



SENAT RP

NOTES ON THE SENATE

SENATE
OF THE REPUBLIC
OF POLAND

CHANCELLERY OF THE SENATE
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The Senate Marshal, Deputy Senate Marshals, the Presidium of the Senate, and the Council of Seniors

The Senate Marshal represents the Senate and guards its rights and dignity. Having consulted the Council of Seniors, he convenes sessions of the Senate and sets the agenda. The Senate Marshal presides over the Senate's sessions, allows senators to speak and puts resolutions to vote.

The Senate Marshal manages the Presidium of the Senate's work and presides over the sessions of the Council of Seniors. He sets a draft budget for the Senate Chancellery and supervises its implementation. The Senate Marshal ensures peace and quiet on the entire Senate premises. He also performs representative duties.

Deputy Senate Marshals act as deputies for the Senate Marshal in presiding over the Senate's sessions. They also perform the Senate Marshal's duties as imposed by the Senate Marshal himself or by the Presidium of the Senate.

The Presidium of the Senate is composed of the Senate Marshal and Deputy Senate Marshals. The Presidium of the Senate convenes, as a rule, every week. The Senate's general working plans are decided upon and current legislative work is discussed during the Presidium's sessions. The Presidium directs the Senate committees to analyse various matters. It also considers statute cases related to the Senate and senators' work.

Performing the traditional role of the Senate in assisting Poles living abroad, the Presidium of the Senate decides on the allocation of funds from the budget of the Senate Chancellery to support Polish institutions abroad, e.g. to support schools, organisations and publications as well as to provide social assistance. The Presidium of the Senate entrusts these tasks to competent institutions and, first of all, to the "Polish Union" Association (Stowarzyszenie "Wspólnota Polska").

The Head of the Chancellery of the Senate and persons invited by the Senate Marshal participate in the sessions of the Presidium of the Senate and have advisory rights.

From time to time there are joint sessions of the Presidium of the Senate and the Presidium of the Sejm.

The Council of Seniors is composed of the Senate Marshal, the Deputy Senate Marshals and senators – representing the Senate party groups. The various Senate party groups may agree on delegating a common representative to the Council of Seniors. Parliamentary party groups have representatives in the Council if, aside from the number of deputies, such party groups are composed of at least 7 senators.

During the Council of Seniors' sessions the Senate's party groups agree with each other about the operation and work of the Senate, i.e. the agenda, dates of sessions, motions on the methods of conducting discussions, sessions and other matters presented by the Senate Marshal or the Presidium of the Senate.

*Dorota Mycielska, February 2002
with later amendments, October 2007*