

## Committee Members

Committee Chair



Kazimierz Wiatr (PiS)

Committee Deputy Chair



Józef Bergier (PO)

Committee Deputy Chair



Ryszard Górecki (PO)

Committee Deputy Chair



Piotr Wach (PO)



Adam Massalski (PiS)



Antoni Piechniczek (PO)



Tadeusz Skorupa (PiS)



Zbigniew Szaleniec (PO)

The Committee deals with organisation and development of scientific research, system of education, professional training of teachers and academic staff, issues related to children and teenagers, as well as occupational guidance for youth, preparation of secondary school and university graduates for employment, physical culture and sports, organisation of scientific and educational institutions, and international scientific cooperation.

Like other committees, the 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 Science, Education, and Sport Committee is one of the 16 standing committees in the 7th Senate (2007-2011).

The Science, Education and Sport Committee is a successor of the committees functioning in the Senate of the Second Polish Republic (1922-1939): the Culture and Education Committee and the Educational 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. The Committee for Culture, Media, Science and National Education was one of the first standing committees established by the reinstated Senate in 1989. In 1993, it was replaced by two committees: the Science and National Education Committee and the Committee for Culture, Media, Physical Education and Sports. In 2001, the Senate decided to expand the Science and Education Committee's competences and entrusted it with the task of examining the issues related to sports and physical education. The activities undertaken by the Science, Education and Sport Committee correspond to the scope of activity of the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, and the Ministry of Sport and Tourism. The Committee's tasks include, among others, examining the annual National Research Centre report. The Committee cooperates with the Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland, the Central Council of Higher Education, and 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 became involved in resolving issues related to education, science, and higher education. It was also concerned with adjusting the educational system to the new decentralised structure of the State and labour market needs. The Committee was actively engaged in drafting the Educational Act, which defined the functioning of schools and organisation of teaching in primary and secondary schools, granting them a high degree of autonomy. The changes stemmed from Poland's administrative reform reinstating independent local governments. In the second half of the 1990s, the Committee continued its work on the educational reform, which was closely related to further decentralisation of the State and the introduction of the three-tier territorial division. The Higher Education Law Act of 2005 played an important role in the educational reform intended to implement the Bologna Process in Poland, harmonising, among other issues, quality teaching standards, minimum staff requirements and financing principles. In 1999, the Committee proposed an amendment to the Act on Physical Culture that aimed at, among others, providing financial support to the Olympic champions. The Committee's initiative was accepted by the Senate and, subsequently, adopted by the Sejm. In the period preceding Poland's accession to the European Union in 2004, the Committee and the Senate concentrated their efforts on the alignment of national legislation with the EU standards.

### The Committee in the 7th Senate

(2007-2011)

During this term, the Committee has focused its work on the reform of the educational system in Poland, i.e. the Polish Academy of Sciences Act, the National Science Centre Act, the Research Institutes Act, the National Research Centre Act, and the Science Financing Act. These Acts were aimed mainly at introducing a transparent system for financing of scientific research and ensuring effective spending of the government allowances. In 2010, the Committee recommended that the Senate adopt the Sports Act, with a view to limiting the interference of public authorities while in the sphere of sports and sporting events.

### Non-legislative Activities

The Science, Education and Sport Committee has continued the debate initiated between 2005 and 2007 on educating children and youth. Examples of the Committee's activities include a conference on the education threats in the 21st century. It was also upon the Committee's initiative that three sports conferences were held, including: "Women's Sport in Poland" and "Physical Education and Sports at School". The Committee has been publishing the series entitled: "Learning and Educational Problems". So far eight booklets have been released, covering topics such as occupational counselling, entrepreneurship of youth, financial condition of universities, and the Bologna Process. The Committee Members participate in international meetings organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference.