

Federal Presidential Election Act 1971

FLG 1971/57 amended as of November 2016

Section 1. (1) The Federal Presidential elections shall be announced in the Federal Law Gazette by decree of the Federal government. The decree shall announce the Election Day to be scheduled on a Sunday or other public holiday by the Federal Government in agreement with the Main Committee of the National Council. The decree shall also contain the day which shall be considered as cut-off date. The cut-off date shall not be set on a date previous to the election announcement.

(2) The decree of the Federal Government announcing the election shall be placed on public display in all municipalities.

Section 2. Pursuant to this Federal Act, managing and holding the Federal Presidential election shall be the responsibility of precinct, municipal, district and provincial election boards and of the Federal Election Commission, being in office pursuant to the National Council Elections Act 1992 – NCEA, FLG No. 471. Otherwise, the relevant provisions of the NCEA shall be applied to these election authorities mutatis mutandis, including the provisions concerning international election observation (in particular Section 20a NCEA).

Section 3. (1) For the purpose of the Federal Presidential election the federal territory shall be divided into nine provincial electoral areas, each area covering one province. Each provincial electoral area shall carry the name of its respective province and be allocated a number in alphabetical order.

(2) Votes are cast in local election offices, without prejudice to the regulations governing voting by voting cards. Local election offices are the municipal or precinct election boards.

(3) Each political district, in the provinces of Lower Austria and Vorarlberg each administrative district, and each town with its own charter shall constitute a constituency. In the city of Vienna, each municipal district shall constitute a constituency. In a constituency, the election result of the local election shall be calculated. The provincial constituencies shall form one or several regional constituencies pursuant to section 3 NCEA and according to attachment 1 to the NCEA.

Section 4. All men and women shall be entitled to vote who on Election Day would also be entitled to vote in National Council elections.

Section 5. (1) Persons entitled to vote shall be entered in electoral registers, to be newly established prior to every Federal Presidential election.

(2) Otherwise, entry of persons entitled to vote in voters list, amendment procedures and appeals procedures, vote casting and polling locations are regulated under Sections 22 paragraph 2 last sentence, sections 23 to 37, NCEA, with the proviso that copies of the electoral register may also be requested by representatives authorised to accept notifications who intend to propose a candidate (Section 7).

Section 5a. (1) Persons entitled to vote, who on Election Day are expected to be prevented from casting their vote at their local election office because of travel, sickness or staying abroad, have the right to be issued a voting card.

(2) Voting cards shall be issued on request also to persons who are not able to visit a polling station to cast their vote because they cannot walk or be transported, are bedridden due to illness, age or other reasons, or because they serve a prison sentence, are inmates in a penal institution, or are in preventive or forensic detention, and who wish to cast their vote with a special election commission (Section 73, paragraph 1, NCEA), except if voting facilities according to Sections 72 or 74, NCEA are available.

(3) If conditions for issuing a voting card pursuant to paragraph 2 have ceased to exist, the person entitled to vote shall inform his municipality of residence in a timely fashion before Election Day, that he not longer wishes to be visited by a special election commission set up pursuant to Section 73, paragraph 1, NCEA.

(4) Voting card applications pursuant to paragraph 1 shall be filed with the municipality with a reason according to section 1, in whose election register the person entitled to vote is entered; An application by telephone is not permitted. Voting cards shall be properly justified and applied for in writing, beginning from the day of election announcement but no later than on the fourth day before Election Day, or in person no later than on the second day before Election Day, at 12 a.m. This latter deadline also applies to a written request for the voting card to be personally delivered to a person authorised by applicant, if possible. Abroad, an application to issue and deliver a voting card may also be filed with an Austrian diplomatic mission. With personal applications the identity of applicant shall be verified by a document, in written applications by an applicant not known to the authority or in electronically filed applications without digital signature, the identity of applicant can be verified also by other means, including by specifying passport number, presenting a copy of an identity card or any other official document. The municipality may check the passport number through the relevant authority and identity cards or other documents through the for the emission relevant authorities. If the technical requirements are given, the municipality may check the passport number on its own decision checking the central registry according to Section 22b of the Passport Law of 1992. In the case of paragraph 2, the application shall explicitly request the visit by a special election commission pursuant to Section 73, paragraph 1, NCEA, and shall indicate the premises where the applicant wishes to receive the special election commission, whereas persons in public detention has also to include an official certificate of detention.

(5) Persons entitled to vote, with primary domicile abroad and registered as voters (Section 2a of the Electoral Registration Act 1973) and provided their address is listed in the electoral register, shall directly after announcement of the Federal Presidential election be advised by mail from the municipality, in whose electoral register they are entered, about the option to exercise their right to vote by postal ballot. All application options, including application by Internet, if available, should be indicated. Such information may be sent by e-mail, if an e-mail address is known to the municipality. Persons having applied for voting cards pursuant to Section 2a, paragraph 6, or Section 9, paragraph 4, of the Electoral Registration Act 1973, shall receive such voting cards as soon as the proper printed forms and official ballot sheets are available to the municipality.

(6) Voting cards and voting cards for the second round of voting shall be designed as sealable envelopes. Voting cards shall be printed as shown in Schedule 4, voting cards for the second round of voting shall be printed as shown in Schedule 5. Technical features (Bar code or QR-Code) shall be introduced to ensure that, before forwarding the voting card to the district election board, the personal data of the person entitled to vote, including his signature are concealed behind a sealable flap, and that a perforation on the sealed voting card envelope will enable the district election officer to view personal data and affidavit of the voter without having to open the envelope proper. Voting cards for voters with the residence abroad have to be marked accordingly. Depending on the technical nature of the voting card the flap shall be printed with handling instructions on voting by postal ballot and on forwarding the voting card. On voting cards issued by automated data processing the mayor's signature may be replaced with a signature according section 19 and 20 of the Bundesverfassungsgesetz über Regelung zur Erleichterung des elektronischen Verkehrs mit öffentlichen Stellen (e-Government-Law -EGovG), BGBl. I Nr. 10/2004, whereas section 19 para. 3 second sentence not is applicable) by merely printing his name; authentication by his office is not required. A sufficient number of voting cards has to be prepared by the relevant authority.

