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HCC

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AGENDA ITEM

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HANDBOOK

Overarching Diplomacy

Table of Content

1. ROLES & CHARACTERS	2
1.1. Deputies	2
1.2. Cabinet	2
1.3. Party Leaders	4
1.4. Bureau	5
1.5. King of Italy	5
2. FLOW OF THE DEBATE	6
2.1. Roll Call	6
2.2. Opening Speeches	6
2.3. General Debate	6
2.4. Caucuses	8
2.5. Motions	9
2.6. Process of the Bills	12
2.7. Points	13
2.8. Directives	14
2.9. Manners Within the Chamber	15

MUNAAL'25

Handbook of the Chamber of Deputies

1. ROLES & CHARACTERS

1.1. Deputies

Deputies are the members of the Chamber of Deputies of the Kingdom of Italy who were elected representatives of the people of Italy and were elected directly by them in order to create and vote on laws and legislations.

Deputies belong to a political party within the Chamber. They are obligated to represent both their and their party's desires and ideas.

The Chamber will host 31 deputies, excluding the chairboard (Bureau) and including the 8 members of the Cabinet. All deputies except the Cabinet can only write one directive per session.

1.2. Cabinet

The Cabinet refers to the government's ministers. The ministers of the government are as follows; Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of the Interior, Minister of War, Minister of Finance, Minister of Justice, Minister of the Navy, and lastly, Minister of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce. To clear any confusion, ministers are also deputies. They are members of the Chamber, they represent the Italian people, they legislate, and additionally, they are chosen by the Prime Minister to be the minister of preferred ministry by the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister is the head of the government, who is also obligated to form a government by inducting other deputies into ministerial offices of his preference.

If the Prime Minister wants to form a government, he will first need to obtain permission from the King of Italy and make a formal request to whom he wishes to induct into office. With the approval of the king, the new government shall be put into a vote of confidence.

If the Prime Minister sees the need to do so, he can propose the replacement or only a dismissal of a minister by asking the King of Italy. However, a replacement in the government does not require a vote of confidence, unless the majority of the chamber requests a vote of confidence. The request can be made by a deputy immediately rising up and stating that they request it.

The people of Italy elect the Prime Minister at the time. However, the Prime Minister can be removed from his office or be replaced if the King of Italy wishes to do so. He can also be removed or be replaced by the motion of no confidence with another government of the king's choice.

The remaining ministers have other branches to work on, provide certain duties, and serve the public flawlessly.

A former minister of the Cabinet shall continue their duty in the Chamber of Deputies as a deputy.

Lastly, an additional privilege of the government is to be able to get recognized as the first speaker and will be entertained first in the General Debates and caucuses no matter the list of speakers. The members of the Cabinet do not have any limitations on how many directives they can write.

1.3. Party Leaders

Each political party has its own leaders, and the leader is accountable for every action taken by their party members. Leaders are party whips, they need to set a course both visually and physically and lead their members on that course. Their existence and statements are crucial since they represent hundreds of thousands or millions of people's ideologies, policies, and political views. If the party members believe that their leader is incompetent, leading them the wrong way, or has another valid reason to believe that their leader should not be their leader anymore, the members could call for a party leadership change, which can be demanded via message paper sent to the chairboard, stating their reasons, and only a main submitter, to call a vote that can be only voted by its party members. The party leadership change shall be voted upon when the chairboard sees fit and requires a simple majority to pass. If the voting fails, obviously the party leader will hold their position, however, if it passes, there will not be a party leader until the party decides it within a session. Party members can nominate themselves as a potential party leader via message paper to the chairboard. The candidate(s) shall be put into a vote. If there are multiple candidates, the members shall not vote for more than one candidate, and the highest vote receiver shall be the new party leader. Party leaders are also obligated to be the main submitter of a party directive.

1.4. Bureau

The Bureau refers to the chairboard of the Chamber of Deputies. The Bureau includes the President (of the Bureau), the Vice-President, and a Secretary. The Bureau is responsible for conducting, administrating, and overseeing procedural aspects of sessions within the chamber.

The Bureau has the authority to alter the parliamentary procedure and the flow of the debate temporarily. They can also overrule or rephrase a motion, and dismiss bills that are not appropriate for the chamber, and its authority. The time to open the floor depends on them.

The Secretary will be conducting the roll calls, and the Vice-President will conduct the process of the bills. In their absence, the Secretary must read the bills and amendments.

1.5. King of Italy

The King of Italy is the ruler and monarch of the Kingdom of Italy, and lastly, is the head of the state. As the king and head of the state, he has significant rights and powers, but they are not absolute.

The king shares powers with the Parliament and the Prime Minister. They limit the powers of the king (e.g. right to veto).

The Statuto Albertino (constitution of the Kingdom of Italy) limits the king's right to veto, and lawmaking, and requires that many of his decisions be taken with the advice of the government.

As aforementioned, he could replace, or induct governmental positions with a request or with his

free will.

The first session of the chamber shall be inaugurated with the king, who will give a short speech, and then permit the Bureau to commence.

2. FLOW OF THE DEBATE

2.1. Roll Call

Roll Call is the process of stating presence in the Chamber. Names of all deputies shall be called in alphabetical order by the Secretary. Deputies in the Chamber shall state their presence by saying “present”.

A quorum will be met when the Prime Minister, the majority of the Cabinet, and the majority of the remaining deputies are present. Without a quorum, the session can not begin.

2.2. Opening Speeches

At the very beginning of the first session, the deputies may give opening speeches and are not obligated with it, which means they can skip their turn. Opening speeches’ time limit is a minute and 30 seconds.

2.3. General Debate

After the opening speeches, the Chamber shall move on with the General Debate. And if it is not the first session (which if it is, as aforementioned, the Chamber shall first start with the opening speeches) the Chamber starts all the remaining sessions with the General Debate.

In the General Debate, deputies will be speaking on any matter they wish to speak upon. The list of the General Debate is taken by the Bureau. Firstly, the Bureau will ask if there are any deputies who wish to speak on the General Debate. If there are any, the deputies shall raise their placards. The Bureau will prepare the list of speakers, and call them one by one to give their speech on the floor. **Please note that firstly the Prime Minister, then the cabinet has priority on any queue.** The time limit for the General Debate is 2 minutes. When a member of the Chamber concludes their speech, the Bureau will ask how they would like to use their remaining time (if there is any). The member can only answer this in three ways;

Yielding to the Bureau.

Yielding to another deputy.

Opening themselves to any and all questions/yes or no questions.

Yielding to the chairboard and yielding to another deputy speaks for itself.

However, when a deputy opens themselves for a question, the Bureau will announce to the Chamber that the deputy has opened themselves for a question, and will expect questions from the Chamber. The chairboard will recognize the deputies who wish to ask a question one by one. The deputy can still refuse to answer a question, but that may have consequences and is frowned upon.

A yielding can not be yielded again, and if that's the case, the deputy must yield their remaining time to the chairboard. The same goes for if the deputy has no time left. When speaking time is

up, the President, having twice warned the speaker to conclude, shall withdraw his or her right to speak. The President may, by his or her unchallengeable judgment, withdraw the right to speak of any speaker, which applies to caucuses as well.

A deputy can request to switch their turns with another deputy via the message paper. Only either one of them requesting this is enough. If the Chamber is in the General Debate (if not, the following will be demonstrated while on the General Debate) when the message paper reaches the Bureau, they will ask the other deputy if they have consent to switching turns with the requester of it. The deputies can discuss switching turns whenever they would like if they are not breaking the flow of the debate.

Lastly, the General Debate can be left behind to move on with caucuses. The list will not change, and deputies can request to add them to the list when the chairboard asks if there are any, or they can ask for it via the message paper.

2.4. Caucuses

The caucuses are types of debates where deputies will be talking on more specific matters, by naming the topic of the debate. No one may speak without the permission of the President. Every deputy must not talk about any matter other than the topic of it. There are two caucus types in the Chamber:

Semi-Moderated Caucus

Unmoderated Caucus

Deputies will be speaking by taking turns in semi-moderated caucuses. Similar to the General Debate, there will be a list, and the ministers have priority on recognition. There will be no time limits for individual speaking time on it, but there will be a total time limit, which can be proposed to a maximum of 30 minutes. The deputies shall rise from their seats when making a speech.

In unmoderated caucuses, do not expect recognition from the chairboard, nor expect a list to take turns. Deputies can walk around the chamber, and talk directly between themselves. The total time limit can be proposed up to 20 minutes.

2.5. Motions

Motions are used for the committee's procedural flow, and further the debate. Caucuses, meetings, terminations, etc. are initiated with motions. Motions can be raised when the chairboard says "*The floor is open for any kind of motion.*". It can be raised by raising placards, and waiting for the chairboard to recognize you. When they do, the deputy has to rise, and state the phrase "*I would like to raise a motion for a (motion type)*". They shall state the amount of time if the motion requires a time allocation. (e.g. "I would like to raise a motion for a semi-moderated/an unmoderated caucus for 20 minutes, in order to discuss upon (the topic of the motion).") A motion for a semi-moderated/unmoderated caucus requires a simple majority to pass.

Deputies can also extend the previous caucus by raising a motion to do so which will require a

simple majority to pass.

A motion to terminate the current caucus is to dismiss the continuing motion. It is in order if no deputies are continuing their speech. If the Bureau sees fit, the motion to terminate shall be taken into a vote and requires a majority to pass. If the motion fails, the caucus must continue. If not, the caucus is terminated, and the Chamber will proceed at the discretion of the chairboard.

A motion to move on with the bill process is in order when there is at least one bill. A simple majority is needed for the motion to pass. If it passes, the bill process starts.

Motion for a party meeting can be given when the floor is open and requires a simple majority to pass as well. When the motion passes, the parties can talk privately within themselves, and only the party to which the delegate proposed the motion belongs can be granted a meeting. Party meetings are 5 minutes, and deputies can not alter them. For the time being, the Chamber can not move on with a voting procedure.

Motion for a cabinet meeting shall be submitted by the Prime Minister with a message paper to the Bureau. The President will grant them their meeting when he or she sees it appropriate. It does not require a majority and will be passed directly. The cabinet meeting is 5 minutes. As explained likewise in the party meeting, the Chamber can not move on with a voting procedure as well.

Motion for a no confidence is used to remove the cabinet from their positions, believing that they

are not exercising their duties as ministers. This motion shall be submitted by the message paper and has to be sponsored by 5 other deputies, stating their reasons why the cabinet is insufficient. All 6 deputies shall sign it. The main submitter of the motion must send the paper to the Bureau. The Bureau shall read the paper when they see fit. Then, firstly the main submitter for their in favor speech and then the Prime Minister for their against speech is invited to the floor. Speeches must not pass a minute and 30 seconds. Lastly, the Bureau shall ask the Chamber the following phrase; *“Deputies who have confidence in the government please raise your placards.”*

“Deputies who have no confidence in the government please raise your placards.”

If the motion passes, the king shall appoint another deputy as the new Prime Minister, and the Prime Minister shall appoint other deputies as ministers and shall send the list to the king and wait for his approval. If the motion does not pass, the debate shall continue and ministers will continue their duties.

If a deputy wishes to have a roll call voting for a specific voting, the deputy shall rise from their seat right before that voting which he wants to replace with a roll call voting. The deputy shall rise and state that they want to change the voting to a roll call voting. The Bureau shall ask the chamber if the deputies want to change the voting type with a roll call voting by taking a placard vote. It requires the $\frac{2}{3}$ of the majority to pass. If it does pass, the voting shall be conducted with a roll call voting. If it does not pass, the voting process must go on as it was supposed to be.

At the end of a session, deputies shall raise a motion to suspend the session within the Chamber. And if it is the last session, deputies shall raise a motion to adjourn the Chamber.

