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Norway's Constitution of 1814 with Amendments through 2004

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Amendments translated by Max Planck Institute

A FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND RELIGION

- Type of government envisioned

Article 1

The Kingdom of Norway is a free, independent, indivisible and inalienable Realm. Its form of government is a limited and hereditary monarchy.

Article 2

All inhabitants of the Realm shall have the right to free exercise of their religion.

- Freedom of religion
- Official religion

The Evangelical-Lutheran religion shall remain the official religion of the State. The inhabitants professing it are bound to bring up their children in the same [manner].

B. THE EXECUTIVE POWER, THE KING AND THE ROYAL FAMILY

- Name/structure of executive(s)

Article 3

The Executive Power is vested in the King, or in the Queen if she has succeeded to the Crown pursuant to the provisions of Article 6 or Article 7 or Article 48 of this Constitution. When the Executive Power is thus vested in the Queen, she has all the rights and obligations which, pursuant to this Constitution and the Law of the Land, are possessed by the King.

- Eligibility for head of state

Article 4

The King shall, at all times, profess the Evangelical-Lutheran religion, and uphold and protect the same.

- Head of state immunity

Article 5

The King's person is sacred; he cannot be censured or accused. The responsibility rests with his Council.

- Head of state selection
- Eligibility for head of state

Article 6

The order of succession is lineal, so that only a child born in lawful wedlock of the Queen or King, or of one who is herself or himself entitled to the succession may succeed, and so that the nearest line shall take precedence over the more remote and the elder in the line over the younger.

An unborn child shall also be included among those entitled to the succession and shall immediately take her or his proper place in the line of succession as soon as she or he is born into the world.

The right of succession shall not, however, belong to any person who is not born in the direct line of descent from the last reigning Queen or King or a sister or brother thereof, or is herself or himself a sister or brother thereof.

When a Princess or Prince entitled to succeed to the Crown of Norway is born, her or his name and time of birth shall be notified to the first Storting (Stortinget) in session and be entered in the record of its proceedings.

For those born before the year 1971, Article 6 of the Constitution as it was passed on November 18, 1905 shall, however, apply. For those born before the year 1990, it shall nevertheless be the case that a male shall take precedence over a female.

- Head of state selection

Article 7

If there is no Princess or Prince entitled to the succession, the King may propose his successor to the Storting, which has the right to make the choice if the King's proposal is not accepted.

- Minimum age of head of state

Article 8

The age of majority of the King shall be laid down by law.

As soon as the King has attained the age prescribed by law, he shall make a public declaration that he is of-age.

- God or other deities
- Oaths to abide by constitution

Article 9

As soon as the King, being of-age, accedes to the government, he shall take the following oath before the Storting:

"I promise and swear that I will govern the Kingdom of Norway in accordance with its Constitution and Laws; so help me God, the Almighty and Omniscent."

If the Storting is not in session at the time, the oath shall be made in writing in the Council of State and be repeated solemnly by the King at the first subsequent Storting.

Article 10

(Repealed)

Article 11

- Head of state removal

The King shall reside in the Realm and may not, without the consent of the Storting, remain outside the Realm for more than six (6) months at a time, otherwise he shall have forfeited, for his person, the right to the Crown.

The King may not accept any other crown or government without the consent of the Storting, for which two-thirds (2/3) of the votes are required.

- Eligibility for head of government
- Cabinet selection
- Establishment of cabinet/ministers
- Eligibility for cabinet
- Name/structure of executive(s)
- Minimum age of head of government
- Head of government selection

Article 12

The King himself chooses a Council from among Norwegian citizens who are entitled to vote. This Council shall consist of a Prime Minister and at least seven (7) other Members.

More than half (1/2) the number of the Members of the Council of State shall profess the official religion of the State.

The King apportions the business among the Members of the Council of State, as he deems appropriate. Under extraordinary circumstances, besides the ordinary Members of the Council of State, the King may summon other Norwegian citizens, although no Members of the Storting, to take a seat in the Council of State.

Husband and wife, parent and child or two siblings may never sit at the same time in the Council of State.

- Powers of cabinet
- Duty to obey the constitution

Article 13

During his travels within the Realm, the King may delegate the administration of the Realm to the Council of State. The Council of State shall conduct the government in the King's name and on his behalf. It shall scrupulously observe the provisions of this Constitution, as well as such particular directives in conformity therewith as the King may instruct.

The matters of business shall be decided by voting, where in the event of the votes being equal, the Prime Minister, or in his absence the highest-ranking Member of the Council of State who is present, shall have two (2) votes.

The Council of State shall make a report to the King on matters of business which it thus decides.

