



SENATE
OF THE REPUBLIC
OF POLAND



DEMOCRACY

CITIZEN

SENATE



FOREWORD BY THE MARSHAL OF THE SENATE

As one of the bodies of legislative power, the Senate of the Republic of Poland shapes the legal order in Poland on behalf of its citizens. By actively participating in parliamentary elections, they designate their representatives in the Upper House, who become their voice in public affairs. A Senator's mandate is a great honour, but also a great responsibility. It is a mark of public support and trust. It is also a task that requires hard work for the common good.

The Senate has been ceaselessly fulfilling this mission since 1989, when the first fully democratic Chamber of the Polish Parliament began its work as a result of the democratic transition after decades of totalitarian rule dependent on the Soviet Union. Reactivated after 50 years of non-existence caused by the Second World War and the decision of the post-war communist government, the Senate played an important role in building the Polish *raison d'état* and the image of the reborn Republic. The opening session of the Senate on 4 July 1989 marked the beginning of a new chapter in the history of our country. It was during the first term of the Senate that a local government reform was initiated, resulting in the first free local government elections in May 1990.

Democracy returned to Poland thanks to the struggle, the sacrifices, and, finally, the victory of Solidarity. It is the Senate that has become the House of solidarity of the Parliament, the defender of sovereignty, democracy and the rule of law.

To this day, the Senate safeguards all institutions of the Polish state for the welfare and safety of Polish citizens. It is in the Upper House that new legislative solutions are developed and laws undergo thorough scrutiny to ensure that the final solutions are to the best advantage of citizens. It is also the place where insightful discussions and expert debates take place on crucial issues in many social and political fields.

One of the Senate's priorities is to look after the Polish community and Poles abroad. We are committed to building a strong and secure Poland for generations to come. Democracy, the rule of law, and pluralism are our guiding ideas.

Civic education is also of particular concern to the Senate. In view of the challenges facing the modern world, awareness of how the state and its institutions work is becoming one of the key competences for effectively verifying fake news and strengthening an aware, responsible, and manipulation-resistant society.

Knowing the role and operating principles of the Senate is pivotal to understanding the Polish legal system and democratic tradition, which is why I encourage you to read this publication.

Małgorzata Kidawa-Błońska

Małgorzata Kidawa-Błońska
Marshal of the Senate of the Republic of Poland

The Senate and its role

Poles today find it difficult to imagine their country without local government, where the adoption of their first constitution – also the first in Europe and the second in the world – would not be commemorated as a public holiday. These solutions – and many other laws and amendments – were brought to the Polish people by the Senate, the second Chamber of Parliament, traditionally referred to as the Upper House.

The Senate is a collegial, central legislative body, embedded in the more than five-hundred-year-old tradition of Polish parliamentarianism. Its main tasks are to examine acts adopted by the Sejm (the first Chamber of Parliament) and to submit its own legislative initiatives.

The Senate is a place of focused debate and thorough legal analysis – which is why it is sometimes referred to as a House of thought and reflection. While there are, certainly, political disputes here too – an inevitable part of democracy – the primacy of moderation and prudence in the Senate is conducive to developing the best possible legislative solutions to improve citizens' lives.



POWER



LEGISLATIVE (THE LEGISLATURE)
SEJM AND SENATE



EXECUTIVE (THE EXECUTIVE)
PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS



JUDICIAL (THE JUDICATURE)
COURTS AND TRIBUNALS

Primary functions of the Senate:



CONSTITUTION-MAKING

The Senate participates with the Sejm in the enactment of the constitution and its amendments, and may also submit a bill to amend the constitution.



LEGISLATIVE

The Senate, together with the Sejm, participates in the law-making process. It examines the acts passed by the Sejm and submits its own bills to the Sejm.



CREATIVE

The Senate is empowered to either elect or consent to the appointment and dismissal of state bodies.

Although the Senate does not formally have an oversight function, the Chamber nevertheless has a number of tools with which to exercise what could be termed a quasi-oversight function over the activities of other institutions – such as reviewing reports and information from state bodies. Government representatives provide information to Senators in the course of legislative work.