2.6. Process of the Bills

The process of the bills starts with the acceptance of a motion to move on with the bills. **Please note that you can find a template and a sample of both bills and amendments in the provided handbook.** Additionally, separate deputies who have submitted separate bills and amendments are sorted, and placed in an order where the first submitted document is the first one in line.

Firstly, the Bureau will check if there are any bills from the Senate of the Kingdom of Italy. If so, the Vice-President will read the bill out loud, wait for a minute to allow deputies more time to finish and submit their amendments -in a written form-, and ask if there are any amendments to it. If there is, the Vice-President shall read out the deputy's amendment. Then, the Bureau must call the submitter of the amendment to the floor to give his speech. After their speech, the amendment shall be put into a vote. If the amendment passes, it shall be applied to the original version of the bill. More amendments are in order for a bill, unless it is an amendment for an article that was amended previously. The amendment process continues when there is none left. The final version of the bill from the Kingdom of Italy shall be put into a vote as a whole. It requires a simple majority to pass.

If the amended version of the bill passes, the bill must be sent back to the Senate of the Kingdom of Italy. They may or may not make changes to the bill, eventually, the bill will come back to the Chamber later on.

If there were no amendments to the bill -the original version- and it passed from the Chamber of

Deputies, the bill must be sent to the King of Italy for his Royal Assent on the Bill. The King may refuse or approve the bill. If it is refused, the bill serves no more. If it is approved, the bill becomes legislation.

If there are no bills from the Senate, this part will be automatically skipped.

With the bills from the Senate part over, the Chamber's bills start. Similar to the Senate's bills, the Vice-President will start to read out the bills one by one. They will call the submitter of the bill to the floor to explain his or her bill. Then, the Bureau will expect written amendments within a minute. If there are amendments, the Vice-President will read the amendments one by one. Then call the submitter of the amendment to the floor to give a speech. The Bureau must entertain one in favor and one against speech for the amendment. When they conclude as well, firstly the Chamber will vote upon the amendment, then the final version of the bill. If there are no amendments the original version shall be voted upon directly. When the bills from the Chamber of Deputies pass, they will be sent to the Senate of the Kingdom of Italy. The Senate may amend and send it back to the Chamber. If there are no amendments from the Senate, the bill will be directly sent to the king for his Royal Assent.

Bills require a main submitter alongside 3 members of parliament.

2.7. Points

Points shall be applied as they are on the Rules of Procedure of MUNAAL'25. No other points are in order in the chamber.

2.8. Directives

Directives are handwritten documents to affect and influence a certain event/person via the writer's contacts. There is no format for writing a directive, however, deputies shall keep in mind that they may want to answer WH questions. The outcome of directives shall be concluded by the Secretariat in consultation with the Crisis Team. There are four types of documents:

Personal (Individual) Directives

Joint Directives

Ministerial Directives

Party Directives

Personal directives are written by one person, and the action shall be taken regarding their authority and their contacts. A list consisting of deputies' contacts will be provided.

Joint directives are the same as personal directives, however, they can be written by multiple deputies. The action shall be taken regarding both their authority and contacts.

Ministerial directives can only be written by the ministers, to their ministries/offices. Ministers can handle situations regarding the public with ministerial directives.

Party directives can only be written by the party leader, and has to be signed by a majority of the party. The party leader can also consult with their members on writing this type of directive.

All directives can be repealed and ripped apart by the Secretariat if they see fit.

2.9. Manners Within the Chamber

Deputies are free to desk-thump, which means that they can knock and thump on the desk to express their support. They can also applaud lightly and maturely. Trash-talking, taunting, and making a sarcastic comment on the Bureau and a deputy are allowed.

Additionally, there is no specific law in the Constitution to rise when the king enters the parliament, however, it is expected for the deputies to rise as a gesture of respect when the king enters the chamber or addresses Parliament. Deputies rising to welcome the king is a ceremonial acknowledgment of his authority and position.