Article 14

The King may appoint State Secretaries to assist Members of the Council of State with their duties outside the Council of State. Each State Secretary shall act on behalf of the Member of the Council of State to whom he is attached to the extent determined by that Member.

Article 15

(Repealed)

- Head of state powers

Article 16

The King ordains all public church services and public worship, all meetings and assemblies dealing with religious matters, and ensures that public teachers of religion follow the norms prescribed for them.

- Head of state decree power

Article 17

The King may issue and repeal ordinances relating to commerce, customs tariffs, all economic sectors and the police; although these must not conflict with the Constitution or with the laws passed by the Storting (as hereinafter prescribed in Articles 77, 78 and 79). They shall remain in force provisionally until the next Storting.

- Head of state powers

Article 18

As a general rule the King shall provide for the collection of the taxes and duties imposed by the Storting.

- Head of state powers

Article 19

The King shall ensure that the properties and prerogatives of the State are utilized and administered in the manner determined by the Storting and in the best interests of the general public.

- Power to pardon

Article 20

The King shall have the right in the Council of State to pardon criminals after sentence has been passed. The criminal shall have the choice of accepting the King's pardon or submitting to the penalty imposed.

In proceedings which the Odelsting (Odelstinget) causes to be brought before the Court of Impeachment, no pardon other than deliverance from the death penalty may be

granted.

- Selection of active-duty commanders
- Head of state powers
- Oaths to abide by constitution

Article 21

The King shall choose and appoint, after consultation with his Council of State, all senior civil, ecclesiastical and military officials. Before the appointment is made, such officials shall swear or, if by law exempted from taking the oath, solemnly declare obedience and allegiance to the Constitution and the King, although senior officials who are not Norwegian nationals may by law be exempted from this duty. The Royal Princes must not hold senior civil offices.

Article 22

- Cabinet removal
- Selection of active-duty commanders
- Head of government removal

The Prime Minister and the other Members of the Council of State, together with the State Secretaries, may be dismissed by the King without any prior court judgment, after he has heard the opinion of the Council of State on the subject. The same applies to senior officials employed in government offices or in the diplomatic or consular service, to the highest-ranking civil and ecclesiastical officials, commanders of regiments and other military formations, commandants of forts and officers commanding warships. Whether pensions should be granted to senior officials thus dismissed shall be determined by the next Storting. In the interval they shall receive two-thirds (2/3) of their previous pay.

Other senior officials may only be suspended by the King, and must then without delay be charged before the Courts, but they may not, except by court judgment, be dismissed nor, against their will, transferred.

All senior officials may, without a prior court judgment, be discharged from office upon attaining the statutory age limit.

- Head of state powers

Article 23

The King may bestow orders upon whomever he pleases, as a reward for distinguished services, and such orders must be publicly announced, but no rank or title other than that attached to any office. The order exempts no one from the common duties and burdens of citizens, nor does it carry with it any preferential admission to senior official posts in the State. Senior officials honorably discharged from office retain the title and rank of their office. This does not apply, however, to Members of the Council of State or the State Secretaries.

No personal, or mixed, hereditary privileges may henceforth be granted to anyone.

Article 24

The King chooses and dismisses, at his own discretion, his Royal Household and Court Officials.

- Designation of commander in chief
- Restrictions on the armed forces

Article 25

The King is Commander-in-Chief of the land and naval forces of the Realm. These forces may not be increased or reduced without the consent of the Storting. They may not be transferred to the service of foreign powers, nor may the military forces of any foreign power, except auxiliary forces assisting against hostile attack, be brought into the Realm without the consent of the Storting.

The territorial army and the other troops which cannot be classed as troops of the line must never, without the consent of the Storting, be employed outside the borders of the Realm.

- Treaty ratification

- Foreign affairs representative
- Head of state powers
- Designation of commander in chief

Article 26

The King has the right to call up troops, to engage in hostilities in defense of the Realm and to make peace, to conclude and denounce conventions, to send and to receive diplomatic envoys.

Treaties on matters of special importance, and, in all cases, treaties whose implementation, according to the Constitution, necessitates a new law or a decision by the Storting, are not binding until the Storting has given its consent thereto.

Article 27

All Members of the Council of State shall, unless lawfully absent, attend the Council of State and no decision may be adopted there unless more than half the number of members are present.

A Member of the Council of State who does not profess the official religion of the State shall not take part in proceedings on matters which concern the State Church.

Article 28

Proposals regarding appointments to senior official posts and other matters of importance shall be presented in the Council of State by the Member under whose department they come, and such matters shall be dealt with by him in accordance with the decision adopted in the Council of State. However, matters strictly relating to military command may, to the extent determined by the King, be excepted from proceedings in the Council of State.

