



COUNTRY REPORT: GREECE

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I. How has parliamentary law-making practice changed during the pandemic in the state you are studying?

- **Briefly describe the new practices.**
- **Evaluate these practices. In your opinion, do these practices empower, disempower or not change anything regarding parliamentary law-making powers and practice?**

The contextual factors of Greek parliamentary legislative activity during the pandemic that must be considered are a) the revision of the constitution and the resulting b) modification of standing orders of the Hellenic Parliament.

The revision of the constitution took place, according to the provisions in two parliamentary terms: during the 17th term of the presiding parliamentary republic, the 4th session (1 Oct 2018 – 11 Jun 2019) as proposing parliament; and during the 18th term of the presiding parliamentary republic, the 1st session (17 July 2019 – 02 Oct 2020) as reviewing parliament. Between these terms, the legislative election of 7 July 2019 resulted in a change of government and the parliamentary majority. For the first time in the 3rd Hellenic Republic, the two parts of the process developed under two different majorities with different political/ideological orientations².

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² Venizelos, E. (2020, March 4). *What is the significance of the 2019 revision?* Speech at the meeting organized by the Athens Bar Association on Legal issues and political dimension of the constitutional review of 2019 <https://www.evenizelos.gr/mme/articlesinthepress/435-articles2020/6276-2019.html>

The revision referred, inter alia, to the election of the President of the Republic (disconnection from the need of anticipated legislative elections), to the adoption of a guaranteed minimum income, the right of the opposition to form committees of inquiry, the limitation of the parliamentary and ministerial immunity, the operation of independent authorities, the voting rights of expatriates, the introduction of citizens' rights for legislative initiatives, etc. The process concluded with the resolution of the 9th reviewing parliament, on the 25 November 2019 and its publication in the Official Gazette³.

In 2019, modifications to the standing orders of parliament (SOP) took place during both the 17th and the 18th terms. While the modifications of the first semester of the year (SYRIZA–ANEL government) referred to the term of office of the Presidency of the Parliament and the Committee of European Affairs, the first modifications of the second semester (ND government) were connected to the shift of the parliamentary balance and to the first legislative provisions of the new government, more specifically, to the Law 4622/2019 on the “executive state”⁴, an emblematic legislative initiative by the new government.

Among them, modification of Art.13, par.1 of the SOP (September 4 2019)⁵ was of special interest: the number of members of the conference of presidents increased to include the chair of the committee of parliament's library, a decision based on the need to reflect the governmental majority and aiming to facilitate decision-making by the conference⁶.

A unanimous decision by the conference of the presidents, announced on the 12 March 2020⁷, adapted parliamentary procedures drastically to the emergency situation of the pandemic by limiting access, staff and participation in the sessions. Nonetheless, parliament continued its activities. This was a day after the publication of the second

³ Greece. Official Gazette. (2019) ΦΕΚ 187/Α/28.11.2019 and ΦΕΚ 211/Α/24-12-2019.

⁴ See the discourse of the Rapporteur of the majority, Zoe Rapti, during the debate in the plenary session of the 4th September (ΙΗ' ΠΕΡΙΟΔΟΣ, ΣΥΝΟΔΟΣ Α', ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΑΣΗ ΙΕ') [es20190904_Layout_1 \(hellenicparliament.gr\)](https://www.hellenicparliament.gr/es20190904_Layout_1)

⁵ Greece. Official Gazette (2019). ΦΕΚ 140/Α/04.09.2019

⁶ Ibid note number 3.

⁷ Greece. Hellenic Parliament. Press release (2020, April 28). Statement by the Speaker of the Parliament on how the Parliament operates during the health crisis <https://www.hellenicparliament.gr/Enimerosi/Grafeio-Typou/Deltia-Typou/?press=99f5cf7c-da99-4e9b-9d79-abab010965c8>

Act of Legislative Content⁸ ⁹ (on urgent measures to deal with the adverse effects of COVID-19 and the need to limit its spread) and the address by the prime minister to the citizens¹⁰.

