

## **POLITICAL PARTIES ACT**

### Chapter One.

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

Art. 1. This act regulates the establishment, registration, organisation, activity and dissolution of political parties.

Art. 2. (1) Political parties are voluntary associations of citizens with voting rights according to the Bulgarian legislation.

(2) Political parties assist in the formation and expression of citizens' political will through elections or other democratic means.

(3) Political parties use democratic means and methods to achieve their political goals.

Art. 3. Organisations, which are not political parties, shall not be allowed to participate in elections.

Art. 4. The organisation and activity of political parties are realised on the grounds of the Constitution, the laws, and in conformity with their charters.

Art. 5. (1) Political parties are not allowed to use in their symbols the coat of arms or the flag of the Republic of Bulgaria or of any foreign state, nor any religious signs or images.

(2) The symbols of political parties shall not offend all-human values, nor be in contradiction with good morals.

Art. 6. Political parties shall conduct their public events, make public addresses and draw up their documents in the Bulgarian language.

### Chapter Two.

#### ESTABLISHMENT, REGISTRATION AND ACTIVITY OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Art. 7. The establishment and the activity of political parties shall be public.

Art. 8. (1) A citizen with voting rights in accordance with the Bulgarian legislation may participate in the constituent meeting of a political party only if he is not a member of another party.

Art 9. (1) (Changes - State Gazette, No. 17 2006, in effect from 01.05.2006) Conscripts and professional army cadres of the Armed Forces of Bulgaria may not be members of a political party, also state official from the Ministry of the Interior, examining magistrates, state prosecutors, judges and other individuals, barred by a special law from membership in political parties.

(1) Conscripts and professional army cadres, state officials in the responsible for interior

security and social order, including prosecutors, judges, diplomats, and other persons for whom a special law prohibits membership in a political party may not participate in political parties.

(2) When taking up employment, the staff per par. 1 shall sign a declaration that they are not members of any political party.

Art. 10. (1) A political party is established at the initiative of not less than 50, citizens with voting rights in accordance with the Bulgarian legislation who form a committee of initiative.

(2) The committee of initiative shall adopt a declaration of association in written form.

(3) The basic principles and goals of the political party shall be defined in the declaration of association per par. 2.

(4) The committee of initiative shall publish the declaration of association in at least one national daily publication and open a subscription for the recruitment of founding members.

Art. 11. (1) Each citizen with voting rights in accordance with the Bulgarian legislation may join the subscription by a filling with his own hand and signing a declaration of individual membership, after a model approved by the committee of initiative, until the constituent meeting is held.

(2) By the declaration per par. 1 the citizen expresses his personal will for membership in the political party and declares his acceptance of the basic principles and goals of the political party contained in the declaration of association, and that he does not hold membership in another political party.

(3) The members of the committee of initiative shall also sign a declaration per par. 1.

Art. 12. (1) (State Gazette No. 73 2006) Political parties shall be formed at a constituent meeting to be held on the territory of the Bulgarian Republic, within a term of three month from the date of adoption of the declaration of association.

(2) The constituent meeting of a political party shall be legitimate if attended by at least 500, citizens with voting rights in accordance with the Bulgarian legislation signatories to a declaration per art. 11.

Art. 13. (1) The constituent meeting of a political party shall adopt a charter of the political party with at least 500 founders.

(2) The constituent meeting shall elect the bodies of leadership and control of the political party, in conformity with the adopted charter.

Art. 14. (1) The charter of a political party shall contain:

1. the name of the political party and its symbols;
2. the seat and address of leadership;
3. the goals and the methods of their achievement;
4. the bodies of leadership and control;
5. the rules of representation of the political party;
6. the order of convening, electing and dismissing the bodies of leadership and control and their powers;
7. the order of membership arising and dissolution;
8. the rights and obligations of members;
9. the rules of establishing party structures and their rights and obligations;
10. the rules of fixing the amount of membership dues;

11. the rules of raising and spending funds and of disposing with party property.

12. the terms and procedure of dissolution of a political party.

(2) It shall not be admissible to copy the name and abbreviation of another party, nor the addition of words, letters, figures, numbers or other signs thereto.

Art. 15. (1) A political party shall be registered in the register of political parties with the Sofia City Court.

(2) A political party shall be registered in Court following a written application by the party's body, which represents it according to the charter, submitted within a term of three months from the date of holding the constituent meeting.