(7) If an application for a voting card is accepted, the voting card package shall also include an official ballot sheet pursuant to Section 11, paragraph 2, and a sealable white voting envelope. If the Federal Election Commission has announced the names of more than two candidates (Section 9) and the application was filed by a person entitled to vote, but living abroad, or a request was made accordingly, a voting card for the second round of voting, including an official ballot sheet pursuant to Section 11, paragraph 3, and a beige sealable envelope shall be provided. The ballot sheet pursuant to Section 11, paragraph 2, and the white envelope shall be inserted in the voting card; the ballot sheet pursuant to Section 11, paragraph 3, and the beige envelope shall be inserted in the voting card for the second round of voting, if applicable. All documents shall be handed over to the applicant. The applicant shall keep the respective voting cards in a safe place until voting. In the case of the posting of a voting card, the envelope has to be marked with "Wahlkarte für die Bundespräsidentenwahl XXXX".

(8) For the handover or the posting of a voting card:

1. In the case of a personal handover of voting card, the applicant has to sign a confirmation. If the applicant is unable, a note has to be made about this fact.

2. the special hospitals according to section 72 NCEA the voting card has to be sent registered (“as personal”). In this case there has to be the comment “no handover to authorised representatives”.

3. if the voting card is delivered by personal messenger the confirmation has to be signed by the sick person him/herself. If the person is unable, a note has to be made about this fact.

4. Applicants not mentioned in ciff 2, the voting card has, in case of a sending by post, to be sent registered, unless the election card was demanded orally or the e-application had a qualified signature or the voting card was issued according to section 2 (a) para 6 or section 9 para 4 of the Wählerevidenzgesetz 1973.

5. In case that voting cards are transferred to persons other than digi.2 by personal messenger or by an Austrian representation abroad, provisions analog section 16 paragraph 1 and 2 of the ZustellG (“postal delivery law”) have to be applied. This under the “fact” that a postal voting card may be handed over to person eligible to vote, who has not yet reached 18 years. The handover may be done without prove, if the voting card was demanded orally or the electronically sent application had a qualified electronic signature.

6. Voting cards which were demanded written and were picked up in person by the applicant must only be handed out by the municipality against a written confirmation. If the applicant is unable to do so, a note has to be made about this fact. If there is a person with a power of attorney, s/he has to sign the confirmation.

7. The immediate takeaway of a voting card which was delivered by a messenger and the use as postal voting is not admissible. (?)

(9) Confirmations of receipt regarding voting cards, which were delivered by a messenger or through an Austrian Representation authority have in any case to be transferred to the municipalities which issued the voting cards. The electronic transferral of the confirmations by Austrian representation authorities is allowed. Written applications, confirmations of receipt, notes, electronic applications have to be transferred to the municipal election authority after the lapse of time of para 1. These materials have to be added to the election dossier of the municipality.

(10) Spare cards for lost voting cards must not be handed out by the municipality. Broken and not glued voting cards where the declaration of honour had not been filled yet, may be given back to the municipality. In this case, the municipality may hand out after receipt of the broken card, a spare card. A spoiled card has to be marked and has to be transferred to the municipal electoral authority who has to add the card to the election dossier.

(11) The electoral authorities on the municipal level are responsible that voting cards (section 7 last sentence) which have been deposited in the local responsible post department, have to be fetched before closing on the last day before election day in order to be ready for handing out to the applicant on election day. The voting cards in the postal department which have not been picked up (section 7 last sentence) have to be separated and kept ready for the handover to an official person from the municipality . This information has to be given to the MFI, I order to inform voters (eg by a hotline) about the whereabouts of their voting card. Not picked up election cards at Austrian authorities abroad have to be destroyed after the election day. The municipality which issued the voting card has to be informed electronically.

(12) A person entitled to vote has to be informed as soon as possible by the municipality if his/her application for a voting card was not accepted.

(13) The issue of a voting card has to be marked in the voting register with the word “Wahlkarte”, a voting card for the second round with “Wahlkarte 2”. Until the 29th day after election day the municipality has to answer a request from every person entitled to vote, if s/he had been issued a voting card. For this reason, municipalities have to keep copies of the voter registry ready, even after the voter registry had been forwarded to the municipal authorities , unless they have different means of registration (e.g. EDV-applications). For a request a person has to show documentation.

(14) In the case of the issue of a voting card according to paragraph 2 to a person entitled to vote, who is outside of his place of registry, the issuing municipality has to inform the municipality where the entitled person is, about the fact, that this person has to be visited by a special election authority. (?)

(15) The number of the issued voting cards is after the period of paragraph 4 to be communicated immediately to the provincial election authority. The provincial election commission has to communicate also the figure of the issued voting cards immediately to the Federal electoral commission, latest one day before election day. The figures have to be separated into – entitled to vote abroad – figure of voting cards for the 2nd round of the elections.

Section 6. (1) Only a person entitled to being voted for the National Council (according section 41 NCEA) and having finished the age of 35 on Election Day may stand for Federal President.

(2) Re-election for any subsequent term of office is permitted only once.

Section 7. (1) Candidate nomination proposals for Federal Presidential elections must be presented to the Federal Election Commission no later than on the thirty-seventh day before Election Day at 17.00 hours; Section 42, paragraph 1, NCEA, shall be applied accordingly. Candidate nomination proposals have to include 6 000 declarations of endorsement as shown in Schedule 1 and declarations of endorsement from abroad as shown in Schedule 7.

(2) Any declaration of endorsement must include a municipal certificate, that the person mentioned in the declaration of endorsement was registered as a voter and entitled to vote on closing date (Section 21, paragraph 1, NCEA). The municipality shall issue such a certificate only if the person mentioned in the declaration of endorsement has appeared in person before the municipal officer maintaining the electoral register and has been duly identified by showing an official document with a photograph (e.g. identity card, passport or driver's license), if the declaration of endorsement contains first name, family name or surname, date of birth and domicile of declarer, the name of the candidate to be endorsed, and if the personal signature of the declarer was either given in the presence of a municipal officer or is authenticated by a court or a notary public. The municipalities undertake to provide proper forms as shown in Schedule 1 to any person wishing to declare endorsement, free of administrative charges, other fees or dues; if printed forms bearing the name of the candidate the applicant wishes to endorse are available, such forms shall be used. The certificate on a declaration of endorsement shall be issued immediately.

(3) Upon request, a municipality shall provide a person entitled to vote, but living abroad, with a printed form for declarations of endorsement from abroad; the municipality shall enter name and date of birth of the person wishing to declare endorsement in the form and certify in the proper columns that the declarer was registered as a voter and entitled to vote on closing date (Section 21, paragraph 1, NCEA).

