

(Statute of Members)

Law no. 7/93 of 1 March 1993, as amended by Laws nos. 24/95 of 18 August 1995, 55/98 of 18 August 1998, 8/99 of 10 February 1999, 45/99 of 16 June 1999, 3/2001 of 23 February 2001, 24/2003 of 4 July 2003, 52-A/2005 of 10 October 2005, and 43/2007 of 24 August 2007

CHAPTER I

Mandate

Article 1

Nature and scope of mandate

1 - Members shall represent the entire country, and not the constituencies for which they are elected.

2 - Members shall all possess the same status and shall all enjoy and be subject to the same rights and duties, save only such specific conditions as may apply to the exercise and fulfilment thereof and the rules governing the different parliamentary functions they perform, as laid down by law.

Article 2

Beginning and end of term of office

1 - Members' terms of office shall commence upon the first sitting of the Assembly of the Republic following elections thereto and shall end upon the first sitting following the subsequent elections thereto, without prejudice to the suspension or termination of any individual mandate.

2 – The filling of vacancies which arise in the Assembly of the Republic shall be regulated by electoral law.

Article 3

Verification of credentials

The Assembly of the Republic shall verify Members' credentials, as laid down by the applicable Rules of Procedure.

Article 4

Suspension of mandates

1 – A mandate shall be suspended:

- a) Upon approval of a request for temporary substitution for which important grounds have been given, in accordance with Article 5;
- b) In the event of criminal proceedings, in accordance with Article 11(3);
- c) Upon the occurrence of any of the situations referred to by Article 20(1)a, with the exception of the Presidency of the Republic, or by Article 20(1)d, e, f, g, h and l.

2 - In the cases provided for by Article 20(1)g, suspension of a mandate shall only be permitted immediately after the Assembly of the Republic has verified the applicable credentials of the Member in question, or at the moment at which he takes up the applicable local authority position, and shall not occur for more than a single period of up to 180 days.

Article 5

Temporary substitution on important grounds

1 – When there are important grounds for doing so, Members may ask the President of the Assembly of the Republic to approve their substitution once or more than once during the course of the legislature.

2 – Important grounds shall mean:

- a) Prolonged illness;
- b) Taking maternity or paternity leave;
- c) The need to ensure that criminal proceedings take their course, in accordance with Article 11(3);
- d) Such other reason as may be given before the Ethics Committee and which the said Committee deems duly justified.

3 - Requests for substitution shall be submitted either directly by the Member himself, or via the leadership of his parliamentary group, in which case they shall be accompanied by a declaration of consent by the Member who is to be substituted.

4 - When based on the grounds set out in paragraph (2)a or b above, the temporary substitution of a Member shall not cause the processing of his remuneration to cease or lead to any loss of length of service.

5 - In the event that their terms of office are suspended for 50 days in legislative session, Members who are bound by contract to the Public Administration or to a company which is owned by the State, is nationalised, or in which the State or any other public bodies hold a majority stake, and any other Members who are employed by third parties, may opt not to recommence the functions in question, without losing any rights or benefits, save only the right to remuneration.

6 - Temporary suspensions under the terms of paragraph (2)d above shall not last for less than 50 days, nor shall they occur more than once per legislative session, nor shall they last for more than a total of 10 months per legislature2).

Article 6

End of suspension

1 – The suspension of a mandate shall cease:

a) In the case of Article 4(1)a, upon the end of the period of suspension, or upon the Member's early return as directly notified by him or by the leadership of parliamentary group , to the President of the Assembly of the Republic;

b) In the case of Article 4(1)b, upon the issue of a ruling absolving the Member or of the equivalent thereof, or upon completion of the sentence;

c) In the case of Article 4(1)c, upon the cessation of the function which is incompatible with that of Member.

2 - All the powers possessed by the last Member from the same electoral list to have exercised the mandate on the date in question shall automatically cease when the original Member resumes the exercise of his mandate.

