



Committee Members

Committee Chair



Piotr Łukasz Juliusz Andrzejewski (PiS)

Committee Deputy Chair



Barbara Borys-Damięcka (PO)

Committee Deputy Chair



Andrzej Grzyb (PO)

The Committee deals with the promotion of arts, culture and creativity, cultural heritage protection, international cultural cooperation, the organisation of cultural institutions, media ethics, and the state information policy.

Like other Senate committees, the Culture and Media Committee within its remit, examines the Budget Act and transmits its opinion to the Budget and Public Finance Committee, which is the only committee to present a budget report at a Senate plenary session.

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



Adam Massalski (PiS)



Maria Pańczyk-Pozdziej (PO)



Andrzej Person (PO)



Krzysztof Piesiewicz (PO)



Czesław Ryszka (PiS)



Janusz Sepioł (PO)



Wojciech Skurkiewicz (PiS)



Michał Wojtczak (PO)

The origin of the Committee dates back to the Senate of the Second Polish Republic (1922-1939). At the time, issues related to culture were handled by the Culture and Education Committee, and by the Education 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 established the standing Committee for Culture, Media, Science and National Education. In 1997, the name of the Committee was changed to "Culture and Media Committee".

The activities undertaken by the Committee correspond to the scope of activity of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, and the National Broadcasting Council.

Among the Committee's tasks is evaluating and presenting to the Senate candidates running for the National Broadcasting Council. The Committee also examines annual reports on the functioning of the Council. Moreover, the Committee cooperates with artists, culture creators and media persons, as well as independent experts.

### The Committee in the First Six Terms

#### of the Restored Senate

(1989-2007)

Poland's political transformation of the 1990s had a major impact on the Committee's legislative activities. At the time, the committee focused its attention on the possibilities of subsidies for culture under a free market system and on the protection of cultural assets of special national and historical value.

One of the Committee's legislative achievements was the amendment proposal, offered during the debate over reforms of administration structure and educational system, that that art schools remain under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, instead of local government. Another important contribution of the Committee was the suggestion that the Broadcasting Act include a category of so called social broadcaster or non-profit broadcaster. Both of the Committee's recommendations were approved by the Senate and subsequently, adopted by the Sejm. Following Poland's accession to the EU in 2004, the Committee played an active role in disseminating information on EU funding opportunities for national heritage protection. Furthermore, it launched an initiative to hold a conference on preserving the country's cultural heritage after joining the EU.

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

(2007-2011)

Since 2007 most of the committee's activity has focused on the questions concerning the role, the functioning and the funding of public media. The Committee recommended that the Senate adopt the Media Act which defines the mission of public broadcasting. During discussion on the Act, the Committee held a seminar dedicated to the mission of the public media.

The Broadcasting Act, which plays a key role in the functioning of public media, is another example of the Committee's activities.

The Committee was also engaged in organizing two conferences and, consequently, in drafting relevant legislation on copyright law.

In 2009, the Committee presented a draft resolution commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birthday and 160th anniversary of the death of one of the most acclaimed Romantic poets in Polish literature, Juliusz Slowacki.

It also submitted a draft resolution proclaiming the Year 2010 as the Chopin Year, thus commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of the greatest Polish composer.

### Non-legislative Activities

The Committee organises seminars and conferences which often initiate public debates. Between 2005 and 2007, it participated in the process leading up to the establishment of the European Solidarity Centre in Gdańsk and played a part in the creating of a new thematic public television channel - "TVP History". It was upon the Committee's initiative that the Senate proclaimed Year 2006 as the Year of Polish Language. In this context, Krystyna Bochenek, who chaired the Committee at the time, initiated the conference on the language employed by politicians and legislators.

In 2008 the Committee held a conference focusing on the activity of museums, and in 2010 it organised a conference dealing with Silesian dialects as carriers of culture and tradition. Committee Members took active part in the 6th Congress of Polish Culture organised in Cracow in 2009.

In addition, the Senators participate in the meetings of the committees on culture of the EU National Parliaments.