

A LAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGISTRATION AND REGULATION OF THE
SWORN TRANSLATORS SERVICES IN THE REPUBLIC

The House of Representatives enacts as follows:

Short title. **1.** This Law may be cited as the Registration and Regulation of the Sworn Translators Services Law of 2019.

PART I

INTERPRETATIVE PROVISIONS

Interpretation. **2.** In this Law unless the context otherwise requires:

“Agreement on the European Economic Area” means the Agreement on the European Economic Area signed at Oporto on 2 May 1992, as amended from time to time;

“Association” means the Association of Sworn Translators established under section 25;

“certified translation” means a valid and accurate translation of a written text or document under the provisions of this Law from a foreign language into the Greek or Turkish language and vice-versa, as well as from the Greek into the Turkish language and vice-versa, on which the official seal of the Republic and the appropriate stamp duty are affixed;

“Chairman” means the Chairman of the Council;

“Council” means the Council of Registration of Sworn Translators established under the provisions of section 3;

“Director” means the Director of the Press and Information Office in office for the time being or the person who acts as deputy director under section 42 of the Public Service Law;

1 of 1990
71 of 1991
211 of 1991
27(I) of 1994
83(I) of 1994

60(l) of 1996
109(l) of 1996
69(l) of 2000
156(l) of 2000
4(l) of 2001
94(l) of 2003
128(l) of 2003
183(l) of 2003
31(l) of 2004
218(l) of 2004
68(l) of 2005
79(l) of 2005
105(l) of 2005
96(l) of 2006
107(l) of 2008
137(l) of 2009
194(l) of 2011
78(l) of 2013
7(l) of 2014
21(l) of 2014
100(l) of 2015
148(l) of 2017
151(l) of 2017
152(l) of 2017

“Member State” means a Member State of the European Union, and includes the States which are contracting parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, and the Swiss Confederation;

“Minister” means the Minister of Interior.

“Register” means the Register of Sworn Translators kept under the provisions of section 5;

“sworn translator” means the translator who is entered in the Register and may provide certified translations as a sworn translator under the provisions of this Law;

PART II
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNCIL, REGISTRATION
AND ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

Council

3.-(1) For the purposes of this Law, is hereby established a Council of Registration of Sworn Translators, which shall be responsible for the registration of the persons entitled to provide certified translations as sworn translators, as well as for the exercise of any other powers and duties vested in it under the provisions of this Law.

2. The Council, with the exception of its first formation, shall be composed of the following five (5) members:

- (a) the Director, as ex-officio, who shall also be the Chairman;
- (b) an officer of the Press and Information Office, who shall be the Vice-Chairman;
- (c) an officer of the Ministry of Interior; and
- (d) two (2) members of the Association designated to the Minister for this purpose, after being elected by the general meeting of the Association.

(3) With the exception of the Director, the remaining members of the Council shall be appointed by the Council of Ministers following the proposal of the Minister, for a term of three (3) years:

Provided that any change of the Director prior to the expiry of tenure of office of three years shall not affect the legality of the formation thereof.

(4) The members of the Council, who are not civil servants of the Republic may resign from their post by a written resignation addressed to the Minister.

(5) The Chairman shall convene the meetings of the Council whenever he thinks fit or shall do so upon the request of three (3) members of the Council and ensures that minutes are kept.

(6) Where the Chairman is absent from a meeting of the Council, his duties thereof are exercised by the vice-Chairman.

(7) The Chairman or the vice-Chairman and two (2) other members of the Council shall form a quorum.

(8) The decisions of the Council shall be taken by the majority of votes of the members present and in case of an equality of votes, the presiding member of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote

(9) In the case of temporary absence or incapacity of a member of the Council, the Council of Ministers may, subject to the composition of the Council provided for in subsection (2), appoint any other person to act as member, as the case may be, during such absence or incapacity.

(10) The validity of any act or work of the Council shall not be affected by the vacancy of a member thereof, where the number of the remaining members is not less than three (3).