The plenary for the next period was to organize debates with a minimum number of participants, i.e. rapporteurs, special speakers, parliamentary representatives, one or more spokespersons from each parliamentary group, ministers and, if required, the prime minister and leaders of the opposition parties, for half of the time provided in the standing orders. Roll-call voting would be held on the presumption of majority and, when not using the electronic system, members of parliament could vote successively to avoid overcrowding. Postal voting would also be accepted. The standing committees would operate in priority alignment while the special standing committees would be suspended. Parliamentary control would continue normally, as it did not require the simultaneous presence of a large number of MPs in the plenary¹¹.

Although at first it was a consensual decision, it is not clear enough whether it was fully covered by the provisions of the standing orders at the time, at least in the framework of Art. 14 that refers to the competences of the conference of the presidents. It wouldn't be groundless to maintain that the decision was on the edge of an emergency interpretation of Art. 14. This presumption could be backed by the fact that future modification of the article, a few months later, on 1 October 2020¹², consisted in adding a 9th clause at the end of the article affirming that the conference decides, with the assistance of the competent national authorities, on the operation of parliament and, in particular, on the meetings of its bodies and the working conditions of its staff, considering the necessary measures for protecting public health in emergency situations, especially in the event of epidemics or pandemics. From this perspective, it could be considered an *ex-post* modification. The same could be maintained regarding the future modification, also on 1 October 2020, of Art. 70A of the standing orders, in

⁸ Greece. Official Gazette. ΦΕΚ 55/A/11.04.2020. The first Act of Legislative Content related to the pandemic is dated the 25.02.2020 (ΦΕΚ 42/A/25.02.2020)

⁹ According to the Greek Constitution, the state of emergency in a period of peace can be declared, conforming to Art. 44.1, by the President of the Republic, on the proposal of the Council of the Ministers, in the form of Act of Legislative Content, which comes into force with its publication in the Official Gazette and must be ratified by the Parliament within 40 days. For more details, see Botopoulos, K. (2020, March 17). Κορωνοϊός και έκτακτη ανάγκη. *Syntagma Watch* <https://www.syntagmawatch.gr/trending-issues/koronoios-kai-ektakti-anagi/>

¹⁰ Greece. Prime Minister (2020, March 11). *Μήνυμα του Πρωθυπουργού Κυριάκου Μητσοτάκη προς τους πολίτες για τον κορωνοϊό* <https://primeminister.gr/2020/03/11/23545>

¹¹ Greece. Hellenic Parliament (2020, March 12). *Μέτρα Βουλής των Ελλήνων για την αντιμετώπιση του νέου κορωνοϊού Sars-Cov2* <https://www.hellenicparliament.gr/Enimerosi/Grafeio-Typou/Deltia-Typou/?press=27323899-dab3-43c2-871a-ab7c0123b99c>

¹² Greece. Official Gazette (2020) ΦΕΚ 187A/01.10.2020

this case to explicitly include postal voting (by letter or fax) of MPs in the event that they are unable to participate in the meetings of parliament due to the measures set out in Art. 14¹³.

Be that as it may, the decision of the 12 March 2020 can be considered as validating the option of an internal arrangement of parliament (a kind of “*interna corporis*” issue?) instead of using the existing option of Art. 40 of the Constitution, according to which the president of the republic can suspend parliament’s operation for 30 days, an option that had been proposed in the relevant debate of the conference¹⁴.

Parliament operated in this way until the end of April 2020¹⁵. The plenary sessions were dedicated to ratifying decree-laws (Acts of Legislative Content) related to the pandemic, with no more than 20 participants. The plenary session of the 9 April took place in this framework and the plenary approved modifications, among others, of articles 14d, 85.3, 85.5 and 88.2 of the parliamentary standing orders¹⁶, to adjust rules of procedure to the provisions of the constitutional review of the previous year, to principles of good legislation and the functional improvement of the parliament¹⁷.

