



Committee Members



Jerzy Chróścikowski (PiS)



Lucjan Cichosz (PiS)



Grzegorz Czelej (PiS)



Grzegorz Banaś (N)



Edmund Wittbrodt (PO)

Committee Chair



Stanisław Gorczyca (PO)



Tadeusz Gruszka (PiS)



Stanisław Iwan (PO)



Witold Idczak (PiS)



Janusz Rachoń (PO)

Committee Deputy Chair

Committee Deputy Chair



Maciej Klima (PiS)



Sławomir Kowalski (PO)



Norbert Krajczyk (PSL)



Roman Ludwiczuk (N)



Tomasz Misiak (N)



Andrzej Szewiński (PO)



Mariusz Witczak (PO)



Grzegorz Wojciechowski (PiS)



Jan Wyrowiński (PO)

The Committee handles issues resulting from Poland's EU membership. It adopts opinions on EU documents and examines the Senate's EU-related legislative initiatives.

The European Union Affairs Committee is one of 16 standing committees in the 7th Senate (2007-2011).

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

Following Poland's accession to the EU on 1 May 2004, the Senate appointed the European Union Affairs Committee as a body competent to act on behalf of the chamber in all EU matters. The role and remit of the Committee have been specified in the Act on Cooperation of the Council of Ministers with the Sejm and the Senate in Matters Related to the Republic of Poland's Membership in the European Union (the Cooperation Act), and in the Rules and Regulations of the Senate.

The Act defines the Government's obligations towards the Parliament, the roles of EU Affairs Committees of both chambers, and documents which the Government has to transmit to the Parliament. According to the Senate Rules and Regulations, all EU documents submitted to the Marshal of the Senate are referred to the EU Affairs Committee. They include EU draft legislative acts, the Government's positions on EU legislative proposals, and information about the positions the Government intends to take when EU legislative proposals are considered by the EU Council. The Committee adopts opinions on those proposals and positions. The Committee also acts as coordinator in EU matters. On the Committee's motion, the Marshal of the Senate may include information from the Council of Ministers on matters related to Poland's EU membership in the draft agenda of the Senate's plenary sitting. On the Committee Chair's motion, the Marshal may also refer all EU-related documents to appropriate sectoral committees. In such cases, the European Union Affairs Committee's opinion is based on that of the committee to which the documents were referred.

There is a separate procedure for subsidiarity check on EU legislative proposals. Any committee which finds a breach of the principle of subsidiarity may put forward a Senate draft resolution in this respect. Then the Marshal refers the draft resolution to that sectoral committee for joint consideration with the EU Affairs Committee.

The final opinion on the EU legislative proposal's non-compliance with the subsidiarity principle is voted on at the Senate plenary sitting.

The Committee deals also with information

submitted by the Council of Ministers, including semi-annual reports on Poland's participation in EU activities, and EU documents like the European Commission's annual work programmes.

Working procedures and practices

of the European Union Affairs Committee

The Committee's scrutiny procedures and practices are not covered by the Cooperation Act or the Senate Rules and Regulations. They have been developed by the Committee itself. Documents received by the Committee are subject to a selection process, carried out by the Chair and the two Deputy Chairs prior to the Committee sitting. The meeting is attended by a staff of analysts responsible for providing background information and preliminary opinions on EU legislative proposals or government positions. A senator rapporteur is assigned to each document selected for debate. A draft agenda for a Committee sitting is also drawn up. At the sitting, the Committee – having heard the government officials, the rapporteur, and at times also experts – either makes a decision not to put forward any comments or formulates an opinion, which is subsequently published as a Senate paper. After the sitting a list of decisions is compiled and, together with the Committee's opinions, forwarded to the Government. The Committee's opinions, expressed on behalf of the Senate, are non-binding on the Government. Since April 2008 the European Union Affairs Committee has been supported by the Senate Chancellery permanent representative to the EU, who operates in the European Parliament in Brussels. The main task of the representative is to share information on the progress of EU legislation and current events between the Senate and EU institutions.

Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation

Since May 2004, the European Union Affairs Committee delegation has been working together with the Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees (COSAC). The Polish delegation consists of 4 deputies and 2 senators. Committee members also take part in regular meetings of representatives of European affairs committees of parliaments of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Poland, as well as their counterparts from the parliaments of the Visegrad Group countries (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and Poland). In 2008 meetings of the European affairs committees from the parliaments of the Weimer Triangle countries (France, Germany, and Poland) were resumed. The main objective of those meetings is to ensure the exchange of views and to develop joint positions and initiatives. They are held in turns in every participating country in advance of COSAC meetings.

The Committee Chair is a member of the Polish Senate delegation to the Joint Parliamentary Meeting hosted twice a year by the European Parliament.

The European Union Affairs Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee co-organise regular meetings with the ambassadors of the countries of incoming and outgoing EU presidencies to present their priorities and achievements, while the attending representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs outlines Poland's European policy over the past and for the next six months.