(11) The Council shall regulate its operation and the proceedings of its meetings by internal regulations.

First formation of the Council.

4.-(1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (2), the Council shall be formed at the latest within one (1) month from the date of entry into force of this Law.

(2) For the first formation of the Council the persons appointed under the provisions of paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section 3 shall be selected by the Minister among those who cooperate with the Press and Information Office as associate translators for at least five (5) years:

Provided that associate translators are considered the persons who have successfully undertaken written examinations of university level, conducted for this purposes by the Press and Information Office and the said persons are registered in a special register kept therein:

Provided further that the persons appointed under the provisions of this subsection shall hold their office until the appointment of the persons designated by the Association under the provisions of paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of section 26.

Register of Sworn Translators.

5.-(1) The Council shall have the duty, within six (6) months from the date of the entry into force of this Law, to form and keep thereafter a Register of Sworn Translators in which there shall be registered:

(a) the name, address and contact details of every person who is entitled to be registered therein;

- (b) the relevant academic qualifications of the said person;
and
- (c) the source-languages and the target-languages in which the person provides translation services:

Provided that in the Register may also be registered any other qualifications and information related to the translator's work, such as any specialisation in texts including technical, legal, medical, financial or other terms.

(3) The Council shall keep the Register up to date, and shall make therein any necessary alterations with regard to the address, the qualifications or in any other particulars of the persons registered therein and shall remove from the Register the name of any person who has died or ceased to be qualified or whose name has been erased from the Register under the provisions of this Law.

(4) A copy of the up to date Register which bears the signature of the Chairman, shall be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic in the month of January in every year and posted in the website of the Press Information Office and on the Association's website.

Qualifications for registration.

6.-(1) Any person shall be entitled to register upon payment of the prescribed fee, if the Council is satisfied that he-

- (a) is a citizen of the Republic or of a member state or the spouse of a citizen of the Republic or of a member state and having his habitual residence in the Republic;
- (b) has a very good knowledge of the Greek and/or Turkish language
- (c) is the holder of a degree or postgraduate degree or qualification or an equivalent qualification recognised under the provisions of the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications and the Provision of Relevant Information Law, in:

68(l) of 1996
48(l) of 1998
111(l) of 2000
219(l) of 2002
38(l) of 2003
1(l) of 2004
26(l) of 2006
87(l) of 2009
107(l) of 2011
28(l) of 2012
30(l) of 2015
56(l) of 2016.

- (i) translation (any language);

- (ii) foreign languages; or
 - (iii) any other subject, provided that it has been obtained from a university abroad, where the language of instruction is the official language of that country;
- (d) has not been convicted for an offence involving dishonesty or moral turpitude;
- (e) has not been fired or his services have not been terminated by the public service or the educational service or any public corporate body for a disciplinary offence; and
- (f) has successfully undertaken the written examination conducted by the Council for the applicants who wish to register according to the provisions of section 7:

Provided that this condition shall not apply to-

- (i) Persons who are holders of a degree or a postgraduate diploma or qualification or an equivalent qualification recognised in accordance with the provisions of the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications and the Provision of Relevant Information Law, with subject matter the translation of a language and were, at the time of entry into force of this Law, already working as translators for two (2) consecutive years; or/and
- (ii) the persons who are included in the special registry of associate translators kept by the Press and Information Office as provided for in the first reservation of subsection (2) of section 4.

(2) For the registration of citizens of member states, the provisions of section (1) shall apply subject to the provisions of the Recognition of Professional Qualifications Law.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (1) and (2), the Minister may, in exceptional cases, upon proposal by the Chairman, allow to a person not registered in the Register to provide certified translations within a fixed period of time, where this is deemed necessary due to the specialised content of the written text or document or due to urgent circumstances.

31(I) of 2008
34(I) of 2017.

Examinations.

7. The Council shall conduct every two (2) years or sooner if deemed appropriate, in cooperation with the Examinations Service of the Ministry of Education and Culture, written

examinations for the applicants who wish to register in the Register:

Provided that for the purposes of conducting written examinations, the Examinations Service of the Ministry of Education shall cooperate for the translation from the source language into the target language and vice-versa with university professors in the field of translation.

