**Bulgaria – National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria / Narodno Sabranie**

1. Website:

<https://www.parliament.bg/bg>

2. Locating Relevant Documents/Files On-line:

*A.RULES OF PROCEDURE*

**1. Name:** Rules on the Organization and Activities of the National Assembly

**2. URL**: <https://www.parliament.bg/bg/rulesoftheorganisations>

**3. What is the date for the most recent revision on the rules of procedure?**

May 2, 2017.

**4. Is there a section of the rules of procedure that covers voting rules? If so, indicate the section.**

Chapter 7: Articles 66-72

**5. If available, please list the rules governing the use of roll call votes.**

**Art. 66.** (1) The voting is personal. Votes are in favor, against, and abstentions. Voting is made explicitly. The National Assembly may decide to hold a separate vote by secret ballot.  
(2) The open voting shall be carried out by means of:  
1. a computerized voting system;  
2. raising his hand;  
3. getting out of place by roll call in alphabetical order and answering "for", "against" and "abstaining";  
4. signature by hand;  
5. Name-list of the names of the Members of Parliament and the manner of their voting through the computerized voting system.  
(3) In the computerized system, voting shall be by biometric data of each Member of Parliament or by a system activated by biometric data of each Member of Parliament.  
(4) The secret ballot shall be conducted by ballots.  
  
**Art. 67.** Proposal for voting under Art. 66, para. 2, items 3, 4 and 5 or by secret ballot may be made by one tenth of all Members of Parliament or by one parliamentary group. The proposal is put to the vote without debate. One MP from a parliamentary group disagrees with the proposal.  
  
**Art. 68.**(1) Before the vote, the President calls on Members to take their seats. The voting time under Art. 66, para. 2, item 1 is up to 1 minute, but not less than 30 seconds.  
(2) Speeches shall not be allowed from the announcement of the voting until its completion.  
  
**Art. 69.** (1) Voting shall be conducted in the following order:  
1. proposals for rejection;  
2. proposals for postponement of the next meeting;  
3. proposals for replacement;  
4. proposals for editorial corrections;  
5. discussed text, which may include approved editorial amendments;  
6. proposals for additions;  
7. the main proposal.  
(2) Where there are two or more proposals of the same nature, they shall be voted in the order of their receipt.  
  
**Art. 70.** (1) The proposal shall be considered approved if more than half of the MPs present have voted for it, unless otherwise provided in the Constitution.  
(2) In the event of a tie, the proposal shall be considered rejected.  
  
**Art. 71.** (1) The result of the vote shall be announced by the Chairman immediately.  
(2) When the voting procedure or the result thereof are challenged as soon as it is completed, the chairman shall order that it be repeated. The result of the re-vote is final.  
(3) When voting through the computerized system, prints of the result shall be provided at the request of the leadership of a parliamentary group.  
  
**Art. 72.**The chairman may determine the day and time for voting on the bills included in the weekly program discussed at the first ballot.

**6. If the documents are available in multiple languages, does it seem like the same number of documents/files are available in the different languages?**

The Rules are available in Bulgarian and English.

**7. How exactly did you locate these files? (i.e. if you were going to write instructions for someone else to find them, what would that look like?)**

From the Home page, click on the “Legislation” tab and the rules are the first link listed.

**8. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required to code information of interest from them? If so what are these?**

No.

**9. Is there anything else you think we should know?**

No.

**10. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file for previous versions of the rules of procedure? If so, repeat questions 2-8.**

No.

*B.RECORD OF LEGISLATIVE VOTING*

**1. Please indicate the terminology for the type of votes as reported in the working language of the legislature (e.g., scrutin public ordinaire).**

Roll-call votes is “Поименно гласуване”.

**2. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required? If so what are these?**

Yes. The documents are available in pdf/excel, so I wasn’t able to translate them. They are very straightforward (graphs, lists), but someone comfortable with the language would have to explain the structure of the document before preceeding.

**3. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file covering the voting record online (separate from the plenary minute)?**

Yes.

**If so:**

**-Where can one find these documents? Please provide instructions for how someone would find them.**

Above the transcript of the minutes for a specific plenary session, there will be a link called “Roll-call votes”.

**-What types of votes are reported (e.g., the roll call vote record for individual legislators)?**

Roll call vote record for individual legislators.

**4. If you find on-line documents, does this seem to be all the relevant documents for a specific time period? If so, what is the time period? If not, can you describe what is missing?**

The separate roll-call vote records are only available beginning the 41st National Assembly (2009-2013).

**5. Can one automate downloading of these files? If so, please provide any available computer code for that purpose.**

Not sure.

**6. Did we download all the information available in the sources indicated in this section? If not, please indicate which source and years we are missing.**

Not sure.

*C.MINUTES OF PLENARY SESSION*

**1. Please indicate the terminology for the type of information as reported in the working language of the legislature:**

Plenary sitting is “Пленарно заседание”.

**2. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file covering the specific information online? If so, where (please provide instructions for how one would find them)? If an official source is not available, please list any secondary sources**.

Yes. From the Home page, click the “Plenary sittings” tab, then “transcripts of plenary sittings” on the right hand side list.

**3. If you find on-line documents, does this seem to be all the relevant documents for a specific time period? If so, what is the time period? If not, can you describe what is missing?**

They have plenary documents back to the 15th National Assembly (1911-1913) but older documents are only available in downloadable PDF, while beginning from the 36th National Assembly (1991-1994), there is text directly on the website and also separate documents on legislative voting.

**4. Can one automate downloading of these files? If so, please provide any available computer code for that purpose.**

Not sure.

**5. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required to code information of interest from them? If so what are these?**

The text on the website can be translated using google chrome translate.

**6. Did we download all the information available in the sources indicated in this section?**

Not sure.

*D. ATTENDANCE*

**1. Please indicate the terminology for the type of information as reported in the working language of the legislature:**

According to the Rules:

**“Art. 52.**(1) The Chair shall open the meeting if more than half of the Members of Parliament are present.  
(2) The quorum shall be verified through the computerized voting system before the opening of the meeting.  
(3) The President, in connection with an upcoming vote, may, on his own initiative or only once in one sitting, at the request of a parliamentary group, check the quorum by reading the names of the Members of Parliament by name or by counting the Members of Parliament by the Secretaries of the National Assembly.”

In the plenary transcripts, the president will open the session if there is a quorum by ringing the bell and saying “There is a quorum. I open the meeting.”

**2. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file covering the specific information online? If so, where (please provide the URL)? If an official source is not available, please list any secondary sources**.

No. However, it might be possible to deduce this information from the roll-call vote record.

**3. What years are available on this source?**

N/A.

**4. Can one automate downloading of these files? If so, please provide any available computer code for that purpose.**

N/A.

**5. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required to code information of interest from them? If so what are these?**

N/A.

**6. Did we download all the information available in the sources indicated in this section?**

N/A.

*E. ROLL CALL VOTE REQUEST*

**1. In the available on-line documents, can you identify a request for a roll-call vote? If so, are there specific words or other indications that systematically identify the requester?**

There is not a specific way that they must say it, but examples I found were simply “My request is…”, “I propose a…”

However, in response, since there must be a quorum (article 67 of the Rules, above), the Chairman must ask, “Are there replicas?”

**2. Do the available on-line documents report a justification for a request for a roll-call vote? If so, are there specific words or other indications that systematically identify the justification?**

If the Chairman does not identify support for a vote on quorum, they will respond “I do not see” or “there is none” or “no replicas” (it will be clear if it is rejected). If enough support is voiced, there will be a vote to determine if there is a quorum, then the chairman will say: “The proposal was/was not accepted”.

**3. How is the decision to accept or deny the roll-call vote request made (this may be found in the rules of procedure)?**

If the quorum is met:

**“Art. 67.** Proposal for voting under Art. 66, para. 2, items 3, 4 and 5 or by secret ballot may be made by one tenth of all Members of Parliament or by one parliamentary group. The proposal is put to the vote without debate. One MP from a parliamentary group disagrees with the proposal.”

**4. In the available on-line documents, can you identify whether the request was accepted? If so, are there specific words or other indications that systematically identify this?**

Yes, through the plenary transcripts.

*F. DISCUSSION BEFORE THE VOTE*

1. Roll-call votes:

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the names of participants who participated in discussion before a vote? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes, in the plenary transcripts.

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the length (in words) of a participant’s speech? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes, in the plenary transcripts through a separate word count (this information is not provided).

2. Indication Votes: I was not able to find any records of secret ballots in the plenary transcripts.

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the names of participants who participated in discussion before a vote? If so, where can this be found?**

This would theoretically be found in the plenary transcript.

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the length (in words) of a participant’s speech? If so, where can this be found?**

In the plenary transcripts through a separate word count (this information is not provided).

*G. VOTING*

1. Roll-call votes:

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the subject of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

Since the roll-call votes are recorded in a PDF in Bulgarian, I cannot interpret them at all. However, I do think that based on the structure of the “vote by parliamentary groups” document, the subject might be described in more detail. Otherwise, it can be found by reading the plenary transcripts.

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the procedural type (motion/agenda/article of a bill/amendment/etc…) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

The agenda for the day with the proposed votes are stated by the chairman at the beginning of the sessions. However, the Chairman will also describe the content before a vote.

**c. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the result of the vote (e.g., the motion passed)? If so, where can this be found?**

The chairman announces this after the vote is held (found in the plenary transcript).

**d. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the method (electronic, calling of names, etc..) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

The default is electronic, based on the plenary transcripts I’ve seen. I assume that any other way would be recorded in the transcripts.

**e. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the breakdown of the vote outcome (e.g., yes/no/abstain) in the aggregate? At the level of individual legislator? If so, where can this be found?**

This can be found in the roll-call documents at the top of the plenary transcript.

**f. In the available on-line documents, can you determine whether there were any arguments documented during the vote (e.g. , a protest over procedure)? If so, where can this be found?**

This would be found in the plenary transcript.

2. Indication votes:

Article 67 of the Rules is relevant to indication votes:

**?Art. 67.** Proposal for voting under Art. 66, para. 2, items 3, 4 and 5 or by secret ballot may be made by one tenth of all Members of Parliament or by one parliamentary group. The proposal is put to the vote without debate. One MP from a parliamentary group disagrees with the proposal.”

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the subject of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

This would be found in the minutes, since it could not be in the “roll-call votes” document.

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the procedural type (motion/agenda/article of a bill/amendment/etc…) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

This would be found in the minutes.

**c. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the result of the vote (e.g., the motion passed)? If so, where can this be found?**

Not sure- I think the minutes.

**d. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the method (electronic, raising of hands, etc..) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

According to Article 66 of the Rules, “4) The secret ballot shall be conducted by ballots”.

**e. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the breakdown of the vote outcome (e.g., yes/no/abstain) in the aggregate? If so, where can this be found?**

Not sure again, because I haven’t seen any examples.

**f. In the available on-line documents, can you determine whether there were any arguments documented during the vote (e.g. , a protest over procedure)? If so, where can this be found?**

Not sure.

*NOTES ON ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT COULD BE RELEVANT*