3 - Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 11(3)b, no Member shall return prior to the end of the 50 days provided for by Article 5(5).

Article 7

Resignation

1 - Members may resign their seat by means of a written declaration, which shall be submitted to the President of the Assembly of the Republic either in person, or bearing a notarised signature.

2 - No resignation request shall be processed until the leader of the Member's parliamentary group, when one exists, has been notified of it.

3 - Without prejudice to their subsequent publication in the Journal of the Assembly of the Republic, resignations shall take effect when the Bureau announces them to the Plenary.

Article 8

Loss of seat

1 - Members shall lose their seat when:

a) They become subject to any of the inabilities or incompatibilities provided for by law, even when due to facts that arose prior to their election; the Assembly of the Republic shall not reassess facts that have been the object of a judicial ruling which has already transited in rem judicatam or of an earlier decision by the Assembly itself;

- b) They do not take up their seat in the Assembly of the Republic or, without due justification, they exceed the number of absences permitted under the terms of paragraph (2) below and in accordance with the Rules of Procedure;
- c) They register as members of a political party other than that for which they stood for election;
- d) They are convicted by a court of participating in organisations which possess a racist or fascist ideology.

2 – Illness, marriage, maternity or paternity, mourning, force majeure, parliamentary missions or work, political work or work for the political party to which the Member belongs, and participation in parliamentary activities in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, shall be deemed due justification.

3 – Members who are present at a sitting or meeting and invoke a duly substantiated reason of conscience shall be deemed justified in not taking part in a vote.

4 – In exceptional circumstances, transport difficulties may be deemed due justification for failures to attend.

5 – In cases to which Article 20 is applicable and in the event that the Member in question does not comply with the provisions of Article 21(7), failure to suspend a term of office in accordance with Article 4 shall cause him to lose his seat in accordance with Article 160(1)a of the Constitution; such loss to be declared following verification by the Assembly of the Republic in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

Article 9

Substitution of Members

1 - In the event that his seat falls vacant or his mandate is suspended, a Member shall be substituted by the candidate who occupied the highest position on the same electoral list and was not elected.

2 - In the event that a candidate who is called upon to take up the functions of Member is temporarily prevented from doing so, the candidate who occupied the next highest position on the same electoral list shall take over his position.

3 - Once he is no longer prevented from doing so, the candidate shall take up his original position on the list for the purpose of future substitutions.

4 - In the event that there are no longer any effective or substitute candidates on the list of the Member to be substituted, no substitution shall take place.

5 - The substitution provided for by the present Article, and both the recognition that an unelected candidate is temporarily prevented from taking up the functions of Member and the recognition of the end of that temporary situation shall be subject to the issue of a request by the leadership of the Member's parliamentary group, when one exists, or by the candidate who is entitled to fill the vacant seat.

CHAPTER II

Immunities

Article 10

Non-liability

Members shall not be civilly or criminally liable for, or subject to disciplinary sanctions in relation to, their votes or the opinions they express in the performance or because of their functions.

Article 11

Inviolability

1 - No Member may be detained, arrested or imprisoned without the Assembly's authorisation, save only for a serious crime which is punishable by imprisonment for a maximum term of more than three years and in relation to which he is found in flagrante delicto.

2 - Members shall not appear as makers of declarations or be questioned as official suspects without the Assembly's authorisation. In the event of the existence of compelling evidence of the commission of a serious crime punishable by imprisonment for a maximum term of more than three years, the Assembly shall obligatorily authorise a Member's questioning as an official suspect.

3 - In the event that criminal proceedings are brought against a Member and he is definitively charged, the Assembly shall decide, within the period laid down by the Rules of Procedure, whether or not he is to be suspended so that the proceedings can take their course, as follows:

a) In the case of a crime of the type referred to in paragraph (1) above, suspension shall be mandatory;

b) The Assembly may limit the length of the Member's suspension to the time which, under the circumstances, it deems most fit to both the exercise of his mandate and the furtherance of the criminal proceedings.