Procedure of registration.

8.-(1) Any person who desires to be registered shall make application to the Council, in the prescribed form upon payment of a fee to be prescribed by Regulations issued under the provisions of section 33, and the said application shall be accompanied by such documentary evidence in support of the possession of the requisite qualifications:

Provided that a recent certificate of clean criminal record issued at least three (3) months prior to the filing of the application, shall be submitted with the application for registration in the Register.

(2) The applicant shall specify with the application for registration in the Register, the source language and the target language for which the application for registration is made:

Provided that the applicant may request to be examined in more than one language for registration purposes:

Provided further that, together with the application, the applicant may declare any specialisation in texts including technical, legal, medical, financial and other terms, which is evidenced under the provisions of section 6.

(3) The Council shall examine and decide on the application the soonest possible and, in any event, within a time period not exceeding two months from the date of the announcement of the results of the written examination or from the time of receiving of all necessary and correctly filled documents accompanying the application for registration, as the case may be:

Provided that the Council may request the applicant to file any additional documents, attestations or certificates if deemed necessary in order to decide to register the applicant or in case the application and the accompanying documentary evidence are considered incomplete.

(4) The Council shall issue a registration certificate under the prescribed form therein, to any applicant who is a holder of the qualifications set out in section 6 and has paid the fee set out

by the Regulations issued by virtue of the provisions of section 33.

(5) Where an application is rejected, the Council shall prepare a reasoned decision thereof, and communicate it to the interested applicant concerned who may apply for the review of the application by filing his representations to the Council within fifteen (15) days from the date of communication of the said decision and in any such case, the Council shall issue a new reasoned decision within one (1) month from the date of submission of the representations.

(6) In case of a dismissive decision by the Council, the interested person may file a recourse under Article 146 of the Constitution.

(7) Subject to the provisions of subsection (1) to (6), the Council may issue instructions establishing additional details on the content, the procedure and the way to submit an application for registration, as well as the documentary evidence submitted.

Time scope and renewal of registration.

9.-(1) Subject to the provisions of section 10, the registration is valid for five (5) years as from the date of issue of the registration certificate and may be renewed for additional periods of five (5) years each time, upon submitting a new application, of the interested person.

(2) The conditions provided for in subsection (1) of section 6 shall apply mutadis mutandis to the renewal of registration, except for the condition provided for in paragraph (f) of the same subsection.

(3) The Council shall decide on the application referred to in subsection (1) within thirty (30) days and this deadline may be extended to sixty (60) days from the date of filing of the application, provided that the necessary documentary evidence has been submitted to the Council.

Procedure of giving oath or affirmation.

10.-(1) Any registered translator shall, for the purposes of this Law, give an oath or affirmation before the Council, at the latest within two (2) months from the date of registration:

Provided that the aforementioned provisions shall not affect any additional obligation of a person give an oath before a court within the context of judicial proceedings by virtue of the provisions of the Oaths Law.

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(2) Any registered translator shall, before giving an oath or affirmation, submit to the court the registration certificate or a true copy thereof.

Schedule,
Table A.

(3) Any registered translator, shall give before the Council, the oath set out in Table A of the Schedule to this Law:

Schedule,
Table B.

Provided that in the case that the said person declares that he does not desire to give an oath before the Council on religious grounds, he shall give the affirmation specified in Table B of the Schedule of this Law.

(4) After the oath or affirmation, the Council shall give to the registered translator a written certificate of his administration of oath or affirmation, as well as the required official seal to be affixed on the certified translations, so he can start providing certified translations.

(5) The Council may from time to time prepare additional regulations on the procedure of administration of oath or affirmation.

(6) After the oath or affirmation, the registered translator shall bear the title of "sworn translator".

(7) Every sworn translator shall, after the oath or affirmation, provide to the Council a sample of his signature:

Provided that a sample of the signature of the sworn translator shall be kept and presented by the Chairman, if required, within the context of any procedure.