On the 28 April, the president of the parliament announced that the measures would be gradually lifted and, from the beginnings of May, the number of deputies participating in the parliamentary process would gradually increase¹⁸. That was on the same day the prime minister addressed the citizens to announce the gradual lifting of emergency measures¹⁹. Concerning parliament, the prime minister announced, on the online meeting of the council of ministers, that the sessions were to continue during the summer and, by the end of July, parliament would have voted for 26 draft bills; the legislative period of decree-laws ratified by parliament at unusually high speed was

¹³ Greece. Official Gazette (2020) ΦΕΚ 187 Α/01.010.2020

¹⁴ Greece. Hellenic Parliament, Press release (2020, April 28) *Δήλωση του Προέδρου της Βουλής για τον τρόπο λειτουργίας του Κοινοβουλίου κατά τη διάρκεια της υγειονομικής κρίσης* [Statement by the Speaker of the Parliament on how the Parliament operates during the health crisis] <https://www.hellenicparliament.gr/Enimerosi/Grafeio-Typou/Deltia-Typou/?press=99f5cf7c-da99-4e9b-9d79-abab010965c8>

¹⁵ Livitsanos, G. (2020, April 17). Βουλή: Σταδιακή αποκατάσταση λειτουργιών από τέλη Απριλίου. *Vouli Watch*, <https://vouliwatch.gr/news/article/voyli-stadiaki-apokatastasi-leitoyrgion-apo-teli-apriliou>

¹⁶ Greece. Official Gazette (2020) ΦΕΚ 81Α/10.04.2020

¹⁷ See to discourse of the Rapporteur of the majority, E. Stylianidis, in the plenary session of the 09.04.2020 Greece. Hellenic Parliament. (2020, April 9) ΙΗ΄ ΠΕΡΙΟΔΟΣ, ΣΥΝΟΔΟΣ Α΄, ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΑΣΗ ΠΚΕ΄

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ ΤΑ ΝΕΑ. (2020, April 28). Διάγγελμα Μητσοτάκη: Επιστρέφουμε στη νέα καθημερινότητα – Το κράτος παραμένει σε μόνιμη επιφυλακή. <https://www.tanea.gr/2020/04/28/politics/diaggelma-mitsotaki-i-arsi-ton-perioristikon-metron-kai-i-metavasi-sti-nea-kanonikotita/>

coming to an end²⁰. On the 30 April, the prime minister addressed the leaders of the opposition parties in a plenary informative session²¹.

II. Looking at formal changes and the practice of law-making in the state you are studying, has respect for the rule of law increased, decreased or not changed at all during the pandemic? Please elaborate on the question.

Opposition parties had already started to express objections to the way the government approved legislation by decree-laws, on the partiality (favouring specific sectors) of the economic measures aiming to deal with the effects of the pandemic. The opposition also accused the government of improper use of public money, a deficient level of governmental accountability, and the submission and voting of draft bills that were not urgent in the context of the pandemic, for instance, the bill on education, etc.²²

In September 2020, with the ratification of the decree-laws of August, the indices of the pandemic suggested a new round of limitations – the second lock-down was to start in November. On 24 September, the parliamentary scientific council unanimously stated that it was considered justified and compatible with the constitutional order to introduce in parliament's standing orders a regulation on postal voting²³. With the modifications of 1 October 2020, regarding Art. 14 and Art. 70A²⁴, the operation of parliament adapted to the emergency of the pandemic. The way that parliament operated during the first period of the pandemic was explicitly according to written rules of procedure. From then and on, limitations in participants, debating time, etc. were to be decided formally by the conference of the presidents according to the SOP.