Article 29

If a Member of the Council of State is lawfully prevented from attending the meeting and from presenting the matters coming under his department, these may be presented by another member temporarily appointed by the King for the purpose.

If so many Members are lawfully prevented from attending that not more than half (1/2) of the stipulated number are present, the requisite number of other men or women shall be temporarily appointed to take a seat in the Council of State.

Article 30

All the proceedings of the Council of State shall be entered in its records. Diplomatic matters which the Council of State decides to keep secret shall be entered in a special record. The same applies to military command matters which the Council of State decides to keep secret.

Everyone who has a seat in the Council of State has the duty frankly to express his opinion, to which the King is bound to listen. But, it rests with the King to make a decision according to his own judgment.

- Head of government removal
- Cabinet removal

If any Member of the Council of State is of the opinion that the King's decision conflicts with the form of government or the laws of the Realm, or is clearly prejudicial to the Realm, it is his duty to make strong remonstrances against it, as well as to have his opinion entered in the records. A member who has not thus protested is deemed to have been in agreement with the King, and shall be answerable in such manner as may be subsequently decided, and may be impeached by the Odelsting before the Court of Impeachment.

Article 31

All decisions drawn up by the King shall, in order to become valid, be countersigned. The decisions relating to military command are countersigned by the person who has

presented the matter, while other decisions are countersigned by the Prime Minister or, if he has not been present, by the highest-ranking Member of the Council of State present.

Article 32

The decisions adopted by the Government during the King's absence shall be drawn up in the King's name and be signed by the Council of State.

Article 33

(Repealed)

- Mentions of social class

Article 34

The King shall make provisions concerning titles for those who are entitled to succeed to the Crown.

Article 35

As soon as the heir to the Throne has completed her or his eighteenth (18th) year, she or he is entitled to take a seat in the Council of State, although without a vote or responsibility.

Article 36

A Princess or Prince entitled to succeed to the Crown of Norway may not marry without the consent of the King. Nor may she or he accept any other crown or government without the consent of the King and the Storting; for the consent of the Storting, two-thirds (2/3) of the votes are required.

If she or he acts contrary to this rule, they and their descendants forfeit their right to the Throne of Norway.

Article 37

The Royal Princes and Princesses shall not personally be answerable to anyone other than the King, or whomever he decrees to sit in judgment on them.

Article 38

(Repealed)

- Head of state replacement

Article 39

If the King dies and the heir to the Throne is still under-age, the Council of State shall immediately summon the Storting.

- Head of state replacement

Article 40

Until the Storting has assembled and made provisions for the government during the minority of the King, the Council of State shall be responsible for the administration of the Realm in accordance with the Constitution.

Article 41

If the King is absent from the Realm unless commanding in the field, or if he is so ill that he cannot attend to the government, the person next entitled to succeed to the Throne shall, provided that he has attained the age stipulated for the King's majority, conduct the government as the temporary executor of the Royal Powers. If this is not the case, the Council of State will conduct the administration of the Realm.

Article 42

(Repealed)

- Head of state replacement

Article 43

The choice of trustees to conduct the government on behalf of the King during his minority shall be undertaken by the Storting.

- God or other deities
- Oaths to abide by constitution

Article 44

The Princess or Prince who, in the cases mentioned in Article 41, conducts the government shall make the following oath in writing before the Storting:

"I promise and swear that I will conduct the government in accordance with the Constitution and the Laws, so help me God, the Almighty and Omniscient."

If the Storting is not in session at the time, the oath shall be made in the Council of State and later be presented to the next Storting.

The Princess or Prince who has once made the oath shall not repeat it later.

Article 45

As soon as their conduct of the government ceases, the trustees shall submit to the King and the Storting an account of the same.

Article 46

If the persons concerned fail to summon the Storting immediately in accordance with Article 39, it becomes the unconditional duty of the Supreme Court, as soon as four (4) weeks have elapsed, to arrange for the Storting to be summoned.

Article 47

The supervision of the education of the King during his minority should, if both his parents are dead and neither of them has left any written directions thereon, be determined by the Storting.

- Head of state selection
- Head of state replacement

Article 48

If the Royal Line has died out, and no successor to the Throne has been designated, then a new Queen or King shall be chosen by the Storting. Meanwhile, the Executive Power shall be exercised in accordance with Article 40.

C. RIGHTS OF CITIZENS AND THE LEGISLATIVE POWER

- Structure of legislative chamber(s)

Article 49

The people exercises the Legislative Power through the Storting, which consists of two departments, the Lagting (Lagtinget) and the Odelsting (Odelstinget).

