



Committee Members

Committee Chair



Kazimierz Kleina (PO)

Committee Deputy Chair



Grzegorz Czelej (PiS)

Committee Deputy Chair



Henryk Woźniak (PO)



Wiesław Dobkowski (PiS)



Piotr Gruszczyński (PO)



Stanisław Karczewski (PiS)



Antoni Motyczka (PO)



Marek Ziółkowski (PO)

The Committee considers issues related to the state financial system, such as the monetary policy, state budget revenues and expenditure, designated funds, fiscal control, accounting, foreign exchange laws and the functioning of the financial market, including the banking system, insurance, investment funds, and securities.

The Budget and Public Finance Committee is the leading Senate committee as regards state budget laws.

The Budget and Public Finance Committee is one of 16 standing committees in the 7th Senate (2007-2011).

Historically, the Committee dates back to the Senate of the Second Polish Republic (1922-1939). At the time matters related to state finances were handled by the Treasury and Budget Committee and the Budget Committee. After the Second World War, the Senate did not resume its activity, as it was abolished by the Communist government following the rigged national referendum in 1946.

In 1989, the restored Senate appointed the standing National Economy Committee, and provided it with wide jurisdiction over matters related to the economy and the state budget. In 2008, the Senate established the Budget and Public Finance Committee and entrusted it with responsibilities pertaining mainly to the state budget, the financial system, and the financial market.

The activities undertaken by the Budget and Public Finance Committee correspond broadly to the scope of activity of the Ministry of Finance and, to a lesser extent, the Ministry of Treasury.

The Budget and Public Finance Committee is the lead committee in charge of the preparation of the Senate's opinion on the Budget Act. The Marshall of the Senate refers the Budget Act to all the Senate committees for consideration. Each committee, within its subject area, reviews the portion of the budget. Consequently, at a special session of the Budget and Public Finance Committee, the senators-rapporteurs appointed by their Committees may recommend relevant amendments to the Budget Act. Following deliberation, the Committee draws up a report containing a draft resolution for adoption at a plenary session of the Senate.

The Budget and Public Finance Committee plays an active role in shaping legislative initiatives and in examining petitions (citizens' complaints). The committee also hears the candidates nominated by the Senate for the Monetary Policy Council - an official body of the National Bank of Poland. Based on the interviews, it gives an opinion on their suitability for the appointment.

## The Committee in the 7<sup>th</sup> Senate

(2007-2011)

In the 7th Senate, the Committee submitted a number of legislative proposals concerning taxes, control and supervision of the financial markets, financial instruments, as well as the ratification of double taxation avoidance agreements, the banking system, and insurance. Moreover, the Committee examined laws having effect on the state of public finances at times of crisis, aiming at the revision of public funds management.

The Committee has been also interested in the issues revolving around the National Bank of Poland (NBP) and the state-owned Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK). The committee organised a number of debates focusing on the reasons behind the recession, and its consequences for the Polish economy, as well as on the role of state-owned banks. The Budget and Public Finance Committee - in cooperation with other committees dealing with economic issues from the European perspective - has analysed the impact on the Polish economy of the European Commission initiatives and other EU measures for fighting the crisis. Among the issues examined by the Committee (jointly with the European Union Affairs Committee) were the new EU multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 and the Council Recommendation on broad guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States and of the Union, which results from the adoption of the new Strategy Europe 2020.

The Committee has been working on the development of legal instruments to implement the Government's "Stability and Development Plan" drawn up as a response to the global economic crisis of the banking and economic sector, which began in 2007.

## Non-legislative Activities

The Chair and Committee Members take active part in international meetings held by Member States presiding over the EU Council.

The Committee examines EU legislative proposals for their compliance with the principle of subsidiarity and, following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, issues opinions on EU draft legislation, pursuant to the amended Rules and Regulations of the Senate.