4 - A charge shall become definitive, whereupon the procedural acts shall be pursued up until the trial hearing:

a) When, in the case of the intervention of an investigating magistrate, the said magistrate confirms the charge brought by the Public Prosecutors' Office and his ruling is not judicially opposed, or, in the event of an appeal, is upheld by a higher court;

b) Once the indictment ruling has transited in rem judicatam due to facts other than those set out in the charge brought by the Public Prosecutors' Office;

c) In the event that no official suspect requests further investigation, once the trial judge has issued the curative ruling;

d) In the event of summary proceedings, once the Public Prosecutors' Office has requested the imposition of sanctions.

5 - The competent judge shall submit the authorisation request referred to by the previous paragraphs in the form of a document addressed to the President of the Assembly of the Republic, and the said request shall not lapse at the end of the legislature if the Member in question is elected to a new term of office.

6 - The decisions to which this Article refers shall be taken by the Plenary, which shall first hear the Member in question and consider a formal opinion from the committee with responsibility for the matter in question.

7 - The deadline for the prescription of the criminal proceedings shall be suspended when the authorisation request issued by the competent judge is submitted to the Assembly of the Republic, in accordance with and for the purposes of Article 120(1)a of the Penal Code; in the event that the Assembly decides not to lift the Member's immunity, the said suspension shall remain in effect for as long as he is entitled to the prerogative in question.

CHAPTER III

Conditions for the exercise of mandates

Article 12

Performance of the function of Member

1 - Members shall exercise their mandates freely and shall be ensured the conditions appropriate to the effective performance of their functions, particularly the indispensable contact with registered electors and the regular provision of information.

2 - Each Member shall be entitled to appropriate working conditions, particularly:

- a) His own individual office at the Seat of the Assembly of the Republic;
- b) An individual assistant, to be recruited as laid down by law;
- c) A dedicated electronic mailbox;
- d) An individual page on the Assembly of the Republic's website.

3 - All public bodies shall be subject to the general duty of cooperation with Members in the performance or because of the latter's functions.

4 - Departments and services that belong to the central administration or are subject to its authority shall furnish Members with the conditions required for the exercise of their mandates, particularly by supplying such items, information and official publications as are requested of them and, whenever possible, by providing facilities

for working meetings, on condition that this does not affect the functioning of the service itself.

5 - When so asked by Members, civil governments shall provide appropriate facilities which enable the Members to enjoy direct contact with the media and with the citizens from their constituencies.

6 – In the performance of their functions, Members shall be entitled to the use of postal services and telecommunications systems free of charge, as well as to the use of the parliamentary IT network and other electronic information networks.

7 - Members shall be ensured the use of toll-free lines, automatic information systems and other forms of publicising their parliamentary activities and contacting registered electors at the central level and in their constituencies.

8 - The competent bodies of the Assembly of the Republic shall determine the terms and conditions under which such means of communication are used.

Article 13

Compensation for damages

1 - Members who, in the performance or because of their functions, are victims of acts that imply an offence against their life, physical or moral integrity, freedom or assets shall be entitled to fair compensation.

2 - The facts that warrant such compensation shall be the object of an inquiry to be ordered by the President of the Assembly of the Republic, who shall decide whether to award the compensation and the amount thereof, save only if and to the extent that the damages in question are covered by other means.

Article 14

Members' duties

1 - Members shall possess the following duties:

a) To take part in parliamentary work and particularly to attend the Plenary and the meetings of any committees to which they belong;

b) Upon proposals from their respective parliamentary groups, to hold such offices as they are appointed to and to perform such functions as are assigned to them;

c) To take part in votes;

d) To ensure the indispensable contact with the electorate.

e) To respect the dignity of the Assembly of the Republic and its Members;

f) To comply with the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the Republic.

2 - The exercise of such other activities as the law may permit shall not prejudice the regular fulfilment of the duties provided for by the previous paragraph.