(3) In order to be registered political parties shall submit in Court:

1. a declaration of association;

2. minutes of the constituent meeting;

3. charter of the party;

4. a list containing the three names, PIN, permanent address and own-hand signature of not less than 500 members – founders of the party, citizens with voting rights in accordance with the Bulgarian legislation;

5. declarations of individual membership per art. 11;

6. notarized specimens of the signatures of those representing the political party;

7. a list containing the three names, PIN and permanent address of not less than 2500 members;

8. notarized declaration by the leadership of the political party about the authenticity of documents per it. 3, 4 and 7;

9. certificate of uniqueness of the name.

(4) The document per par. 3, it. 9 shall be issued by the Sofia City Court in a procedure thereby established.

Art. 16. Within a term of one month from filing the application per art. 15, par. 2, the Sofia City Court, in an open session with summoning of the applicant and the participation of a prosecutor, shall consider the application under the procedure of the Civil Procedure Code and shall rule by a decision within a term of 14 days from the session.

Art. 17. (1) The following circumstances shall be entered in the register of the Sofia City Court:

1. name of the political party;

2. seat and address of management;

3. the charter of the political party;

4. the names of the members of bodies of leadership and control of the political party;

5. the names of persons who represent the political party according to its charter;

6. dissolution of the political party;

7. the names, respectively – the designation and address of liquidators;

8. changes that have occurred in the circumstances per it. 1 – 7.

(2) Entries shall be made under the conditions and procedure of the Civil Procedure Code.

Art. 18. (1) The decision or refusal of court registration shall be subject to appeal or protest before the Supreme Court of Cassation under the procedure of the Civil Procedure Code within a term of 7 days from becoming aware of the court decision.

(2) Within a term of 14 days from filing the appeal or protest per par. 1 the Supreme Court of Cassation shall rule by a decision, which shall be final.

(3) Within a term of 7 days from the coming into effect of the decision on registration, the Sofia City Court shall register the political party in the register of political parties.

(4) A political party will acquire the faculty of a legal person from the day of entering the political party into the register of political parties with the Sofia City Court.

Art. 19. The Court decision for entering the political party in the register shall be promulgated in the State Gazette within a term of 7 days from its presentation.

Art. 19a. Political parties present to the Court of Sofia a copy of a statement declaring that they have carried out a meeting of their supreme organ, determined by the party, irrespective if there are circumstances which need to be recorded, no later than one month after the meeting.

Art. 20. (1) Political parties may create their own local structures on a territorial or thematic principle and by residence.

(2) Political parties may create their own youth, women's and other organisations.

(3) Political parties shall not create their structures by place of employment in commercial companies, cooperatives, sole traders, non-profit legal persons and religious institutions in State, regional or municipal administrations, nor shall they interfere with their management and activity.

(4) Political parties shall not create structures for children and teenagers to unite persons under 18 years of age, neither shall they create religious and paramilitary structures.

Chapter Three.

#### PROPERTY, FINANCING AND SPENDING OF FUNDS

Art. 21. The activity of political parties shall be financed from their own incomes and from State subsidies.

Art. 22. (1) Political parties are not allowed to engage in business activity, except in cases under art. 23, para. 1, item 6.

(2) Political parties shall not incorporate or participate in commercial companies and cooperatives.

Art. 23. (1) The incomes of political parties shall be proceeds from:

1. membership dues;

2. own immovable property;

3. donations and legacies from natural persons;

5. (added in State Gazette No 73 2006) interest on cash deposit in banks and income from shares, when this is not in conflict with article 22;

6. publishing activity, copy rights and use of intellectual property, as well as sale and distribution of printed, audio and audio-visual materials containing party propaganda.

(2) Political parties' own incomes are also proceeds from fund raising events.

(3) Political parties may borrow loans from banks in the amount of up to two-thirds of the incomes accounted for before the National Audit Office for the preceding year.

(4) Included in the incomes per par. 3 shall be the State subsidy and the proceeds per par. 1, it. 1, 2, 5 and 6

(5) Non-pecuniary incomes per par. 1 shall be evaluated at fair market price in conformity with the Accounting Act.