Deletion from the
Register.

11.-(1) The Council shall delete from the Register any translator:

- (a) who has submitted to the Council a written request for his deletion;
- (b) who has not given the requisite oath or affirmation according to the provisions of this Law within two (2) months as from the date of registration;
- (c) against whom the disciplinary penalty of deletion from the Register has been imposed under the provisions of Part IV of this Law;
- (d) who has been placed under guardianship due to mental disorder or has permanent disability or is deceased.

(2) In case the deletion from the Register is performed by virtue of the provisions of paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of section (1), the interested person is entitled to apply again for registration after the expiration of five (5) years from the date of deletion from the Register.

(3) In the case of deletion from the Register, the interested person should immediately return to the Council, the official seal affixed on the certified translations and in the case of death or disability to provide translation services, the seal shall be returned by persons related to him; any person who, without a reason, refuses or fails to deliver the seal under the provisions of this section, when required by the Council, commits an offence and, in case of conviction, is liable to imprisonment not exceeding three (3) months or to a fine not exceeding two thousand euro (€2,000) or to both such penalties.

(4) If a sworn translator is registered in the Register with the indication of holding more than one source languages and target languages and, in case of his deletion from the Register on grounds of non-professional competence concerning certain of the source languages and target languages in relation to which the registration is valid, the Council may decide, instead of removing the said person from the Register, to restrict the provision of translation services by him, in order to involve less languages.

(5) The decision of deletion from the Register shall be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic.

PART III

PROVISION OF SERVICES OF SWORN TRANSLATORS

Provision of services of sworn translator.

12.-(1) No person shall -

- (a) provide services as sworn translator or shall be referred as such;
- (b) use any name or business name or title in which the words sworn or official translator or translator appointed by the government, are included;
- (c) collect or claim any remuneration for services rendered within the context of the provisions of this Law,

unless he is registered as a sworn translator under the provisions of this Law and has not been removed from the Register by virtue of section 11 and no suspension of the validity of his registration in the Register has been imposed as a disciplinary penalty therein.

(2) Any person who contravenes the provisions of subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and, in case of conviction, shall be liable to imprisonment not exceeding three (3) months or to a fine not exceeding four thousand euro (€4,000) or to both such penalties.

(3) The sworn translator shall provide services in person at a designated and specified workplace maintained to this effect, which shall operate on specific days and the office hours which shall be displayed on a notice outside the entrance of the workplace shall be compatible as far as possible with the office hours of the public service.

(4) Every sworn translator-

(a) shall have full responsibility for the safe keeping of the official seal given to him under the provisions of subsection (4) of section 10, which shall be affixed on each certified translation under specific instructions given by the Council;

(b) shall keep a record, which may be in electronic form, in which all his translations are entered;

(c) shall inform the competent authorities of any alteration or forgery of a written document or text or of the commission of any unlawful act brought to his attention in the performance of his duties;

(d) meets the technical specifications for the translations and of the accompanying supporting documents as set out by the Council.

Confidentiality.

13. Every sworn translator shall handle any information he receives in the performance of his profession in the strictest confidence, except in the case of information that must be notified to the competent authorities according to the law.

Incompatibility.

14.-(1) The profession of sworn translator shall be incompatible with a permanent post in the wider public sector and in particular in the public service, the educational service, in a public corporate body or in local authorities:

Provided that the Minister or the Attorney-General of the Republic may, in exceptional circumstances and if deemed necessary due to the specialised content of the written text or document or/and due to urgent circumstances, recommend to the Council to allow a non-registered person for whom incompatibility applies to provide certified translations within the context of a specific commission or/and within a specific period of time:

Provided further that the non-registered translator who provides certified translations under the above provision may not be a member of the Council and for the carrying into effect of the provisions thereof the Council may set out specific terms.