- Eligibility for second chamber
- Eligibility for first chamber
- Eligibility for cabinet
- Restrictions on voting
- Minimum age for first chamber
- Minimum age for second chamber
- Minimum age of head of government

Article 50

Entitled to vote in elections to the Storting are Norwegian citizens, men and women, who in the year when the election is held, have completed their 18th year.

The extent, however, to which Norwegian citizens, who on Election Day are resident outside the Realm but who satisfy the aforementioned conditions, are entitled to vote shall be determined by law.

Rules may be laid down by law concerning the right to vote of persons, otherwise entitled to vote, who on Election Day are manifestly suffering from a serious mental weakness or a reduced level of consciousness.

Article 51

The rules on the keeping of the poll list and on the registration in the poll list of persons entitled to vote shall be determined by law.

Article 52

(Repealed)

- Eligibility for head of government
- Restrictions on voting
- Eligibility for second chamber
- Eligibility for cabinet
- Eligibility for first chamber

Article 53

The right to vote is lost by persons:

- a. sentenced for criminal offences, in accordance with the relevant provisions laid down by law;
- b. (repealed)
- c. (repealed)
- d. (repealed)
- e. (repealed)

Article 54

The polls shall be held every fourth (4) year. They shall be concluded by the end of September.

Article 55

The polls shall be conducted in the manner prescribed by law. Disputes regarding the right to vote shall be settled by the poll officials, whose decision may be appealed to the Storting.

Article 56

(Repealed)

- First chamber selection
- Second chamber selection

Article 57

The number of representatives to be elected to the Storting shall be one hundred and sixty-nine (169).

The Realm is divided into nineteen (19) constituencies.

One hundred and fifty of the Representatives of the Storting are elected as representatives of the constituencies while the remaining nineteen representatives are elected in order to achieve a greater degree of proportionality.

Each constituency shall have one of these additional seats.

The number of representatives to the Storting to be elected in each constituency is determined on the basis of a calculation of the relation between the number of inhabitants per area of each constituency and the number of inhabitants per area of the Realm as a whole, with every inhabitant counting as one point and every square kilometer counting as 1.8. The calculations have to be updated every eighth year.

- Electoral districts

Detailed rules on the division of the Realm into constituencies and the distribution of seats in the Storting between the constituencies will be determined by law.

Article 58

The polls shall be held separately for each municipality. At the polls, votes shall be cast directly for representatives to the Storting, together with their proxies, to represent the entire constituency.

- Second chamber selection
- First chamber selection

Article 59

The election of representatives of constituencies is based on proportional representation and the seats are distributed among the political parties in accordance with the following rules.

The total number of votes cast for each party within each separate constituency is divided by 1.4, 3, 5, 7 and so on until the number of votes cast is divided as many times as the number of seats that the party in question may expect to obtain. The party which, in accordance with the foregoing, obtains the largest quotient is allotted the first seat, while the second seat is allotted to the party with the second largest quotient, and so on until all the seats are distributed.

List alliances are not permitted.

The additional [19] seats are distributed among the parties taking part in such distribution on the basis of the relation between the total numbers of votes cast for the individual parties in the entire Realm in order to achieve the highest possible degree of proportionality among the parties. The total number of seats of each party in the Storting is determined by applying the rules on the distribution of constituency seats correspondingly to the entire Realm and to the parties taking part in the distribution of the additional seats. The parties are then allotted so many additional seats that these, together with the constituency seats already allotted, correspond to the number of seats in the Storting to which the party in question is entitled in accordance with the foregoing. If, through the distribution of constituency seats, a party has already obtained a greater number of seats than that to which it is entitled in accordance with the foregoing, a new distribution of the additional seats shall be carried out exclusively among the other parties, in such a way that no account is taken of the number of votes cast for and constituency seats obtained by the said party.

- First chamber selection
- Second chamber selection

No party may be allotted an additional seat unless it has received at least four percent (4%) of the total number of votes cast in the entire Realm.

Detailed rules on the distribution of additional party seats in the constituencies will be determined by law.

Article 60

Whether and in what manner those entitled to vote may deliver their ballot papers, without personal attendance at the polls, shall be determined by law.

Article 61

No one is eligible to be a representative to the Storting who is not entitled to vote.

Article 62

Officials who are employed in government departments, State Secretaries and political advisers excepted, may not be elected as representatives to the Storting. The same applies to members of the Supreme Court and officials employed in the diplomatic or consular services.

Members of the Council of State may not attend meetings of the Storting as representatives while holding a seat in the Council of State. Nor may State Secretaries as long as they hold their appointments and political advisers in government departments as long as they occupy their position attend as representatives.