Art. 24. Political parties shall not receive:

1. anonymous donations;
2. (Not Valid – State Gazette No 73 2006) funds from legal persons and sole proprietors;
3. (Not Valid – State Gazette No 73 2006) funds from religious institutions;
- 4.(Add.– State Gazette No 73 2006) funds from commercial companies with more than 5 per cent State or municipal participation or from persons connected to companies, in which the state own shares with special rights, as well as from State and municipal enterprises;
4. funds from foreign governments or from foreign state enterprises, foreign commercial companies or foreign non-profit organisations.
- 5 (changes – State gazette 73 2006) funds from candidates and participants in the hiring of contractors under a public procurement contract, which have not been yet fulfilled, and the period of appeal as stated in the Law of public contracts has not yet passed; funds from the contractors of the public procurement contracts, as well legal persons undergoing privatisation procedure
2. donations from one and the same natural person, which exceed BGN10,000 within the framework of one calendar year;
3. donations from one and the same legal person, which exceed BGN30,000 within the framework of one calendar year;
4. funds from commercial companies with more than 5 per cent State or municipal participation or from persons thereby connected, as well as from State and municipal enterprises;
5. funds from contractors under public procurement contracts or from legal persons undergoing privatisation procedure;
6. funds from gambling games organisers;
7. funds from religious institutions or from non-profit legal persons, performing activity for public benefit;
8. funds from foreign governments or from foreign state enterprises, foreign commercial companies or foreign non-profit organisations.

Art 25. (Changes – State Gazette No73 2006)

(1) The State subsidy shall be granted annually in four equal parts from the central budget for financing political parties or coalitions, which possess legitimate registration with the CEC, have participated in the previous parliamentary elections, and which have candidates that have been elected.

(2) The total sum provided for in the budget shall be allotted in proportion to the number of valid votes received by each party or coalition.

(3) The state subsidy granted to each coalition under paragraph 1 is distributed between its participating parties in accordance with the coalition agreement. In the absence of a coalition agreement or a change in the membership of the parliamentary groups of the political parties or coalitions formed as a result of the last parliamentary elections, the state subsidy is distributed by being awarded to the political parties determined before the parliamentary elections, which have judicial registration and have formed a parliamentary group, or to political parties to which independent MPs have declared their allegiance. The Ministry of Finance transfers the parts of the subsidy for each party to the bank account indicated by the party.

(4) Where a party participates also in a coalition it receives the State subsidy only as a member of the coalition.

Art. 26. The State subsidy shall be granted annually also to parties not represented in the National Assembly, but which have received not less than one per cent of all valid votes in the

last parliamentary elections.

Art 27.

(1) (Changes – State Gazette No73 2006) The total sum provided for as subsidies for political parties and coalitions shall be determined on an annual basis in the State Budget Act of the Republic of Bulgaria depending on the number of valid votes received in the last parliamentary elections, with a subsidy being envisaged for one received vote in the amount of 5 per cent of the minimum work wage for the country for the current calendar year.

(2) The mode of granting funds to subsidize parties and coalitions shall be determined by the Minister of Finance.

Art. 28. (1) Each political party shall receive its own part of the annual State subsidy in four parts respectively payable up to 30 April, 30 June, 30 September and up to 20 December, of the respective year.

(2) The State subsidy thus received shall not be placed at the disposal as security against receivables of third parties.

Art. 28a. The political parties declare to the Bulgarian National Audit Office the bank accounts they have opened within 14 days of opening them,

Art. 29.

(1) Political parties shall spend their funds for preparation and participation in elections, for supporting the work of party structures, for organisational expenses on holding events and for other expenses incidental to the activity of the party.

(2) The political party creates and keeps a public register in which are recorded:

1. the persons under art. 23, para. 1, item 3 and the type, amount, value and objective of the donation or bequest;
2. a declaration from the persons under art. 23, para. 1, item 3 of the origins of the funds, where the donation exceeds 5000 BGN;
3. the names of the sociological and publicity agencies as well as the public relations agencies, which work with the party;
4. the circumstances under art. 17;
5. ownership of immovable property;
6. transactions with movable or immovable property with a value of over 5000 BGN;
7. the annual financial statements and statements of the election campaign.

3) The circumstances under para. 2 are recorded in the register within 14 days of their occurrence.

4) The publicity of the register under para. 2 is provided through the website of the political party.

Art. 30. (1) Each party shall nominate a particular person or persons to be responsible for the incomes, expenses and accounting reports of the party.