²⁰ Greece. Prime Minister (2020, April 29). *Εισαγωγική τοποθέτηση του Πρωθυπουργού Κυριάκου Μητσοτάκη στη συνεδρίαση του Υπουργικού Συμβουλίου* <https://primeminister.gr/2020/04/29/23854>

²¹ Greece. Prime Minister (2020, April 30). *Ομιλία του Πρωθυπουργού Κυριάκου Μητσοτάκη στη Βουλή για την κυβερνητική πολιτική σχετικά με τις οικονομικές επιπτώσεις της υγειονομικής κρίσης στη χώρα* <https://primeminister.gr/2020/04/30/23859>

Ethnos. (2020, April 30). *Μητσοτάκης σε... πλεξίγκλας: Πώς έγινε η ομιλία των αρχηγών στη Βουλή* <https://www.ethnos.gr/Politics/article/102934/mhtsotakhssplexigklasposeginehomiliatonarxhgonsthboylh>

²² Livitsanos, G. (2020, April 22). *Α.Τσίπρας: Στη Βουλή δεν υπάρχει λογοδοσία*. *Vouli Watch* <https://vouliwatch.gr/news/article/a-tsipras-stin-voyli-den-yparhei-logodosia>

Livitsanos, G. (2020, April 23). *Ν.Φίλης: Παραβίαση της κοινοβουλευτικής διαδικασίας, το νομοσχέδιο για την παιδεία*. *Vouli Watch* <https://vouliwatch.gr/news/article/n-filis-paraviasi-tis-koinovoyleytikis-diadikasias>

Livitsanos, G. (2020, April 23). *ΚΙΝ.ΑΛ.: Τροπολογίες για την προστασία της πρώτης κατοικίας και μέτρα στήριξης*. *Vouli Watch* <https://vouliwatch.gr/news/article/kin-al-prostasia-protis-katoikias-metra-stirixis>

²³ Greece. Hellenic Parliament (2021, April 14). *Ο Πρόεδρος της Βουλής κ. Κωνσταντίνος Τασούλας στην Ολομέλεια: «Η επιστολική ψήφος είναι και συνταγματική και αντιπροσωπευτική»* <https://www.hellenicparliament.gr/Enimerosi/Grafeo-Typou/Deltia-Typou/?press=6d691714-a3b9-4c54-8649-ad0a00f77a03>

²⁴ Greece. Official Gazette. (2020). ΦΕΚ 187Α/01.10.2020

However, modifying standing orders presents another interesting parameter: their connection with the governmental programme for implementing quality legislation and the emblematic first legislative initiatives (“the executive state”) prior to the pandemic²⁵. How far the representative programmatic positions of the New Democracy (ND) came to be developed in practice is uncertain, especially regarding transparency of the governmental decisions and the procedural part of the legislative action. However, protests by all opposition parties about the overall disempowerment of parliament expressed discomfort with the politics of the absolute-majority ND government.

There are strong indications that the government’s attitude could be better interpreted as an articulated practice based on a specific concept of governing and leadership. In respect to legislative production in 2020 and 2021, a strong increase is easy to observe – a trend that started in the year of the pandemic, under emergency conditions, limited parliamentary debates, the non-transparent control of mass media and limitations on citizen protests to avoid overcrowding, and persisted during the following year. Nonetheless, it was not only an increase in numbers, but also the content of the approved bills, including legislation related to non-urgent issues, that point to the government wanting to implement its programme, one way or another, during the period of emergency conditions²⁶.

There is another striking aspect of normative character of the legislative process during the period. Although there was no increase in the number of omnibus laws, or laws approved by urgent or extremely urgent procedures, the ordinary process of law-making was not followed. The SOP referring to the ordinary legislative procedure requires at least 7 days between the submission of a draft bill and its first debate in the corresponding committee (Art. 89.7 SOP); there must also be an interval of 7 full days (or two days after the decision of the committee) between the two stages of the drawing up of a draft bill or law proposal (Art.90.1 SOP); the debate in the plenary must also start at least 3 days after the submission (or the expiration date) of the Committee’s report (Art. 93.2-3 SOP). The procedures followed during that period appear incongruent with the SOP, although it could be argued that, at least at first sight, this

²⁵ The discussion on the legislative procedures and practices in Greece is older, see Σωτηρόπουλος, Δ., Χριστόπουλος, Λ. (2017) *Πολυνομία, Κακονομία και Γραφειοκρατία στην Ελλάδα - Ανάλυση Αποτυχιών του Παρελθόντος και Προτάσεις Βελτιωτικών Παρεμβάσεων*. Διανέωσις.