Article 63

It is the duty of anyone who is elected as a representative to accept such election, unless:

- a. He is elected outside the constituency in which he is entitled to vote.
- b. He has as a representative attended all sessions of the Storting following the previous election.
- c. (repealed)
- d. He is a member of a political party and he is elected on a list of candidates which has not been issued by that party.

Rules concerning the date by and the manner in which those entitled to do so shall refuse the election will be determined by law.

It shall similarly be prescribed by law by what date and in which manner anyone who is elected as representative for two (2) or more constituencies shall state which election he will accept.

Article 64

The representatives elected shall be furnished with credentials, the validity of which shall be adjudged by the Storting.

Article 65

Every representative and proxy called to the Storting shall be entitled to receive from the Treasury such reimbursement as is prescribed by law for traveling expenses to and from the Storting, and from the Storting to his home and back again during vacations lasting at least fourteen (14) days.

- Eligibility for first chamber
- Minimum age for second chamber
- Eligibility for second chamber
- Minimum age for first chamber

- Outside professions of legislators

- Eligibility for first chamber
- Eligibility for second chamber

- Eligibility for cabinet

- Compensation of legislators

He shall further be entitled to remuneration, likewise prescribed by law, for attending the Storting.

- Immunity of legislators

Article 66

Representatives on their way to and from the Storting, as well as during their attendance there, shall be exempt from personal arrest, unless they are apprehended in public crimes, nor may they be called to account outside the meetings of the Storting for opinions expressed there. Every representative shall be bound to conform to the rules of procedure therein adopted.

Article 67

The representatives elected in the aforesaid manner shall constitute the Storting of the Kingdom of Norway.

Article 68

The Storting shall as a rule assemble on the first weekday in October every year in the capital of the Realm, unless the King, by reason of extraordinary circumstances, such as hostile invasion or infectious disease, designates another town in the Realm for the purpose. Such a decision must be publicly announced in good time.

- Extraordinary legislative sessions

Article 69

When the Storting is not assembled, it may be summoned by the King if he finds it necessary.

Article 70

(Repealed)

- Term length of second chamber
- Term length for first chamber

Article 71

The members of the Storting function as such for four (4) successive years.

Article 72

(Repealed)

- First chamber selection
- Leader of second chamber
- Second chamber selection
- Leader of first chamber
- Size of first chamber
- Structure of legislative chamber(s)
- Size of second chamber
- Quorum for legislative sessions
- Joint meetings of legislative chambers

Article 73

The Storting nominates from among its members one-fourth (1/4) to constitute the Lagting, the remaining three-fourths (3/4) to constitute the Odelsting. This nomination shall take place at the first session of the Storting that assembles after a new General Election, whereafter the Lagting shall remain unchanged at all sessions of the Storting assembled after the same election, except insofar as any vacancy which may occur among its members has to be filled by special nomination.

Each Ting holds its meetings separately and nominates its own President and Secretary. Neither Ting may hold a meeting unless at least half (1/2) of its Members are present. However, Bills concerning amendments to the Constitution may not be dealt with unless at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Members of the Storting are present.

Article 74

- Legislative oversight of the executive

As soon as the Storting is constituted, the King, or whoever he appoints for the purpose, shall open its proceedings with a Speech, in which he shall inform it of the state of the Realm and of the issues to which he particularly desires to call the attention of the Storting. No deliberations may take place in the presence of the King.

When the proceedings of the Storting have been opened, the Prime Minister and the Members of the Council of State have the right to attend the Storting—as well as both departments of the Storting—and, like its Members, although without voting, to take part in any proceedings conducted in open session, while in matters discussed in closed session only insofar as permitted by the Ting concerned.

Article 75

It devolves upon the Storting:

- Legislative oversight of the executive
- Treaty ratification
- Legislative oversight of the executive

- a. to enact and repeal laws; to impose taxes, dues, customs and other public charges, which shall not, however, remain operative beyond December 31st of the succeeding year, unless they are expressly renewed by a new Storting;
- b. to raise loans in the name of the Realm;
- c. to supervise the monetary affairs of the Realm;
- d. to appropriate the moneys necessary to meet government expenditure;
- e. to decide how much shall be paid annually to the King for the Royal Household, and to determine the Royal Family's appanage which may not, however, consist of real property;
- f. to have submitted to it the records of the Council of State, and all public reports and documents;
- g. to have communicated to it the conventions and treaties which the King, on behalf of the State, has concluded with foreign powers;
- h. to have the right to require anyone, the King and the Royal Family excepted, to appear before it on matters of State; the exception does not, however, apply to the Royal Princes if they hold any public office;
- i. to review the provisional lists of salaries and pensions and to make therein such alterations as it deems necessary;
- j. (repealed)
- k. to appoint five (5) auditors, who shall annually examine the State Accounts and publish extracts of the same in print, for which purpose the Accounts shall be submitted to the auditors within six (6) months of the end of the year for which the appropriations of the Storting have been made, and to adopt provisions concerning the procedure for authorizing the accounts of government accounting officials;
- l. to appoint a person, not a member of the Storting, in a manner prescribed by law, to supervise the public administration and all who work in its service, to assure that no injustice is done against the individual citizen;
- m. to naturalize aliens.

