiliation, sex, origin, religion, education, opinion, political affiliation, personal and social position, or property status.

Article 7

The state is responsible for damages caused by unlawful (незаконни) acts or actions of its organs and officials.

Article 8

The state power is divided into legislative, executive, and judicial [branches].

Article 9

The armed forces guarantee the sovereignty, security, and independence of the country and protect its territorial integrity.

Article 10

Elections [and] national and local referenda are conducted on the basis of universal, equal, and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

Article 11

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

(2) No single political party or ideology may be declared or affirmed as [that of] the state.

(3) [Political] parties help form and express the political will of the citizens. The procedure for founding and dissolving of political parties as well as conditions for their activity are established by law.

(4) Political parties founded on ethnic, racial, or religious basis as well as parties with the goal of forcible seizure of state power may not be formed.

Article 12

(1) Associations of citizens serve to satisfy and protect their interests.

(2) Associations of citizens, including trade unions, may not set political goals for themselves and carry out political activity inherent only to political parties.

Article 13

(1) Religion is free.

(2) Religious institutions are separate from the state.

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

(4) Religious communities and institutions as well as religious convictions may not be used to [pursue] political goals.

Article 14

Family, motherhood, and children are under the protection of the state and society.

Article 15

The Republic of Bulgaria ensures the protection and reproduction of the environment, support and diversity of live nature, and sensible utilization of natural wealth and resources of the country.

Article 16

Labor is guaranteed and protected by law.

Article 17

- (1) The right to property and inheritance is guaranteed and protected by law.
- (2) Property is private and public.
- (3) Private property is inviolable.
- (4) The management of objects in state and municipal ownership is determined by law.
- (5) Forced expropriation of property for state and municipal needs may occur only on the basis of law under the condition that those needs cannot be satisfied by other means and after an equivalent compensation in advance.

Article 18

- (1) Underground resources, coastal beach front, national roadways as well as waters, forests, and parks of national significance, [and] natural and archeological reservations determined by law are exclusively the property of the state.
- (2) The state exercises sovereign rights over the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone for study, development, utilization, protection, and management of biological, mineral, and energy resources of the maritime areas.
- (3) The state exercises sovereign rights over the radio frequency spectrum and the positions of the geostationary orbit assigned to the Republic of Bulgaria by international agreements.
- (4) A state monopoly may be established by law over railway transportation, national postal and telecommunications networks, utilization of nuclear energy, [and] production of radioactive products, weapons, explosives, and powerful substances.
- (5) Conditions and procedure according to which the state grants concessions for facilities and permits for the activities according to the preceding paragraphs are regulated by law.
- (6) State property is managed and administered in the interest of the 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 equal legal conditions for economic activity of all citizens and juridical persons by preventing the abuse of a monopoly, unfair competition, and by protecting the consumer.
- (3) Investments and economic activity of Bulgarian and foreign citizens and juridical persons are protected by law.
- (4) The law creates conditions for cooperatives and other forms of associations of citizens and juridical persons for the achievement of economic and social progress.

Article 20

The state creates conditions for balanced development of the different regions of the country and assists the territorial organs and activities through financial, credit, and investment policies.

Article 21

- (1) Land is a fundamental national resource which enjoys special protection of the state and society.
- (2) Arable land is utilized only for agricultural purposes. Any change in its purpose is permitted as an exception when proven necessary and under conditions and according to a procedure determined by law.

Article 22

- (1) Foreigners and foreign juridical persons may not acquire the right to own land except for inheritance according to law. In such a case, they must transfer the ownership.
- (2) Under conditions determined by law, foreigners and foreign juridical persons may acquire the right to use, the right to build, and other real rights.

Article 23

The state creates conditions for the free development of science, education, and arts and supports them. It is concerned with the preservation of national historical and cultural heritage.

Article 24

- (1) The foreign policy of the Republic of Bulgaria is conducted in accordance with the principles and norms of international law.

(2) The basic goals of the foreign policy of the Republic of Bulgaria are the national security and independence of the country, the welfare and fundamental rights and freedoms of the Bulgarian citizens, as well as contribution to the establishment of a just international order.

Chapter Two

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF CITIZENS

Article 25

(1) Anyone with at least one parent who is a Bulgarian citizen or anyone born on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria is a Bulgarian citizen unless he acquired another citizenship by birth. Bulgarian citizenship may be also acquired by naturalization.

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

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

(4) A citizen of the Republic of Bulgaria may not be expelled from it or extradited to another state.

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

(6) Conditions and the procedure for acquiring, preservation, and loss of Bulgarian citizenship are determined by law.

Article 26

(1) Citizens of the Republic of Bulgaria located anywhere have all the rights and duties according to this Constitution.

(2) Foreigners residing in the Republic of Bulgaria have all the rights and duties according to this Constitution with the exception of rights and duties for which the Constitution and laws require Bulgarian citizenship.

Article 27

(1) Foreigners residing in the country on a legal basis may not be expelled or extradited to another state against their will except under conditions and according to a procedure determined by law.

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

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

Article 28

Everyone has the right to life. Violation of a human life is punished as a most severe crime.

Article 29

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

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

Article 30

(1) Everyone has the right to personal freedom and inviolability.

(2) No one may be detained, subjected to inspection, search, or any other infringement of his personal inviolability except under conditions and according to a procedure determined by law.

(3) In urgent cases specifically identified by law, competent state organs may detain a citizen and immediately notify organs of judicial power thereof. Within 24 hours the organs of judicial power rule on the lawfulness (законсообразност) of the detention.

(4) Everyone has the right to legal counsel from the moment of detention or being charged.

(5) Everyone has the right to meet privately with the person who defends him. The secrecy of their communication is inviolable.

Article 31

(1) Anyone charged with a crime shall be turned over to judicial power within a law-determined time period.

(2) No one may be forced to confess as guilty or to be convicted solely on the basis of his own confession.

(3) The accused is considered innocent until the contrary is established by a verdict that has entered force.

(4) It is not permitted to restrict the rights of the accused beyond what is necessary to carry out justice.

(5) For those deprived of liberty, conditions are created for the exercise of those fundamental rights which are not restricted by the effect of their sentence.

(6) Sentences of liberty deprivation are served only in places determined by law.

(7) There is no limitation for criminal prosecution and fulfillment of a sentence for crimes against peace and humanity.

Article 32

(1) The private life of a citizen is inviolable. Everyone has the right to protection from unlawful interference in his private and family life and from infringement on his honor, dignity, and reputation.

(2) No one may be followed, photographed, filmed, recorded or subjected to other similar activities without his knowledge or despite his express disapproval except in cases provided by law.

Article 33

(1) The home is inviolable. Without the consent of the resident, no one may enter or stay inside a home except in cases specifically specified by law.

(2) Entry or stay inside a home without the consent of the resident or without the permission of judicial power (съдебната власт) is permitted only in order to prevent an imminent crime or a crime in progress, to capture a criminal, as well as in the case of extreme necessity.

Article 34

(1) Freedom and secrecy of correspondence and other communications are inviolable.

(2) Exceptions to this rule are permitted only with the permission of the judicial power when necessary to discover or prevent serious crimes.

Article 35

(1) Everyone has the right to freely choose a 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.

Article 36

(1) The study and use of the Bulgarian language is the right and duty of Bulgarian citizens.

(2) Citizens whose native language is not Bulgarian have, together with the duty to study the Bulgarian language, the right to study and use their own language.

(3) Cases in which only the official language is used are specified by law.

Article 37

(1) Freedom of conscience, freedom of thought, and choice of religion and religious or atheistic views are inviolable. The state contributes to the encouragement of tolerance and respect among believers of different faiths as well as among believers and non-believers.

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

Article 38

No one may be persecuted or restricted in his rights because of his convictions or obligated or forced to provide information about his or someone else's convictions.

Article 39

(1) Everyone has the right to express an opinion and to disseminate it through words—in writing or orally, through sound, image, or in another way.

(2) This right may not be used to violate the rights and reputation of others or for the encouragement of a forcible change of the constitutionally established order, for commission of a crime, or the incitement of enmity or violence against an individual.

Article 40

(1) Press and other media of mass information are free and are not subject to censorship.

(2) The suspension (Спирането) or confiscation of printed matter or another kind of information medium is permitted only on the basis of an act of judicial power when good morals are violated or when it encourages a forcible change of the constitutionally established order, commission of a crime, or violence against a person. If confiscation does not follow within 24 hours, the suspension is no longer in effect.

Article 41

(1) Everyone has the right to seek, obtain, and disseminate information. The exercise of this right may not be aimed against the rights and reputation of other citizens and against the national security, public order, public health, and morals.

(2) Citizens have the right to obtain information from state organs or institutions on matters that represent their legitimate interest (законен интерес) if the information is not a state or otherwise protected by law secret or does not encroach on the rights of others.

Article 42

(1) Citizens who have reached 18 years of age, with the exception of those under interdiction (поставените под запрещение) or serving a sentence of liberty deprivation, have the right to elect state and local organs and participate in national referenda.

(2) The organization of and procedure for holding elections and referenda is determined by law.

Article 43

(1) Citizens have the right to assemble peacefully and unarmed for meetings and manifestations.

(2) The procedure for organizing and conducting of meetings and manifestations is determined by law.

(3) No permit is required for indoor meetings.

Article 44

(1) Citizens may freely associate.

(2) Organizations, the activity of which is aimed against the sovereignty, territorial integrity of the country, or the unity of the nation or that incite racial, national, ethnic or religious enmity, that encroach on the rights and freedoms of citizens, as well as organizations that create secret or paramilitary structures or strive to achieve their goals by violence, are prohibited.

(3) The law determines organizations that are subject to registration, the procedure for their dissolution, as well as their relationships with the state.

Article 45

Citizens have the right to [file] complaints, proposals and petitions with state organs.

Article 46

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

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

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

Article 47

(1) The upbringing and education of children until they come of age is the right and duty of their parents and is supported by the state.

(2) Mothers enjoy special protection of the state which provides them with a paid leave before and after childbirth, free obstetric care, easier work, and other social assistance.

(3) Children born out of wedlock have rights equal to those born in a marriage.

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

(5) The conditions and procedure for the restriction or removal of parental rights are determined by law.

Article 48

(1) Citizens have the right to work. The state is concerned with providing conditions for the exercise of this right.

(2) The state creates conditions for the exercise of the right to work for persons with a physical and mental handicap.

(3) Every citizen is free to choose a profession and place of work.

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

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

Article 49

(1) Workers and employees have the right to form trade unions and associations for the protection of their interests in the area of labor and social security.

(2) Employers have the right to associate in order to protect their economic interests.

Article 50

Workers and employees have the right to strike for the protection of their collective economic and social interests. This right is exercised under conditions and in accordance with a procedure determined by law.

Article 51

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

(2) Temporarily unemployed persons receive social security under conditions and according to a procedure determined by law.

(3) The elderly who do not have relatives and who are unable to support themselves with their possessions as well as persons with physical and mental handicap are under special protection of the state and society.

Article 52

(1) Citizens have the right to health insurance that guarantees them accessible medical care and to free medical care under conditions and according to the procedure determined by law.

(2) The citizens' healthcare is financed from the state budget, by employers, by personal and collective insurance payments, and from other sources under conditions and according to a procedure determined by law.

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

(4) No one may be subjected to forced medical treatment or sanitary measures except in cases provided by law.

(5) The state exercises control over all health institutions as well as over the production of pharmaceuticals, biologic substances and medical equipment and over their trade.

Article 53

(1) Everyone has the right to education.

(2) School education until the age of 16 is obligatory.

(3) Basic and secondary education in state and municipal schools is free of charge. Education in higher state schools is free of charge under conditions determined by law.

(4) Higher schools enjoy academic autonomy.