(2) A political party shall submit to the National Audit Office within a term of 30 days from its court registration the names and positions of the persons per par. 1, and in the event of change of persons – within a term of 7 days from the operation of the change.

(3) (New – State Gazette 73 2006) Person envisioned in art. 17, par 1, points 4 and 5, shall declare their properties, incomes and expenses within the country and abroad as stated in the Law of owned properties of people in high state positions.

(4) (New – state gazette No 73 2006) The envisioned procedures in par 3 are not to be applied to political parties that do not receive state subsidies.

Art. 31. (1) The State and municipalities shall make available premises under rent to political parties having a parliamentary group or sufficient number of Deputies to form one, for the purpose of their activities.

(2) Premises per par. 1 may also be placed at the disposal of parties, which have received more than one per cent of the validly cast votes in the last parliamentary elections.

(3) Making available of premises to political parties shall be effected in conformity with the State Property Act and the Municipal Property Act.

Art. 32. (1) Rents for the premises made available shall be in the amount of depreciation costs with operational expenses being added to them, if any.

(2) (Add – state gazette No 102 2005) Premises made available to political parties shall not be sublet for rent, ceded for use, or used jointly under contract with third parties, except when this furthers the activities of the party.

(2) Premises made available to political parties shall not be sublet for rent, ceded for use, or used jointly under contract with third parties, except when this furthers the activities of the party and the main purpose of the premises has not been changed.

(3) Renting legal relations shall be dissolved owing to failure to pay the rent price for more than three months, owing to its systematic non-payment on time or in the event of violation of par. 2.

#### Chapter Four.

#### PUBLICITY AND FINANCIAL CONTROL

Art. 33. (1) Financial control over the activity of political parties and the management of property made available to them shall be exercised by the National Audit Office.

(2) Political parties shall apply double-entry bookkeeping in accordance with the provisions of the Accountancy Act.

Art. 34. (1) (Changes – state gazette No73 2006) parties shall draw up financial reports for the preceding calendar year, including information for the central leadership and the regional structures, in conformity with the requirements of art. 26 of the Accountancy Act and the National Accountancy Standard.

(2) (Changes – state gazette No73 2006) Financial reports per par. 1, before being presented to the National Audit Office, shall be subject to independent financial audit and certification by an independent financial auditor, if the political party, during the reported period has received or spent sums and/or other properties in value over BGN 50 000, regardless of their origin.

(3) Cost of audit and certification of financial reports shall be at the expense of the respective political party.

(4) (Changes – state gazette No73 2006) Not later than 31 March of the current year political parties shall submit their certified financial reports to the National Audit Office. Attached to the reports shall be a declaration following an official matrix, containing a list of legal and physical persons that have made donations, the type, size, amount and purpose of the donations; as well as a separate list of non-commercial legal person donors, in which the constituents and/or

members of the managing or controlling organs are members of the managing or controlling organs of the respective political parties, or are their children or spouses.

(5) (New – state gazette No73 2006) The national Audit Office will publish in its official bulletin and on its website before the 15th of April of each year the reports and declarations per art.4, as well as the names of the parties which have not submitted their reports in time per art.4. A declaration per art. 4 is submitted also by the non-commercial legal persons that have made a donation to a political party.

(6) (previous art. 5) The National Audit Office shall publish in its official bulletin and on its Web site, not later than 15 April of the current year, the names of parties that have failed to submit reports within the term of par. 4.

(7) (New – state gazette No73 2006) The National Audit Office produces the matrix for the declaration per art 4.

Art. 34. (1) Political parties shall draw up financial reports for the preceding calendar year, in conformity with the requirements of art. 26 of the Accountancy Act.

(2) Financial reports per par. 1 shall be subject to independent financial audit and certification by an independent financial auditor. A person member of the political party or receiving remuneration therefrom under any form whatever shall not be independent financial auditor.

(3) Cost of audit and certification of financial reports shall be at the expense of the respective political party.

(4) Not later than 31 March of the current year political parties shall submit their certified financial reports to the National Audit Office on paper and electronically. Attached to the report is a declaration with a list of donors.

(5) An annual financial statement which does not comply with the conditions of para. 1 and/or para. 4 concerning the format, content and presentation, as well as if it is not accompanied by the declaration under para. 4, is considered not to have been submitted.