- Requirements for naturalization
- Initiation of general legislation
- Joint meetings of legislative chambers
- Division of labor between chambers

Article 76

Every Bill shall first be proposed in the Odelsting, either by one of its own Members, or by the government through a Member of the Council of State.

If the Bill is passed, it is sent to the Lagting, which either approves or rejects it, and in the latter case returns it with appended comments. These are taken into consideration by the Odelsting, which either shelves the bill or again sends it to the Lagting, with or without alteration.

When a Bill from the Odelsting has twice been presented to the Lagting and has been returned a second time as rejected, the Storting shall meet in plenary session, and the bill is then decided by a majority of two-thirds (2/3) of its votes.

Between each such deliberation there shall be an interval of at least three (3) days.

- Approval or veto of general legislation

Article 77

When a Bill passed by the Odelsting has been approved by the Lagting or by the Storting in plenary session, it is sent to the King, with a request that it may receive the Royal Assent.

- Approval or veto of general legislation

Article 78

If the King assents to the Bill, he appends his signature, whereby it becomes law.

If he does not assent to it, he returns it to the Odelsting with a statement that he does not for the time being find it expedient to sanction it. In that case the Bill must not again be submitted to the King by the Storting then assembled.

- Veto override procedure

Article 79

If a Bill has been passed unaltered by two (2) sessions of the Storting, constituted after two (2) separate successive elections and separated from each other by at least two (2) intervening sessions of the Storting, without a divergent Bill having been passed by any Storting in the period between the first and last adoption, and it is then submitted to the King with a petition that His Majesty shall not refuse his assent to a Bill which, after the most mature deliberation, the Storting considers to be beneficial, it shall become law even if the Royal Assent is not accorded before the Storting goes into recess.

Article 80

- Length of legislative sessions

The Storting shall remain in session as long as it deems it necessary and shall terminate its proceedings when it has concluded its business.

In accordance with the rules of procedure adopted by the Storting, the proceedings may be resumed, but they shall terminate not later than the last Sunday in the month of September.

- Approval or veto of general legislation

Within this time the King shall communicate his decision with regard to the Bills that have not already been decided (cf., Articles 77 to 79), by either confirming or rejecting them. All those which he does not expressly accept are deemed to have been rejected by him.

Article 81

All Acts (with the exception of those mentioned in Article 79) are drawn up in the name of the King, under the seal of the Realm of Norway, and in the following terms;

“We, X, make it publicly known: that the decision of the Storting of the date stated has been laid before Us: (here follows the decision). In consequence whereof We have assented to and confirmed, as We hereby do assent to and confirm the same as Law under Our Hand and the Seal of the Realm.”

Article 82

(Repealed)

Article 83

The Storting may obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court on points of law.

- Public or private sessions
- Publication of deliberations

Article 84

The Storting shall meet in open session, and its proceedings shall be published in print, except in those cases where a majority decides to the contrary.

Article 85

Any person who obeys an order, the purpose of which is to disturb the liberty and security of the Storting, is thereby guilty of treason against the Country.

D. THE JUDICIAL POWER

- Courts for judging public officials

Article 86

- Cabinet removal
- Supreme/ordinary court judge removal
- Head of government removal
- Removal of individual legislators

The Court of Impeachment pronounces judgment in the first and last instance in such proceedings as are brought by the Odelsting against Members of the Council of State, or of the Supreme Court or of the Storting, for criminal offenses which they may have committed in their official capacity.

The specific rules concerning indictment by the Odelsting in accordance with this Article shall be determined by law. However, the limitation period for the institution of indictment proceedings before the Court of Impeachment may not be set at less than fifteen (15) years.

The permanent Members of the Lagting and the permanently appointed Members of the Supreme Court are judges of the Court of Impeachment. The provisions contained in Article 87 shall apply to the composition of the Court of Impeachment in the particular case. In the Court of Impeachment, the President of the Lagting shall preside.

Any person sitting in the Court of Impeachment as a Member of the Lagting shall not resign from the Court if the period for which he is elected as a representative to the Storting expires before the Court of Impeachment has concluded the trial of the case. If he ceases, for any other reason, to be a Member of the Storting, he shall resign as a judge of the Court of Impeachment. The same applies if a Justice of the Supreme Court, who is a Member of the Court of Impeachment, retires as a Member of the Supreme Court.