(5) Citizens and organizations may found schools under conditions and in accordance with a procedure determined by law. Education in these [institutions] must correspond to the state requirements.

(6) The state promotes education by opening and financing schools, supports talented pupils and students, [and] creates conditions for occupational training and re-qualification. It exercises control over all types and levels of education.

Article 54

(1) Everyone has the right to enjoy national and universal cultural treasures as well as to develop his/her (своята) own culture in accordance with his/her ethnic affiliation, which is recognized and guaranteed by law.

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

(3) Inventors', authors', and related rights are protected by law.

Article 55

Citizens have the right to a healthy and favorable environment corresponding to the established standards and norms. They are obligated to protect the environment.

Article 56

Every citizen has the right to defense when his rights or legitimate interests are violated or endangered. He has the right to appear with his legal counsel before a state institution.

Article 57

(1) The fundamental rights of a citizen are irrevocable.

(2) It is not permitted to abuse the rights or to exercise them if it violates the rights or lawful interests of others.

(3) When a war, martial law, or another state or emergency is declared, the exercise of individual civil rights may be temporarily restricted by law with the exception of the rights provided by Articles 28, 29, 31 paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, Article 32 paragraph 1, and Article 37.

Article 58

(1) Citizens must observe and implement the Constitution and laws. They must respect the rights and lawful interests of others.

(2) Religious and other convictions are not the basis for the refusal to fulfill duties established by the Constitution and law.

Article 59

(1) The defense of the homeland is the duty and honor of every Bulgarian citizen. High treason and betrayal of the homeland are the most serious crimes and are punished with the full severity of the law.

(2) The fulfillment of military obligations, the conditions and procedure for exemption from them or for substituting alternative service for them are regulated by law.

Article 60

(1) Citizens must pay taxes and duties established by law according to their income and property.

(2) Tax reductions or increases may be established only by law.

Article 61

Citizens must provide assistance to the state and society in case of a natural or other disaster under conditions and according to a procedure determined by law.

Chapter Three

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Article 62

The National Assembly exercises the legislative power and exercises parliamentary control.

Article 63

The National Assembly consists of 240 national representatives.

Article 64

(1) The National Assembly is elected for a four-year term.

(2) In case the war, martial law, or another state of emergency occurs during or after the expiry of the National Assembly's mandate, its term is extended until the circumstances no longer exist.

(3) The election of a new National Assembly is held at the latest two months after the term of the preceding one has ended.

Article 65

(1) Any Bulgarian citizen who does not hold another citizenship, has reached 21 years of age, is not under interdiction, and is not serving a sentence of liberty deprivation may be elected as a national representative.

(2) A candidate for a national representative who is in civil service stops its fulfillment after his registration.

Article 66

The legality of an election may be disputed before the Constitutional Court according to a procedure determined by law.

Article 67

(1) National representatives represent not only their electorate but the entire nation. Commitment to an obligatory mandate is invalid.

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

Article 68

(1) National representatives may not occupy another state post or engage in any activity which is according to the law incompatible with the status of a national representative.

(2) A national representative who is elected as a minister interrupts his mandate (прекъсва пълномощията) for the time during which he is a minister. In such a case, he is replaced according to a procedure determined by law.

Article 69

National representatives do not bear criminal responsibility for their expressed opinions or voting in the National Assembly.

Article 70

National representatives may not be detained, and criminal prosecution may not be initiated against them except for serious crimes and with the permission of the National Assembly or, when it is not in session, the Chairman of the National Assembly. No permission for detention is required when caught committing a serious crime, but in such a case, the National Assembly or, when it is not in session, the Chairman of the National Assembly, is immediately notified.

Article 71

National representatives receive remuneration the amount of which is determined by the National Assembly.

Article 72

(1) Powers of a national representative are terminated prematurely upon:

1. Resignation presented before the National Assembly;
2. Sentence, which imposes liberty deprivation for an intentional crime or the fulfillment of which has not been suspended, entering force;
3. Establishment of ineligibility or incompatibility;
4. Death.

(2) In cases 1 and 2, the decision is made by the National Assembly and in case 3—by the Constitutional Court.

Article 73

The organization and activity of the National Assembly are based on the Constitution and the rules adopted by it.

Article 74

The National Assembly is a permanently functioning organ. [The National Assembly] itself determines the time when it is not in session.

Article 75

The newly elected National Assembly is convened for its first session by the President of the Republic at the latest one month following the election of the National Assembly. If the President does not convene the National Assembly within the designated time period, then it is convened by one fifth of the national representatives.

Article 76

(1) The first session of the National Assembly is opened by the eldest present national representative.

(2) At the first session, the national representatives take the following oath: “I swear in the name of the Republic of Bulgaria to observe 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, the Chairman and Deputy Chairmen are elected.

Article 77

(1) The Chairman of the National Assembly:

1. Represents the National Assembly;
2. Proposes the agenda for the session;

3. Opens, leads, and closes the sessions of the National Assembly and ensures orderly proceedings;
4. Certifies by his signature the content of the acts adopted by the National Assembly;
5. Publicizes resolutions, declarations, and appeals adopted by the National Assembly;
6. Organizes international relations of the National Assembly.

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

Article 78

The National Assembly is convened for sessions by the Chairman of the National Assembly:

1. On his initiative;
2. At the request of one fifth of national representatives;
3. At the request of the President;
4. At the request of the Council of Ministers.

Article 79

(1) The National Assembly elects permanent and temporary commissions from among its members.

(2) Permanent commissions assist the activity of the National Assembly and exercise parliamentary control on its behalf.

(3) Temporary commissions are elected for [the purpose of] investigations and inquiries.

Article 80

Officials and citizens who were requested [to do so] must appear before the parliamentary commission and present the required testimony and documents.

Article 81

(1) The National Assembly may be in session and adopt its acts when more than one half of the national representatives are present.

(2) The National Assembly adopts laws and other acts by a majority of more than one half of the present national representative except when the Constitution requires a different majority.

