

How European National Parliaments act during the Corona Crisis

Country	Parliament	Status	Details	Date	Source
Austria	Nationalrat	Parliament operates under safety distance measures.	Plenary Sessions from 2 – 3 April went ahead - attendance was reduced by half. New online tours of Parliament for citizens. Next plenary session not until Tuesday 21 April.	20.03.2020 08.04.2020	Click here Click here Click here
Belgium	The Federal Parliament	Committee Meetings and Plenary sessions cancelled. The Bureau of the Senate may decide to hold meetings - decisions will be taken on a case-by-case basis.	Government temporarily authorized to implement legal measures without approval of parliament. Scheduled meetings of the committees and the plenary session of the Senate cancelled. Some Committee Meetings via Zoom (e.g. European Affairs Committee on 6 April). Extended deadline - for the appointment of non-magistrates to the High Council of Justice.	27.03.2020 02.04.2020 06.04.2020 03.03.2020	Click here Click here Click here Click here
Bulgaria	National Assembly	Assembly will only meet on bill and acts related to the state of emergency until 13 April. Last plenary session was 18 - 20 March.	Scrutiny will be in written form; the committees continue working. Selected committee meetings went ahead on 5 April.	26.03.2020 05.04.2020	Click here Click here
Croatia	Sabor	Parliament continues as normal, but only two members of each party group attending sessions and social distancing measures in place.	Parliament continues as normal. Speaker hopes MPs can return to damaged Parliament building after Easter. Bill to legalize broader surveillance on citizens' mobiles sent to 2 nd reading.	01.04.2020 06.04.2020 07.04.2020	Click here Click here Click here
Cyprus	House of Representatives	Parliamentary activities under precautionary safety measures.	Committee meetings held via telephone. Parliamentary Sitting 3 April went ahead.	25.03.2020 03.04.2020	Click here Click here

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Czech Republic	Czech Parliament	Plenary sessions under precautionary measures. Access to Chamber of Deputies is restricted.	Access to Chamber denied to outsiders. Access to Chamber of Deputies is restricted to deputies, MPs and designated employees. Extended state of emergency to 30 April.	27.03.2020 06.04.2020 08.04.2020	Click here Click here
Denmark	Folketinget	Closed to all visitors but essential work continues, extended provisionally to 3 May. Parliament to convene next on 14 April.	Only critically important functions running. Committee meetings via video conference. Limited access - visits, conferences etc. cancelled until 3 May.	12.03.2020 30.03.2020 02.04.2020	Click here Click here Click here
Estonia	Riigikogu	Only time-critical issues will be discussed.	Committees function by teleworking. Foreign Affairs Committee support EU solidarity in the corona crisis.	16.03.2020 03.03.2020	Click here Click here
Finland	Eduskunta	MPs may follow parliament's work and propose legislative initiatives digitally, but not vote.	Only necessary meetings of committees are held. Remote work options (digital) for MPs. Parliament closed to public.	24.03.2020 25.03.2020	Click here Click here
France	Assemblée Nationale	Parliamentary activity reduced to essential activities.	Non-essential staff works remotely. New format for government questions – only speakers, group chairmen & ministers present in the Chamber.	19.03.2020 07.04.2020	Click here Click here
Germany	Bundestag	Plenary sessions continue with distance of at least 1,5m and only every third seat is occupied. Parliament closed to external visitors.	The quorum of at least 50% of MPs being present in the plenary will temporarily be reduced to 25%.	25.03.2020	Click here
Greece	Ελληνικό Κοινοβούλιο (Hellenic Parliament)	Continues its legislative work by drastically limiting the presence of members.	Only one draft bill shall be put to vote each week.	17.03.2020	Click here
Hungary	Országgyűlés	Government rules by decree without needing parliamentary approval to implement legislation.	Measure aimed at extending a state of emergency and granting the government special powers to take extraordinary	23.03.2020 05.04.2020	Click here Click here

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			measures to contain the spread of novel coronavirus.		
Ireland	Houses of the Oireachts	Restricted access and reduced opening hours of Parliament.	Seanad (Senate) general elections took place – count moved offsite, minimum staff.	03.04.2020	Click here
Italy	Parlamento della Repubblica Italiana	Working at significantly reduced capacity. Commission meetings kept to minimum & held in large places.	All buildings close at 7 pm and all visits have been suspended. Voting not done remotely.	14.03.2020	Click here
Latvia	Saeima	Parliament paused till 16 April. Plenary Sittings to take place via video conference - MPs to work from different premises for distance measures.	All events are indefinitely postponed. New digital format for plenary sessions. Committees can hold meetings remotely (video conference).	12.03.2020 02.04.2020	Click here Click here
Lithuania	Seimas	The work of the Seimas continues despite the event of emergency.	The Spring schedule is significantly revised. Unscheduled sittings on 31 March for action against Covid.	24.03.2020	Click here
Luxembourg	Chamber of Deputies	Parliamentary scrutiny limited through state of emergency. From 20 March - videoconference system for Plenary & Committee meetings.	The Chamber of Deputies can, at every moment, suspend the state of crisis. No possibility for remote voting.	19.03.2020	Click here
Malta	Parlament Ta' Malta	Parliament now closed for Easter – next session 20 April.	Travel and access to the public restricted.	12.03.2020 02.04.2020	Click here Click here
Netherlands	Tweedekamer	Regular committee meetings discontinued, only meetings about Coronavirus are taking place.	MPs can ask written questions to the government and conduct written committee consultations. Parliamentary work postponed (e.g. publication of official reports).	14.03.2020 06.04.2020	Click here Click here
Poland	Sejm	Parliamentary sessions are conducted remotely. MPs tune in remotely.	Voting takes place using a special system via parliamentary tablets	29.03.2020	Click here
Portugal	Assembleia de Republica	Parliament has extended the state of emergency till 17 April.	The Plenary meets only once a week until Easter Sunday, unless required.	02.04.2020	Click here

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			The Plenary meets with 1/5 of the Members. Plenary debates taken in the presence of more than half of MPs, (116 Members are required to vote). Committees only meet if necessary.		
Romania	Parlamentul României	In the current state of emergency votes can be collected by electronic means.	Parliament voted the new government on 14 March 2020.	17.03.2020	Click here
Slovakia	Národná	Plenary sessions still going ahead.	It is discussed if officials should reduce their salary. Plenary meeting going ahead to discuss environmental issues.	27.03.2020 07.04.2020	Click here Click here
Slovenia	National Assembly	Parliament works continues with 1,5m distance between all participants. Parliament closed to external visitors.	In order to ensure the distance hallways and additional chairs are being used. Plenary agenda continues.	30.03.2020 07.03.2020	Click here Click here
Spain	El Parlamento	March 12 – all activity suspended for 2 weeks. Plenary sessions will continue at shorter intervals. No plenary sessions are scheduled for the week of 31 March to 2 April.	2 exceptional meetings which allow electronical voting.	03.04.2020	Click here
Sweden	Riksdag	Parliamentary sessions with heavily reduced number of MPs. Plenary and Committee meetings continue to be held. Voting is carried out in person.	55 out of 349 members participate in votes in the Chamber.	18.03.2020	Click here