

THE IMPORTANCE OF MP'S PROFILE IN MAKING SECURITY DECISIONS

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Abstract

In today's world, security issues are an imperative and integral part of the public policies of the modern state and society. As a result of this reality, the profile and role of the Members of Parliament (MPs) in the legislature are constantly evolving. As the MPs have the authority to participate in decisions that directly impact citizen's rights, freedoms, and obligations it is essential for them to possess knowledge in security, defense, intelligence, terrorism, cyber attacks, and geopolitical challenges, in order to qualitatively perceive all aspects of specific issues when making decisions in this domain. Therefore, although there are many factors that influence the MP's decisions, an additional dilemma arises whether formal education, previous work experience, or involvement in security-related organizations would imply added value to the MP's role in the adoption process of more quality decisions in the field of security.

This paper aims to compare the constitutional and legal position of the MPs in the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia and three member states of the European Union (the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Slovenia, and the Republic of Italy) concerning their professional education and its impact on making quality decisions, especially in security matters.

The normative method, the comparative method and the method of content analysis will be used to achieve this goal.

Keywords: *MPs, security, vocational education, formal education.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Security, a multifaceted concept, has undergone diverse interpretations throughout history. However, the discussion surrounding security inevitably encompasses aspects such as the fear of physical survival, the absence of structural violence, the pursuit of peace, well-being, and stability (Mojanoski et al., 2018). The term stability is commonly associated with internal peace, the harmonious existence of citizens, freedom from threats, defense against external advisories, and safeguarding sovereignty (Mojanoski et al., 2018). This paper does not delve into extensive analyses or debates about the definition of security, as it focuses on the significance of understanding the profiles of the Members of Parliaments in the North Macedonian Parliament, Croatian Parliament, Slovenian Parliament, and Italian Parliament who hold substantial responsibilities in this domain.

Consequently, the subsequent sections of this paper will examine the legal status of MPs in the North Macedonian Parliament, their competencies pertaining to security matters, and provide insights into the profiles of the current MPs for the period 2020-2024.

2. THE LEGAL POSITION OF THE MPs IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

The legal standing of the MP in the North Macedonian Parliament is established by a number of legislative measures, including the Constitution (Official Gazette no. 1/92, 31/98, 91/01, 84/03, 107/05, 3/09, 7/11, 6/19), the Law on the Assembly (Official Gazette no. 104/09, 14/20, 174/21, 298/21, 67/22), the Law on Members of Parliament (Official Gazette no. 84/2005, 161/2008, 51/11, 109/14, 140/18, 27/19), and the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.¹

The Constitution, in Article 8, outlines the fundamental values of the constitutional order in the North Macedonia, which include the separation of state power into legislative, executive, and judicial branches, the promotion of political pluralism, and free, direct, and democratic elections.

The Constitution² (Article 61) establishes the organization of the state government, stating that the Assembly of the North Macedonia will serve as a representative body for the citizens and hold the legislative power of the Republic.

In Article 62, the Constitution specifies that the Parliament must consist of 120 to 140 members who are elected through general, direct, and free elections by secret ballot. It further emphasizes that MPs should represent the citizens in Parliament and make decisions based on their own convictions.

Additionally, the Constitution prohibits the recall of MPs, and the election procedures and requirements are to be determined by a law passed through a majority vote of all MPs.

¹ <https://www.sobranie.mk/delovnik-na-sobranieto.nspix-> (accessed on 21.5.2023)

² The Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia has the following functions and powers: approves and modifies the Constitution; passes laws and offers authoritative interpretations of existing laws; establishes public fees; approves the national budget and the final account of the budget; adopts a spatial plan for the country; ratifies international agreements; makes decisions regarding war and peace; decides on changes to the country's borders; determines participation in alliance or communities with other nations; announces referendums; makes decisions concerning the country's reserves; provides fundamental advice; elect the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia; appoints judges to the Constitutional Court of the Republic of North Macedonia; conducts elections, appointments, and dismissals of other public officials and holders of various positions as outlined by the Constitution and laws; exercises political control and oversight over the Government and other public officials accountable to the Assembly; grants amnesty; carries out other tasks specified by the Constitution. In addition, the Assembly adopts decisions, declarations, resolutions, recommendations, and conclusions to fulfill its assigned responsibilities (Article 68 of the Constitution).