Article 15

Members' rights

1 - Members' failure to attend official acts or procedures unrelated to the Assembly, due to Assembly sessions, meetings or missions, shall be sufficient reason to delay the said acts or procedures without cost to the Members concerned, but such grounds shall not be invoked more than once in relation to each act or procedure.

2 - Members who take courses that lead to any officially recognised degree or diploma shall be subject to the most favourable of all the different rules that apply to classes, examinations and other academic and scientific tests in other situations.

3 - Members shall also enjoy the following rights:

- a) Delayed military service, civic service or civil mobilisation;
- b) Free transit, which shall be deemed to mean free passage in public places to which access is restricted, upon display of special identity card;
- c) A diplomatic passport per legislature, to be renewed in each legislative session;
- d) The special identity card;
- e) Such remunerations and allowances as the law may lay down;
- f) The rights set out in the legislation on the protection of maternity and paternity;
- g) The right to use and carry a firearm, in accordance with paragraph (7) below;
- h) Priority in reservations for travel on state-owned air transport companies during periods in which the Assembly is in full session, or for reasons related to the fulfilment of their mandates.

4 - In addition to the Member's name and signature and the signature of the President of the Assembly of the Republic, the special identity card shall bear the number of the Member's National Citizen's Identity Card, the name of the body that issued it, and the date on which it was so issued, as per the model shown in annexe hereto.

5 - The special identity card shall be valid for a specific period which shall be determined in accordance with the Member's term of office.

6 - When a Member's term of office ends or is suspended, his diplomatic passport and special identity card shall immediately be returned to the President of the Assembly of the Republic.

7 - For the purposes of the possession of, permits for, and the use and carriage of, firearms and their munitions, Members shall be subject to the provisions of Article 5 of Law no. 5/2006 of 23 February 2006.

Article 16

Travel

1 - Both in the performance and because of their functions, Members shall be entitled to travel allowances and the corresponding expense allowances.

2 - The Assembly of the Republic shall decide the general principles to which such travel allowances and expense allowances are subject.

3 - When Members are on official missions abroad they shall be entitled to life insurance in an amount that shall be set by the Board of the Assembly of the Republic.

4 - Subject to a favourable formal opinion from the Board, the Assembly of the Republic may establish an insurance policy that covers such risks as Members run when they travel in Portugal or as arise from missions abroad.

5 - When Members are on official journeys or journeys which the Conference of Leaders deems to be of parliamentary interest, the Assembly of the Republic shall bear the costs of such emergency medical assistance as they require.

Article 17

Use of postal and communications services

Revoked by Law no. 43/2007

Article 18

Social security system

1 - Members shall enjoy the benefits of the general social security system.

2 - In the event that Members opt for the social security system applicable to their profession, the Assembly of the Republic shall bear the costs that would otherwise be borne by the employer.

Article 19

Work-related guarantees and social benefits

1 - Members shall not be prejudiced in their professional assignments, social benefits or permanent employment due to the fulfilment of their mandate.

2 - Members shall be entitled to be dispensed from all public and private professional activities during the legislature.

3 - Fulfilment of a Member's mandate shall count towards length of service for all purposes, save only those that presuppose the actual exercise of a profession, without prejudice to the provisions of Article 5(4).

4 - In the case of a function that is temporary by law or by contract, fulfilment of a Member's mandate shall suspend the counting of the period thereof.

Article 20

Incompatibilities

1 - The following positions and functions shall be incompatible with the exercise of the mandate of Member of the Assembly of the Republic:

a) President of the Republic, member of the Government, and Minister of the Republic;

b) Member of the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court of Justice, the Supreme Administrative Court, the Audit Court, the Supreme Judicial Council, or the Supreme Council of the Administrative and Tax Courts, and Attorney General and Ombudsman;

c) Member of the European Parliament;

d) Member of the self-government bodies of the Autonomous Regions;

- e) Ambassador, unless the Member is a career diplomat;
- f) Civil Governor and Deputy Civil Governor;
- g) Mayor and local councillor, either full-time or part-time;
- h) Employee of the State or any other public body corporate;
- i) Member of the National Electoral Commission;
- j) Member of a ministerial office or legally equivalent body;
- l) Employee of an international organisation or foreign state;
- m) President or Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council;
- n) Member of the Media Regulatory Authority;
- o) Member of a management board of a company which is owned by the State or any other public bodies, or in which the State holds a majority stake, or of an autonomous public institute.