In their senatorial statements, Senators may submit requests, questions or comments to ministers and representatives of state and local government bodies and institutions, which must be answered in writing by the addressee of the statement within 30 days.



The Senate, jointly with the Sejm, forms the National Assembly, which swears in the newly elected President, may declare the President permanently incapable of holding office for health reasons, and may indict him or her before the State Tribunal. The National Assembly may also be convened to hear the President's address.

In a constitutional democracy, bicameralism has an important systemic dimension. It allows for the consistent observance of the principle of separation and balance of powers: legislative, executive and judicial. Its purpose is to protect the rights of the individual from the dangers of concentration of power. The delegation of legislative power to both the Sejm and the Senate is intended to prevent the negative effects of its concentration in the hands of a parliamentary majority.

The history of Polish parliamentarism reveals a link between the bicameralism of the Parliament and state sovereignty in its traditional sense.

dr hab. Ryszard Piotrowski, prof. UW

Powers of the Senate

Enactment of the constitution and its amendments (with the Sejm)

Enactment of a law authorising the ratification by the President of the Republic of Poland of an international agreement delegating the powers of state authority in certain matters to an international organisation or international body (with the Sejm)

Ability to submit a bill to amend the constitution

Examination of acts passed by the Sejm

Legislative initiative, i.e. the right to submit to the Sejm a bill for a new act or an act amending those already in force

Making a referral to the Constitutional Tribunal on matters concerning the constitutionality of the laws (Marshal of the Senate or a group of 30 Senators)

Examination of the need to take legislative action on rulings of the Constitutional Tribunal, and implementation of rulings of the Constitutional Tribunal

Examination of petitions

Giving consent for the President to order a nationwide referendum

Power to request the Sejm to organise a nationwide referendum

Giving consent to the appointment of the Commissioner for Human Rights by the Sejm

Giving consent to the appointment and dismissal of the following by the Sejm:

- President of the Supreme Audit Office
- Commissioner for Children's Rights
- President of the Personal Data Protection Office
- President of the Institute of National Remembrance – Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation

Election of 2 Senators to the National Council of the Judiciary

Appointment and dismissal of 2 members of the Board of the Institute of National Remembrance – Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation

Appointment and dismissal of 3 members of the Monetary Policy Council

Appointment and dismissal of 1 member of the National Broadcasting Council

Appointment and dismissal of 1 member of the State Commission for the prevention of sexual abuse of minors aged under 15

Election and dismissal of Lay Judges of the Supreme Court in a number determined by the Supreme Court College

Examination of reports and information presented by the Constitutional Tribunal, the National Council of the Judiciary, the First President of the Supreme Court, the Commissioner for Human Rights, the Commissioner for Children's Rights, the National Broadcasting Council, the National Media Council and the President of the Institute of National Remembrance – Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation

Care for the Polish community and Poles who live abroad

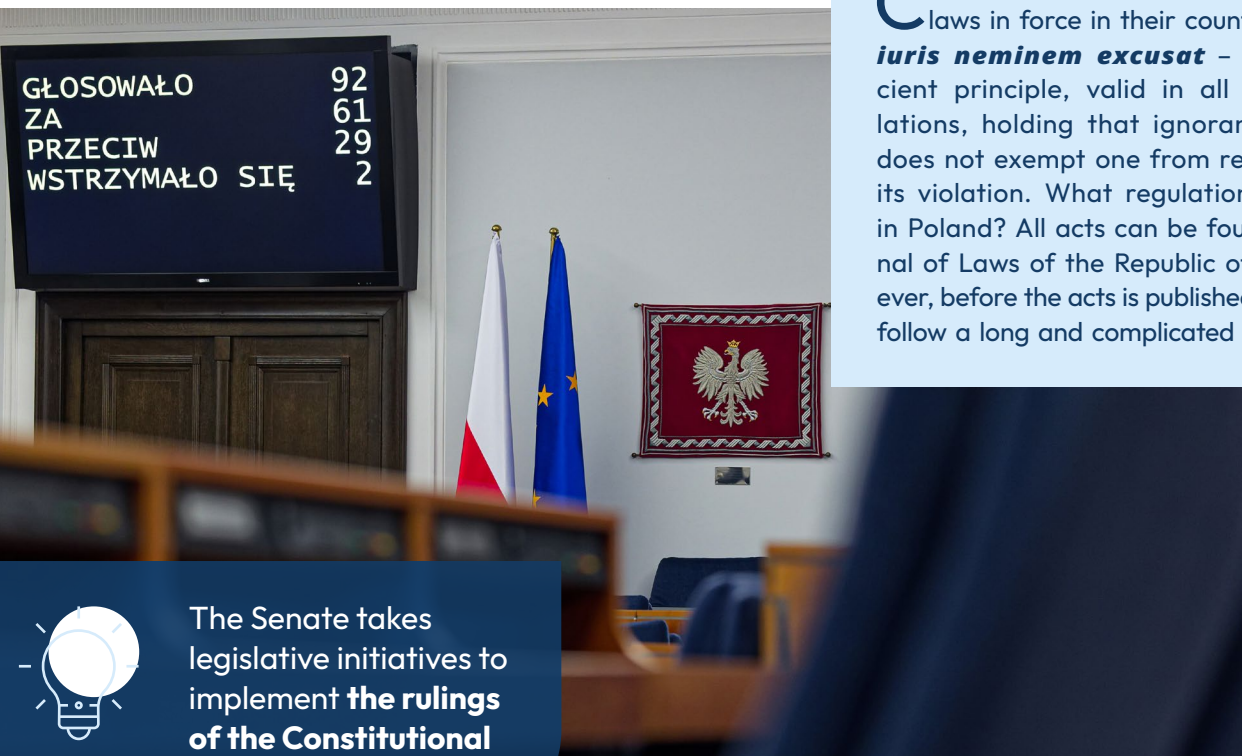
Examination of the reports of the Council of Ministers on the participation of the Republic of Poland in the work of the European Union

Cooperation with the Council of Ministers and the Sejm on matters relating to Poland's membership of the European Union

Requesting information from the Council of Ministers and members of the Council of Ministers

How is the law made in Poland?

Citizens are obliged to comply with the laws in force in their country. *Ignorantia iuris neminem excusat* – states the ancient principle, valid in all modern legislations, holding that ignorance of the law does not exempt one from responsibility for its violation. What regulations are in force in Poland? All acts can be found in the Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland. However, before the acts is published there, it has to follow a long and complicated legislative path.