Article 63³ outlines that the MPs are elected for a term of four years⁴, and their mandate⁵ is verified by the Assembly.

The verified Member of Parliament is issued an identity card, granting them parliamentary immunity and other rights associated with their role in the parliament. The parliamentary mandate is a publicly held position acquired through elections, granting MPs the authority to represent and exercise sovereignty on behalf of voters.

MPs possess an independent (Shkaric, 2004) representative mandate, allowing them to make decisions based on their own convictions rather than being bound by their constituents. The parliamentary mandate is permanent and cannot be revoked.

The representative mandate empowers MPs to represent the entire citizenry, rather than solely the constituents from their specific electoral district.

The extension of parliamentary mandates can only occur under exceptional circumstances such as a military or state emergency.

The law establishes rules regarding the incompatibility and ineligibility of holding the position of member in the Assembly while simultaneously holding other public offices or engaging in certain professions.

According to Article 64 of the Constitution, MPs are granted immunity (Klimovski et al., 2006)⁶, which means they are protected from being held criminally responsible or being detained for expressing their opinions or casting votes in the Parliament.⁷

³ The running of the term starts from the inaugural session of the Assembly. The recently elected Assembly convenes for an inaugural session within 20 days of the conducted elections. In the event that the inaugural session is not scheduled within the specific timeframe, the MPs gather and establish the Assembly on the twenty-first day following the conclusion of the elections.

⁴ According to Article 65 of the Constitution, an MP has the right to tender their resignation, which must be submitted in person during a session of the Assembly. The MP's term ends if they are convicted of a criminal offense that renders them unfit for the position of MP, or if they are absent from the Assembly without justification for more than six months. The revocation of the mandate requires a two-third majority vote from the total number of deputies in Parliament. In accordance with Article 6, paragraph 1 of the Law on the Assembly, a member's term can come to an end before the designated period if any of the following conditions are met: 1. They voluntarily resign; 2. They are convicted of a crime punishable by a prison sentence of at least five years; 3. There is a case of incompatibility with the position of MP; 4. They lose their citizenship of the Republic of North Macedonia; 5. They are legally determined to lack business capacity; 6. They pass away. If a majority of the total number of deputies in the Assembly decide to self-dissolve, their mandate also comes to an end.

⁵ The Assembly conducts a constituent session to verify the mandates of the MPs, based on Proposal from the Verification Commission. In case the verification committee raises objections to the election of a specific MP, it suggest to the Assembly to delay the verification process for that individual's mandate. The MP, whose mandate verification process is postponed, is allowed to participate in the Assembly's activities for a maximum period of two months but cannot exercises decision-making powers. Upon successful verification of the MP's mandate, they acquire rights and responsibilities as defined by the Constitution, the Law, and the Assembly's Rules of Procedures.

⁶ Substantive and procedural immunity are both applicable to MPs. Material immunity pertains to the exemption of MPs from liability for their expressed opinions and votes in parliament. On the other hand, procedural immunity safeguards MPs during their activities outside the parliament and provides protection solely during their term, not after it concludes. Procedural immunity ensures that MPs are shielded from arrest or detention.

⁷ The detention of a MP requires the Parliament's approval, unless the MP has been caught engaging in a criminal act that carries a minimum prison sentence of five years. In certain cases, the

However, if the MPs violate the work order of the Assembly, disciplinary responsibility can be imposed on them. While serving their term, MPs are not obligated to join the armed forces.

As stated in the Law on the Assembly, MPs possess certain rights, such as proposing the enactment of laws, posing parliamentary questions to the President of the Government and other public officials accountable to the Assembly, and presenting interpellations along with at least five MPs. They are also permitted to engage with citizens in their respective electoral units (as specified in Article 36 of the Law on the Assembly). These rights can be exercised individually or personally by MPs, encompassing parliamentary initiatives, access to information, the right to speak, vote, form associations with other MPs or parliamentary groups, receive compensation or salary, and enjoy immunity (Shkaric, 2004). Additionally, MPs have collective rights, which include interpellation, the ability to express a vote of confidence in the Government, and the authority to establish investigative commissions (Shkaric, 2004). The office of a member of parliament also entails certain responsibilities, primarily governed by the Assembly's Rules of Procedure. These duties can be categorized as moral obligations, involving the representation of constituents' interests and acting as a true representative of the people, as well as legal obligations, encompassing attendance at Assembly sessions, adherence to parliamentary protocols, and upholding entrusted confidentiality.

