Law on the Committee for Relations between the Communities

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I. General provisions

Article 1

This Law regulates the constitution of the Committee for interethnic relations, the means, conditions and the procedure for appointment of a member to the Committee for Interethnic Relations (hereinafter the Committee), the competence, way of work, adoption of decisions and other issues related to the work of the Committee.

Article 2

(1) The Committee is constituted by the Assembly of Republic of Macedonia (hereinafter the Assembly) within 60 days from the day of the constitution of the Assembly.

Article 3

(1) The Assembly appoints and dismisses the members of the Committee upon the proposal put forth by the Committee for elections and appointments.

(2) The Committee is composed of 19 members from the rank of the elected Members of the Parliament.

(3) In the Committee seven members are from the rank of the Macedonian MPs, seven members from the rank of the Albania MPs, one member from the rank of the Turkish MPs, one member from the rank of the Vlach MPs, one member from the rank of the Roma MPs, one member from the rank of the Serb MPs and one member from the rank of the Boshnak MPs.

(4) The Committee for elections and appointments in the event of proposing members to be appointed to the Committee for Interethnic Relations from the rank of the Macedonian and the Albanian MPs respectively shall be guided by the criterion of equitable and proportionate representation of the number of MPs of the respective political party with regard to the overall composition of the MPs from the respective ethnic community.

(5) A members of the Committee can be dismissed upon presenting a resignation in person or upon a proposal made by the political party by which they have been initially proposed and appointed respectively.

(6) In the event of resignation or dismissal, the appointment of a member to the Committee shall be done within 30 days from the day of the presentation of the resignation or the dismissal respectively in line with the present Law.
Article 4

In case some of the communities that were specified in Article 2 paragraph 4 of this Law have no elected representatives in the Parliament, the Ombudsman shall make consultations with the relevant representatives of the respective communities, and upon the opinion received shall propose to the Assembly the rest of the Committee members from the respective community.

Article 5

(1) In the event of presentation of the list of MP contenders, the respective MP contender shall present to the State Election Commission a statement of ethnicity belonging (nationality belonging).

(2) In the event of the constitution of the Committee and in view of the determination of the ethnicity belonging of the MP from a respective community, the statement presented at the presentation of the list of MP contenders to the State Election Commission shall be considered.

Article 6

The Committee shall appoint its President and Vice-President from the rank of its members.

II. Manner of work of the Committee

Article 7

For the purpose of exercising its scope of work as specified under the Constitution of Republic of Macedonia and the present Law, the Committee shall work at sessions.

Article 8

(1) The session is convened and presided by the President of the Committee.
(2) The day, venue and hour of the session, as well as the proposed agenda for the session of the Committee are proposed by the President of the Committee.
(3) In case of absence or prevention to attend, the President of the Committee shall be deputized by the Deputy President of the Committee.
(4) The session of the Committee is convoked according to a specified agenda.
(5) The Committee shall work only if two-thirds of the total number of its members is present.
(6) The session of the Committee can be convoked upon the request by the President of the Government of Republic of Macedonia, the President of the Parliament, upon the request of a parliamentary group or by at least 10 members of the Committee respectively.
III. Scope of work of the Committee

Article 9

The Committee shall review issues that pertain to the interethnic relations in Republic of Macedonia, and in particular it shall:

- follow up on the provision for the rights of the non-majority communities in Republic of Macedonia that have been specified by the Constitution and the Law;

- review general issues from the areas of interethnic relations and implementation of laws, other regulations and general acts that regulate the interethnic relations;

- point to the need for adoption of laws and other regulations and general acts that regulate the interethnic relations;

- ensure the achievement of the right to the use of the languages and alphabet of the non-majority communities in Republic of Macedonia, as specified by the Constitution and the Law;

- ensure the achievement of the right to education in the language of the non-majority communities in Republic of Macedonia in the area of education, as specified by the Constitution and the Law;

- ensure the achievement of the right of expression of the identity and the specificities of the non-majority communities in Republic of Macedonia in the areas of culture, information, publishing activities and in other areas specified by the Constitution and the Law; and

- follow the implementation of the principle of equitable representation.