Article 87

The accused and the person acting on behalf of the Odelsting in the proceedings have the right to challenge as many Members of the Lagting and of the Supreme Court as will leave remaining fourteen (14) Members of the Lagting and seven (7) Members of the Supreme Court as judges in the Court of Impeachment. Each party in the proceedings may challenge an equal number of the Members of the Lagting, although the accused has the preferential right to challenge one (1) more, if the number to be challenged is not divisible by two (2). The same shall apply to the challenging of the Members of the Supreme Court. If there are several accused in such proceedings, they exercise the right of challenge collectively in accordance with rules prescribed by law. If the right of challenge is not exercised to the extent permitted, as many Members of the Lagting and

of the Supreme Court as are in excess of fourteen (14) and seven (7) respectively retire following the drawing of lots.

When the case comes up for judgment, as many judges of the Court of Impeachment shall retire following the drawing of lots leaving the Court due to render judgment with fifteen (15) Members, of whom at most ten (10) are Members of the Lagting and five (5) Justices of the Supreme Court.

The President of the Court of Impeachment and the President of the Supreme Court shall in no case retire following the drawing of lots.

If the Court of Impeachment cannot be composed of as many Members of the Lagting or of the Supreme Court as prescribed above, the case may nevertheless be tried and judgment rendered, provided that the Court numbers at least ten (10) judges.

Specific provisions as to the procedure to be followed in the composition of the Court of Impeachment shall be laid down by law.

- Structure of the courts

Article 88

The Supreme Court (Høyesteretts) pronounces judgment in the final instance. Nevertheless, limitations on the right to bring a case before the Supreme Court may be prescribed by law.

The Supreme Court shall consist of a President and at least four (4) other Members.

Article 89

(Repealed)

Article 90

The judgments of the Supreme Court may in no case be appealed.

- Eligibility for supreme court judges

Article 91

No one may be appointed a member of the Supreme Court before reaching thirty (30) years of age.

E. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 92

Senior official posts in the State may be filled by appointment of only Norwegian citizens, men or women, who speak the language of the Country, and who at the same time:

- a. either were born in the Realm of parents who were then subjects of the State;
- b. or were born in a foreign country of Norwegian parents who were not at that time subjects of another State;
- c. or hereafter have resided for ten (10) years in the Realm;
- d. or have been naturalized by the Storting.

Others may, however, be appointed as teachers at the university and institutions of higher learning, as medical practitioners and as consuls in places abroad.

- International law
- International organizations

Article 93

In order to safeguard international peace and security or to promote the international rule of law and cooperation between nations, the Storting may, by a three-fourths (3/4) majority, consent that an international organization to which Norway adheres or will adhere shall have the right, within objectively defined fields, to exercise powers which in accordance with this Constitution are normally vested in the Norwegian authorities, although not the power to alter this Constitution. For the Storting to grant such consent, at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Members of the Storting shall be present, as required for proceedings for amending the Constitution.

The provisions of this Article do not apply in cases of membership in an international organization, whose decisions only have application for Norway purely under international law.

Article 94

- Transitional provisions

The first, or if this is not possible, the second ordinary Storting, shall make provision for the publication of a new general civil and criminal code. However, the currently applicable laws of the State shall remain in force, provided they do not conflict with this Constitution or with such provisional ordinances as may be issued in the meantime.

The existing permanent taxes shall likewise remain operative until the next Storting.

Article 95

No dispensations, protection from civil arrest, moratoriums or redresses may be granted after the new general code has entered into force.

- Principle of no punishment without law
- Prohibition of torture

Article 96

No one may be convicted except according to law, or be punished except after a court judgment. Interrogation by torture must not take place.

- Protection from ex post facto laws

Article 97

No law must be given retroactive effect.

Article 98

When special fees are paid to officials of the Courts of Justice, no further payment shall be made to the Treasury in respect of the same matter.

Article 99

- Protection from false imprisonment
- Protection from unjustified restraint

No one may be taken into custody except in the cases determined by law and in the manner prescribed by law. For unwarranted arrest, or illegal detention, the officer concerned is accountable to the person imprisoned.

- Restrictions on the armed forces

The Government is not entitled to employ military force against citizens of the State, except in accordance with the forms prescribed by law, unless any assembly disturbs the public peace and does not immediately disperse after the Articles of the Statute Book relating to riots have been read out clearly three (3) times by the civil authority.

Article 100

- Freedom of expression

There shall be freedom of expression.