3. THE PROFILE OF THE MPs IN THE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH MACEDONIA (TERM 2020-2024) AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SECURITY ISSUES

In our study, we directed our attention towards the educational background of MPs in the Assembly of North Macedonia during the 2020 – 2024 term. Our aim was to gain insights into their professional qualifications and their ability to effectively address and make informed decisions regarding security matters. Given the importance of security as a critical area for the state, it is essential to understand the competence of the MPs involved in shaping security-related policies and actions. By analyzing the educational structure of the MPs, we sought to assess their level of expertise and suitability in handling security concerns, thereby providing valuable insights into their capabilities in this field.

We utilized the Assembly of North Macedonia's website as a data source⁸, which includes information on the educational background of each Member of Parliament. Our analysis reveals an unequal representation in the educational profiles of the MPs. Specifically, some MPs have their academic or professional titles for completed studies indicated, while others have incomplete data or none at all. Furthermore, the available information varies for different MPs, ranging from listing university, faculty, and acquired educational profile to only mentioning the university, faculty, or academic/professional title. Some MPs have no data on their educational profile.

Due to the diverse presentation of data, it was challenging to determine the exact educational profiles of the MPs in quantitative terms. However, we managed to ascertain

Assembly may choose to grant immunity to an MP even if they have not personally requested it, when it is deemed necessary for the MP to fulfill their parliamentary duties.

⁸ <https://www.sobranie.mk/pratenici-vo-parlament.nspx%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20.nspx>
– accessed on 10-15.5.2023 година

that the largest number of MPs possess educational backgrounds in legal, medical, and economic sciences. Pedagogues and a few political scientists follow suit. Additionally, there are MPs with expertise in fields such as biochemistry, biology, chemistry, mechanical engineering, computer engineering, as well as managers specializing in human resources, marketing, education, and educational policy, among others. It is worth noting that one MP holds a secondary education, while three MPs have educational profiles in defense and one in security.

We focused on examining the educational background of MPs who serve as either full or deputy members in three parliamentary bodies responsible for security matters. These bodies include the Commission for Defense and Security, the Commission overseeing the National Security Agency and the Agency for Intelligence, and the Commission supervising the implementation of communication monitoring measures.

3.1. The defense and security commission

The Defense and Security Commission comprises a president, along with twelve members and their deputies. Its primary focus is on addressing various aspects, including safeguarding the established constitutional order; overseeing defense and security matters; protecting the Republic and its citizens; fostering collaboration with collective security and defense system, integrating the Republic into Euro-Atlantic organizations; ensuring the safety of individuals and their belongings as guaranteed by the Constitution; regulating the production, trade, possession, and transportation of weapons and ammunition; providing necessary personnel and facilities; managing citizenship matters; upholding public order and peace; overseeing public gatherings and events; ensuring safety in road, air, rail, and lake traffic, protecting against natural disasters and epidemics; managing residence registration and deregistration, regulating border crossings and movement in border zones; overseeing the movement and residence of foreigners, resolving border incidents and violations; establishing international cooperation on defense and security issues, and addressing other matters pertaining to defense and security.

The Commission is led by a Member of Parliament who possesses a security-related degree. The educational background of the Commission members vary, including lawyers, historians, individuals with degrees in tourism, physical education, economics, international politics and diplomacy, administrative law, and two members whose educational profiles are unspecified, but who completed their education at a university and a college of defense studies, respectively. The Deputy President of the Commission has graduated from the Military Academy. The deputy members encompass a diverse range of educational backgrounds, such as the Faculty of Administration and Management of Information Systems, Faculty of Medicine, specializing in family medicine, graduate professor, Master of Science in Business Economics, Master, Master of Science in Political Science, Computer Engineer, Bachelor of Science in history, graduated lawyer and so on.

3.2. The supervisory commission overseeing the operations of the national security agency and the intelligence agency

The President, along with eight members and their deputies, form the Supervisory Commission overseeing the operations of the National Security Agency and the Intelligence Agency. The primary responsibilities of the Commission include:

- Ensuring that the National Security Agency and the Intelligence Agency respect the rights and freedoms outlined in the Constitution and laws for both citizens and other legal entities;

- Assessing the legality of the National Security Agency and the Intelligence Agency's exercise of power, with a focus on identifying instances of exceeding authority, unauthorized actions, abuse, and other forms of misconduct that contradict the rights established by law;
- Evaluating the methods and tools utilized by the National Security Agency and the Intelligence Agency, ensuring their legality and adherence to citizens' rights and the rights of other entities;
- Examining the material, personnel, and technical resources of the National Security Agency and the Intelligence Agency;
- Establishing international collaborations concerning surveillance and other relevant matters related to the National Security Agency and the Intelligence Agency.

The Commission is led by an individual holding a Master's degree in media and communications. The members of the Commission possess diverse educational backgrounds, including two members with Law degrees, one mechanical engineer, one graduate from the Faculty of Physical Education, one political scientist, one graduate from the Faculty of Pedagogy, and one Masters' degree holder in Marketing Management. The deputy chairman of the Commission graduated from the College of Defense Studies, while the deputy members have different educational qualifications. Two members hold degrees in Economics; one is a graduate engineer specializing in the wood industry, one member is a family medicine specialist with a medical degree, and another member has a dental degree. Additionally, one member is a graphic designer with a degree in fine arts, and so on.

3.3. The commission responsible for overseeing the implementation of communication monitoring measures

The Commission consists of a president, four members, and their deputies. The Commission's primary responsibilities include:

- Conducting supervision of communication monitoring measures;
- Assessing the legality of authorized authorities' implementation of communication monitoring measures (OTA);
- Evaluating the effectiveness of special investigative measures;
- Preparing a report summarizing the conducted supervision;
- Facilitating international cooperation on matters pertaining to such supervision;
- Addressing other issues concerning authorized authorities (OTA) responsible for implementing communication monitoring measures.

The Commission is led by a president who holds a law degree, and the deputy president is a member of parliament with a dentistry degree. The members possess diverse educational backgrounds, including degrees in security, defense studies, computer engineering, and physical education. The deputy members have qualifications in economic sciences and geodesy, while information about the educational profiles of the remaining two MPs is not available on the website.

4. AN EXAMINATION OF THE COMPOSITION OF RELEVANT PARLIAMENTARY BODIES WITH REGARD TO SECURITY AND DEFENSE MATTERS FROM A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

National security and defense committees exist in various countries and are typically responsible for overseeing and advising on matters related to national security, defense, intelligence, and related policies.

This section of the paper will outline the educational background of parliamentary committee members in the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Slovenia, and the Republic of Italy.

The responsibilities of the **Defense Committee**, as a working body of the Croatian Parliament, include setting and overseeing policies, as well as exercising the rights and duties of a competent working body in relation to the following matters:

- The structure and jurisdiction of state administrative bodies in the realm of defense;
- Defense-related issues;
- Collaboration with entities within the Republic of Croatia that operate in defense-related fields;
- Other defense-related concerns.⁹

It consists of one chairperson, one deputy chairperson, eleven members and six appointed members. From educational standpoint, the composition of the Committee can be analyzed as follows: one member is a bachelor of road traffic and transport engineering, graduated from the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences, University of Zagreb; one member is a construction technician, graduated from the Vocational Technical School of Civil Engineering; three members are Masters of Laws, graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Split, Osijek and Zagreb, respectively; one member is a Master of Education in Mathematics and Computer Science, graduated from the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb; one member with vocational education in mining and oil industry, graduated from the Secondary School Centre for Energy and Process Engineering, Zagreb; two members are Doctors of Medicine, graduated from the University of Zagreb; one member is a Bachelor of Radiological Technology, graduated from the University of Applied Health Sciences in Zagreb; one member is an Expert Specialist of Economics, graduated from the Faculty of Economics, Business and Tourism, University of Split; one member is a shoemaking technician, graduated from “Edvard Kardelj” Vocational High School; and one member is a Master of Occupational Safety, graduated from the Zagreb College of Management and Security.

Within the Croatian Parliament there exists a special committee named **Council for Civilian Oversight of Security and Intelligence Agencies**. Pursuant to Article 111, paragraph 1 of the Security and Intelligence System Act of the Republic of Croatia, the Council performs the following tasks:

- monitors the legality of security agencies' work;
- monitors and oversees the application of confidential data-gathering measures restricting Constitutionally-guaranteed human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- findings and information from the above-mentioned items are submitted as a notification to the National Security Council, the Speaker of the Croatian Parliament, the chairperson of the parliamentary committee in charge of national security and the directors of security and intelligence agencies;
- provides information about the methods on how citizens, governmental bodies and legal entities may file complaints on any illegal or irregular procedures in the work

⁹ <https://www.sabor.hr/en/committees/defence-committee-10-term>

of security and intelligence agencies that they might have observed, with an emphasis on violations of constitutionally-guaranteed human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Article 113, paragraphs 1 and 3, provide that the Council notifies a requestor on oversight exerted and its response to complaints is limited exclusively to the objections specified in the request.¹⁰

This Council is composed of one chairperson and six members. The Croatian Parliament's website does not provide any information about the educational qualifications of the members of this Council.

In the context of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, two bodies are responsible for matters concerning defense and security: The committee on Defense¹¹ and the Commission for Supervision of the Intelligence and Security Services¹².

The Committee on Defense is composed of fifteen PMs of which one member has a PhD from the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana; one member has a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Protection and Municipal Services; two members have Bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Organizational Sciences in Kranj, the University of Maribor; one member has graduated from a grammar school; one is a graduate of mechanical engineering from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, the University of Ljubljana; one has a Bachelor's degree in Construction Engineering; one has a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Comparative Literature from the Faculty of Arts, the University of Ljubljana; one member has Master's degree in Defense Studies from the Faculty of Social Sciences, the University of Ljubljana; one member has a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Power Engineering, the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, the University of Maribor; one member has a Master's degree from the Faculty of Social Sciences, the University of Ljubljana; one member has a Master's degree in Sociology and a Master's degree in History from the Faculty of Arts, the University of Ljubljana; one member has a secondary school degree; and regarding two members, there is a lack of information regarding their educational background.

The Commission for Supervision of the Intelligence and Security Services consists of seven PMs. In regard to their educational profiles, similar to previous compositions of this type of body, we can observe a significant diversity. Specifically, one member has a Master's degree in Microbiology from the Faculty of Medicine, the University of Ljubljana; one member has a Bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Engineering, the University of Ljubljana; one member graduated from the College of Internal Affairs; one has a Bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, the University of Ljubljana; one has a Master's degree from the Faculty of Social Sciences, the University of Ljubljana; one member graduated from the Faculty of Organizational Sciences

¹⁰ <https://www.sabor.hr/en/committees/council-civilian-oversight-security-and-intelligence-agencies-10-term>

¹¹ https://www.dzrs.si/wps/portal/en/Home/pos/WorkingBodies/izbranDT!/ut/p/z1/04_Sj9CPyksy0xPLMnMz0vMAfIjo8zinfyCTD293Q0N_IMNLAwC_SxcjdwDAG3cXUz1w1EVuHs5mRgEGv v7OgWZBxl6GJnqRxGj3wAHcDQgTj8eBVH4jS_IDQ0NdVRUBAA6yZEK/dz/d5/L2dBISEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/?idSubjekt=DT018

¹² https://www.dzrs.si/wps/portal/en/Home/pos/WorkingBodies/izbranDT!/ut/p/z1/04_Sj9CPyksy0xPLMnMz0vMAfIjo8zinfyCTD293Q0N_IMNLAwC_SxcjdwDAG3cXUz1w1EVuHs5mRgEGv v7OgWZBxl6GJnqRxGj3wAHcDQgTj8eBVH4jS_IDQ0NdVRUBAA6yZEK/dz/d5/L2dBISEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/?idSubjekt=DT009

in Kranj, the University of Maribor; and one has a Bachelor's Degree from the Faculty of Theology, the University of Ljubljana.