(2) A practising advocate who is a registered translator, as well as the law firm where he works should not relate to documents translated by the said person:

Provided that an advocate who is not a registered translator may provide translations which only refer to cases handled by him or the law firm where he works and the said translations may exceptionally be admitted as certified translations by the courts and the authorities of the Republic if accompanied by an affidavit stating in each case the exceptional ground for which the translation is made.

Certified translations.

15. Translations of written texts or documents made by a sworn translator under the provisions of this Law shall be considered as certified translations and shall be admitted as such by the courts and the authorities of the Republic.

Quality control of translations.

16. The Council may carry out quality controls of translations made by sworn translators either on the basis by sampling checks or following complaints submitted to the Council. Quality controls shall be carried out according to international standard "ISO 17100" dealing with the performance of quality controls by competent authorities.

Compulsory purchase of services.

17.-(1) With the exception of the translations made by the Office of the Law Commissioner within its competences, the government services, courts and independent authorities of the Republic shall be obliged to use on remuneration exclusively the services of sworn translators to meet their needs to certified translations.

(2) By its decision, the Council of Ministers may impose to other public organisations or administrative authorities or bodies of the Republic, the obligation to use the services of sworn translators to meet their needs to certified translations.

(3) The authorities of the Republic referred to in subsection (1) may, on their own expenses, request from a sworn translator to submit a recent certificate of clean criminal record where special circumstances applying to the nature of a specific work.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (1) and (2), the above authorities may, in urgent circumstance and upon the appropriate reasoned request submitted in writing to the Minister, use for remuneration the services of translators who are not sworn translators where the services of a sworn translator is not available or there are no sworn translators for the specific source language and target language:

Provided that, in such case, the translators should, prior to the provision of that services, submit a recent certificate of clean criminal record, and in case of an emergency and where the said certificate may not be immediately submitted, the authority shall ensure that such certificate is submitted immediately after the provision of the abovementioned services.

Entry of official foreign language documents in public registers and records.

18. Official foreign language documents shall be entered in public registers and records after being translated by a sworn translator in one of the official languages of the Republic.

Charges for certified translations.

19.-(1) The Council shall prepare a detailed list of indicative charges for certified translations in which the maximum rates plus VAT, as well as the value of the stamp duty the sworn translator is paying to the Republic.

(2) The Chairman shall publish the list provided for in subsection (1) in the Official Gazette of the Republic in the month of January in every year and sworn translator shall display the list in a prominent area of their workplace for the information of the public requesting his services.

(3) Every sworn translator shall issue an invoice and payment receipt for each certified translation, indicating in details the exact charges for its services, and shall keep a record thereof.

PART IV DISCIPLINARY PROVISIONS

Disciplinary Board.

20.-(1) There shall be established a Disciplinary Board to exercise disciplinary powers against the sworn translators.

(2) The Disciplinary Board shall consist of five members:

- (a) the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Interior or the acting deputy permanent secretary, as ex-officio members, or a senior officer of the Ministry of Interior designated in his place by the Minister;
- (b) a senior officer of the Press and Information Office designated by the Director;
- (c) a legal officer designated by the Attorney-General of the Republic;
- (d) two (2) sworn translators elected by the general meeting of the Association:

Provided that members participating in the Council may not participate in the Disciplinary Board.

(3) The permanent secretary of the Ministry of Interior or the senior officer of the Ministry of Interior designated in his place by the Minister under paragraph (a) of subsection (2), shall act as Chairman of the Disciplinary Board; in their absence or incapacity a senior officer of the Press and Information Office designated by the Director under paragraph (b) of subsection (2), shall act as Chairman.

(4) The term of office of the Disciplinary Board shall be three years:

Provided that any change of the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Interior before the expiration of the term of three years shall not affect the legality of its formation.

(5) The Chairman of the Disciplinary Board or the member who acts as Chairman and two (2) other members shall form a quorum.

(6) Complaints submitted to the Council shall be referred to the Disciplinary Board which shall appoint, as it deems fit, one or more of its members as investigating officers.