²⁶ The emergency conditions were maintained for different reasons apart from the pandemic, for instance, because of the summer forest fires, for much longer than the end of 2021.

incongruence took place in the name of legislative efficacy. If this was the case, objections to or doubts could be raised about legislative efficiency. In any event, this is an issue that requires further research.

The prevalence of executive decision-making is also apparent from the increase in 2020 and 2021 of decree-laws, presidential decrees and other regulatory initiatives of the executive. The frequent direct statements by the prime minister to citizens noticeably continued in 2021 and their content was not limited to issues related to the pandemic; they built an image of strong leadership, to be supplemented by the effectiveness of an “executive state”.

By way of a conclusion to this brief report, the emergency situation brought about by the pandemic does not seem, at least at first glance, to have challenged the legal order in a strict sense. The context of the emergency situation, in combination with the specific political concepts of governance and leadership and their expression in the political programme of the governing party (with emblematic rhetoric and politics related to “excellence” and the “executive state”) rather promoted a different interpretation of the democratic rules in emergency situations, in many cases pushing the rules to their limits. This happened to be a parliamentary majority government while, at the same time, the fragmentation of the opposition indicated a rather promoted bipartisan polarization.

The management of the crisis, however, indicated the use of abstruse methods in making politics that included opaque financing of the mass-media as well as limited transparency concerning public tendering procedures for granting concessions during consecutive emergency situations. A deeper research and analysis on procedures and the content of legislative production of the period is needed in order to attest to any decrease of rule of law. This could be a very interesting forward research, that is by far beyond the scope of this brief report.

Table 1: Formal changes

Country_Name	Legal act	Chamber	Short description of the content	Year
GREECE	Decision of the Conference of the Presidents of the Parliament Απόφαση της Διάσκεψης των Προέδρων της Βουλής (12.03.2020)	Βουλή των Ελλήνων	The Conference of the Presidents of the Hellenic Parliament, through its Health Service, decided a number of measures (limited participants in the plenary sessions and committees, adjustment of roll-call vote to avoid overcrowding, use of postal vote, etc.) in order to limit the spread of Covid-19 ensuring the functioning of the institution and the continuation of the parliamentary works.	2020
	Modification of the Standing Orders of the Parliament Τροποποίηση του Κανονισμού της Βουλής των Ελλήνων (Συνεδρίαση της Ολομέλειας 09.04.2020, ΦΕΚ Α 81/10.04.2020)	Βουλή των Ελλήνων	Modification of the Standing Orders. Referring to the law-making procedure the relevant changes are the following: Art. 85.3 and 85.5: draft bills must be accompanied by a number of reports (6) that form the "Impact Assessment of the legislation". Special legislative procedures (Art. 111, 112 and 114-123) and "Urgent" or "Extremely Urgent" bills must be accompanied by a briefer (consisting of, at least, 2 of the 6 reports) Impact Assessment of the legislation. Law proposals must also be accompanied by a much briefer Impact Assessment (also consisting in at least 2 of the 6 reports). In the case that a draft bill produces a budget burden, the Impact Assessment of the legislation must include the report of the General Accounting Office referring to the impact of the regulation on the budget, a special report of the competent Minister and the Minister of Finance, as well as the opinion of the Court of Auditors. Art. 88.2: ministerial amendments must also be accompanied by a brief Impact Assessment of the legislation, consisting of the explanatory memorandum and the list of the modified and/or repealed provisions, as well as brief memorandum of the general effects of the regulation and legality report. MPs' amendments must be accompanied by "Impact Assessment" that includes, at least, explanatory memorandum and list of the modified and/or repealed provisions.	2020
	Modification of the Standing Orders of the Parliament Τροποποίηση του Κανονισμού της Βουλής των Ελλήνων (Συνεδρίαση της Ολομέλειας 01.10.2020, ΦΕΚ Α 187/01.10.2020)	Βουλή των Ελλήνων	Modification of the Standing Orders. Art. 14(9): the Conference of the Presidents of the Parliament, after being informed by the competent national authorities, decides about the functioning of the Parliament, and, in particular, the meetings of its bodies and the working conditions of its staff, taking the necessary measures for the protection of public health in emergencies, especially in cases of epidemic or pandemic. To this end, it may refer to the General Secretariat for Civil Protection for assistance. Art. 70A: In the case that the MPs cannot participate in the meetings of the Parliament due to the measures of the Art. 14 (for the protection of the public health in emergencies, especially in cases of epidemic or pandemic), they can participate in the voting procedures by letter or fax.	2020