(4) A person entitled to vote, but living abroad, may endorse a candidate nomination proposal by appearing in person at an Austrian diplomatic mission, duly identifying himself by showing an identity document with photograph (e.g. identity card, passport or driver's license) and personally signing a declaration of endorsement from abroad certified pursuant to paragraph 3.

(5) Such a certificate can only be issued once for a person in any election, either on a declaration of endorsement (also declaration from abroad) or a declaration of endorsement from abroad.

(6) If necessary, the Austrian diplomatic mission shall confirm on a declaration of endorsement from abroad duly completed and certified by a municipality pursuant to paragraph 3, that the endorser has personally signed the declaration in the presence of a diplomatic officer.

(7) A candidate nomination proposal shall contain:

1. First names, family names or surnames, date of birth, place of birth, profession and domicile of the candidate;

2. A statement of the candidate accepting being entered in the candidate nomination proposal;

3. Name of an authorised service recipient fulfilling the conditions of Section 41, NCEA and empowered to represent the signatories of the candidate nomination proposal, plus at least two substitutes also fulfilling the conditions of Section 41, NCEA.

(8) The candidate nomination proposal must also include certificates by the municipality that the authorised service recipient and his substitutes were registered as voters and entitled to vote on closing date (Section 21, paragraph 1, NCEA). Such certificates shall not be required if they themselves have declared endorsement of the candidate nomination proposal. Paragraph 1, penultimate and ultimate sentences, shall apply accordingly.

(9) When submitting a candidate nomination proposal (paragraph 1) the authorised service recipient shall make a cash payment of 3 600 Euros to the Federal Election Commission, as contribution towards the costs of the election process. Such cash payment can be waived, when a payment slip is presented showing payment of the cost contribution into an account of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. If the cost contribution is not paid, the candidate nomination proposal shall be deemed as not having been submitted.

Section 8. (1) The Federal Election Commission shall examine without delay whether the candidate nomination proposals received fulfil all legal requirements (Sections 6 and 7). Hereby the head of the Federal Election Board shall examine whether there are any reason according the Act on Acquittance 1972, to consider a candidate as not eligible (as outlined in Section 41 Para 1 NCEA)

(2) If the authorised service recipient is hindered in performing his duties, the deputies listed in the candidate nomination proposal shall serve as authorised service recipients in the order of their appointment.

(3) Candidate nomination proposals not submitted in time or proposals nominating an ineligible candidate shall be deemed as not having been submitted. In either case, the authorised service recipient shall be informed thereof. If a candidate nomination proposal is not supported by a sufficient number of declarations of endorsements or does not include the statement of the candidate that he agrees to be entered in the nomination proposal, the proposal shall be deemed as not having been submitted, if no solution is offered for these deficiencies within a three day deadline upon advising the authorised recipient of service thereof.

(4) Should a candidate die after the date mention in Section 7, paragraph 1, first sentence, the election shall be postponed. The new election date shall be fixed by the Federal Government in such a manner, that the election is held not earlier than six and no later than ten weeks after postponement. A new candidate nomination can only be proposed by the authorised service recipient of the nomination proposal having endorsed the late candidate, or by one of his substitutes. Any new candidate nomination proposal must also be endorsed by at least 6 000 persons entitled to vote. In this case, endorsements by voters who had endorsed the original nomination proposal are permitted. Section 1, paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be applied accordingly.

(5) If a candidate withdraws or loses eligibility, the authorised agent may amend the candidate nomination proposal by naming another candidate no later than on the thirty-fourth day before Election Day. A nomination proposal thus amended must also be endorsed by at least 6 000 persons entitled to vote. In this case, endorsements by voters who had endorsed the original nomination proposal are permitted. Section 7, paragraph 7, lit. 1 and 2, and paragraph 8 shall be applied accordingly.

Section 9. (1) On the thirty-first day before Election Day the Federal Election Commission shall stop to further accept valid nominations, and all valid candidate nomination proposals received shall be published on the notice board of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and on the Internet, in alphabetic order by family or surnames, without indicating street names and identification numbers; if family or surnames are identical, alphabetic order shall alternatively be determined by first names; if the first names are also identical, the order shall be determined by the date the nomination proposal was tabled; if several nomination proposals endorse the same candidate, the name of this candidate shall be published only once, whereas mention shall be made also of the authorised service recipients of the respective candidate nomination proposals.

(2) Announcements in all municipalities shall be made in the usual local fashion, and must include public display.

(3) If a nomination is not announced, the cost contribution (Section 7, paragraph 9) shall be reimbursed.

Section 10. (1) The provisions of Sections 52 to 55, 57 to 59, 61 to 67, 69 to 72, 73, paragraphs 1 to paragraph 3, first sentence, and paragraph 4, as well as the provisions of Section 74, NCEA, shall apply to the election process, whereas Section 61, NCEA, shall apply under the proviso that election witnesses may be appointed by any authorised service recipient of a published candidate nomination proposal (Section 9), or by one of his deputies.

(2) Voters with voting cards according to Section 5a may cast their votes in any polling station, or by forwarding the sealed voting card to their district election board (postal ballot).

(3) In doing so, a voter shall fill out the official ballot sheet, put it into the voting envelope, seal it and place it into the voting card, then declare on the voting card with his own signature in lieu of an oath to have completed the official ballot sheet in person, unobserved, uninfluenced and at a time prior to closure of the last Austrian polling station, subsequently he shall seal the voting card and make sure to forward it in a timely fashion to his responsible district election board, so that it is received there no later than on Election Day at 17:00 hours; or on election day in a polling station during opening hours or district election commission till 17:00. A handover by messenger is possible. When voting abroad, the voting card can also be forwarded through an Austrian diplomatic mission or an Austrian police or military unit till the sixth day before election day, at a diplomatic mission outside the European Economic Area or Switzerland till the ninth day before election day. Forwarding after the sixth day before the election day, in diplomatic mission outside the European Economic Area or Switzerland till the ninth day before election day to the responsible district election board is admissible when it seems to be guaranteed, that the voting card can arrive on time at the relevant district election board, or the entitled person is being informed, that the arrival possibly might not be on time. Costs for mailing the voting card to the district election board shall be borne by the federal authorities.

(4) Postal votes may be cast immediately after receipt of the voting card, but if a second round of voting should occur, a postal vote cannot be cast before the ninth day after the first round Election Day.