(7) All questions of the Disciplinary Board shall be decided by a majority of votes and in case of an equality of them the Chairman or the acting Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

(8) Where a complaint is made against one of the members of the Disciplinary Board or where a member of the Disciplinary Board has any particular relationship or interest as to the complainant or the subject of the complaint, this member shall be replaced by another member appointed by the Minister for the completion of the disciplinary proceeding.

Disciplinary prosecution.

21. A sworn translator is liable to disciplinary prosecution instituted against him -

- (a) If he is convicted by a Court for an offence involving dishonesty or moral turpitude;
- (b) If, in the opinion of the Disciplinary Board, according to its duly reasoned decision, he has shown unprofessional conduct during the practice of the profession as a sworn translator or/and contrary to his obligations set out by the provisions of subsections (3) and (4) of section 12;
- (c) in case he managed to register as a sworn translator by false or fraudulent representations.

Disciplinary investigation.

22.-(1) Every complaint against a sworn translator concerning possible commission of an offence under the provisions of section 21, shall be made to the Council and a copy thereof shall be notified to the Board of the Association.

(2) If it is reported to the Council or where the Council, with a duly reasoned decision, establishes that a sworn translator may have committed a disciplinary offence, the Council shall refer the case to the Disciplinary Board.

(3) The investigation shall be conducted the soonest possible by one or more investigating officers who, during the investigation, have the power to hear any witness or to take any written statement from any person.

(4) The sworn translator who is the subject of the complaint shall be entitled to have knowledge of the case against him and shall be given an opportunity to be heard provided that he receives a copy of the statements and evidence.

(5) Upon completion of the investigation, the investigating officer or officers shall submit a report to the Disciplinary Board which shall decide whether a disciplinary charge may be brought against the sworn translator who is the subject of the complaint and in case of an affirmative decision, it shall draft the charge:

Provided that any member of the Disciplinary Board who has a particular relationship with the complainant or the subject of the complaint or may acquire a competitive financial or/and professional advantage from their participation in the disciplinary proceedings must state it and such statement should be recorded in the minutes.

(6) The Disciplinary Board may reject, without any further procedure, any complaint which concerns:

- (a) an incident that has been previously reported and already investigated, on which a decision has been made;
- (b) an incident that occurred one (1) year prior to the date of submission of the complaint;
- (c) an incident that is the object of a criminal investigation or prosecution unless it is a criminal offence related to breach of duty by a sworn translator under the provisions of paragraph (c) of section 32.

(7) In the month of January in every year or whenever the Council requests so, the Disciplinary Board shall send a report to the Council indicating the number of complaints submitted during the previous year, their objects and outcome.

Disciplinary proceedings.

23.-(1) The Disciplinary Board may, within one (1) month from the date of receipt of the disciplinary charge, cause summons upon the sworn translator who is the subject of the complaint to appear before it and sets the day and time of hearing.

(2) The hearing of the case before the Disciplinary Board shall be conducted, mutatis mutandis, in the same manner, as the hearing of a criminal case tried summarily:

Provided that, the Disciplinary Board shall have the power to admit any evidence even if the same would not have been admissible in any criminal proceedings.

(3) The Disciplinary Board shall have the power:

- (a) to summon witnesses and require their attendance, as well as that of the subject of the complaint in the same manner as in trials conducted summarily;
- (b) to demand the production of any document relevant to the charge;

(4) Every decision of the Disciplinary Board must be reasoned and signed by the Chairman thereof.

Disciplinary penalties.

24.-(1) The Disciplinary Board, may, if it finds the subject of the complaint guilty of a disciplinary offence impose any of the following penalties:

- (a) written reprimand;
- (b) severe reprimand;

(c) suspension of registration as a sworn translator in the Register for such a period as the Disciplinary Board may think fit, but not exceeding two (2) years;

(d) subject to the provisions of subsection (2), deletion of the name of the sworn translator from the Register.

(2) The penalty of deletion of the name of a sworn translator from the Register under the provisions of subsection (1) shall be imposed where a sworn translator does no longer fulfil all the conditions for registration according to the provisions of this Law, in particular as to his honesty, confidentiality and impartiality or professional competence.

