

Committee Members

Committee Chair



Mieczysław Augustyn (PO)

Committee Deputy Chair



Kazimierz Jaworski (PiS)

Committee Deputy Chair



Jan Rulewski (PO)



Łukasz Abgarowicz (PO)



Małgorzata Adamczak (PO)



Piotr Kaleta (PiS)



Stanisław Kogut (PiS)



Rafał Muchacki (PO)

The Committee deals with issues concerning the legal protection of the family as well as economic, housing and social problems related to the family. Matters within the Committee's scope of responsibilities also include the social policy of the State, labour laws, employment policies, combating unemployment, the social insurance system, the employee's protection, including occupational health and safety issues, and problems faced by the disabled.

Like other Senate committees, the Family and Social Policy 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 Family and Social Policy Committee is one of 16 standing committees in the 7th Senate (2007-2011).

The Family and Social Policy Committee is a successor of the bodies which functioned in the Senate of the Second Polish Republic (1922-1939). At the time, social matters were handled by the Social Economy Committee, the Social Support Committee, and the Social 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.

One of the first standing committees established by the restored Senate in 1989 was the Health and Social Policy Committee. In 1997, it was replaced by two committees: the Family and Social Policy Committee and the Health Committee.

The activities undertaken by the Committee correspond to the scope of activity of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.

The Committee's tasks include examining the annual reports of the Ombudsman for Children. Committee meetings are attended by government officials, as well as by representatives of trade unions, employers' organisations, civil and non-governmental organisations. The Committee cooperates with 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. The Committee's actions were directed toward promoting employment and combating unemployment. It also considered matters relating to employers' and employees' organisations, collective dispute settlement, support for the disabled, and legal protection of unborn children and pregnant women.

One of the major achievements of the Committee was a bill on Medical Treatment Facilities. Its adoption by the Polish Parliament in 1991 provided the foundation for the health care system in Poland in the 1990s.

Moreover, the Committee proposed a bill on Social Insurance, which was, however, rejected by the Parliament. In the period preceding Poland's accession to the European Union in 2004, the Committee and the Senate focused their efforts on the alignment of national legislation with the EU standards.

In 2005, upon the Committee's initiative the Act establishing the National Programme for Combating Cancer was adopted by the Parliament.

Between 2005 and 2007, the Committee scrutinized Government policies relating to large families. It also addressed the issues of mandatory family mediation, social care governance, a new system of equal opportunities and support for the disabled.

The Committee in the 7th Senate

(2007-2011)

The Committee has always expressed a particular interest in subjects relating to social insurance and labour laws, as well as in the employment and rehabilitation of the disabled. It took on the task of streamlining of adoption procedures and family child care, thus providing a stimulus to Government action in this area. The Committee actively contributed to the adoption of the law widening the scope

of powers of the Ombudsman for Children. It also played a role in amending legislation on combating domestic violence, care of children as well as public benefit activities and voluntary services.

The Committee initiated work on long-term care of the chronically ill and dependent persons. In September 2011, due to the support of the World Bank, the Committee Chair and experts presented a report on the long-term care in Poland, which formed the basis for draft legislation in this regard. Other important activities of the Committee include the quality of care in nursing facilities. Following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the Committee has been issuing opinions on EU draft legislation. In 2011, it examined the European Commission's Green Paper on Pensions.

Non-legislative Activities

Between 2006 and 2007, the Family and Social Policy Committee, the Health Committee, the British Embassy in Warsaw, the International Labour Organisation, and the Association of Friends for Integration organised a series of seminars devoted to the development of the support system for the disabled. As a result, a set of guidelines was developed for creating policies and legal norms in respect of the disabled persons together with recommendations for appropriate legislative action. In 2007, upon the Committee's initiative, the Senate held the inter-parliamentary meeting Family - a Chance for Europe and the World, an event around the Fourth World Congress of Families, held in Poland.

In 2008, the Committee organised two international conferences attended by the representatives of the German Federal Government and Caritas Germany. The main focus of the events was the principle of subsidiarity. Another conference, held in partnership with Caritas Poland, Caritas Europe and the Catholic University of Lublin, was related to the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (2010).