(5) Postal votes shall be void, if

1. the declaration in lieu of an oath does not appear on the voting card or was verifiably not signed by the person entitled to vote,
2. the voting card does not include a voting envelope,
3. the voting card contains only another or several other envelopes, but not the white one,
4. the voting card for the second round contains only another or several other envelopes, but not the beige one,
5. the voting card contains two or more white voting envelopes,
6. the voting card for the second round contains two or more beige envelopes,
7. the voting envelope has been written on,
8. an integrity examination (Section 90, paragraphs 3 and 4, NCEA) shows that the voting card has been damaged in such a way, as not to exclude previous abusive removal and reinsertion of the enclosed voting envelope,
9. the voting card has not arrived on election-day at 17:00 hours at the latest at a district election authority or if it has not been handed over in a polling station or
10. the voting card for the second round has arrived prior to the 9th day after first round Election Day, or it is evident, that it was used for voting before that date.

(6) After arrival of a voting card via letter voting in the district election board, the relevant fields for “continuous number in the voting registry”, “municipality”, “Austrian abroad” have to be filled with data. A barcode or QR-code is admissible for this reason. Afterwards the voting card has to be officially protected till the counting (section 14a para 1).

(7) On Election Day, the District election board has to be prepared to receive voting cards from 08:00 till 17:00. If necessary, the District election board has to be prepared to receive the voting cards

which were sent by post on the day before the elections. These voting cards have to be registered according paragraph 6.

Section 10a. (1) When voting, the voter shall show proper identification (Sections 67 and 70, paragraph 1, NCEA). Is he registered as a voter, the returning officer shall hand him an empty voting envelope and the official ballot sheet.

(2) When a voter carries a voting card, the returning officer, after receiving the envelope from the voter (Section 5a, paragraph 6), shall hand him the official ballot sheet therein contained, remove the white voting envelope and replace it with a blue one. The white voting envelope shall be destroyed by the returning officer. The returning officer shall expressly advise the voter carrying a voting card that the ballot sheet received together with the voting card must be used for voting. If a voter carrying a voting card does not longer have this ballot sheet in his possession, he shall be provided with a new official ballot sheet.

(3) When a voter carries a voting card in a second round of voting, not only the beige voting envelope shall be replaced, but also the ballot sheet pursuant to Section 11, paragraph 3, shall be substituted by a ballot sheet pursuant to Section 11, paragraph 2.

(4) The returning officer shall instruct the voter to proceed to and enter the voting booth. There the voter shall complete the official ballot sheet and put it into the voting envelope. Thereupon, he shall leave the voting booth and put the closed voting envelope shall put the unopened voting envelope into the ballot box. If the voter does not want to do that, s/he may hand it over to the returning officer. The returning officer shall put the unopened voting envelope into the ballot box.

(5) If the voter has made an error in completing the official ballot sheet, he may request a further ballot sheet. In this case, the voter shall tear and destroy the first official ballot sheet in the presence of the election officers and take it with him to preserve confidentiality.

(6) In any case, the handing over of any additional official ballot sheet shall be noted in the voting protocol.

Section 11. (1) Official ballot sheets shall be used in Federal Presidential elections.

(2) The official ballot sheets shall contain first names, family names and surnames of the candidates of the officially published nomination proposals in the sequence mentioned in Section 9, paragraph 1, as well as boxes featuring circles, otherwise they shall contain the information as shown in Schedule 2. If the Federal Election Commission has published the names of female candidates, the official ballot sheets shall be adapted to also show the female form of the function "Federal President". The official ballot sheets shall be prepared exclusively by order of the Federal Election Commission.

(3) The official ballot sheets for second round postal voting shall contain a box for entering the family name or surname of the candidate, as well as any other distinguishing features, the earliest date for casting the vote, and other information as shown in Schedule 6, including information about how a voter living abroad can find out whether a second round of voting will occur and which candidates have been selected. In case the District election board published the name of a female candidate, the given text of "Anlage 6" of the ballot sheet has to be adapted accordingly.

(4) If on the thirty-first day before Election Day the Federal Election Commission has concluded that only one candidate will stand for Federal President, the official ballot sheets shall be modified to contain the questions: "Shall NN hold the office of Federal President?" or "Shall NN hold the office of Federal President for a further term?", and below the words "yes" and "no", each next to a circle, and shall otherwise contain the information as shown in Schedule 3.

(5) The size of official ballot sheets depends on the number of candidates and should be at least DIN A5 (210 x 148 mm). On ballot sheets pursuant to paragraph 2, boxes and letters of the same size shall be used for all candidates. The colour of all letters shall be black, separation lines of boxes and circles shall be printed with equal line width.

(6) Precinct election boards, in Vienna through the provincial election boards, municipal and precinct election boards outside of Vienna through their district administrative authorities and municipalities, and the chartered cities directly, shall be furnished by the Federal Election Commission with official ballot

sheets corresponding to the final count of persons entitled to vote in the election board area, plus a reserve of 15%, in case of a second round of 25%. A further reserve of 5% shall be provided to district administration authorities in case of additional needs by election boards on Election Day. Official ballot sheets shall be supplied against receipts of delivery in duplicate; one copy is intended for supplier, the second for recipient.

(7) Unauthorised procurement, production, sale or distribution of official ballot sheets, or ballot sheets identical or similar to the official ballot sheets, shall constitute an administrative offence punishable, unless an action to be punished more severely has also been committed, with a fine of up to 218 Euros levied by the district administrative authority, and in case of non-payment with a custodial sanction of up to two weeks. Such official ballot sheets or ballot sheets identical or similar to official ballot sheets, produced without authorisation, shall be declared invalid, regardless of ownership.

(8) Putting any marks on official ballot sheets to be handed over during an election shall also be punishable pursuant to paragraph 7.

Section 12. (1) Votes can only be cast by using the official ballot sheet.

(2) A ballot sheet pursuant to Section 11, paragraph 2, shall be deemed to have been completed in a valid fashion, if it clearly indicates which candidate the voter wishes to select. This is the case, if the voter has marked the circle printed right next to the name of the candidate with an X or other sign by ink, coloured pen, pencil or the like, unequivocally indicating that he wishes to select the candidate named in the same row. A ballot sheet shall also be deemed to have been completed in a valid fashion, if the wish of the voters is clearly indicated in a different way, including checking, underlining or otherwise marking a candidate or striking out the names of all other candidates.