In terms of national security, the Republic of Italy has specific committees and agencies that handle security matters. One of the key bodies responsible for national security is the **Parliamentary Committee for the Security of the Republic**. The Committee was established by article 30 of the law of 3 August 2007, n. 124, containing "Information system for the security of the Republic and new regulation of secrecy". The law attributes to this parliamentary body the function of systematically and continuously verifying that the activity of the information security system is carried out in compliance with the Constitution and the law, in the exclusive interest and for the defense of the Republic and of its institutions. In exceptional cases, the Committee may order, with a reasoned resolution, the hearing of individuals belonging to the information security system, without prejudice to the faculty of the President of the Council of Ministers to object for justified reasons. A further method of acquiring information useful for the exercise of parliamentary control is constituted by the faculty of the Committee to obtain, also in derogation from article 329 of the code of criminal procedure (obligation of secrecy), copies of deeds and documents relating to proceedings and investigations in progress before the judicial authority or other investigative bodies, of deeds and documents relating to parliamentary investigations and inquiries, as well as the documentation and information elements deemed of interest in the possession of the Information System for security or the public administration. A special procedure, which also involves the President of the Council of Ministers, is envisaged for the eventuality that the communication of information or one of the requested documents may compromise specific security needs. However, if the Committee, with a unanimous vote, orders investigations "on the compliance of the behaviors of members of the security services with the institutional tasks envisaged by the institutive law", neither requirements of confidentiality nor state secrecy are opposable. The Committee includes five deputies and five senators nominated by the Presidents of the two branches of Parliament within twenty days of the vote of confidence in the Government in proportion to the number of members of the parliamentary groups, guaranteeing, in any case, the equal representation of the majority and of the oppositions and taking into account the specificity of the Committee's tasks. The Bureau, made up of the President, a Vice President and a Secretary, is elected by the members of the Committee by secret ballot. The president is elected from members of opposition groups.¹³

Regarding the educational background of the Committee members, it can be summarized as follows: one member has a degree in political sciences; one has a degree in civil engineering – construction; one member has a diploma from the Commercial Technical Institute; and one member has a master's degree in administrative sciences. Instead of specifying their educational background, four members have indicated their respective professions: an executive, a journalist, a manager, and a magistrate. One member did not provide information regarding either their educational background or their profession. The Italian Parliament has established as well, a **standing Defense commission (No IV)**¹⁴ as part of its structure. This Commission consists of a president, two vice presidents, two secretaries, and twenty-two members. When it comes to their educational backgrounds, there

¹³ https://www.camera.it/leg19/1352?shadow_organo_parlamentare=3661&id_tipografico=25

¹⁴ https://www.camera.it/leg19/99?shadow_organo_parlamentare=3504&id_tipografico=04

is a wide range of diversity. For instance, at least one member holds a university degree in theoretical, moral, political and aesthetic philosophy, one has a diploma in music education, one member holds a diploma in Pharmacy, one in Economics, one member has a diploma as an Entrepreneur, five MPs have scientific high school diplomas, four MPs have a degree in political science, one member has a degree in communications sciences, three MPs hold a diploma in civil engineering, two members have a diploma from Commercial Technical Institute, two members have a degree in Modern Literature, one in Medicine and Surgery and three members have a high education in Law sciences. The educational background of two members of this Commission remains unspecified.

4. CONCLUSION

Parliaments represent legislative entities comprising elected representatives chosen by the people. The caliber and characteristics of the candidates presented for election depend on the specific electoral models and techniques employed. When political parties nominate candidates, citizen voters have limited influence in their selection. Typically, candidates are recruited from within party ranks, based on their party loyalty or perceived ability to attract votes, with little consideration for their qualifications. Consequently, voters are left with the option to either confirm or reject these choices. This situation undeniably diminishes the quality of elected parliaments, the quality of discussions and decisions within the parliament, and amplifies the prevalence of political maneuvering.

It is unquestionable that parliaments require a diverse range of parliamentarians who can effectively address the needs of the citizens.

The composition of elected MPs would likely be more suitable if citizen voters had the ability to directly nominate candidates. Considering the importance of security for society and its citizens, it is crucial that MPs who make critical decisions on security matters, particularly within relevant committees, possess adequate knowledge in the field of security. However, an analysis of the profiles of MPs serving in security-related working bodies in the North Macedonian parliament, as well as in the parliaments of Croatia, Slovenia, and Italy (which were comparatively examined for this paper), revealed that a significant portion of members in these bodies lack appropriate qualifications to make informed decisions on security. Consequently, discussions and decisions related to security in both the parliaments and the specialized working bodies often involve deputies who lack the necessary expertise in the field.

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