(6) The National Audit Office shall publish on its website, not later than 15 April of the current year, the list of declarations under para. 4, the names of parties that have failed to submit reports within the term of para. 4, as well as a list of the parties having received state subsidy in the previous year.

Art.35 (1) (Changes - state gazette No 73 2006) Within a term of 6 months after receiving the financial reports the National Audit Office conducts an audit to ascertain the conformity with the conditions of the present act and the Accountancy Act of the accounting of financial activity, revenue, expenses and management of the property made available to the political parties which have, in the previous year:

1. received state subsidy;
2. used premises made available to them – either state or municipal property;
3. participated in elections, if there were such.

(2) (New – state gazette No 73 2005) After conducting the audit of para. 1 the authorities of the National Audit Office have the right:

1. to free access to the working premises and to all documentation, accounts, assets and liabilities relating to the financial activity of the political parties;
2. to request, within terms set by them, verifications, certified copies of documents and other information in relation to the audit, including on an electronic carrier;
3. to request oral and written explanations from persons responsible, including former employees, of facts discovered during the audit as well as on questions relating to their activities;

4. to request verifications, certified copies of documents and other information from individuals, legal persons and sole proprietors outside the respective political party in relation to possible illegal activities;

5. to request and receive information from all administrations in the country as well as access to their databases in relation to the audit.

(3) In the event of a refusal to present the information under para. 2, item 4, the President of the National Audit Office has the right to issue and order for carrying out a verification of the legal person or sole proprietor in relation to the withheld information. If the verification should be impeded by the legal person or the sole proprietor, the National Audit Office refers the matter to the Prosecutor.

(4) The written evidence collected under para. 3 is an inherent part of the audit documentation.

(5) (previously par. 2) The National Audit Office shall publish in its official bulletin and in its Web-site the report on results of the audits per par. 1, and the revision acts per par. 4 within a term of one month from their conclusion.

Art. 35a. (1) After the term under art. 34, para, 6 has elapsed, the National Income Agency carries out its actions in accordance with the terms of chapter 15 of the Tax procedures code in regards to the political parties which receive state subsidy and which have not submitted their accounts to the National Audit Office in time.

(2) The National Income Agency carries out its actions under para. 1 in accordance with the terms under art. 114, para 1 and 2 of the Tax procedures code.

(3) After the terms under para. 2 have elapsed, the executive director of the National Income Agency sends the information of the agency's actions, including the revision acts issued, to the National Audit Office.

(4) The National Audit Office publishes on its website the report from the audit under art. 35, para. 1 and the information received from the National Income Agency within one month from the adoption of the report and the receipt of the information under para. 3, respectively.

????? Art. 35. (1) Within a term of 6 months from receiving the financial reports the National Audit Office shall audit the financial activity and management of the property made available, to ascertain their conformity with the requirements of this law and the Accountancy Act.

(2) The National Audit Office shall publish in its official bulletin and in its Web-site the report on results of the audits per par. 1, within a term of one month from their conclusion.

Art. 36. (1) In the event of failure to submit or late submission of financial reports to the national Audit Office, political parties shall forfeit their rights to State subsidy until the next elections are held for Deputies.

(2) Where, in the course of its audits, the national Audit Offices has established violations in the raising or spending of funds, in the management of property made available or in the financial accounts, the report, in the respective part under suspicion, shall be sent by decision of the National Audit Office to the Sofia City Prosecutor's Office within a term of 7 days of its adoption.

Art. 37. (1) The National Audit Office shall issue certificates for submitted and/or non submitted annual financial reports within the term under art. 34, para. 4 by the political parties for the last three years, and for newly registered parties – from the date of their official registration.

(3) The certificate under para. 1 is delivered to the political party before the respective CEC at the time of registration for participation in the elections.

Art. 37a. (1) Within a month after the elections, the political parties declare before the National Audit Office, electronically and on paper, reports of the funds raised and spent in the election campaign.

(2). The reports under para. 1 are prepared in accordance with models adopted by the National Audit Office for the specific type of election,

(3) The National Audit Office publishes the reports under para. 1 on its website within 15 days after the deadline for their submission.

Chapter Five.

## DISSOLUTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Art. 38. A political party shall be dissolved upon:

1. decision to take-over or merge with another party;
2. decision to split into two or more parties;
3. decision to dissolve itself in conformity with its charter;
4. effective decision of the Constitutional Court whereby the political party has been declared anti-constitutional;
5. dissolution under decision of the Sofia City Court.