(3) Any decision made within the context of disciplinary proceedings on the suspension of the validity of registration, as a sworn translator as well as any other decision concerning the withdrawal of suspension shall be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic.

PART V ASSOCIATION OF SWORN TRANSLATORS

Establishment
of the
Association.

25. There shall be established an Association of Sworn Translators which shall consist of all the registered sworn translators providing services in the Republic.

General
meeting of
the
Association.

26.-(1) The Chairman of the Board of the Association shall, not later than the 31st day of January in each year, summon all the sworn translators providing services in the Republic to an ordinary general meeting.

Provided that the first general meeting of the Association shall be convened by the Chairman of the Council provided that at least twenty (20) sworn translators have been entered in the Register.

(2) For the purposes of the general meeting convened under subsection (1), an invitation shall be sent to all persons entitled to attend and vote, specifying the place and time of the meeting. Such invitation shall be sent not earlier than fourteen (14) days and not later than eight (8) days prior to the date of the meeting:

Provided that the invitation shall be sent either by post or by fax or email and at the same time it shall be published in two (2) daily newspapers:

Provided further that the accidental omission to send the invitation of meeting to a sworn translator or the non-receipt of such invitation by a sworn translator shall not invalidate the proceedings of such meeting.

(3) In the case of absence or incapacity of the Chairman of the Board of Association, as well as in the case of the first general meeting of the Association, duties of the Chairman, are exercised by the member designated by the general meeting.

(4) Ten (10) sworn translators present at the meeting shall form a quorum:

Provided that, if within half an hour from the time appointed for the ordinary general meeting no quorum is formed, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week, at the same time and place, in which case any sworn translators present shall constitute a quorum.

(5) All questions shall be decided by a majority of votes of the sworn translators present and entitled to vote; in case of an equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

(6) The ordinary general meeting of the Association shall proceed, inter alia, to the election of:

- (a) seven (7) sworn translators to form the Board of the Association;
- (b) two (2) sworn translators to represent the Association to the Council;
- (c) two (2) sworn translators to participate in the Disciplinary Board.

(7) The sworn translators elected under the provisions of subsection (6) shall be elected for two (2) consecutive terms only.

Term of office and organisation of the Board of the Association.

27.(1) The term of office of the members of the Board shall be three years.

(2) The Board of the Association shall elect among its members the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer of the Association.

(3) Five (5) members of the Board of the Association shall form a quorum.

(4) The decisions of the Board shall be taken by the majority of all those present and in case of an equality of votes the acting chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

(5) The Chairman of the Board of the Association shall convene the meetings of the Board whenever deemed appropriate and shall do so upon written request of at least three (3) of its members, stating the objects of the meeting, and shall preside at all meetings at which he shall be present. In case of his absence or incapacity the Vice-Chairman shall preside at the meeting and if the Vice-Chairman is absent or incapacitated the members present shall elect one of them to preside at the meeting.

(6) The Board of the Association shall regulate the operation and proceedings of its meetings with internal regulations and such regulations shall be communicated to the Minister for approval.

Extraordinary
general
meeting of
the
Association.

28.-(1) The Board of the Association may, whenever it thinks fit, or it shall do so, upon a written request of one fourth (1/4) of the members of the Association and in any event of not less than ten (10) members, convene an extraordinary general meeting of the Association.

(2) If within thirty (30) days from the request provided for in subsection (1) the Board of the Association does not duly convene such meeting, five (5) sworn translators of those making the request may convene an extraordinary general meeting.

(3) The request provided for in subsections (1) and (2) shall state the object of the meeting and shall be signed by those making it.

(4) If within half an hour from the time appointed for the extraordinary general meeting no quorum is present, the extraordinary general meeting shall be dissolved.

Annual
subscription.

29.(1) The Board of the Association may impose an annual subscription to the sworn translators, the amount of which shall be fixed by the ordinary general meeting of the Association.