Source: Own

Table 2: Legislative practice

Country_Name	Chamber	Year	Term of Parliamentary Republic	Number of ALL legislative bills	Number of approved legislative bills	Number of resolutions/decisions/statements (various non-legislative measures)	Number of fast-tracked legislation (debate limited and/or shortened legislative process, including omnibus laws)	Most common forms of fast-track measures	Number of decree laws/gov decisions (no parliamentary consent)	Number of working days (parliamentary plenary sessions)	Number of oral questions to the government	Number of written questions
GREECE	Βουλή των Ελλήνων	2019	17th Term of Parliamentary Republic (01/01/2019 – 11/06/2019) [2] Περίοδος Προεδρευόμενης Κοινοβουλευτικής Δημοκρατίας	50 submitted: 27 Bills [Σχέδια νόμου] 2 Law Proposals [Προτάσεις νόμου], 10 International Conventions [Διεθνείς Συμβάσεις], 11 Proposals for Constitutional Revision [Προτάσεις αναθεώρησης του Συντάγματος]	33 Laws approved: 26 Laws [Νόμοι] 7 International Conventions [Διεθνείς Συμβάσεις]	19: 6 Decisions of the Plenary (published in the Official Gazette) 13 decisions on waiving parliamentary immunity of MPs [Συζητήσεις και λήψεις αποφάσεων για άρση ασυλίας 13 βουλευτών σε 6 συνεδριάσεις της Ολομέλειας]	31: 1 Decree Law [Πρόδη Νομοθετικού Περιεχομένου], 23 other Laws including 3 urgent, 2 extremely urgent and 6 omnibus laws [άλλοι νόμοι, συμπεριλαμβανομένων 3 επείγοντων, 2 κατεπειγόντων και 6 Πολυνομοσχεδίων], 7 International Conventions [Διεθνείς Συμβάσεις, Αρθρο 108 Κτθ]	According to the Standing Orders of the Greek Parliament, the legislative processes described in Chapter 3 (Art. 108-110) refers to Brief Legislative procedures, consisting in approval of bills and law proposals without or with limited discussion (Art. 108), extremely urgent bills and law proposals (Art. 109), Urgent bills and law proposals (Art. 110). Chapter 4 of the Standing Orders also includes provisions for Special Legislative procedures that include bills and law proposals for the ratification of International Treaties and Conventions (Art. 112), which follow a similar procedure with bills and law proposals without or with limited discussion, and Decree-Laws (Art. 113 of the Standing Orders and Art. 44.1 of the Constitution), which are acts of legislative content issued by the President of the Republic upon the proposal of the Cabinet and they must be ratified by the Parliament within 40 from their publication.	566: 79 Presidential Decrees [Προεδρικά Διατάγματα] 2 Decrees/Acts of Legislative Content [Πρόδικες Νομοθετικού Περιεχομένου] 1 Decision of the Prime Minister [Απόφαση Πρωθυπουργού] 1 Act of the Council of Ministers [Πρόδη Υπουργικού Συμβουλίου, ΠΥΣ] 262 Ministerial Decisions [Υπουργικές Αποφάσεις] 221 Joint Ministerial Decisions [Κοινές Υπουργικές Αποφάσεις, ΚΥΑ]	83 Plenary Sessions	108: 105 Current Questions [Επικαιρές Ερωτήσεις] 1 Current Interpellation [Επίκαιρη Επρώτηση] 2 Petition with Question [Αναφορές-Ερωτήσεις]	2414 Questions [Ερωτήσεις]
