



Committee Members

Committee Chair



Mariusz Witczak (PO)

Committee  
Deputy Chair



Stanisław  
Jurcewicz (PO)

Committee  
Deputy Chair



Władysław  
Ortyl (PiS)

Committee  
Deputy Chair



Janusz  
Sepioł (PO)



Michał  
Boszko (PSL)



Władysław  
Dajczak (PiS)



Zbigniew  
Meres (PO)



Ireneusz  
Niewiarowski (PO)



Bohdan  
Paszkowski (PiS)



Jadwiga  
Rotnicka (PO)



Sławomir  
Sadowski (PiS)

(PO) Civic Platform  
(PiS) Law and Justice  
(PSL) Polish People's Party

The Committee deals with issues concerning the organisation and functioning of local government, regional development, local finances, communal property management, the functioning of state administration bodies, relations between the State, the Churches and religious communities, maintaining and developing cultural identity of national, ethnic, and language minorities, and protection of their rights.

Like other committees, the Local Government and State Administration 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 Local Government and State Administration Committee is one of the 16 standing committees in the 7th Senate (2007-2011).

The Committee is a successor several bodies functioning in the Senate of the Second Polish Republic (1922-1939). The Administration Committee, the Administration and Local Government Committee, and the Local Government Committee were established during the terms served by the Senate in those years. 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.

The Local Government Committee was one of the first standing committees established during the first session of the restored Senate in 1989. In 1992 the Senate enlarged its competence to cover the area of public administration.

The activities undertaken by the Local Government and State Administration Committee correspond to the scope of activity of the Ministry of the Interior and Administration, and the Ministry of Regional Development.

The Committee's meetings are often attended by Government officials as well as representatives of local governments 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 activity at the time. It concentrated mainly on legislative proposals related to decentralization of powers and establishing genuine local self-governance in Poland.

At the time, among the Committee's notable achievements was a bill on local self-government and a bill on commune council elections. These acts of vital importance to the State, restoring the autonomy and independence of Polish local self-governance, were passed by the Parliament in 1990. Eight years later, with the adoption by the Parliament of the legislation on the county and provincial government, introducing a three-tier system of territorial units, the reform of public administration was completed. In the period preceding Poland's accession to the European Union in 2004, the Committee and the Senate focused their activities on adapting Polish laws to European legislation. The Committee was particularly concerned with the level of absorption of the EU funds by local governments.

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

(2007-2011)

In the area of legislative work, the Committee has declared constant support for reforms which aim to decentralize power and to transfer competences, responsibilities and resources to local governments. These topics have been also explored at seminars and conferences organised by the Committee. Apart from its legislative function, the Committee has been actively engaged in setting up the Self-Governance Forum under the auspices of the Marshal of the Senate. The Forum aims to provide a permanent space for dialogue among the Senate and local governments, civil organisations, and to support development of self-government. The Forum is also hoped to give a stimulus to new legislative proposals and social programmes that will focus on improvement of the quality of public life and on citizens' interests.

### Non-legislative Activities

In February 2010, the Local Government and State Administration Committee co-organized the meeting of parliamentary committees of the Visegrad Group in Cracow. The main focus of the meeting was the role of regional policies in overcoming the financial crisis and the implementation of the EU funds intended to preserve cultural heritage.

The Committee and the Senate participate actively in all the initiatives promoting good practices in public administration and the functioning of local governments. For examples of such activities include *Village Leader of the Year Contest* or *Self-government Management Leader Contest* organised under the auspices of the Marshal of the Senate. Moreover, the Committee Members participate in and organise international meetings to exchange views on the forming and functioning of public and local administration and functioning of the government and local government administration. The Committee has received visits of delegations from Georgia, Indonesia, and Russia.