(2) A subscription payable under subsection (1) may be sued for by the Association and collected as a civil debt owed to the Board of the Association and, without prejudice to his liability to pay such fee, no sworn translator may attend any meeting of the Association held under the provisions of this Law, or be eligible for election to the Board of the Association nor to the Council nor to the Disciplinary Board unless he has first paid the subscription payable under the provisions of this Law.

Other powers
of the Board

30.-(1) The Board of the Association shall have the power -

of the
Association.

- (a) to promote and protect the status of the profession of sworn translator;
- (b) to set up any committees for the better carrying out of its functions;
- (c) to ensure the promotion and improvement of the level of the profession of sworn translator in the Republic;
- (d) to deal with issues of ethics and to examine and submit proposals on the existing legislation relating to the profession of sworn translator;
- (e) to establish and maintain a fund for the collection of subscriptions owed by its members and for the better management of the Association's property;
- (f) to draft the code of ethics of sworn translators;
- (g) to ensure the sworn translators' professional liability insurance.

PART VI MISCELLANEOUS

Fraudulent or
incorrect
entries.

31. Any entry in the Register which is proved to the satisfaction of the Council to have been fraudulently or incorrectly made, shall be deleted and any entry which is proved to be incorrect shall be corrected and the person concerned shall be informed:

Provided that a record of the reasons for every such deletion or correction shall be inserted in the Register and signed by the Chairman.

Offences and
penalties.

32. Any person who-

- (a) procures or attempts to procure himself or any other person to be registered by any false or fraudulent representations;
- (b) wilfully and falsely pretends to be, or takes or uses any title, name, description or addition implying that he is a sworn translator;
- (c) provides services as a sworn translator in contravention of the provisions of this Law;

- (d) pretends to be or acts as a sworn translator even though he has been erased from the Register or/and suspended from providing sworn translators services;

shall be guilty of an offence and, on conviction, shall be liable to imprisonment not exceeding six (6) months or to a fine not exceeding eight thousand euro (€8,000) or to both such penalties.

Regulations.

33.-(1) The Council of Ministers, upon proposal by the Council, may issue Regulations published in the official Gazette of the Republic to prescribe any matter which is required to or may be prescribed under this Law as well as for the better carrying into effect of the provisions of this Law.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of subsection (1), Regulations issued under this section may provide for-

- (a) the code of ethics governing the provision of services by sworn translators;
- (b) the amounts of the fees provided for by this Law;
- (c) the preservation and improvement of services provided by the sworn translators in the Republic.

Transitional provisions.

34. The existing procedure on the date of entry into force of this Law providing certified translations by the Press and Information Office through its associate translators, ceases to be in force upon notification by the Minister published in the Official Gazette of the Republic, which is issued provided that the Register has been drawn up in accordance with the provisions of this Law and which determines the date of termination of that procedure:

Provided that during the transitional period from the date of entry into force of this Law until the date of publication of the above notification, the special register of associate translators kept by the Press and Information Office continue in force for a period not exceeding six (6) months, as provided for in the first proviso to subsection (2) of section 4.

SCHEDULE
(Section 10)

TABLE A

Oath:

“I do solemnly swear that I will be faithful to and respectful for the Constitution of the Republic and the laws made thereunder and that I will perform my work as a Sworn Translator honestly, diligently and impartially and that in the exercise of my profession I will always behave in a manner suitable for a Sworn Translator. I do solemnly swear that any confidential information which I will receive in the exercise of my profession or in the performance of my duties as a Sworn Translator, shall be handled in the strictest confidence.”

TABLE B

Affirmation:

“I do solemnly affirm, upon my honour and conscience, faith to and respect for the Constitution of the Republic and the laws made thereunder and that I will perform my work as a Sworn Translator honestly, diligently and impartially and that in the exercise of my profession I will always behave in a manner suitable for a Sworn Translator. I do solemnly affirm that any confidential information which I will receive in the exercise of my profession or in the performance of my duties as a Sworn Translator shall be handled in the strictest confidence.”