Art. 39. Decisions per art. 38, items 1 and 2, shall be taken by the supreme body of the party. This right shall not be delegated to the body of party leadership.

Art. 40. (1) The Sofia City Court shall rule on the dissolution of a political party only in the cases where:

1. by its activity the party systematically breaches the requirements of this law;
2. its activity runs counter to the provisions of the Constitution;
3. for more than five years from its latest court registration the party has not participated in elections for Deputies, for President and Vice President or for municipal councilors and Mayors.
4. the party has not submitted its annual financial reports to the National Audit Office for two consecutive years;
5. the party has not carried out the scheduled meetings of its supreme organ more than two consecutive times but no less than once in five years, and has not presented the composition of the new management before the court.

(2) The court decision per par. 1 shall be issued at the request of the prosecutor.

Art. 41. (1) The decision of the Sofia City Court per art. 40 shall be subject to appeal before the Supreme Court of Cassation under the procedure of the Civil Procedure Code within a term of 14 days from becoming aware of the court decision.

(2) The Supreme Court of Cassation shall issue within a term of 14 days a decision, which shall be final and not subject to revocation under art. 231 of the Civil Procedure Code.

(3) The decision to dissolve a political party shall be entered in the register of the Sofia City Court and within a term of 7 days from such entry it shall be promulgated in the State Gazette.

Art. 42. (1) Upon dissolution of a political party per art. 38, items 1 – 3, the respective body shall determine the mode of disposal of its property.

(2) Upon dissolution of a political party per art. 38, items 4 and 5 its property shall inure to the State benefit. The State shall be liable for obligations of the dissolved party to the amount of the received property.

## Chapter Six.

### ADMINISTRATIVE AND PENAL PROVISIONS

Art. 43 (Addition – state gazette No 73 2006)

(1) A political party which does not present on time the financial report under art. 34. para. 1 and the declaration under art. 34, para. 4 or does not perform its obligation of creating and keeping a public register, is subject to a fine in the amount from 5000 to 10 000 BGN.

(2) Any person from a political party who obstructs the execution of the audit by the National Audit Office shall be punished by a fine in the amount from 1000 to 2000 BGN.

(4) (previously par.3)Funds and property received in violation of this law shall be confiscated for the State benefit

Art. 43. (1) Any person from a body of leadership in a political party or a person per art. 30, who commits a breach of the requirements for raising and spending funds, for the management of property made available and for the financial accounting under this law, if the act does not constitute a crime, shall be punished by fine of BGN200 to BGN2,000.

(2) Any person from a body of leadership in a political party or a person per art. 30, who fails to submit lists of donors per art. 23, par. 1, it. 3 or 4, or lists of commercial companies with less than 5 per cent State or municipal participation that have made available funds to the respective political party, or who obstructs the execution of audit by the National Audit Office, shall be punished by fine in the amount from BGN1,000 to BGN2,000.

(3) Funds and property received in violation of this law shall be confiscated for the State benefit.

Art. 44. (1) Acts establishing the violations per art. 43 shall be drawn up by the officials empowered by the chairman of the National Audit Office.

(2) Penal orders shall be issued by the chairman of the National Audit Office.

(3) Acts shall be drawn up and penal orders shall be issued, appealed against and executed in the procedure of the Administrative Violations and Penalties Act.

Art. 45. (1) A Mayor or Regional Director who fails to fulfill an obligation deriving from a court decision for the revocation of a refusal to make available premises to a political party, shall be punishable by a fine for non-performance in the amount of BGN500 to BGN1,500 by the respective court.

(2) In the event of repeated violation the fine shall be from BGN5,000 to BGN10,000.

#### Additional Provisions

§ 1. In the sense of this law:

1. 'anonymous donations' shall be donations in which the identity or firm of the donor are kept secret with regard to third parties;

2. 'funds' shall be all cash and non-pecuniary funds made available to a political party on the grounds of an gratuitous transaction;

4. 'financial report' shall be the annual financial report in the meaning of the Accountancy Act;

5. 'independent financial auditor' shall be a registered auditor in the meaning of the Independent Financial Audit Act;

#### Transitional and Final Provisions

§ 2. For all issues not resolved in the law the Non-profit Legal persons Act shall apply.