Article 10

(1) The Committee shall review issues that pertain to the interethnic relations in the Republic of Macedonia, shall put forth proposals and opinions on how to resolve issues facing the interethnic relations in the Republic of Macedonia and shall present the respective proposals and opinions to the Assembly.

(2) The Committee shall adopt a decision on the way of decision-making in the Assembly in the event of adoption of laws in case of dispute with regard to the implementation of the voting procedure for laws that pertain to and in particular concern the following areas:

- culture;
- use of languages;
- education;
- personal documents; and
- use of symbols.
(3) The Committee shall adopt the decision relating to the issues specified in the paragraph (2) of the present Article by the majority of votes of the total number of members.

(4) The Assembly is obligated to review the opinions and proposals put forth by the Committee of paragraph (1) of this Article and to take the relevant decision.

(5) The Assembly is obligated to exercise the voting procedure on the basis of the decision taken by the Committee with regard to the issues specified in paragraph (2) of this Article.

**Article 11**

(1) The Assembly decides with a two-thirds majority from the total number of MPs, whilst there ought to be a majority of votes provided from the total number of MPs belonging to communities that are not a majority in the Republic of Macedonia, when the Law on Local Self-Government is being adopted, amended or there is an addendum to the law.

(2) The Assembly decides with a two-thirds majority from the total number of MPs, whilst there ought to be a majority of votes provided from the total number of MPs belonging to communities that are not a majority in the Republic of Macedonia, when the Law on the Coat of Arms of the Republic of Macedonia, the Law on the Flag of the Republic of Macedonia, and the Law on the Anthem of the Republic of Macedonia are being adopted or amended or there is an addendum to these laws.


4) For all future laws that refer to the use of languages, education, personal documents, culture and the use of symbols, the Assembly shall make decisions with a majority from the total number of MPs, whilst there ought to be a majority of votes provided from the total number of MPs belonging to communities that are not a majority in the Republic of Macedonia.
number of MPs belonging to communities that are not a majority in the Republic of Macedonia. Any disputes arising from the implementation of this regulation, shall be resolved by the Committee.

**Article 12**

(1) The Committee cannot decide on the execution of the voting procedure in the Assembly regarding Laws for which there is already in place a specified way for adoption, nor it can decide about laws amending and supplementing laws for which there is already in place a specified way for adoption.

(2) The Committee has no right to decide on issues on which it has already taken a decision, or in other words it has no right to change the already taken decision, unless there are new facts relating to Article 10, paragraph 2 of this Law that were unknown at the time of taking the previous decision.

(3) The Committee shall take the decision of paragraphs (1) of this Article by the majority of votes of the total number of members.

**Article 13**

The technical and all other necessities for the Committee shall be provided for by the Technical Service at the Assembly.

**Article 14**

1) The working sessions of the Committee are public.
2) The Committee may decide to work with no presence of public, should this is recommended by the President of the Committee, a representative of the Government or at least one fourth of the members of the committee. Upon such a recommendation, the Committee shall make a decision without any discussion and with a decision of a majority of votes from the total number of members.

**IV. Transitional and Final provisions**

**Article 15**

(1) With the day of entry into force of this Law, the Committee that was appointed prior to the day of entry into force of this Law shall continue to work until the appointment of the Committee in line with this Law.

(2) In the event of the appointment of the Committee of paragraph (1) of this Article, in view of specifying the ethnicity belonging of the Member of the Parliament from a certain community, the ethnicity belonging statement that they present during the verification of their MP mandate shall be considered valid.

**Article 16**

Once this Law has entered into force, the Decision on the establishment of the Interethnic Committee ("Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia", No. 85-02) shall be annulled.

**Article 17**
This Law shall enter into force on the 8th day from the day of its publication in the "Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia".