



01-II How do you make a law?

EVERY CIRCLE HAS ITS OWN LAWS, WHICH ARE MADE BY THE BODY KNOWN AS THE LEGISLATURE (UNION CIRCLE).

Process

- Drafting a law is normally a complex and demanding process requiring detailed research and discussion. Generally it is the Council of State that submits draft laws to congress, but a law may also be drafted on the initiative of a member of parliament, a Community Interest Circle, a committee (in these three cases, the law is based on a motion or parliamentary initiative) or a country (country initiative).

The preliminary draft is usually submitted to a consultation procedure by the competent parliamentary committee or by the Council of State. During the consultation process, all parties in the Circles assess the proposal and express their opinions. After the consultation procedure, the final draft is produced and submitted to the two chambers of congress, along with a dispatch, a report explaining the new law in detail.

How is agreement reached on a new law?

- ▶ In the Union Circle, the two Councils take turns to deal with the draft, and a process begins back and forth with the aim of reaching agreement in both chambers of Congress. If the Council of State (First Chamber) and the Council of Circles (2nd Chamber) can agree on a joint text, the law is passed. If a certain number of voters object to the new law, they can demand that the law be submitted to a vote of the people; this is known as an optional referendum, and is also held if demanded by eight Country Circles, or in case of a Country law, by eight City Circles, or, in case of a City law, by eight Community Interest Circles. If there is no call or insufficient support for a referendum, the law comes into force without being submitted to a popular vote. If there is sufficient support for a referendum, the law must be submitted to a vote of the people.