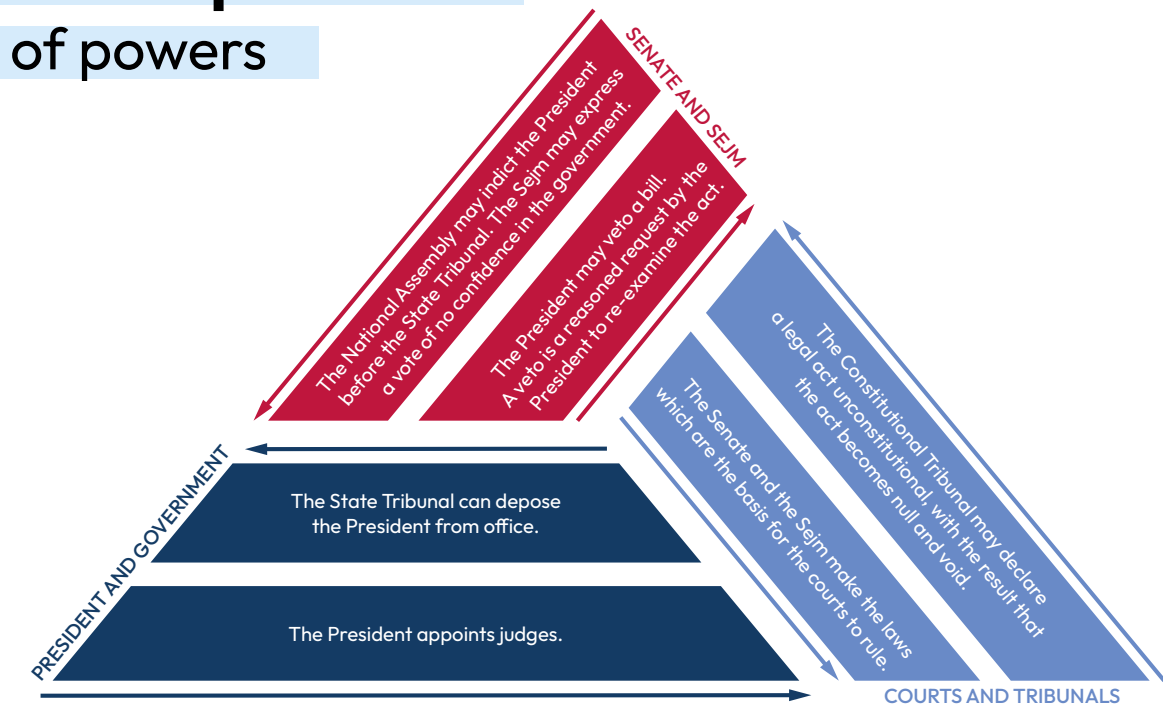


The Senate takes legislative initiatives to implement **the rulings of the Constitutional Tribunal**.

If Polish citizens consider any legislation to be inadequate – for example, obsolete or unfair – or if they recognise the need to codify norms in an area not yet regulated by law, they can – either on their own or through parliamentarians representing them – attempt to amend the existing legislation. The right to bring either a new bill or an amendment (modification) bill is called the right of **legislative initiative**. To exercise this right, a bill must be submitted to the Marshal of the Sejm. The right of legislative initiative rests exclusively with the entities designated in the Constitution, including the Senate.

In the Senate, work on a bill can be initiated by a committee or a group of at least 10 Senators.