2 - The provisions of subparagraph (1)h above shall not include the performance without charge of higher education teaching functions, research work and other similar activities that are of important social interest and are recognised on a case-by-case basis as such by the Ethics Committee of the Assembly of the Republic.

3 - Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 4(1)a and (2), and subject to compliance with the provisions of Article 21(7), the holding of an incompatible position or the performance of an incompatible function shall imply the loss of the Member's seat

Article 21

Impediments

1 - Members shall require the Assembly's authorisation in order to be jurors, expert witnesses or witnesses.

2 - Members shall require the Assembly's authorisation to serve as arbiters in proceedings in which the State or any other public-law body corporate is a party.

3 - The authorisation referred to by paragraph (1) above shall be requested by the competent judge or by the investigating magistrate, in the form of a document addressed to the President of the Assembly of the Republic and the Member in question shall be heard prior to the decision whether to grant authorisation.

4 - On condition that they are not excluded by the provisions of the following paragraphs, Members may engage in other activities, whereupon they shall notify the Constitutional Court of the nature and details thereof.

5 - Without prejudice to the provisions of the rules governing incompatibilities and impediments laid down by special laws, particularly in relation to the holding of positions or the pursuit of professional activities, the following situations shall also preclude exercise of the mandate of Member of the Assembly of the Republic:

- a) Holding a position as member of a governing body of a public body corporate, or of a company in which the State or any other public bodies hold all or the majority of the capital, or of a company that holds a public service concession, except where the governing body in question is consultative, scientific or pedagogical in nature or forms part of the management of an autonomous institution;
- b) Serving as a paid expert or arbiter in any proceedings in which the State or other public-law bodies corporate are parties;
- c) Holding a government appointment, acceptance of which is not authorised by the parliamentary committee with responsibility for the matter in question.

6 - Without prejudice to the provisions of special laws, Members shall also be precluded from accumulating the following with the mandate of Member:

- a) In the case of the direct or indirect pursuit of commercial or industrial activities, with a spouse from whom the Member is not legally separated, or for or on his own behalf or that of a body in which he holds a significant stake, particularly one greater than 10% of the body's share capital, entering into contracts with the State or other public law bodies corporate, or taking part in competitive calls for tender concerning the supply of goods or services, or works contracts or concessions issued by the State or other public-law bodies corporate, companies in which the majority or all of the share capital is held by the State or other public bodies, or the holders of public service concessions;
- b) Acting as a lawyer for the plaintiff in civil suits brought against the State under any jurisdiction;
- c) Sponsoring foreign states;
- d) Personally and improperly benefiting from acts, or being a party to contracts, in which the process leading to the act or contract in question involves bodies or services over which the Member possesses direct influence;
- e) Appearing or in any way participating in acts involving commercial advertising.

7 – In the event that the Parliamentary Ethics Committee referred to by Article 27-A determines that an impediment or incompatibility exists, and once the Plenary has approved the Committee's formal opinion, the Member shall be notified that he must put an end to the situation in question within 30 days.

8 – Without prejudice to any liability that may arise as a result of the case in question, and following compliance with the provisions of the previous paragraph, in the event that a Member breaches the provisions of paragraphs (4), (5) or (6) above he shall be warned, his mandate shall be suspended for as long as the impediment continues to exist and in any event for a period of at least 50 days, and he shall be obliged to reimburse an amount equal to the whole of his remuneration for the performance of public functions since the beginning of the impeding situation.

Article 22

Duty to declare

Within the sixty days following the date on which they take their seats, Members shall make a declaration of the absence of incompatibilities and impediments and shall deposit it with the parliamentary committee referred to by Article 27-A.

