

## Committee Members

## Committee Chair



Zbigniew Szaleniec (PO)

## Committee Deputy Chair



Zbigniew Meres (PO)

Piotr Łukasz Juliusz  
Andrzejewski (PiS)Mieczysław Augustyn  
(PO)Krzysztof Kwiatkowski  
(PO)Stanisław Piotrowicz  
(PiS)Zbigniew Romaszewski  
(PiS)Grażyna Anna Sztark  
(PO)

The Committee is charged with tasks related to the waiver of parliamentary immunity as well as the imposition of constitutional liability on Senators, in proceedings before the State Tribunal. Domain of the Committee covers general conditions governing the exercise and termination of a Senator's mandate. In addition, the Committee investigates allegations of neglect of duty or misconduct in office and other ethical issues. The Committee scrutinizes Senators' financial disclosure statements and provides opinions on the interpretation and application of the Rules and Regulations of the Senate. It also monitors the running of the constituency offices of Senators, including the control of their financial records.

Like other Senate committees, the Rules, Ethics and Senatorial Affairs Committee, within its remit, examines the Budget Act and conveys 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 Rules, Ethics and Senatorial Affairs Committee is one of the 16 standing committees in the 7th Senate (2007-2011).

The Committee is a successor of the Rules Committee which functioned in the Senate of the Second Polish Republic (1922-1939). 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.

Following the restoration of the Senate in 1989, the Upper House of Parliament established the Rules and Senatorial Affairs Committee, which has been active since then and in 2001 assumed its present name.

### The Committee in the First Six Terms

#### of the Restored Senate

(1989-2007)

The primary focus of the Committee's legislative activity is the Act on the Exercise of the Mandate of a Deputy or Senator. The Committee provides assistance to the House, the Marshal of the Senate, and the Presidium of the Senate, which is composed of the Marshal and Deputy Marshals. The Committee prepares and submits to the Senate draft resolutions on the composition of Senate committees and the selection of committee chairs.

The Committee therefore plays a key role at the beginning of each term, when the composition of each Senate committee is determined and the Committee Chairs are appointed.

The Committee provides the Marshal of the Senate with an opinion on the draft budget of the Chancellery of the Senate. Moreover, each year, the Committee reviews the portions of the Budget Act which refer to the Chancellery of the Senate, the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, the Chancellery of the President, and the Polish Electoral Office. Subsequently it presents its opinion to the Budget and Public Finance Committee, which is the only Senate commission entitled to present a budget report at a Senate plenary session. Furthermore, the Committee has been charged with drafting amendments to the Rules and Regulations of the Senate. One of the most significant amendments to the Rules and Regulations of the Senate was passed by the 5th Senate (2001-2005). As a result, new rules governing the cooperation between the Council of Ministers and the Sejm - in the light of Poland's accession to the EU - were introduced. Following the Committee's resolution to appoint a new standing committee - the European Union Affairs Committee, the Senate has been assigned a new task of analysing the Government's information on Poland's participation in the EU matters.

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

(2007-2011)

In the current term, Committee assignments are determined by the Senate, the Marshal, and the Presidium. The Committee has, on several occasions, considered amendments to the Act on the Exercise of the Mandate of a Deputy or Senator. In this context, the committee has submitted legislative proposals with regard to the register of senators' interests, recommending more transparency in business and other activities of Senators outside the Parliament.

### Non-legislative Activities

Apart from its legislative function, the Committee deals with matters concerning the rights and duties of Senators. After the end of each calendar year, the Committee examines senators' financial disclosure statements together with the relevant observations of tax offices.

In addition, the Committee considers motions for stripping senators of their parliamentary immunity. In the current term eight such motions have been debated in the Committee.

In 2008, the Members of the Rules, Ethics and Senatorial Affairs Committee received a visit from the Czech Standing Senate Commission on Senate Chancellery Activities. The Committee Members also participated in the meeting of partner parliamentary committees of the Visegrad Group held in Bratislava, Slovakia, in 2009.