**Netherlands – Eerste Kamer (Senate)**

1. Website:

Dutch/Original: <https://www.eerstekamer.nl/>

English: <https://www.eerstekamer.nl/begrip/english_2>

2. Locating Relevant Documents/Files On-line:

*A.RULES OF PROCEDURE*

**1. Name:**

Reglement van Orde (Rules of Procedure)

**2. URL**:

<https://www.eerstekamer.nl/id/vkz9ga8shdxw/document_extern/reglement_van_orde_geldend_vanaf_11/f=/vkz9gzasi4gc.pdf>

(<https://www.eerstekamer.nl/id/vjtockpd5v8b/document_extern/rules_of_procedure_of_the_senate_of/f=/vjw9eru4q2hr.pdf>)

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

Dutch version: 21 May 2019

English version:15 March 2015

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

Artikel 108 & Artikel 109, page 20(Section 108 & 109, page 23)

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

1. Artikel 108

Stemmen geschiedt bij zitten en opstaan, tenzij de Kamer op verzoek van een van de leden tot stemmen bij hoofdelijke oproeping overgaat. Indien de uitslag van een stemming bij zitten en opstaan naar het oordeel van de Voorzitter of dat van een van de leden onduidelijk is, wordt hoofdelijk herstemd.

1. Artikel 109
2. Voor de hoofdelijke oproeping beslist het lot bij welk nummer van de presentielijst de oproeping een aanvang neemt. De Voorzitter brengt zijn stem als laatste uit.
3. Ieder lid stemt met de woorden "voor" of "tegen", zonder enige bijvoeging.
4. Article 108  
   Voting shall take place through a roll call vote, unless the Senate decides, based on the proposal of either the President or one of the other members, to hold a standing vote. If, in the opinion of the President or of one of the members, the outcome of a standing vote is unclear, the matter shall be put to a further vote through a roll call vote.
5. Article 109
   1. In the case of a roll call vote, the number on the attendance list at which the roll call will begin shall be decided by drawing lots. The President shall cast his vote last.
   2. Each member shall cast his vote by saying «voor» (‘for’) or «tegen» (‘against’), without any addition.

**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?**

Dutch.

No, there are more files on the Dutch website comparting to the English one.

**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?)**

Main Website – Over de Eerste Kamer (About the Senate) – [Hoe Werkt de Eerste Kamer](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/begrip/hoe_werkt_de_eerste_kamer) (How does the Senate Work) – Click on “[Reglement van Orde](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/begrip/reglement_van_orde_eerste_kamer) (Rules of Order)” in the second paragraph.

OR:

Main Website – Click “[Enligsh](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/begrip/english_2)” on the upper right corner – Roll to the very bottom – [Rules of Procedure of the Senate](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/id/vjtockpd5v8b/document_extern/rules_of_procedure_of_the_senate_of/f=/vjw9eru4q2hr.pdf)

**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?**

Dutch.

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

**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.**

Yes. All the previous versions can be found [here](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/begrip/reglement_van_orde_eerste_kamer). Address is the same as stated above. Dutch.

*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).**

* Stemming bij zitten en opstaan (Vote for sitting and standing) – In a vote when sitting and standing up, the members who approve stand and the members who are against are still sitting. If the result of a sitting and standing vote is unclear in the opinion of the Chairman or that of one of the members, the matter shall be put to a further vote through a roll call vote.
* Hamerstuk (Hammer piece) – to be approved without discussion or vote
* hoofdelijke oproeping (Roll call vote) – Each member shall cast his vote by saying «voor» (‘for’) or «tegen» (‘against’), without any addition
* Algemene stemmen (General vote)\*
* Zonder stemmen (Without vote) – During the vote, if it appears that the quorum, as referred to in Article 74, is no longer present, the vote shall be deemed to be without result.
* mostly “Stemming bij zitten en opstaan” and “Hamerstuk”

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

Dutch.

**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.**

<https://www.eerstekamer.nl/stemmingen_per_vergaderdag>

Main Website – Activiteiten(Activities) – [Stemmingen per vergaderdag](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/stemmingen_per_vergaderdag) (Voting per meeting day)

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

[Stemmingen fractiegewijs](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/stemmingen_fractiegewijs) (Voting fractionally)

[Stemgedrag per lid](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/stemgedrag_per_lid) (Voting behavior per member)

[Stemmingen per vergaderdag](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/stemmingen_per_vergaderdag) (Voting per meeting day)

**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?**

Beginning from 23 June 2015. The earliest one available can be found [here](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/stemmingen_per_vergaderdag?start_003=1075&dlastinprev=2015-09-22).

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

Don’t know. In html form.