Article 23

Failures to attend

1 – Any Member who fails to attend any plenary session or vote that was scheduled in advance in the Plenary, without grounds for doing so that are duly justified under the terms of Articles 8 and 24, shall lose one twentieth of the month's pay for each of the first, second and third occurrences and one tenth for any subsequent ones, up to the number of failures to attend that determines the loss of his seat.

2 – Any Member who fails to attend a committee meeting without due justification shall lose one thirtieth of the month's pay, up to a limit of four failures to attend per committee and per legislative session.

3 - Any Member who exceeds the limit provided for by the previous paragraph shall lose his seat on the committee in question.

4 - The losses of pay and loss of seat referred to by the previous paragraphs shall only be implemented following the end of a period of eight days after the President of the Assembly of the Republic has notified the Member in question to inform him of the reasons for the failure or failures to attend without due justification, and then only if those reasons are deemed inapplicable or if the Member does not reply.

Article 24

Absences

In the event of a lack of quorum for sitting or taking decisions, the President of the Assembly of the Republic shall summon the Members to the Plenary and shall record those Members who are not present for the purposes provided for by the general rules governing failures to attend.

Article 25

Protocol

Matters of protocol shall be governed by the rules laid down by specific legislation.

CHAPTER IV

Register of interests

Article 26

Register of interests

1 - A register of interests shall be created at the Assembly of the Republic.

2 – Each record on the register of interests shall consist of a specific document listing all activities which might give rise to incompatibilities or impediments, particularly:

- a) Public or private activities, including commercial or business activities, as well as the exercise of a liberal profession;
- b) The holding of corporate positions, even without charge;
- c) The receipt of financial or material support or benefits in return for engaging in activities, particularly from foreign persons or bodies;
- d) Persons and bodies to which remunerated services of any kind are provided;
- e) Companies in which the Member holds a stake, either in person or via a spouse from whom he is not legally separated.

3 – Each record shall contain a list of activities in which the Member engages, irrespective of their form or the rules governing them, particularly:

- a) A list of the public and private positions, functions and activities which have been held, performed or engaged in during the last three years;
- b) A list of the public and private positions, functions and activities which the Member will be accumulating with his parliamentary mandate.

4 - The list of significant or relevant financial interests shall include details of acts which directly or indirectly give rise to payments, particularly:

- a) Public or private bodies corporate to which the services in question were provided;
- b) Any participation in consultative boards, supervisory committees or other collegial bodies, when provided for by law or as part of the inspection or control of public funds;
- c) Companies in which the Member holds a stake, either in person or via a spouse from whom he is not legally separated;
- d) Financial subsidies or grants received by the Member, a spouse from whom he is not legally separated, or a company in which either of them holds a stake;
- e) The holding of conferences, the giving of talks, the holding of short-term training actions and any other activities of the same nature.

5 – The list of significant or relevant other interests shall particularly mention the following facts:

- a) Any participation in committees, commissions or working groups for which the Member receives remuneration;
- b) Any participation in civic associations which benefit from public resources;

c) Any participation in professional associations or associations which represent interests.

6 – The register of interests shall be deposited with the Parliamentary Ethics Committee within sixty days of the Member taking his seat, and shall be updated within at most fifteen days of the occurrence of facts or circumstances which justify new entries on the register.

7 – The register of interests shall be public and shall be made available for consultation on the Assembly of the Republic's website, or to whoever asks for it.

Article 27

Possible conflicts of interest

1 - When presenting a Member's bill or taking part in any parliamentary work in a committee or in the Plenary, in the event that they have any private interest in the matter in question, Members shall declare it in advance.