(3) A ballot sheet pursuant to Section 11, paragraph 3, shall be deemed to have been completed in a valid fashion, if it is obvious which candidate the voting card voter had wished to select. This is the case in particular, if the voter has indicated the family name or surname of the candidate, and in case of identical names any other distinguishing feature such as first name, year of birth, profession or domicile of the candidate.

(4) A ballot sheet pursuant to Section 11, paragraph 4, shall be deemed to have been completed in a valid fashion, if the voter's preference is clearly shown. This is the case, if the voter has marked the circle printed next to the words „yes“ or „no“ with an X or other sign by ink, coloured pen, pencil or the like, unequivocally indicating that he agrees or disagrees to elect the candidate mentioned on the ballot sheet.

(5) If a voting envelope contains several official ballot sheets pursuant to Section 11, paragraph 2, or when voting by voting card in the second round pursuant to Section 11, paragraph 3, they shall be counted as one valid vote, if the same candidate is indicated on all sheets and all other requirements of a valid ballot sheet are met.

Section 13. (1) The ballot sheet is invalid, if

1. the vote was cast by using any other than the official ballot sheet or a ballot sheet from a different round of voting, or

2. the ballot sheet is partly torn in a way that it is no longer evident which candidate the voter wished to select (ballot sheet pursuant Section 11 paragraph 2), which candidate he wished to enter (ballot sheet pursuant to Section 11, paragraph 3) or whether he had answered the question according to Section 11, paragraph 4, with „yes“ or „no“, or

3. no candidate is checked (ballot sheet pursuant to Section 11, paragraph 2) or entered (ballot sheet pursuant to Section 11, paragraph 3) or no markings whatsoever appear on it (ballot sheet pursuant to Section 11, paragraph 4), or

4. two or more candidates are checked (ballot sheet pursuant to Section 11 paragraph 2) or entered (ballot sheet pursuant to Section 11 paragraph 3), or the question according to Section 11, paragraph 4, has been answered by „yes“ as well a by „no“, or

5. a candidate has been entered whose name has not been published by the Federal Election Commission pursuant to Section 19, paragraph 1 (ballot sheet pursuant to Section 11, paragraph 3), or

6. the signs or other markings (ballot sheet pursuant to Section 11, paragraph 2) or entries (ballot sheet pursuant to Section 11, paragraph 3) appearing on the ballot sheet do not clearly indicate which candidate the voter had wished to select, or whether he had wished to answer the question under Section 11 paragraph 4 with „yes“ or „no“.

(2) If a voting envelope contains several ballot sheets not deemed invalid otherwise, these are counted as one invalid vote, if different candidates are indicated on them. Empty voting envelopes are counted as invalid votes.

(3) Words, notes or signs appearing on official ballot sheets other than those indicating the candidate selected (ballot sheet pursuant to Section 11, paragraph 2), naming the candidate selected (ballot sheet pursuant to Section 11, paragraph 3) or checking the word "yes" or "no" (ballot sheet pursuant to Section 11, paragraph 4), shall not impair the validity of an official ballot sheet, unless they cause invalidity for any of the above mentioned reasons. Enclosures of any kind contained in the voting envelope shall not affect the validity of an official ballot sheet.

Section 14. (1) When counting ballot sheets pursuant to Section 11, paragraphs 2 or 3,

- a) the total number of valid and invalid votes cast,
- b) the total number of invalid votes cast,
- c) the total number of valid votes cast and

d) the total number of valid votes going to the various candidates of the officially published nomination proposals (Section 9) (candidates' total)

shall be calculated.

(2) When counting ballot sheets pursuant to Section 11, paragraph 4,

- a) the total number of valid and invalid votes cast,
- b) the total number of invalid votes cast,
- c) the total number of valid votes cast,
- d) the total number votes indicating „yes“ and
- e) the total number votes indicating „no“

shall be calculated.

(3) Otherwise, when calculating the local election results and the election results in the provincial and regional constituencies, the relevant provisions of Sections 84 to 89, paragraph 1, 90, paragraph 6 and 7, Sections 93, paragraph 1, first sentence, and paragraph 2 to paragraph 4, 95, paragraph 1, 96, paragraph 6, with the added proviso that voting results in provincial constituencies shall be noted in the voting protocols, and Sections 99, 103 and 104, NCEA, with the corresponding provision that votes cast by voting card voters shall be counted in the election office where they were cast.

Section 14a paragraph (1) On the day after the elections, at 09:00, the head of the district election board controls under observation of the present assessors and the postal voting cards which arrived till the election day, 17:00, and also the according to Section 70 paragraph 3 NCEA by the local election authorities received and to the district election authorities forwarded voting cards, no matter in which voting district they were issued, controls the sound condition of the seal. Afterwards he checks if the declarations of honour on the voting cards (section 10 paragraph 3) are present. Voting cards which do not fulfil these conditions, must not be considered in the result. Afterwards the head of the District election commission opens the voting cards, takes the disclosed election envelopes and puts them into the pre-prepared container. Voting cards which are void according to section 10 paragraph 5 Cif 2 to 7, must also not be included in the counting procedures. Voting cards which are not included in the counting procedures have to be disclosed to the election dossier with a seal/ lock. Reasons for the not including of voting cards have to be written into a protocol. The including election envelopes have to be mixed and the district election authority has to open them, has to take out the ballot, to check the validity, to separate the

invalid ballots and to mark them with a continuous number and to state the number of the postal voting cards according section 14 paragraph 1 or 2.

(2) Then, the district election authority has to add the results of the postal election voting for the election district to the results according section 14 paragraph 1 or 2, and to communicate it immediately on the quickest way to the relevant provincial election authority (instant notification) and to put it in the protocol. The results of the votes by postal voting have to be protocolled separately by the district election authority. The district election authority has to protocol the figures of the postal voting cards of the different other election districts, separated by election district.

(3) As soon as the election dossiers of the municipal election authorities have arrived at the district election authorities – in Vienna of the precinct election authorities – the district election authorities have to bring them into alphabetic order (following the municipalities) – in Vienna according to election precincts – and to control the results for calculation errors and to correct these errors if necessary. Afterwards, the district election authority has to calculate the final results for the election district and to put them into a protocol.

(4) The protocols according to paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 create the election dossier of the district election authority. The municipal election dossiers, in Vienna the precinct election dossiers and the materials, in which the postal election voters were registered according section 10 paragraph 6, have to be added to the dossier, and have to be immediately secured, if possible in a sealed envelop, and to be forwarded to the relevant provincial election authority.

(5) On the 15th day after the election day, in case of a second election round, on the 15th day after this day, the district election authority has to state the number of the delayed postal voting cards, and has to communicate this figure to the Federal election authority via the Provincial election authorities. Furthermore, it has to assure the destruction of the unopened voting cards at a time when the result of the elections is incontestable.

Section 15. (1) Each provincial election office shall announce the finally calculated voting results in the provincial and regional constituencies. When ballot sheets pursuant to Section 11, paragraphs 2 or 3, were used, the announcement shall contain the results according to Section 14, paragraph 1, when ballot sheets under Section 11, paragraph 4, were used, it shall contain the results according to Section 14, paragraph 2.

(2) The time of the announcement shall be documented in the protocol of the provincial election board; thereafter, the election files of the provincial election board shall be transmitted under lock and key to the Federal Election Commission or delivered by messenger in such a way, that it shall be received no later than on the eighth day after Election Day, except if a second round of voting is held.

Section 16. (1) Within forty-eight hours after an announcement pursuant to Section 15, any authorised service recipient of an officially published candidate nomination proposal (Section 9) shall be free to raise an objection in writing with the Federal Election Commission against the numbers returned by the provincial election board.

(2) Such objections shall be supported by reasonable evidence, why and how the numbers returned by the provincial election board does not meet the requirements of this Federal Act. If no such evidence is presented, the objection may be dismissed without further examination.

(3) If an objection supported by reasonable evidence is raised, the Federal Election Commission shall examine the election results based on the presented documentation. If the documentation shows the results to be erroneous, the Federal Election Commission shall correct the results, revoke the announcement by the provincial election board and announce the corrected results.

(4) If the examination does not yield any just cause for correcting the results, the Federal Election Commission shall dismiss the objection.

(5) When ballot sheets pursuant to Section 11, paragraphs 2 or 3, were used, the Federal Election Commission, on the basis of results provided by the provincial election boards, shall calculate for the total territory:

a) the total number of valid and invalid votes cast,

b) the total number of invalid votes cast,

c) the total number of valid votes cast,

d) the total number of valid votes attributed to the various candidates of the officially published nomination proposals (Section 9) (candidates' total). Should the first round of elections return results according to Section 17, such calculations shall be published at the same time as any announcement according to Section 21, should a second round of voting become necessary, at the same time as any announcements according to Sections 19 and 21.

(6) When ballot sheets pursuant to Section 11, paragraph 4, were used, the Federal Election Commission, on the basis of results provided by the Provincial election board, shall calculate for the total territory:

a) the total number of valid and invalid votes cast,

b) the total number of invalid votes cast,

c) the total number of valid votes cast,

d) the total number of valid votes indicating „yes“, and

e) the total number of valid votes indicating „no“. These calculations shall be announced at the same time as any announcement according to Section 21.

Section 17. The Federal Election Commission shall declare any candidate as having been elected, who has received more than half of the valid votes. When using ballot sheets pursuant to Section 11, paragraph 4, a candidate shall be declared as having been elected, if the total number of valid votes cast indicating „yes“ exceeds that of the valid votes cast indicating „no“.

Section 18. If no candidate has received a majority of votes according to Section 17, first sentence, a second round of voting (final round) shall be held on the fourth Sunday following the first round of voting, confronting the two candidates having received the most valid votes in the first round of voting; if the first round of voting was not held on a Sunday, the second round of voting shall be held on the fifth Sunday following the first round of voting. In case of equal numbers of votes, the federal returning officer shall draw lots to determine the participants in the final round.

Section 19. (1) The Federal Election Commission shall order the announcement, that a final round will take place, to be placed on the official board of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and on the Internet no later than on the eighth day after Election Day. The announcement shall name the candidates included in the final round and shall advise that votes in the second round of voting can only be cast for one of the two candidates.

(2) Announcements pursuant to paragraph 1 shall be made in all municipalities in the usual local fashion and must include public display. Moreover, the Federal Election Commission shall have telephone service and an internet service with a taped message set up, broadcasting information whether a second round of voting has been ordered and which candidates are included in the final round. The announcement may also be made by Internet.

Section 20. (1) The electoral registers valid for the first round of voting shall also be used without any alterations in the second round of voting.

(2) Otherwise, for the second round of voting the provisions of Sections 2 to 6, and 10 to 17, shall apply accordingly; votes for any candidate not included in the final round shall be invalid though.

(3) If both candidates have the same number of votes in the final round, voting shall be repeated, applying the provisions of Sections 18, 19 and 20, paragraphs 1 and 2 accordingly, as long as no majority according to Section 17, first sentence, has been returned.

Section 21. (1) The Federal Election Commission shall announce the election results without delay (Section 17, or Section 20, if applicable) on the official board of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and on the Internet.

(2) Within a week of announcement, any authorised service recipient of a valid candidate nomination proposal (Section 9) may raise an objection against the election results published by the Federal Election Commission (paragraph 1) with the Constitutional Court for any alleged unlawfulness in the election process. The objection must include a reasonable motion for annulment of the election process or a certain part thereof. The Constitutional Court shall decide on the objection within four weeks of receiving the objection. The provisions of Sections 68, paragraph 2, 69, 70, paragraphs 1 and 4, of the Constitutional Court Act 1953 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to such appellate procedures.

Section 22. If no objection (Section 21, paragraph 2) was raised or an objection was dismissed by the Constitutional Court, the Federal Chancellor shall not delay to publish the results of the Federal Presidential election in the Federal Legal Gazette.

Section 23. *Cancelled.*

Section 24. (1) The provisions of Sections 122, 123, 125 and 126, NCEA, shall be applied to the Federal Presidential elections.

(2) Inasmuch as deadlines set forth in the NCEA are also applied to the Federal Presidential election process, the provisions of Section 12, paragraph 6, NCEA, shall be applicable to such deadlines.

(3) If reference is made in this Federal Act to statutory provisions of other federal acts of law, these shall be referred to in their currently valid version.

Sections 24a.

(1) Every presidential candidate may spend a maximum amount of 7 million Euros for campaign advertising. This amount also includes expenses of natural persons and groups of persons, who are supporting the campaign of a presidential candidate.

(2) Candidates as well as natural persons and groups of persons, within the meaning of paragraph (1), are allowed to receive donations, within the meaning of § 2 Z 5 Party Law Federal Law Gazette (FLG) Nr. 59/2012, and have to declare them in the following way:

1. Entire amount of donations from natural persons, not covered under Z 2,
2. Entire amount of donations from natural and juristic person, which are registered in the commercial register,
3. Entire amount of donations from associations, not covered under Z 4, and,
4. Entire amount of donations from trade associations, institutions, foundations or funds.

(3) Donations that are exceeding 3,500 Euros have to be declared, including by giving the name and the address of the donor.

(4) Donations that are exceeding 50,000 Euros, as well as contributions by political parties, have to be publicly declared by the candidate or by any natural person or group of persons, supporting the candidate, at the latest 1 week prior to election day. This public declaration has to be published on the website of the candidate or on the website of the natural person or on the website of the group of persons, supporting the candidate, and has to include the name and the address of the donor.

(5) Candidates, natural persons or groups of persons are not allowed to receive donations from:

1. Parliamentary clubs, within the meaning of Klubfinanzierungsgesetz/Club Financing Law 1985, Federal Law Gazette (FLG) Nr. 156,
2. Legal entities within the meaning of § 1, para. 2 Publizistikförderungsgesetz/Public Funding Law 1985, as well as educational institutions belonging to political parties that are supported by states,
3. Public corporations,
4. Non-profit institutions, within the meaning of , as well as institutions that are promoting popular sports,

5. Companies and institutions that are supported by the public sector with more than 25 percent,
 6. Foreign natural and juristic persons providing donation exceeding 2,500 Euros,
 7. Natural or juristic persons providing a donation in cash exceeding 2,500 Euros,
 8. Anonymous donors providing individual donations exceeding 1,000 Euros,
 9. Natural or juristic persons who are transmitting a donation exceeding 1,000 Euros, from an anonymous third person,
 10. Natural or juristic persons who are providing a donation to the candidate while anticipating an economic or legal favour in return,
 11. Third persons, who are raising funds for a candidate or for natural or juristic persons supporting the candidate, in return for a fee paid by the candidate or by a natural person or groups of persons supporting the candidate.
- (6) A candidate or natural person or a member of a group of persons, supporting the candidate, who deliberately
1. Fail to declare a donation in contradiction of paragraph (3)
 2. Fail to declare and receive a donation in contradiction of paragraph (4),
 3. Receive a donation in contradiction of paragraph (5)
 4. Attempt to circumvent paragraphs (3), (4), or (5) by dividing up a donation into partial amounts,

commits an administrative offence and will be punished with a fine of up to 20,000 Euros. In addition, the amount of the donation received will be forfeited.

- (7) Candidates or natural persons or groups of persons, supporting the candidate, have to declare income resulting from sponsoring exceeding 12,000 Euros, including by giving the name and address of the sponsor. § 2 Z 6 PartG should be applied in a way that it covers sponsoring for presidential candidates as well as for natural persons or groups of persons, supporting the candidate. Candidates, natural persons or groups of persons, supporting the candidate, have to declare income resulting from advertisement exceeding 3,500 Euros, including by giving the name and address of the advertiser. § 2 Z 7 PartG should be applied in a way that it covers advertisement in media outlets that belong to the candidate or to a natural person or groups of persons, supporting the candidate. The disclosure of sponsoring and advertisement should be done according to paragraph (4), second sentence.
- (8) The limitations with regard to money spent on campaign advertising, pursuant to paragraph (1), the regulations with regard to donations, pursuant to paragraph (2), (3), and (5), as well as the obligation to declare sponsoring and advertisement, apply to the period between the cutoff date of the election and the election day.
- (9) (constitutional provision) Prohibited donations according to paragraph 5 have to be transferred promptly and no later than three weeks since election day to the audit court by the candidate or by natural persons or groups of persons, supporting the candidate. The audit court has to keep the received amounts of money on a separate account and has to cite the money within its area of activity. The audit court will transfer the received money immediately to charitable or academic institutions.
- (10) (constitutional provision) Presidential candidates as well as natural persons and groups of persons supporting the candidate have to record any donations/income according to paragraphs 2-5 and paragraph 7 in separate lists. The lists have to be checked and signed by an auditor and be transmitted to the audit court at the latest three months after election day.
- (11) (constitutional provision) The lists that are created by the candidate, by natural persons or groups of persons supporting the candidate, are subject to scrutiny by the audit court. The audit court

has to check their correctness and compliance with federal law according to the following paragraphs.

(12) (constitutional provision) Once the audit court determines that the lists are in accordance with paragraphs 2-5 and paragraph 7, the lists have to be published on the website of the candidate or on the website of natural persons or groups of persons supporting the candidate. If the audit court sees indications that the information contained in the lists is incorrect or incomplete, the audit court has to provide the possibility to the candidate or to natural persons or groups of persons supporting the candidate, to respond to the issue within an appropriate timeframe. The audit court can request a separate auditor to confirm the correctness of the response.

(13) (constitutional provision) If the submitted response, pursuant to paragraph 12, does not help to overcome the audit court's concerns, the audit court has to instruct another auditor, who is chosen by drawing of lots, to check the correctness of the donation lists. The candidate has to allow the chosen auditor to inspect all relevant documents and receipts.

(14) (constitutional provision) The audit court has to publish its findings on its website, in due consideration of paragraph 13.

(15) (constitutional provision) The imposition of financial fines is the responsibility of the independent 'Party Transparency Senate'/Parteien-Transparenz-Senat, who will decide according to documentation received from the audit court.

Section 25. (1) Unless otherwise laid down in the context of this Federal Act, the costs incurred in holding the election shall be borne by the municipalities. In due compensation thereof, the Federal Authority shall pay to municipalities a fixed amount of 0,67 Euro for each person entitled to vote, and a fixed amount of .0,92 Euro in elections with a necessary second round of voting.

(2) The compensation amount set forth in paragraph 1 shall increase or decrease, starting from January 1st2012, based on the annual change in the consumer price index 2010 published by the federal institute Statistics Austria or the consumer price index replacing it, in comparison with the index figure published for January 2011, with changes in the index not being taken into account unless the index figure published for January 2011, or the index figure subsequently replacing it, for measuring changes in the compensation amount, have been exceeded by ten percent or more. If the compensation amount changes, it shall be rounded to full eurocents and published in the Federal Law Gazette.

(3) The fixed compensation amounts shall be paid to the provincial governors within two years after Election Day. The provincial governors shall transfer these amounts to the municipalities without delay. Even if an adjustment pursuant to paragraph 2 was made after the election, the compensation amount valid at the time of the election shall be applicable.

(4) The compensation amount for the municipality of Vienna shall be remitted by the Federal Minister of the Interior within the time period mentioned in paragraph 3.

Section 26a. If this Federal Law contains references to provisions contained in other Federal Laws, these provisions have to be applied in their current version.

Special provisions for the postponement of the repeat second round of the presidential election in 2016:

Section 26b. (1) The administrative order (Federal Law Gazette, II, Nr. 180/2016) by the government for the repeat second round of the 2016 presidential election as well as the determination of election day is repealed.

(2) (constitutional provision) The repeat second round of the 2016 presidential election will be held on 4 December 2016. The cutoff date is 27 September 2016.

(3) (constitutional provision) Eligible voters are all men and women who are eligible to vote in a parliamentary election on election day. All eligible voters have to be recorded in newly-compiled electoral registers.

(4) For the entry of eligible voters in the electoral register, the process for filing corrections and complaints, the participation in the elections, and the location of exercising the right to vote, all provisions contained in the Parliamentary Elections Law (§§ 22, paragraph 23-37, second last sentence) shall apply, provided that transcripts of the electoral registers can be requested by representatives, who have introduced nominations for the 2016 presidential election.

(5) District Election Boards have to transmit all voting cards, which have been issued for the 2 October 2016 presidential election and which have already been received, to the Federal Election Board. The Federal Election Board has to take all necessary measures that the secrecy of the vote is guaranteed, even if certain voting cards have to be used as pieces of evidence. The Federal Election Board has to take care of destroying these voting cards, once all civil law proceedings in connection with the election on 2 October 2016 are legally completed. Applications for voting cards for the 2 October 2016 presidential election are to be considered redundant after entry into force of this law.

(6) The wording contained in Annex 5 has to be changed from “by means of postal voting from within the country or from abroad, starting from XX.XXXXX.XXXX” to “by means of postal voting from within the country or from abroad, upon receipt of the voting card”.

(7) (constitutional provision) In case of simultaneous conduct of provincial elections and the presidential election, only the elections boards that have been created in accordance with the 1992 Parliamentary Election Law, can exert their function.

(8) (constitutional provision) In case of simultaneous conduct of the presidential election with any other election and in case eligible voters registered in the electoral registers for both elections are not identical, markedly different ballots and envelopes have to be used.

Section 27. (1) Unless otherwise laid down in the context of this Federal Act, it shall be implemented by the Federal Minister of the Interior, in agreement with the Federal Minister for European and International Affairs with respect to Sections 5a, paragraph 4, 7, paragraphs 4 and 6, and to the reference made in Schedule 6, and in agreement with the Federal Minister for European and International Affairs and the Federal Minister for Defence and Sports with respect to Section 10, paragraph 3. Section 24 shall be implemented by the Federal Minister of Finance. Section 24a, paragraphs 1-8, shall be implemented by the Federal Chancellor.

(2) (constitutional provision) Section 24a, paragraphs 9-15, shall be implemented by the Federal Government.

Section 28. (1) Sections 3, paragraphs 1 and 3, 5, paragraph 2, 5a, 7, 8, paragraphs 3 to 5, 9, paragraph 1, 10, 10a, 11, paragraphs 1 and 3 to 8, 12, paragraphs 3 to 5, 13, paragraph 1 and 3, 14, 15, 16 paragraphs 1, 5 and 6, 17 to 19, 24, paragraph 1 and 27 as well as Schedules 1, 4, 5 and 6, as amended by Federal Act FLG I No. 159/1998 shall enter into force on 1st January 1999.

(2) Sections 7, paragraph 9, 11, paragraph 7 and 23, paragraph 3, as amended by Federal Act FLG I No. 98/2001 shall enter into force on 1st January 2002.

(3) Section 4, Section 6, paragraph 1, Section 7, paragraph 2 first sentence, paragraph 3 and paragraph 8, Section 11, paragraph 8, Section 27, last sentence, and Schedules 1 and 7, as amended by Federal Act FLG I No. 90/2003 shall enter into force on 1st January 2004.

(4) Sections 2, 3, paragraph 2, 5a, 6, paragraph 1, 9, paragraph 1, 10, 10a, paragraphs 2 and 3, 11, paragraph 3, 14, paragraph 3, 25, paragraphs 2 and 3, 27, and Schedules 4, 5, 6 und 7, as amended by Federal Act FLG I No. 28/2007 shall enter into force on 1st July 2007. Section 23 shall expire on 30th June 2007.

(5) Sections 2, 5a, paragraphs 5 and 6, 7, paragraphs 2 and 7, lit. 1 and 3, 8, paragraph 2, 9, paragraph 1, 10, paragraphs 3 to 6, 11, paragraphs 2 and 3, 12, paragraphs 1 and 3, 14, paragraph 3, 19, paragraph 1, 20, paragraph 2, 21, paragraphs 1 and 2 and Schedules 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7, as amended by Federal Act FLG I Nr. xxx/2010 shall enter into force on 1st March 2010.

(6) Sections 5, paragraph 2, 5a paragraphs 4, 7-15, 6, 7, paragraphs 1, 8, paragraphs 5 9, paragraphs 1, 10, paragraphs 2-6, 11, paragraphs 3 and 4, 14 paragraphs 3,15 paragraphs 2, 18, 19 paragraph 1, 25 paragraph 1 and 2, as well as annex 4 front side, annex 5 front side, and annex 4, as amended by Federal Act FLG No. 43/2011 shall enter into force on 1 October 2011.

(7) Section 1 paragraph 1 and section 10 paragraph 3 as amended by Federal Act FLG 12/2012 shall enter into force on 1 April 2012.

(8) Section 5 paragraph 2 as amended by Federal Act FLG Nr. 115/2013 shall enter into force on 1 January 2014.

(9) sections 5a paragraphs 4 and 6, 7 paragraph 8, 10 paragraph 1, 3, 5, 6, and 7, 14 paragraphs 3, 14a, 15 paragraph 2, 19 paragraph 2, and 28 paragraph 9 as well as annexes 4 and 5 as amended by Federal Act FLG Nr. 158/2015 shall enter into force on 1 January 2016.

(10) Section 8 paragraph 1, as amended by Federal Act FLG Nr. 32/2016 shall enter into force on 1 January 2017.