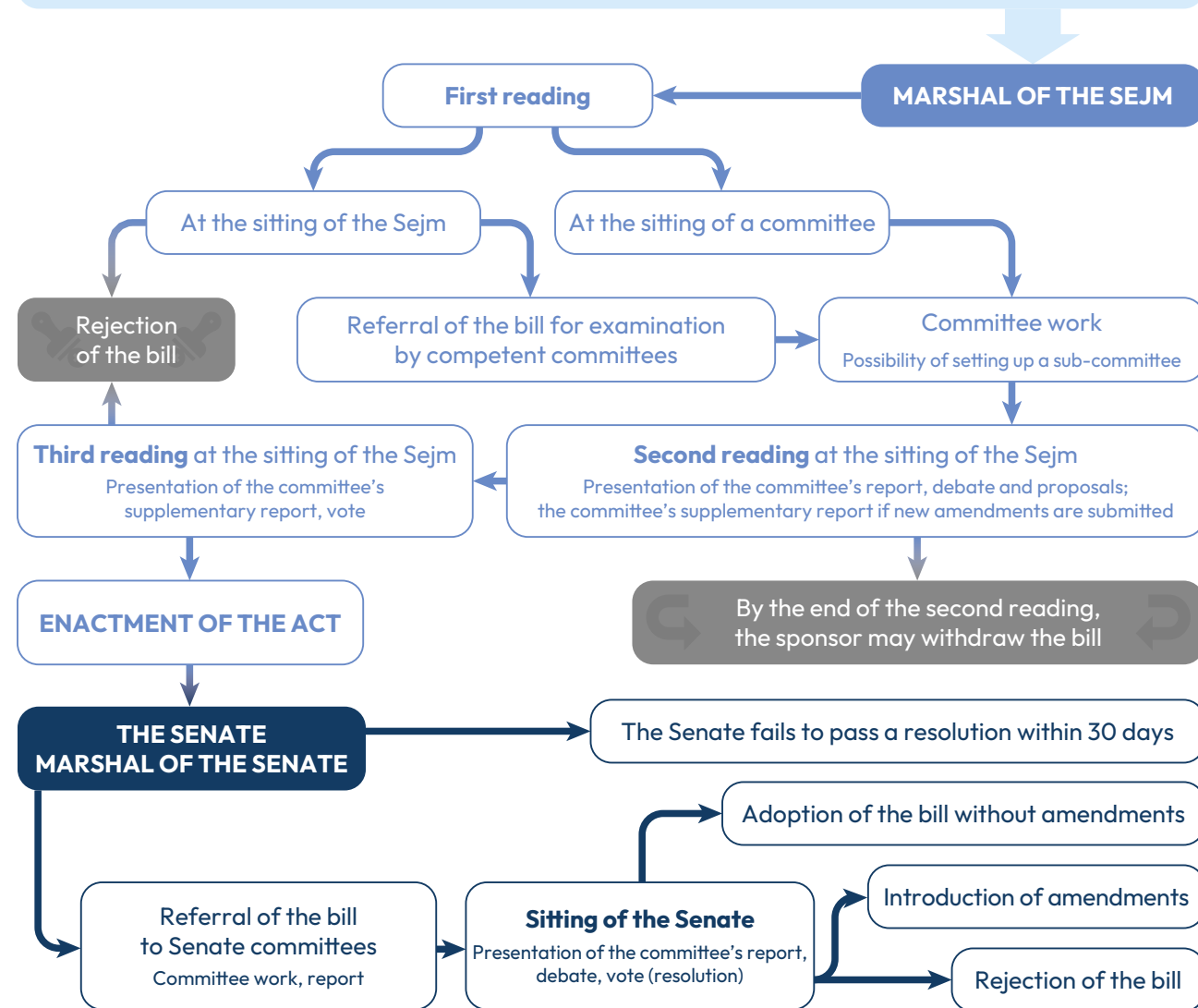
Interdependence of powers



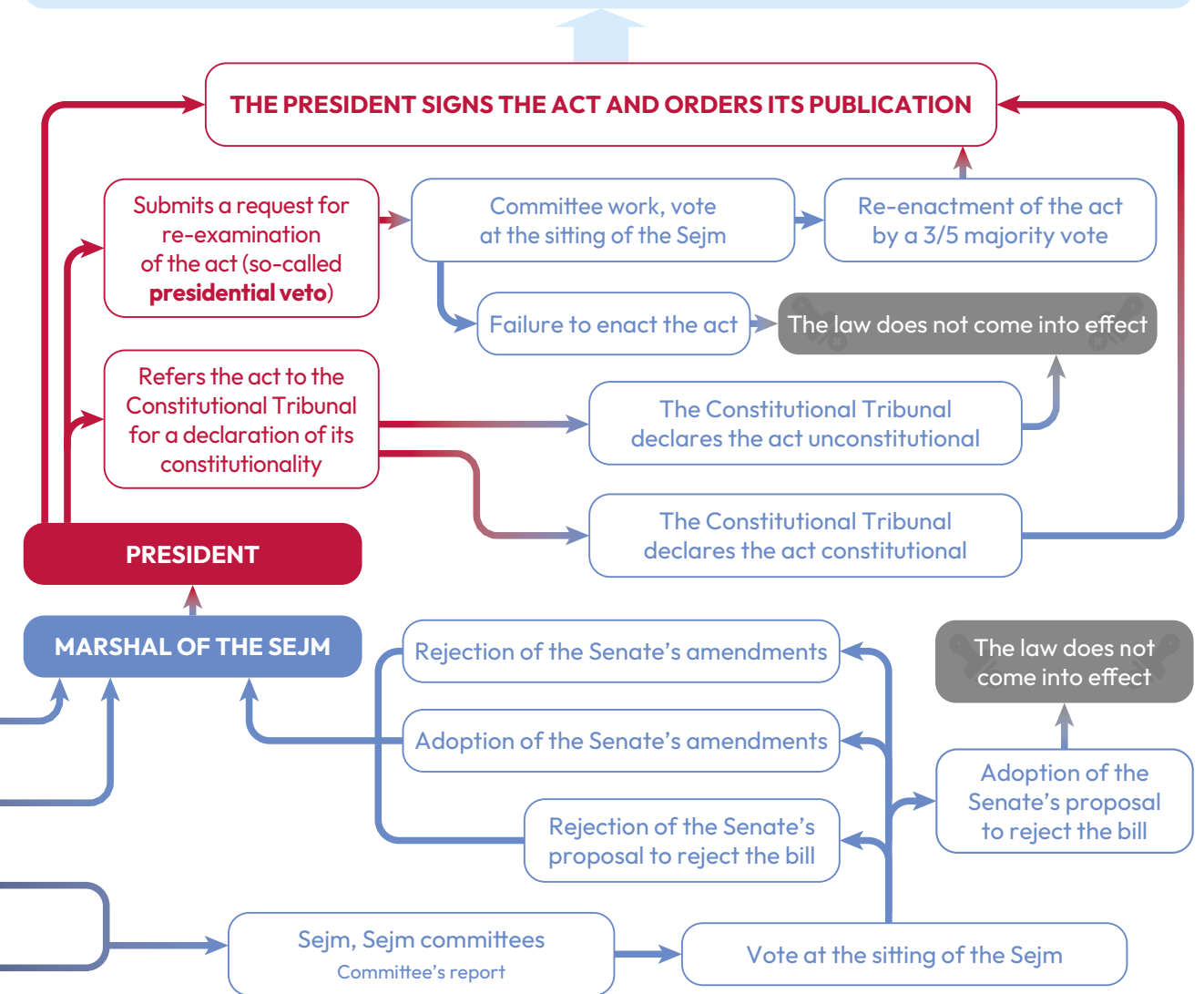
LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN POLAND (SIMPLIFIED)

