

National Security Council Act

No. 98, 20 September 2016

Article 1. *Scope.*

This Act applies to Iceland's national security policy, its implementation and the review of the policy. It also covers consultation and coordination between government ministries and public bodies on the implementation of the national security policy.

Article 2. *The National Security Council.*

A National Security Council shall operate in Iceland.

The prime minister is the chairman of the National Security Council and the Office of the Prime Minister shall provide the council with all the necessary working facilities and assistance with its work.

Article 3. *Appointment of the National Security Council.*

In addition to the prime minister, the National Security Council shall consist of the minister responsible for foreign affairs and defence and the minister responsible for civil protection, and also the permanent under-secretaries of the ministries in question. Furthermore, the national commissioner of the Icelandic police, the director of the Coast Guard and a representative of ICE-SAR shall have seats on the council. Furthermore, two members of parliament shall have seats on the council; one shall be from a party in the parliamentary majority and one from a party in the parliamentary minority.

The National Security Council may call in more government ministers to sit on the council in connection with particular matters under discussion, in which case the permanent under-secretaries in the ministries in question shall also take seats on the council.

Public officials and other employees of the ministries and public bodies and public limited companies, and also individuals and representatives of legal persons, shall be obliged to attend meetings of the National Security Council if requested to do so.

Article 4. *Responsibilities of the National Security Council.*

The National Security Council shall monitor to ensure that Iceland's national security policy is implemented in accordance with the Althingi's resolution and shall also be a forum for consultation on national security issues.

The National Security Council shall also assess the situation and the outlook in the field of security and defence on a regular basis, and discuss other matters with a bearing on national security.

The National Security Council shall take steps to have the national security policy reviewed at least every five years.

In collaboration with the academic community, think-tanks and the media, the National Security Council shall use its influence to encourage open and democratic discussion of national security issues, raise awareness and promote the provision of information on these matters.

Article 5. *Consultation between the National Security Council and the Althingi.*

Each year, the National Security Council shall inform the Althingi of the implementation of the national security policy.

If the National Security Council considers there is reason to make changes to the national security policy, it shall send the Althingi its proposals on such changes.

The National Security Council shall inform the Althingi's committee on foreign affairs of all matters that are likely to have an impact on the national security policy and its implementation.