(3) Voting is personal and open except when the Constitution provides for or the National Assembly decides [to vote by] a secret ballot.

Article 82

Sessions of the National Assembly are public. The National Assembly may, by exception, resolve to hold individual closed sessions.

Article 83

(1) Members of the Council of Ministers may participate in the sessions of the National Assembly and parliamentary commissions. Upon their request, they have a priority to be heard.

(2) The National Assembly and the parliamentary commissions may make it obligatory for the ministers to appear at their sessions and respond to questions.

Article 84

The National Assembly:

1. Adopts, amends, supplements, and repeals laws;
2. Adopts the state budget and the report on its implementation;
3. Establishes taxes and determines their amount;
4. Schedules election of the President of the Republic;
5. Adopts resolutions on holding 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. Creates, transforms, and closes down ministries upon the proposal of the Prime Minister;
8. Elects and dismisses the leaders of the Bulgarian National Bank and other institutions determined by law;
9. Approves the closing of state loan agreements;
10. Resolves issues regarding the declaration of war and conclusion of peace;
11. Approves the deployment and use of Bulgarian armed forces outside the country as well as the stay of foreign troops on the territory of the country or their transit through it;
12. Declares martial law or other state of emergency on the entire territory of the country or on a 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.

Article 85

(1) The National Assembly ratifies and denounces by law international treaties that:

1. Have a political or military character;
2. Concern the participation of the Republic of Bulgaria in international organizations;
3. Provide for correction to the borders of the Republic of Bulgaria;
4. Contain financial obligations of the state;
5. Provide for the participation of the state in an arbitration or court settlement of international disputes;
6. Concern fundamental human rights;
7. Concern the effect of a law or require measures of legislative character for their implementation;
8. Specifically require ratification.

(2) Treaties ratified by the National Assembly may be amended or denounced only according to a procedure specified in the treaties themselves or in accordance with the universally recognized norms of international law.

(3) The signing of international treaties that require constitutional amendments must be preceded by the adoption of those amendments.

Article 86

(1) The National Assembly adopts laws, resolutions, declarations, and appeals.

(2) The laws and resolutions adopted by the National Assembly are binding for all state organs, organizations, and citizens.

Article 87

(1) Every national representative and the Council of Ministers have the right to initiate legislation.

(2) The draft law for the state budget is drawn up and presented by the Council of Ministers.

Article 88

(1) Laws are debated and adopted in two votes which take place at different sessions. As an exception, the National Assembly may decide to hold both votes during a single session.

(2) Other acts of the National Assembly are adopted by a single vote.

(3) Adopted acts are published in the *State Gazette (Drzhaven Vestnik/Държавен вестник)* at the latest 15 days after being adopted.

Article 89

(1) One fifth of the national representatives may propose to the National Assembly a vote of no confidence in the Council of Ministers. The proposal is adopted when more than one half of all national representatives vote in favor of it.

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

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

Article 90

(1) National representatives have the right to address questions and interpellations to the Council of Ministers or to individual minister who must respond.

(2) Upon the proposal by one fifth of the national representatives, a debate takes place after the interpellation, and a resolution is adopted.

Article 91

(1) The National Assembly elects the Accounting Chamber (Сметна палата) which supervises the implementation of the budget.

(2) The organization, powers, and procedure for the activity of the Accounting Chamber are regulated by law.

Chapter Four

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

Article 92

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

(2) The President is assisted in his activity by a Vice President.

Article 93

(1) The President is elected directly by the voters for a period of five years according to a procedure determined by law.

(2) Eligible for President is any Bulgarian citizen by birth who has reached 40 years of age, who fulfills conditions for election as a national representative, and who has resided in the country for the past five years.

(3) The candidate, who received more than one half of the valid votes provided that more than one half of all eligible voters participated in the voting, is [considered to have been] elected.

(4) If none of the candidates is elected, a new election is held within seven days, in which participate the two candidates who received the most votes. The candidate who received the majority of votes is [considered to have been] elected.

(5) The election of a new President is held no earlier than three months and no later than two months before the end of term of the current President.

(6) Disputes concerning the legality of the election of the President are resolved by the Constitutional Court within one month of the election.

Article 94

The Vice President is elected at the same time and on the same ticket as the President, under the conditions and according to the procedure for the election of the President.

Article 95

(1) The President and the Vice President may be reelected to the same office only for one more term.

(2) The President and the Vice President may not be national representatives, engage in another state, public, or economic activity, and participate in the leadership of any political party.

Article 96

The President and the Vice President take an oath before the National Assembly according to Article 76 paragraph 2.

Article 97

(1) The powers of the President and the Vice President are terminated prematurely upon:

1. Resignation before the Constitutional Court;
2. Permanent inability to fulfill his duties due to a serious illness;
3. Conditions in Article 103;
4. Death.

(2) In cases 1 and 2, the powers of the President and the Vice President are terminated after the Constitutional Court has established the existence of these circumstances.

(3) In the case under paragraph 1, the Vice President assumes the office of the President until the end of the term.

(4) When the Vice President is unable to assume the office, the duties of the President are fulfilled by the Chairman of the National Assembly until the election of a new President and Vice President. In that case, the election of the President and Vice President is held within two months.

Article 98

The President of the Republic:

1. Schedules elections for the National Assembly and organs of local self-administration and determines the date for the national referendum when there has been a resolution of the National Assembly;
2. Addresses the nation and the National Assembly;
3. Concludes international treaties in cases determined by law;
4. Promulgates laws;
5. Approves changes of borders and centers of administrative territorial units upon proposal from the Council of Ministers;
6. Appoints and dismisses from office leaders of diplomatic representation and permanent representatives of the Republic of Bulgaria to international organizations upon the proposal of the Council of Ministers and accepts the credentials and letters of recall of the foreign diplomatic representatives to the country;
7. Appoints and dismisses from office other state officials determined by law;
8. Awards orders and medals;
9. Grants, restores, relieves from, and deprives of the Bulgarian citizenship;
10. Grants asylum;
11. Exercises the right to pardon;
12. Cancels uncollectible state claims;
13. Names objects of national importance and inhabited areas;
14. Informs the National Assembly of basic issues within the sphere of his powers.