			18th Term of Parliamentary Republic (17/07/2019 – 31/12/2019) [Η Περίοδος Προεδρευόμενης Κοινοβουλευτικής Δημοκρατίας]	43 submitted: 28 Bills [Σχέδια Νόμου] 3 Law Proposals [Προτάσεις νόμου], 11 Intern. Conventions [Διεθνείς Συμβάσεις], 1 Preliminary Draft of the State Budget [Προσχέδιο Κρατικού Προϋπολογισμού]	31 Laws approved: 27 Laws [Νόμοι], 4 Intern. Conventions [Διεθνείς Συμβάσεις]	10: 6 Decisions of the Plenary (published in the Official Gazette) 4 decisions on waiving the parliamentary immunity of MPs [Συζητήσεις και λήψεις αποφάσεων για άρση ασυλίας 4 βουλευτών σε 2 συνεδριάσεις]	28: 2 Decree Laws (in 2 laws 4 Acts of Legislative Content) [4 Πρόδικες Νομοθετικού Περιεχομένου, σε 2 νόμους], 22 other laws including 5 extremely urgent and 4 omnibus laws (1 of which was urgent) [άλλοι νόμοι, συμπεριλαμβανομένων 5 κατεπειγόντων, 4 Πολυνομοσχεδίων, 1 εκ των οποίων με διαδικασία επείγοντος], 4 [Διεθνείς Συμβάσεις Αρθ. 108 Κτθ]	Urgent, Extremely Urgent Bills, Irrelevant and last minute Amendments, Omnibus Laws, Decree-Laws (see Revision of the Constitution, 2019) However, the most important feature of the Greek legislative practice is that bills that follow the ordinary legislative procedure do not comply with the provisions of Standing Orders for ordinary legislative procedure, i.e. do not comply with the minimum of 7 days between the date of submission and the first debate in the respective Commission (Art. 89, par. 7), do not comply with the minimum of 2 days between the first and second stage of debate in the Commission (Art. 90, par. 1) and/or do not comply with the minimum of 3 days between the submission of the Commission's report and the debate in the Plenary (Art. 93, par. 2 and 3).	238: 34 Presidential Decrees [Προεδρικά Διατάγματα] 5 Decrees/Acts of Legislative Content [Πρόδικες Νομοθετικού Περιεχομένου] 8 Decisions of the Prime Minister [Αποφάσεις Πρωθυπουργού] 12 Acts of the Council of Ministers [ΠΥΣ] 123 Ministerial Decisions [Υπουργικές Αποφάσεις] 56 Joint Ministerial Decisions [ΚΥΑ]	75 Plenary Sessions	274: 270 Current Questions [Επικαιρές Ερωτήσεις] 1 Current Question [Επίκαιρη Επρώτηση] 3 Petitions with Questions [Αναφορές-Ερωτήσεις]	2741 Questions [Ερωτήσεις]
		2020	18th Term of Parliamentary Republic (01/01/2020 – 31/12/2020) [Η Περίοδος Προεδρευόμενης Κοινοβουλευτικής Δημοκρατίας]	122 submitted: 67 Bills [Σχέδια Νόμου] 11 Law proposals [Προτάσεις Νόμου], 43 International Conventions [Διεθνείς Συμβάσεις], 1 Budget Bill [Προσχέδιο Κρατικού Προϋπολογισμού]	113 Laws: 67 Laws [Νόμοι], 46 International Conventions [Διεθνείς Συμβάσεις]	85: 2 Decisions of the Plenary (published in the Official Gazette) 83 Decisions on waiving parliamentary immunity of MPs [Συζητήσεις και λήψεις