

RESOLUTION

concerning the approval of the Concept of Cooperation between Parliament and Civil Society

The Parliament shall pass this resolution.

Art.1. – The Concept on Cooperation between the Parliament and Civil Society (enclosed) shall be approved.

Art.2. – The Parliament:

- shall ensure the implementation of the provisions of the Concept on Cooperation between the Parliament and Civil Society;

- shall ensure from 1 February 2006 place on the official web site of the Parliament draft legal acts in the procedure prescribed by law.

Art.3. – This resolution shall enter into force on the day of its publication.

SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT

MARIAN LUPU

Chişinău, 29 December 2005.
No.373-XVI.

CONCEPT

Of cooperation between the parliament and the civil society

BASING ON the fact that the Republic of Moldova has declared the European integration as its strategic direction for development of the country;

BEING AWARE OF the responsibility born by public authorities, as well as by civil society for the future of the country and its people;

CONSIDERING necessary to improve the decision- making process;

APPRECIATING the traditional role and place of civil society in the European democracies;

PROCEEDING from the need to promote the participative democracy;

PROCEEDING from the need to establish cooperation between the Parliament and civil society in the Republic of Moldova,

The Parliament shall establish the cooperation mechanism as follows.

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1. The purpose of this document shall be to establish the continuous, open and effective cooperation between the Parliament and civil society. To achieve the said goal the following objectives shall be implemented:

- a) objective assessment of challenges faced by society;
- b) to represent in the Parliament the opinions of various groups of citizens as broad as possible;
- c) to make more effective the participative democracy and the decision-making process;
- d) to encourage civic initiatives;
- e) to extend and improve the legal framework through a broad participation of voters in this process.

1.2. The cooperation under this Concept shall not replace other legal forms of cooperation between the Parliament, its working bodies and civil society organisations.

2. PRINCIPLES

The process of cooperation shall be based on the following principles:

a) Principle of Participation

The civil society organisations shall be fully engaged in the cooperation process.

c) Ad-hoc Meetings

On the initiative of the Speaker of the Parliament, Standing Bureau, standing parliamentary committees, parliamentary groups or civil society organizations may be organized ad-hoc meetings for consultations regarding concrete issues on the Parliament's agenda and other matters of national interest.

d) Public Hearings

Each standing parliamentary committee shall organize public hearings at least once a year in order to consult civil society organizations concerning the issues included in the parliamentary agenda or other matters of national interest.

e) Annual Conference

To evaluate the degree of cooperation and decide on new directions of cooperation between the Parliament and civil society organizations, the Speaker of the Parliament shall convene an Annual Conference with participation of the representatives of civil society organizations, as well as representatives of the Parliament.

3.6. The civil society representatives may be included in the working groups set up by the Parliament and its working bodies in order to draft or finalise draft legal acts.

3.7. All contributions of civil society organisations made within the cooperation process shall not be binding.

4. MINIMUM COOPERATION STANDARDS

4.1. Requirements concerning the consultation process

4.1.1. The Parliament shall submit draft legal acts, contact details and other relevant information.

4.1.2. The contributions of civil society organizations shall be submitted in a clear and concise manner and shall include:

- a) The analysis of consultations' topic;
- b) recommendations;
- c) annexes, when appropriate;
- d) a short description of the organisation and, when appropriate, a CV.

4.2. Public information

The Parliament and civil society organizations shall ensure an appropriate advertising to the consultation process by involving all available mass media.

4.3. Deadlines

4.3.1. The contributions of civil society organisations shall be taken into account provided that they are submitted within 15 working days from the date the draft legal acts are placed on the parliamentary website or on the express request of the Parliament.

4.3.2. In case of emergency or if it is obvious that the civil society organizations may express their point of view more rapidly, the 15 day term may be reduced.

4.3.3. If appropriate, the established deadline may be prolonged:

- a) under the specific character of the proposal (the diversity of concerned civil society organizations, the complexity of the topic open for consultation, etc.);
- b) if coincides with holidays, parliamentary vacations, etc.

4.3.4. At the expiry of the deadline for the receipt of contributions, the Parliament shall close the consultation process on the respective topic and shall pass to the other stages of the legislative process.

4.3.5. Civil society organisations shall be notified about the date the meetings are held:

- a) in case of ad hoc meetings – at least 10 days before;
- b) in case of annual conference – at least a month before.

4.4. Confirmation of the receipt of contributions

The receipt of contributions must be confirmed in view of enhancing the coherence and mutual confidence. According to the number of the received contributions, as well as of the possibilities, the confirmation shall have the form of an answer (by e-mail) where shall be communicated the decision on (full or partial) acceptance or non-acceptance of the contributions, with the argumentation of this decision.