Article 99

(1) Following consultations with the parliamentary groups, the President entrusts the candidate for the Prime Minister nominated by the largest parliamentary group with the formation of the Government.

(2) When the candidate for the Prime Minister does not succeed in proposing the members of the Council of Ministers within seven days, the President entrusts this [task] to the candidate for the Prime Minister nominated by the second largest parliamentary group.

(3) If even in this case the members of the Council of Ministers are not proposed, the President within the period [indicated] in the preceding paragraph entrusts another parliamentary group to nominate a candidate for the Prime Minister.

(4) When the trial (проучвателният) mandate is successfully concluded, the President proposes that the National Assembly elect the candidate for the Prime Minister.

(5) If an agreement on the formation of the Government is not reached, the President appoints a caretaker (служебно) Government, dissolves the National Assembly, and schedules new elections within the period according to Article 64 paragraph 3. The act by which the President dissolves the National Assembly also determines the date of the new National Assembly elections.

(6) The procedure for forming the Government according to the preceding paragraphs also applies in cases [indicated] in Article 111 paragraph 1.

(7) In cases [indicated] in paragraphs 5 and 6, the President may not dissolve the National Assembly during the last three months of his mandate. If within that time period the Parliament cannot form the Government, the President appoints a caretaker Government.

Article 100

(1) The President is the supreme commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the Republic of Bulgaria.

(2) The President appoints and dismisses the members of the highest command of the armed forces and awards the highest military titles upon the proposal by the Council of Ministers.

(3) The President heads the Consultative Council for National Security, the status of which is determined by law.

(4) The President declares general or partial mobilization upon the proposal by the Council of Ministers in accordance with law.

(5) The President declares a state of war [in the case of] an armed attack against the country or when necessary to immediately fulfill international obligations, martial law, or another state of emergency when the National Assembly is not in session. In such cases, [the National Assembly] is convened immediately in order to pronounce the decision.

Article 101

(1) Within the time period according to Article 88 paragraph 3, the President may return a law with [his] reasoning to the National Assembly for a new debate which he may not be denied.

(2) The National Assembly repeatedly adopts such a law by a majority of more than one half of all national representatives.

(3) A law repeatedly adopted by the National Assembly is promulgated by the President within seven days of receiving it.

Article 102

(1) In the execution of his powers, the President issues decrees [and] directs appeals and messages.

(2) Decrees are countersigned by the Prime Minister or the corresponding minister.

(3) Decrees not subject to countersignature are those with which the President:

1. Appoints a caretaker Government;

2. Entrusts the trial mandate for the purpose of forming a Government;

3. Dissolves the National Assembly;

4. Returns a law adopted by the National Assembly for a repeated debate;

5. Determines the organization of and the procedure for the activity of the presidential offices and appoints their staff;

6. Schedules elections and referendum;

7. Promulgates laws.

Article 103

(1) The President and Vice President do not bear responsibility for actions committed while fulfilling their functions with the exception of high treason or violation of the Constitution.

(2) Impeachment is initiated upon the proposal of at least one quarter of the national representatives and is upheld by the National Assembly if more than two thirds of the national representatives vote in favor.

(3) The Constitutional Court considers the impeachment of the President or Vice President within one month of initiating the impeachment. If it is established that the President or Vice President committed high treason or violated the Constitution, their powers are terminated.

(4) The President and Vice President may not be detained, and criminal prosecution may not be initiated against them.

Article 104

The President may assign to the Vice President the powers [indicated] in Article 98 points 7, 9, 10 and 11.

Chapter Five COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Article 105

(1) The Council of Ministers leads and implements the domestic and foreign policy of the country in accordance with the Constitution and laws.

(2) The Council of Ministers ensures public order and national security and provides general leadership for the state administration and armed forces.

Article 106

The Council of Ministers leads the implementation of the state budget; organizes the management of state property; concludes, approves, and denounces international treaties in cases provided by law.

Article 107

The Council of Ministers revokes acts of ministers that are not in accordance to law or are irregular.

Article 108

(1) The Council of Ministers consists of a Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Ministers, and ministers.

(2) The Prime Minister leads and coordinates the overall policy of the Government and bears responsibility for it. He appoints and dismisses from office deputy ministers.

(3) Ministers lead the individual ministries except when the National Assembly decides otherwise. They bear responsibility for their actions.

Article 109

Members of the Council of Ministers take before the National Assembly the oath according to Article 76 paragraph 2.

Article 110

Only Bulgarian citizens who fulfill conditions for election as national representatives may be members of the Council of Ministers.

Article 111

(1) The powers of the Council of Ministers are terminated:

1. By a vote of no confidence in the Council of Ministers or the Prime Minister;
2. By the resignation of the Council of Ministers or the Prime Minister;
3. [In the event of] the death of the Prime Minister.

(2) The Council of Ministers resigns before the newly elected National Assembly.

(3) In cases [indicated] by the preceding paragraphs, the Council of Ministers fulfills its functions until the election of a new Council of Ministers.

Article 112

(1) The Council of Ministers may request a vote of confidence from the National Assembly regarding its overall policy, a program, or a specific issue. The resolution is adopted by a majority of more than one half of the present national representatives.

(2) When the Council of Ministers does not receive the requested vote of confidence, the Prime Minister submits the resignation of the Government.

Article 113

(1) Members of the Council of Ministers may not hold a position or carry out an activity incompatible with the status of a national representative.

(2) The National Assembly may determine other positions and activities which members of the Council of Ministers may not hold or carry out.

Article 114

On the basis of and in order to implement laws, the Council of Ministers adopts decrees, ordinances, and resolutions. The Council of Ministers adopts rules and regulations by a decree.

Article 115

Ministers issue rules, regulations, instructions, and orders.

Article 116

(1) Civil servants are executors of the will and interests of the nation. When fulfilling their duty, they are guided only by law, and they are politically neutral.

(2) Conditions, under which civil servants are appointed and dismissed from office and may belong to political parties and trade unions as well as exercise their right to strike, are determined by law.

Chapter Six JUDICIAL POWER

Article 117

(1) Judicial power protects the rights and lawful interests of citizens, juridical persons and the state.

(2) Judicial power is independent. When carrying out their functions, judges, court assessors (съдебните заседатели), procurators (прокурорите), and investigators (следователите) conform only to law.

(3) Judicial power has an independent budget.

Article 118

Justice (правосъдието) is administered in the name of the people.

Article 119

(1) Justice (правораздаването) is administered by the Supreme Court of Cassation, the Supreme Administrative Court, appellate, district (окръжни), military and regional (районни) courts.

(2) Specialized courts may be created by law.

(3) Extraordinary courts are not permitted.

Article 120

(1) The courts supervise the legality of acts and activity of administrative organs.

(2) Citizens and juridical persons may file a complaint against (обжалват) any administrative act which affects them except those expressly specified by law.

Article 121

(1) Courts ensure the equality and conditions for contest of the parties in the judicial process.

(2) Case proceedings ensure the establishment of truth.

(3) Examination of cases in all courts is public except when provided otherwise by law.

(4) Acts of justice administration are motivated.

Article 122

(1) Citizens and juridical persons have the right to defense at all stages of the process.

(2) The procedure for exercising the right to defense is determined by law.

Article 123

In cases determined by law, court assessors participate in the administration of justice.

Article 124

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

Article 125

(1) The Supreme Administrative Court exercises the supreme judicial supervision over the precise and uniform application of laws in administrative justice.

(2) The Supreme Administrative Court rules on disputes [concerning] the legality of acts of the Council of Ministers and ministers as well as other acts specified by law.

Article 126

(1) The structure of the Procuratura corresponds to that of the courts.

(2) The Chief Procurator (Главният прокурор) supervises the legality of and provides methodological guidance for the activity of all procurators.

Article 127

The Procuratura supervises the observance of legality by:

1. Bringing to responsibility persons who committed crimes and prosecuting crimes of a general nature;
2. Exercising supervision over the fulfillment of punitive and other coercive measures;
3. Taking actions to revoke acts that do not conform to law;
4. Participating in civil and administrative cases provided for by law.

Article 128

Investigative organs are [a part of] the system of judiciary power. They carry out the preliminary proceeding in criminal cases.

Article 129

(1) Judges, procurators and investigators are appointed, promoted, demoted, transferred, and dismissed from office by the Supreme Judicial Council.

(2) The Chairman of the Supreme Court of Cassation, the Chairman of the Supreme Administrative Court, and the Chief Procurator are appointed and dismissed by the President of the Republic upon the proposal of the Supreme Judicial Council for a period of seven years without the right of reelection (повторно избиране). The President may not refuse an appointment or dismissal upon a repeated proposal.

[\[1\]](#) [(3) After the completion of a five-year term as a judge, procurator, or investigator and after attestation, the judges, procurators, and investigators become irremovable by the decision of the Supreme Judicial Council. They, including persons in paragraph 2, are dismissed from office only upon:

1. Completion of 65 years of age;
2. Resignation;
3. Entry into force of a sentence of deprivation of liberty for an intentional crime;
4. Permanent factual inability to fulfill their duties for more than a year;
5. Serious violation or systematic non-fulfillment of their official duties as well as actions that damage the prestige of the judicial power.

(4) The acquired irremovability is restored upon the subsequent appointment to office of a judge, procurator, or investigator in case of dismissal from office according to paragraph 3 point 2 and 4.

(5) (In force from Jan. 1, 2004) Administrative leaders of organs of judicial power with the exception of those in paragraph 2 are appointed to leadership positions for the term of five years with the right to be reappointed.]

Article 130

(1) The Supreme Judicial Council consists of 25 members. The Chairman of the Supreme Court of Cassation, the Chairman of the Supreme Administrative Court, and the Chief Procurator are its members by right (по праву).

(2) Members of the Supreme Judicial Council who are not its members by right are elected [from among] jurists with high professional and moral integrity who have at least 15 years of juridical experience.

(3) Eleven of the members of the Supreme Judicial Council are elected by the National Assembly and eleven—by organs of the judicial power.

(4) The mandate of the elected members of the Supreme Judicial Council is five years. They may not be reelected immediately after the expiration of their term.

(5) Sessions of the Supreme Judicial Council are chaired by the Minister of Justice. He does not participate in voting.

[\[2\]](#) [Article 131

Resolutions of the Supreme Judicial Council [concerning] the appointment, promotion, demotion, transfer, or dismissal from office of judges, procurators, and investigators, giving approval according to Article 132 paragraph 2 and 3, as well as proposals according to Article 129 paragraph 2 are adopted by secret ballot.

Article 132

(1) While exercising judicial power, judges, procurators, and investigators do not bear criminal and civil responsibility for their official actions and acts enacted by them unless they are committed as an intentional crime of a general character.

(2) In cases according to paragraph 1, charges cannot be brought against a judge, procurator, and investigator without the approval of the Supreme Judicial Council.

(3) Judges, procurators, and investigators may not be detained except for a serious crime and with the approval of the Supreme Judicial Council. The approval for detention is not required when caught while committing a serious crime.

(4) The permission according to paragraph 2 and 3 is sought from the Supreme Judicial Council by a motivated request [made] by the Chief Procurator or at least one fifth of the members of the Supreme Judicial Council.]

Article 133

The organization and activity of the Supreme Judicial Council, of the courts, the Procuratura, and the investigative organs, the status of the judges, procurators, and investigators, the conditions and procedure for the appointment and dismissal from office of judges, court assessors, procurators, and investigators as well as for carrying out their responsibilities are regulated by law.

Article 134

(1) The advocacy (адвокатурата) is free, independent, and self-governing. It assists citizens and juridical persons in the defense of their rights and lawful interests.

(2) The organization of and procedure for the activity of the advocacy is regulated by law.

Chapter Seven

LOCAL SELF-ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

Article 135

(1) The territory of the Republic of Bulgaria is divided into municipalities (общини) and regions (области). The territorial division and powers of the capital and other major cities are determined by law.

(2) Other administratively-territorial units and organs of self-administration may be established by law.

Article 136

(1) A municipality is the basic administratively-territorial unit in which self-administration is carried out. Citizens participate in the government of the municipality both through their elected organs of local self-administration and also directly through a referendum or a general meeting of the population.

(2) Borders of a municipality are determined following a popular referendum.

(3) A municipality is a juridical person.

Article 137

(1) Self-governing territorial municipalities may form associations in order to resolve common issues.

(2) The law establishes conditions for association of municipalities.

Article 138

The organ of local self-administration in a municipality is the municipal council which is elected by the population of the corresponding municipality for a term of four years according to a procedure determined by law.

Article 139

(1) The organ of executive power in a municipality is the mayor. He is elected by the population or by the municipal council for a term of four years according to a procedure determined by law.

(2) In his activity, the mayor is guided by law, acts of the municipal council, and decisions of the population.

Article 140

A municipality has the right to its property which it uses in the interest of the territorial community.

Article 141

(1) A municipality has an independent budget.

(2) Permanent financial sources of the municipality are determined by law.

(3) The state supports normal activity of municipalities through budgetary and other means.

Article 142

A region is an administratively-territorial unit for the conduct of regional policy, implementation of state administration in the locality, and ensuring harmony between national and local interests.

Article 143

(1) The governance of the region is carried out by the regional governor with the assistance of the regional administration.

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

(3) The regional governor ensures the implementation of state policy, is responsible for the protection national interests, legality (законността), and public order, and exercises administrative control.

Article 144

Central state organs and their local representatives exercise control over the conformity to law (законосъобразност) of acts of organs of local administration only when provided for by law.

Article 145

Municipal councils may dispute in court acts and actions which violate their rights.

Article 146

The organization of and the procedure for the activity of organs of local self-administration and local administration are determined by law.

Chapter Eight

CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

Article 147

(1) The Constitutional Court consists of 12 judges, one third of whom are elected by the National Assembly, one third appointed by the President, and one third elected by a joint meeting of judges of the Supreme Court of Cassation and the Supreme Administrative Court.

(2) The mandate of the Constitutional Court judges is nine years. They may not be reelected to the same office. The membership of the Constitutional Court is renewed every three years from each quota according to a procedure determined by law.

(3) Elected as judges of the Constitutional Court are jurists of high professional and moral integrity with at least 15 years of juridical experience.

(4) Judges of the Constitutional Court elect by secret ballot the Chairman of the court for a period of three years.

(5) The status of the Constitutional Court judge is incompatible with a representative mandate, with occupation of a state or public position, with membership in a political party or trade union, and with practicing of free, commercial, or another paid professional activity.

(6) Members of the Constitutional Court enjoy the same immunity as national representatives.

Article 148

(1) The mandate of a Constitutional Court judge is terminated upon:

1. Expiration of the determined term;

2. Resignation submitted to the Constitutional Court;
3. Sentence of liberty deprivation for an intentional crime entering force;
4. Factual inability to perform the duties for more than a year;
5. Incompatibility with a position or activity according to Article 147 paragraph 5;
6. Death.

(2) The Constitutional Court lifts the immunity and establishes the factual inability of judges to perform their duties by secret ballot [requiring] a majority of at least two thirds of all judges.

(3) When the mandate of a Constitutional Court judge is terminated, a new judge from the corresponding quota is elected within one month to replace him.

Article 149

(1) The Constitutional Court:

1. Provides binding interpretations of the Constitution;
2. Rules on requests to establish the unconstitutionality of laws and other acts of the National Assembly as well as acts of the President;
3. Decides disputes concerning competence between the National Assembly, the President and the Council of Ministers as well as between organs of local self-administration and central executive organs;
4. Rules on the conformity of international treaties concluded by the Republic of Bulgaria to the Constitution prior to their ratification as well as on the conformity of laws to the universally recognized norms of international law and international treaties to which Bulgaria is a party;
5. Rules on disputes concerning the constitutionality of political parties and associations;
6. Rules on disputes concerning the legality of the election of the President and Vice President;
7. Rules on disputes concerning the legality of the election of a national representative;
8. Rules on the impeachment initiated by the National Assembly against the President or the Vice President.

(2) The powers of the Constitutional Court cannot be granted or revoked by law.

Article 150

(1) The Constitutional Court acts on the initiative of at least one fifth of the national representatives, the President, the Council of Ministers, the Supreme Court of Cassation, the Supreme Administrative Court, or the Chief Procurator. Disputes of competence according to number 3 of paragraph 1 of the preceding article may be brought forward also by a municipal council.

(2) When they establish a disparity between the law and the Constitution, the Supreme Court of Cassation or the Supreme Administrative Court stop the proceeding of the case and refer the matter to the Constitutional Court.

Article 151

(1) Decisions of the Constitutional Court are established by a majority of more than one half of all judges.

(2) Decisions of the Constitutional Court are published in State Gazette within 15 days of being adopted. The decision enters force three days after its publication. An act declared as unconstitutional ceases to apply from the day the decision enters force.

(3) The part of the law which is not declared unconstitutional remains in effect.

Article 152

The organization of and the procedure for the activity of the Constitutional Court are determined by law.

Chapter Nine

AMENDMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

ADOPTION OF A NEW CONSTITUTION

Article 153

The National Assembly may amend and supplement all provisions of the Constitution with the exception of those within the powers of the Grand National Assembly.

Article 154

(1) The right to initiate amendments and supplements to the Constitution belongs to one quarter of the national representatives and to the President.

(2) The proposal is considered by the National Assembly no earlier than one month and no later than three months after being submitted.

Article 155

(1) The National Assembly adopts the law on the amendment or supplement to the Constitution by a majority of three quarters of all the national representatives in three votes on different days.

(2) If the proposal receives less than three quarters but no less than two thirds of the votes of all national representatives, the proposal is reconsidered no earlier than after two months and no later than after five months. During the reconsideration, the proposal is adopted if no less than two thirds of all national representatives voted in its favor.

Article 156

The law on the amendment or supplement to the Constitution is signed and publicized by the Chairman of the National Assembly in the State Gazette within seven days of its adoption.

Article 157

The Grand National Assembly consists of 400 national representatives elected according to the common procedure.

Article 158

The Grand National Assembly:

1. Adopts a new Constitution;
2. Resolves issues concerning changes of the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and ratifies international treaties providing for such changes;
3. Resolves issues concerning changes in the form of the state structure and form of the state administration;
4. Resolves issues concerning amendments to Article 5 paragraphs 2 and 4 and Article 57 paragraphs 1 and 3 of the Constitution;
5. Resolves issues concerning amendments and supplements to Chapter Nine of the Constitution.

Article 159

- (1) The right to an initiative according to the preceding paragraph belongs to at least one half of the national representatives and to the President.
- (2) The draft of a new Constitution or an amendment to the existing [Constitution] as well as changes of the territory of the country according to Article 158 are considered by the National Assembly no earlier than two months and no later than five months after its introduction.

Article 160

- (1) The National Assembly decides to hold elections for the Grand National Assembly by a majority of two thirds of the total number of national representatives.
- (2) The President schedules the elections for the Grand National Assembly within three months of the resolution of the National Assembly.

(3) The powers of the National Assembly are terminated when the elections for the Grand National Assembly are held.

Article 161

The Grand National Assembly adopts decisions on the introduced drafts by a majority of two thirds of all national representatives in three votes on different days.

Article 162

(1) The Grand National Assembly resolves only those constitutional issues for which it has been elected.

(2) In urgent cases, the Grand National Assembly fulfills the functions of the National Assembly.

(3) The powers of the Grand National Assembly are terminated after its final ruling on issues for which it has been elected. In that case, the President schedules elections according to a procedure determined by law.

Article 163

Acts of the Grand National Assembly are signed and published by its chairman in the State Gazette within seven days of their adoption.

Chapter Ten

THE STATE EMBLEM, SEAL, FLAG, ANTHEM, CAPITAL

Article 164

The state emblem of the Republic of Bulgaria is a rampant gold lion on a dark red shield.

Article 165

The state seal depicts the state emblem of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Article 166

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

Article 167

The procedure for applying the state seal and for raising the national flag is determined by law.

Article 168

The national 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 CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

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

(2) The Grand National Assembly continues to function as the National Assembly until the election of a new National Assembly. Within that time period, it adopts laws for the election of the National Assembly, the President, organs of local self-administration as well as other laws. At the same time period, the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Judicial Council are formed.

(3) At the first session of the National Assembly following the entry into force of the Constitution, the national representatives, the President, the Vice President, and the members of the Council of Ministers take the oath provided by this Constitution.

§2. Until the election of the Supreme Court of Cassation and a Supreme Administrative Court, their powers according to Article 130 paragraph 3 and Article 147 paragraph 1 of the Constitution are exercised by the Supreme Court of the Republic of Bulgaria.

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

(2) Within a year of this Constitution's entering force, the National Assembly shall abrogate those provisions of existing laws which have not been abrogated directly by the force of Article 5 paragraph 2 of the Constitution.

(3) Within three years, the National Assembly shall adopt laws expressly specified by the Constitution.

§4. The organization of judicial power determined by the Constitution shall come into effect after the adoption of new structural and procedural laws which must be adopted within the time period according to §3 paragraph 2.

§5. Judges, procurators, and investigators become irremovable if within three months of its formation the Supreme Judicial Council does not establish that they lack the necessary professional qualities.

§6. Until the creation of a new legislative system concerning the Bulgarian National Television, Bulgarian National Radio, and Bulgarian Telegraph Agency, the National Assembly shall exercise the powers of the Grand National Assembly in relation to these national institutions.

§ 7. (1) Elections for the National Assembly and organs of local self-administration shall be held within three months of the self-dissolution of the Grand National Assembly. The date of the elections is determined by the President in accordance with his powers according to Article 98 point 1 of the Constitution.

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

(3) Until the election of the President and Vice President, the Chairman (President) and the Deputy Chairman (Vice President) fulfill the functions of the President and Vice President according to this Constitution.

§ 8. The Government shall continue to perform the functions according to this Constitution until the formation of a new Government.

§ 9. This Constitution enters force on the day on which it is published in the State Gazette by the Chairman of the Grand National Assembly and abrogates the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria adopted on May 18th, 1971 (published in the State Gazette No. 39 of 1971; amended by SG No. 6 of 1990, amended and supplemented by SG No. 29 of 1990, amended by Nos. SG 87, 94 and 98 of 1990, corrected by SG No. 98/1990).

TRANSITIONAL AND CONCLUDING PROVISION

From the Law on the Amendment and Supplement to the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria

(SG n. 85 of 2003)

§4. (1) Within three months of the entry into force of the Law on the Amendment and Supplement to the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria, the National Assembly shall adopt laws that concern the implementation of these amendments and supplements.

(2) Within three months of the entry into force of §1 point 3, the Supreme Judicial Council shall appoint administrative leaders of organs of judicial power.

§5. The administrative leaders of organs of judicial power who have been in the corresponding leadership position for more than five years before the time of the entry into force of this law may be appointed to the same position for only one more term.

§6. Judges, procurators, and investigators who before the time of entry into force of this law have not completed a three-year period at their position shall become irremovable under the conditions of §1 point 1 of this law.

§7. Paragraph 1 point 3 enters into force on January 1, 2004.

NOTES

[\[1\]](#) As amended by SG n. 85 of September 26, 2003.

[\[2\]](#) As amended by SG n. 85 of September 26, 2003.