

Measures regarding Covid-19 emergency put in place by Italy's Chamber of deputies

- For the duration of the COVID-19 emergency, Italy's Chamber of Deputies has resolved to limit **the work of the Plenary** mainly to consideration of urgent non-deferrable bills, with particular regard to bills for the enactment into law of pending decree laws. The Chamber will also meet in plenary session in case of parliamentary questions requiring an immediate reply or of urgent interpellations. The purpose of these arrangements is to maintain constant dialogue with the Government on the subject of the emergency and to enable the Government to keep Parliament apprised of developments including through the issuance of urgent information updates and reports.
- In order to avoid the simultaneous and prolonged presence on the Floor of the House of a large number of MPs, parliamentary groups have agreed to reduce the number of MPs in attendance and adopted appropriate voting methods, such as the roll-call vote used for the sitting of 31st March 2020.
- The activities of **Committees and other parliamentary bodies** have likewise been restricted to consideration of urgent non-deferrable acts. In particular, it has been agreed that Committees shall examine only bills related to items included in the Order of Business of the House or else bills for which a Committee is acting in a law-making capacity. In addition, Committees may conduct hearings with Ministers or other persons or entities whose responsibilities pertain to matters connected with the emergency. Committees may also convene for purposes of parliamentary scrutiny or to issue opinions on Government legislative proposals that are nearing expiration and need to be expedited without delay.
- Following a decision of the Chamber's Committee on the Rules of Procedure ([sitting of 31 March 2020](#)), the possibility has been introduced for Committees to conduct some of their less formal activities, such as meetings of the Bureau as well as hearings, **remotely**, by videoconference. These sittings, which need to be appropriately scheduled to allow for the necessary technical support, must nonetheless continue to be held in the official premises of the Chamber of Deputies and must always take place in the presence of the Chair, or Deputy Chair of the

Committee, along with the Clerk (parliamentary official) to the Committee and any MPs who wish to attend the sitting in person.

- To comply with the recommendations of the relevant health authorities, a decision was taken to have Committees and other parliamentary bodies convene in **larger meeting and conference rooms**, so that attendees may observe the appropriate social distancing and respect the rules banning people from gathering at close quarters. The sittings are also being scheduled so as to leave time for the necessary sanitation of the conference rooms between one meeting and another.
- In line with the measures adopted by the Government at a national level, a number of employees is required to work on site as deemed strictly necessary to ensure the full functioning of parliamentary bodies and of the Chamber as a whole. The remaining employees of the Chamber of Deputies are working remotely.