2 - The following shall particularly be deemed causes of a possible conflict of interests:

a) If the Member, his spouse or relative or equivalent person to whom he is directly related or his sibling, or a person with whom he lives in joint economic circumstances, is the holder of rights or stakes in any legal business or dealing, the existence, validity or effects of which are altered as a direct consequence of the law or resolution to be passed by the Assembly of the Republic;

b) If the Member, his spouse or relative or equivalent person to whom he is directly related or his sibling, or a person with whom he lives in joint economic circumstances, is a member of a governing body, agent or attorney, employee or permanent functionary of a company or a non-profit body corporate whose legal situation may directly be modified by the law or resolution to be passed by the Assembly of the Republic.

3 - The declarations referred to in the previous paragraphs may either be made during the Member's first intervention in the parliamentary procedure or activity in question, if the said procedure or activity is recorded or minuted, or be addressed and delivered to the Bureau of the Assembly of the Republic or the parliamentary committee referred to by Article 27-A, prior to the applicable procedure or activity.

Article 27-A

Parliamentary committee with responsibility for matters concerning the application of this Statute of Members

The parliamentary committee with responsibility for considering issues concerning the application of this Statute of Members, or any other issue related to the exercise of a Member's mandate, shall be fully charged with the following responsibilities:

- a) Verifying cases of incompatibility, legal inability or impediment and, in the event of a breach of the law or the Rules of Procedure, preparing the applicable case files and issuing the respective formal opinion;
- b) Receiving and registering declarations that raise possible conflicts of interest;
- c) When so requested by the declarer or the President of the Assembly, considering such conflicts of interest as are raised and issuing the formal opinion thereon;
- d) Considering the possible existence of conflicts of interest which have not been the object of any declaration, and also issuing the formal opinion thereon;
- e) Considering whether declarations are correct, either on its own initiative, or in response to a duly substantiated request from any citizen exercising his political rights;
- f) Issuing a formal opinion on the verification of Members' credentials;
- g) Pronouncing on the lifting of immunity in accordance with this Statute of Members;
- h) Issuing a formal opinion on the suspension of Members' mandates and the loss of Members' seats;
- i) Preparing the case files in proceedings concerning the impugment of eligibility or the loss of a seat;
- j) At the request of the Member in question or when so ordered by the Assembly of the Republic, conducting inquiries into events which occur within the ambit of the Assembly and which compromise any Member's honour or dignity;
- l) Considering any other issues concerning Members' mandates.

CHAPTER V

Former Members and Honorary Members

Article 28

Former Members

- 1 - Former Members who exercised a Member's mandate for at least four years shall be entitled to a specific identity card.
- 2 - The former Members referred to by the previous paragraph shall be entitled to free transit within the Assembly of the Republic building.
- 3 - The Members to whom this Article refers, or such association or associations as they together decide to form under the general terms of the law, when recognised by the Plenary of the Assembly of the Republic as associations that are of parliamentary interest, may enjoy such rights and benefits as the President of the Assembly of the Republic orders after first consulting both the Conference of Leaders and the Board.
- 4 - Members who have performed the functions of President of the Assembly of the Republic shall enjoy a special status, laid down in accordance with the last part of the previous paragraph.

Article 29

Honorary Members

1 - The title of honorary Member is hereby created.

2 - The said title shall be awarded by decision of the Plenary upon a duly substantiated proposal signed by one quarter of all the Members in full exercise of their office, to Members who, by means of significant services in defence of the parliamentary institution, have made a decisive contribution to enhancing the dignity and prestige thereof.

3 - Honorary Members shall be entitled to the respective identity card, and shall enjoy both the prerogatives applicable to former Members provided for by Article 28 and such others as the President of the Assembly of the Republic decides upon.

CHAPTER VI

Final and transitional provisions

Article 30

Costs

Save only special legal provisions to the contrary, such costs as result from the implementation of this Law shall be borne by the budget of the Assembly of the Republic.

Article 31

Revocatory provision

1 - The part concerning Members of Article 3(1)a of Executive Law no. 70/79 of 31 March 1979, as amended by Law no. 18/81 of 17 August 1981 and Law no. 3/87 of 9 January 1987, is hereby revoked.

2 - All other legislation that contradicts this Statute is hereby revoked.