αποφάσεων για άρση ασυλίας σε 11 συνεδριάσεις της Ολομέλειας]	109: 7 Decree Laws (in 7 laws 11 Acts of Legislative Content) [11 Πρόδικες Νομοθετικού Περιεχομένου σε 7 νόμους], 56 other Laws including 1 urgent, 1 extremely urgent, 6 omnibus laws [άλλοι νόμοι, συμπεριλαμβανομένων 1 επείγοντος, 1 κατεπειγόντος, 6 Πολυνομοσχεδίων], 46 [Διεθνείς Συμβάσεις, Αρθ. 108 Κτθ]	Continuation of legislative work with limitations to the participation of MPs in Plenary Sessions (up to 60 out of 300 until the 1 st of July and up to 120 afterwards), consequent limitation of debate, presumption of majority vote, etc. Standing Committees in priority alignment, Special Standing Committees suspended activities, use of teleconference in the Committees. Parliamentary control remained the same.	1497: 110 Presidential Decrees [Προεδρικά Διατάγματα] 11 Decrees/Acts of Legislative [Πρόδικες Νομοθετικού Περιεχομένου] 1 Decision of the Prime Minister [Απόφαση Πρωθυπουργού (εκαταργημένη)] 6 Acts of the Council of Ministers [Πρόδικες Υπουργικού Συμβουλίου, ΠΥΣ] 485 Ministerial Decisions [Υπουργικές Αποφάσεις] 884 Joint Ministerial Decisions [ΚΥΑ]	201 Plenary Sessions	855: 830 Current Questions [Επικαιρές Ερωτήσεις], 7 Questions [Ερωτήσεις], 5 Question-ASD [Ερωτήσεις-ΑΚΕ], 2 Interpretations [Επιστημονικές], 11 Current Interpellations [Επικαιρές Επρωτήσεις]	9794 Questions [Ερωτήσεις]
		2021	18th Term of Parliamentary Republic (01/01/2021 – 31/12/2021) [Η Περίοδος Προεδρευόμενης Κοινοβουλευτικής Δημοκρατίας]	120 submitted: 71 Draft-bills [Σχέδια Νόμου], 7 Law Proposals [Προτάσεις Νόμου], 41 International Conventions [Διεθνείς Συμβάσεις], 1 Preliminary draft of the State Budget [Προσχέδιο Κρατικού Προϋπολογισμού]	112 Laws: 72 Laws, 40 International Conventions [Διεθνείς Συμβάσεις]	9: 1 Decision of the Plenary (published in the Official Gazette) [Απόφαση της Ολομέλειας] 8 decisions on waiving parliamentary immunity of MPs [Συζητήσεις και λήψεις αποφάσεων για άρση ασυλίας σε 7 συνεδριάσεις της Ολομέλειας]	109: 2 Decree Laws [3 Acts of Legislative Content in 2 Laws] [3 Πρόδικες Νομοθετικού Περιεχομένου], 2 νόμοι], 67 other Laws including 1 urgent, 1 extremely urgent, 4 omnibus laws [άλλοι νόμοι, συμπεριλαμβανομένων 1 επείγοντος, 1 κατεπειγόντος, 4 Πολυνομοσχεδίων], 40 International Conventions [Διεθνείς Συμβάσεις, Αρθρο 108 Κτθ]		1571: 105 Presidential Decrees [Προεδρικά Διατάγματα] 3 Decrees/Acts of Legislative Content [Πρόδικες Νομοθετικού Περιεχομένου] 5 Decisions of the Prime Minister [Αποφάσεις Πρωθυπουργού] 7 Acts of the Council of Ministers [ΠΥΣ] 596 Ministerial Decisions [Υπουργικές Αποφάσεις] 855 Joint Ministerial Decisions [ΚΥΑ]	193 Plenary Sessions	896: 812 Current Questions [Επικαιρές Ερωτήσεις], 6 Current Interpellations [Επικαιρές Επρωτήσεις], 74 Questions [Ερωτήσεις], 4 Question with ASD [Ερωτήσεις με Α.Κ.Ε.]	8209 Questions [Ερωτήσεις]

Source: Own