- Freedom of opinion/thought/conscience
- Freedom of expression
- Freedom of press

Nobody can be held legally responsible on a basis other than a contract or other private law title for imparting or receiving information, ideas or messages unless such liability can be justified with regard to the reasons behind freedom of expression, namely the search for truth, the promotion of democracy and the individual's freedom to form his or her own opinions. Such legal responsibility must be prescribed by law.

- Freedom of expression

Everybody shall be free to speak his mind frankly on the administration of the State and on any other subject whatsoever. The law may only establish such clearly defined limitations to this right as compelling reasons with regard to the reasons behind the freedom of expression show to be necessary.

- Freedom of press

Censorship prior to publication and other preventive measures may not be used unless they are necessary in order to protect children and the youth against the harmful impact of motion pictures. Censorship of letters may only be implemented in public institutions.

- Right to information
- Right to public trial

Everybody has a right of access to the documents of the State and of the municipalities and to be present at sittings of the courts and of popularly-elected administrative bodies.

- Right to information
- Right to public trial

The law may establish limits to this right out of consideration for the protection of privacy or for other compelling reasons.

It is the responsibility of the State authorities to create conditions enabling an open and enlightened public debate.

- Right to protect one's reputation

No person may be punished for any writing, whatever its contents, which he has caused to be printed or published, unless he willfully and manifestly has either himself shown or incited others to disobedience to the laws, contempt of religion, morality or the constitutional powers, or resistance to their orders, or has made false and defamatory accusations against anyone.

- Right to competitive marketplace

Article 101

New and permanent privileges implying restrictions on the freedom of trade and industry must not in [the] future be granted to anyone.

- Right to privacy
- Regulation of evidence collection

Article 102

Search of private homes shall not be done except in criminal cases.

- Rights of debtors

Article 103

Asylum for the protection of debtors shall not be granted to such persons as hereafter become bankrupt.

Article 104

Land and goods may in no case be made subject to forfeiture.

- Protection from expropriation

Article 105

If the welfare of the State requires that any person shall surrender his movable or immovable property for the public use, he shall receive full compensation from the Treasury.

Article 106

The purchase money, as well as the revenues of the landed property constituting ecclesiastical benefices, shall be applied solely to the benefit of the clergy and to the promotion of education. The property of charitable institutions shall be applied solely to the benefit of the institutions themselves.

Article 107

- Transitional provisions

Allodial right and the right of primogeniture shall not be abolished. The specific conditions under which these rights shall continue for the greatest benefit of the State and to the best advantage of the rural population shall be determined by the first or second subsequent Storting.

Article 108

- Mentions of social class

No earldoms, baronies, entailed estates or fidei-commissa may be created in the future.

Article 109

- Duty to serve in the military

As a general rule, every citizen of the State is equally bound to serve in the defense of the Country for a specific period, irrespective of birth or fortune.

The application of this principle, and the restrictions to which it shall be subject, shall be determined by law.

Article 110

- Right to work

It is the responsibility of the authorities of the State to create conditions enabling every person capable of work to earn a living by his work.

Specific provisions concerning the right of employees to co-determination at their work place shall be laid down by law.

Article 110 a

- Right to culture
- Protection of language use

It is the responsibility of the authorities of the State to create conditions enabling the Sami people to preserve and develop its language, culture and way of life.

Article 110 b

- Protection of environment

Every person has a right to an environment that is conducive to health and to natural surroundings whose productivity and diversity are preserved. Natural resources should be made use of on the basis of comprehensive long-term considerations whereby this right will be safeguarded for future generations as well.

In order to safeguard their right in accordance with the foregoing paragraph, citizens are entitled to be informed of the state of the natural environment and of the effects of any encroachments on nature that are planned or commenced.

The State authorities shall issue further provisions for the implementation of these principles.

Article 110 c

- International law

It is the responsibility of the authorities of the State to respect and ensure human rights. Specific provisions for the implementation of treaties hereof shall be determined by law.

Article 111

- National flag

The form and colors of the Norwegian Flag shall be determined by law.

- Constitution amendment procedure

Article 112

- Unamendable provisions

If experience shows that any part of this Constitution of the Kingdom of Norway should be amended, the proposal to this effect shall be submitted to the first, second or third Storting after a new General Election and be publicly announced in print. But, it shall be left to the first, second or third Storting after the following General Election to decide whether or not the proposed amendment shall be adopted. Such amendment must never, however, contradict the principles embodied in this Constitution, but solely relate to modifications of particular provisions which do not alter the spirit of the Constitution, and such amendment requires that two-thirds (2/3) of the Storting agree thereto.

An amendment to the Constitution adopted in the manner aforesaid shall be signed by the President and the Secretary of the Storting, and shall be sent to the King for public announcement in print, as an applicable provision of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Norway.

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