**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.**

No

*C.MINUTES OF PLENARY SESSION*

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

Verslag van de plenaire vergadering (Plenary report)

**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.

A summary of the plenary session can be find [here](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/plenaire_vergadering/20190709):

Main Website – Activiteiten(Activities) – [Plenaire vergadering](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/plenaire_vergadering/20190709)(Plenary session)

A full report of the plenary session can be found [here](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/verslag/20190709/verslag). (9 July 2019)

Main Website – Activiteiten(Activities) – [Plenaire vergadering](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/plenaire_vergadering/20190709)(Plenary session) – On the left side [Verslag](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/verslag/20190709/verslag) (report)

**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?**

Beginning from 2 September 2013. The earliest one available can be found [here](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/archief_plenaire_vergaderingen?start_002=600).

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

Don’t know. Recent reports are in html form. For instance:

<https://www.eerstekamer.nl/verslag/20190709/verslag>

<https://www.eerstekamer.nl/verslag/20190702/verslag>

Earlier reports, however, are pdfs. For instance:

<https://www.eerstekamer.nl/verslag/20030902/verslag>

Although the URLs seem to be neat and in a unified format, I don’t know if it can be grabbed by the same set of computer codes since it’s based on the date.

**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?**

Dutch.

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

No.

*D. ATTENDANCE*

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

The procedure of quorum can be found [here](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/begrip/quorum): Het quorum is het minimale aantal leden dat aanwezig moet zijn om te mogen vergaderen. In de Eerste Kamer is dat aantal 38. (The quorum is the minimum number of members that must be present to be allowed to meet. In the Senate, that number is 38.)

More detailed procedure of the quorum can be found [here](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/id/vkz9ga8shdxw/document_extern/reglement_van_orde_geldend_vanaf_11/f=/vkz9gzasi4gc.pdf), Artikel 75; the English version is [here](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/id/vjtockpd5v8b/document_extern/rules_of_procedure_of_the_senate_of/f=/vjw9eru4q2hr.pdf), Article 75.

**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**.

I cannot find an official list of attendance ready for download directly. However, if you go to the full report of each plenary session, the names of members are listed on the top in the opening part.

Another way of figure out the voting behavior/attendance of a specific member is to go to [voting behaviours per member and sort by lid](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/stemgedrag_per_lid?sort=lid) (member). Click on the specific member, go to the left-hand side, click on voting behavior under context. This will give you all the votes made by this member. [Here](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/persoon/prof_dr_e_b_van_apeldoorn_sp/stemgedrag) is an example.

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

Beginning from 2 September 2013, the same as the plenary session. The earliest one can be found [here](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/verslag/20030902/verslag).

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

Seems possible if we got all the reports of the plenary sessions.

**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?**

Dutch.

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

No.

*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?**

The report of the most recent roll-call vote can be found [here](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/verslagdeel/20181120/deconstitutionalisering_benoeming).

Main Website – Activiteiten(Activities) – [Stemmingen per vergaderdag](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/stemmingen_per_vergaderdag) (Voting per meeting day) – I searched manually but I suppose it can be automatically grabbed by codes (perhaps set “roll-call vote” as key word and let the computer search through those consecutive URLs).

Yes. “Geen stemverklaringen meer? Dan gaan wij stemmen. Er is om hoofdelijke stemming over het wetsvoorstel gevraagd. Ik zal een bonnetje trekken. De stemming vangt aan met mevrouw De Bruijn.” (No more explanations of vote? Then we will vote. A roll-call vote was requested on the bill. I'll draw a receipt. The vote started with Mrs De Bruijn.)

No. I cannot find words or other indications that identify the requester. This may also due to the insufficiency in google-translation. It would be better if someone who knows Dutch can go over the report again.

**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?**

No information about the justification. A roll-call vote is called when the result of a sitting and standing vote is unclear in the opinion of the Chairman or that of one of the members.

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

I don’t see any example of a denial of the roll-call vote. Denial of the roll-call vote is not discussed in the rules of procedure as well.

**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?**

I don’t see any example of a denial of roll-call votes. Therefore, I suppose we can only see the ones that are accepted, and those are denied (if the requests can be denied) are not shown to the public.

*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.

An example of the report of roll-call vote can be found [here](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/verslagdeel/20181120/deconstitutionalisering_benoeming).

Main Website – Activiteiten(Activities) – [Stemmingen per vergaderdag](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/stemmingen_per_vergaderdag) (Voting per meeting day) – I searched manually but I suppose it can be automatically grabbed by codes (perhaps set “roll-call vote” as key word and let the computer search through those consecutive URLs).

In report, we can easily identify people who participated in the discussion before a vote.

**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?**

It does not include word count, but the full version of the speech is public and available. Address same as stated above.

2. Indication 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.

Main Website – Activiteiten(Activities) – [Stemmingen per vergaderdag](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/stemmingen_per_vergaderdag) (Voting per meeting day) – I searched manually for vote by sitting or standing.

If there is a discussion before the vote, it will be shown in the report. An example can be found [here](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/verslagdeel/20190604/tijdelijke_verhoging_2).

**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?**

It does not include word count, but the full version of the speech is public and available. Address same as stated above.

*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?**

Yes. Address and example same as (F.1.a).

On the top of the report for each voting.

For example:

Aan de orde is de stemming in verband met het Voorstel van wet van het lid Jetten houdende verandering in de Grondwet, strekkende tot de deconstitutionalisering van de benoeming van de commissaris van de Koning en de burgemeester (34716). (The next item is the vote on the proposal for a law by Mr Jetten amending the Constitution, aimed at deconstitutionalising the appointment of the King's Commissioner and the Mayor ( 34716 ).)

**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?**

Yes. Address and example same as (F.1.a).

In that particular example, it’s “the vote on the legislative proposal for… **amending** the…”

**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?**

Yes. Address and example same as (F.1.a).

At the very bottom.

If it is adopted, it is “aangenomen.”

If it is rejected, it is “verworpen.”

**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?**

It’s not mentioned in the report.

**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?**

Yes, at the level of individual legislator. Address and example same as (F.1.a).

At the very bottom, we are able to know who vote “for” and who vote “against.”

For example:

Vóór stemmen de leden (The following members voted in favor): De Bruijn-Wezeman, Dercksen, Peter van Dijk, Duthler, Engels, Ester, Faber-van de Klashorst, Flierman, Ganzevoort, Gerkens, Van Hattem, Huijbregts-Schiedon, Jorritsma-Lebbink, Niek Jan van Kesteren, Ton van Kesteren, Klip-Martin, Knapen, Köhler, Kok, Kox, Kuiper, Van Leeuwen, Lintmeijer, Lokin-Sassen, Meijer, Nagel, Oomen-Ruijten, Overbeek, Pijlman, Prast, Reuten, Van Rij, Rinnooy Kan, Rombouts, Schaap, Schaper, Schnabel, Schouwenaar, Van der Sluijs, Stienen, Van Strien, Strik, Van de Ven, Vink, De Vries-Leggedoor, Wever, Wezel, Aardema, Andriessen, Van Apeldoorn, Atsma, Baay-Timmerman, Backer, Bikker, Binnema, Brinkman en Bruijn.

Tegen stemmen de leden (The members voted against): Diederik van Dijk, Fiers, Ten Hoeve, Nooren, Postema, Schalk, Sent, Sini, Verheijen, Vlietstra en Broekers-Knol.

**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?**

No.

2. Indication votes:

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

Yes. Address and example same as (F.2.a).

On the top of the report for each voting.

For example:

Aan de orde is de stemming in verband met het wetsvoorstel Wijziging van de Meststoffenwet in verband met tijdelijke verhoging van het afromingspercentage bij overgang van een fosfaatrecht (35208). (The next item is the vote on the legislative proposal to amend the Fertilizers Act in connection with a temporary increase in the creaming percentage when a phosphate duty is transferred (35208).)

**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?**

Yes. Address and example same as (F.2.a).

In that particular example, it’s “the vote on the legislative proposal to **amend** the…”

**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?**

Yes. Address and example same as (F.2.a).

At the very bottom.

If it is adopted, it is “aangenomen.”

If it is rejected, it is “verworpen.”

**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?**

The only indication vote I found is “vote by sitting and standing.” (although I did not find the definition of “general vote,” but I suppose it’s not a indication vote.)

**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?**

Yes, in the aggregate. Address and example same as (F.2.a).

At the very bottom, we are able to know which groups vote “for” and which groups vote “against.”

For example:

De voorzitter: Ik constateer dat de leden van de fracties van de SGP, de ChristenUnie, de VVD, de PvdA, het CDA, GroenLinks, de PvdD, 50PLUS, D66 en Fractie Duthler voor dit wetsvoorstel hebben gestemd en de leden van de fracties van de OSF, de SP en de PVV ertegen, zodat het is aangenomen. (The president: I note that the members of the groups of the SGP, the Christian Union, the VVD, the PvdA, the CDA, GroenLinks, the PvdD, 50PLUS, D66 and the Duthler Group voted in favor of this bill and the members of the OSF groups, the SP and the PVV against it, so that it is adopted.)

**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?**

No.

*NOTES ON ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT COULD BE RELEVANT*

1. As for “Algemene stemmen (General vote)” (marked as red above), I did not find the definition.
2. [Here](https://www.eerstekamer.nl/archief_planning_ek) is where you can find the achieved calendar. Hopefully with the date stated in this calendar, people are able to change the date within the URL and thus get the reports/information automatically.