§ 3. The Political Parties Act (promulgated St. Gazette, No. 30/2001; am. No. 103/2003) shall be revoked.

4. (1) (Changes – State Gazette No 102, 2005) Political parties registered as on the date of this law coming into effect shall, not later than June 30 2006, bring their charters in conformity with the requirements of this law.

§ 4. (1) Political parties registered as on the date of this law coming into effect shall, not later than June 30 2006, bring their charters in conformity with the requirements of this law.

(2) Proceedings for the registration of political parties started prior to this law comContent-Type: applying into effect, shall be dissolved.

(3) Political parties registered with repetition of the designation or abbreviation of another party registered before them, as well as through the addition to them of words, letters, figures, numbers or other signs, shall be registered anew with another designation under the conditions and procedure of this law, within the term of par. 1.

(4) In the events of par. 3, where documents for registration anew are not submitted in time, the political party shall be dissolved by the court at the request of a prosecutor, and where a refusal for new registration has become effective – it shall be deleted ex officio by the court.

(5) Regional Directors and Mayors of municipalities shall cancel rent contracts for premises – State or municipal property, concluded with political parties, canceled per par. 4, within a term of one month of such dissolution.

§ 6. Item 3 is created in art. 50, par. 3 of the Deputies Election Act (prom. SG No. 37/2001, No. 44/2001 – Decision No. 8 of the Constitutional Court of 2001, am. No. 45/2002):

'3. a certificate from the National Audit Office for timely submission of financial reports for the past three years.'

§ 7. item 5 is created in art. 6, par. 1 of the Election of a President and Vice President of the Republic Act (prom. SG No. 82/1991; am. No. 98/1991, No. 44/1996, No. 59/1998, Nos. 24, 80 and 90/2001, no. 45/2002):

'5. a certificate from the National Audit Office for timely submission of financial reports of the party or coalition for the past three years.'

§ 8. Par. 2 of art. 40 in the Local Elections Act (prom. SG No. 66/1995; am. No. 68/1995, No. 85/1995 - Decision No. 15 of the Constitutional Court of 1995, am. No. 33/1996, No. 22/1997 - Decision No. 4 of the Constitutional Court of 1997, am. Nos. 11 and 59/1998, Nos. 69 and 85/1999, No. 29/2000, No. 24/2001, No. 45/2002, Nos. 69 and 93/2003) shall be amended to read:

'(2) The parties shall submit transcripts of the court decision whereby they are registered, as well as a certificate from the National Audit Office for timely submission of financial reports for the past three years. Where parties take part in coalitions, a transcript of the court decision and certificate from the National Audit Office shall be submitted for each of them. Party coalitions shall submit the decision of their association signed by the leaderships of the respective parties, specimens of the signatures of persons representing them and a specimen of the seal of the coalition, if any.'

§ 9. The law shall become effective as from the day of its promulgation in the State Gazette. The law was adopted by the XXXIX National Assembly on 18 December 2004 and on 23 March 2005, and the official seal of the National Assembly was affixed thereon.

Transitional and final provisions of the law amending the Law on political parties of January 2009

§ 28. By March 31, 2009 the prosecutor's office carries out a verification and submits a proposal to the court for dissolution of the political parties which do not meet the conditions of art. 40, para. 1 -4.

§ 29. (1) Within a month from the entry into force of the present law, the registered political parties declare their bank accounts under art. 28a.

(2) The National Audit Office determines the models under art. 37a, para. 2 of the reports of raised and spent funds in the election campaign within 3 months from the entry into force of the present law.

§ 30. (1) By March 31, 2009, the political parties present the National Audit Office, along with the certified financial report and declaration, an attached list of legal persons having made donations to the party, their type, amount, value and objective, as well as a list of non-profit legal persons of which the founders and/or members of the managing or control organs are members of the managing or control organs of the respective political party, or their children or spouses.

(2) The declaration under para. 1 is submitted also by non-profit legal persons having made a donation to a political party.

(3) By April 15, 2009 the National Audit Office publishes on its website the declarations under para. 1 and the names of the political parties that have not submitted them.

(4) A person named by the managing organs of the political party or of the non-profit legal person not having submitted the declaration under para. 1 is punished with a fine in the amount from 1000 to 2000 BGN.

The law is adopted by the 40th National Assembly on January 13, 2009 and is stamped with the official seal of the National Assembly.