

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, RIGHTS, FREEDOMS AND GUARANTEES

Competences

In the exercise of its duties, the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Rights, Freedoms and Guarantees is responsible for exercising its legislative, monitoring and supervision competences in the following areas:

- Constitutional and regulatory affairs;
- Fundamental rights and duties;
- The exercise of mandates as Member of the Assembly of the Republic;
- Rights, freedoms and guarantees (all listed under Part I, Title II of the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic (CRP), in particular, rights of personality, apart from those mentioned in Chapter III – Workers’ rights, freedoms and guarantees – and those relating to the media);
- Justice and prison matters;
- Internal administration, including electoral issues, especially relating to the exercise of voting and referendum rights, without prejudice to cooperation with the Committee on the Environment, Territorial Planning, Decentralisation, Local Government and Housing with respect to the electoral system and the statute of local government officials, and on civil protection matters, without prejudice to the competence of the Committee on Agriculture and the Sea with respect to forest fires;
- The legal system relating to immigration, asylum, refugees, policy on integration and intercultural dialogue;
- The European area of freedom, security and justice, particularly border control;
- Human rights;
- Equality and non-discrimination, tackling domestic violence and combating human trafficking;
- The protection of the elderly and at-risk children and young people, without prejudice to the necessary cooperation with the Committee on Labour and Social Security, which also has competences in this area;
- The legal systems governing citizens’ right to petition and legislative initiative by citizens;
- The definition of sanction regimes in sectoral areas, without prejudice to the main competence of the parliamentary committee that is competent for the matter in question in each case.

The Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Rights, Freedoms and Guarantees is specifically responsible for:

- Issuing an opinion on the constitutionality of government bills, members’ bills and other parliamentary initiatives when asked to do so by the President of the Assembly of the Republic or other specialist parliamentary committees;
- Issuing opinions on questions involving the interpretation and application of constitutional rules;

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- Considering procedural questions and issuing an opinion on the interpretation and application of rules and remedying shortcomings in the Rules of Procedure when so requested by the President of the Assembly of the Republic, the Bureau or the Plenary;
- Issuing opinions on draft amendments to the Rules of Procedure and, where appropriate, suggesting to the Assembly of the Republic any changes deemed necessary;
- At the request of the President of the Assembly of the Republic, issuing an opinion on inter-committee conflicts of competence;
- Issuing opinions on matters concerning incompatibility, incapacity, impediments, the lifting of immunity, conflicts of interest, Members' suspension or loss of mandate, as well as keeping register of interests declarations and declarations on the absence of incompatibilities;
- Setting up the panel for the Human Rights Award and considering nominations (pursuant to Assembly of the Republic Resolution no. 69/98 of 10 December 1998, as amended by Assembly of the Republic Resolution no. 48/2002 of 20 July 2002, and the Award Regulations).