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE

Senate • 15 Deputies or Sejm committee • President • Council of Ministers • Group of 100,000 citizens



PUBLICATION IN THE JOURNAL OF LAWS OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND



Senate of the Republic of Poland

– shaping history,
shaped by history.

1989–202

SENATE BODIES

Marshal of the Senate

Presidium of the Senate

Council of Seniors

Senate Committees

Marshal of the Senate

Primus inter pares

The Marshal is the only constitutional body of the Senate – chairing its sessions, safeguarding the rights and dignity of the House, and representing it externally.

Senators elect the Marshal from among themselves at the first sitting. Although his or her vote carries the same weight as any other Senator's, the Constitution and the Rules and Regulations of the Senate grant the Marshal many additional powers – which is why the holder of this office can be called the “first among equals”.

The Marshal of the Senate is the third person in the state – after the President and the Marshal of the Sejm. In special circumstances, he or she may act as head of state.







PRESIDIUM OF THE SENATE

- 1 Oversees the performance of duties by Senators.
- 2 Refers matters to committees for examination within a specified scope.
- 3 Provides opinion on matters submitted by the Marshal.
- 4 Defines the principles of commissioning public tasks in the field of care for the Polish community and Poles abroad, examines the offers for the execution of these tasks and orders their execution after consulting the Emigration Affairs and Contacts with Poles Abroad Committee.
- 5 Authorises an off-site meeting of the committee.
- 6 Interprets the Rules and Regulations of the Senate, after consulting the Rules, Ethics and Senatorial Affairs Committee.
- 7 Defines the rules for scientific consultancy, the appointment of consultants, and the use of opinions and expert reports.

The Presidium is made up of the **Marshal** and the **Deputy Marshals**.

SELECTED POWERS OF THE MARSHAL OF THE SENATE

-  Helps the Senators in the exercise of their mandate.
-  Ensures that constitutional and statutory obligations towards the Senate are fulfilled by public authorities and other obliged entities.
-  Provides opinion on the President's decision to shorten the term of office of the Sejm.
-  Is Deputy President of the National Assembly.
-  May refer the law to the Constitutional Tribunal for a declaration of its constitutionality.

-  Manages matters of relations with the Sejm and the parliaments of other countries.
-  Sets the course for matters submitted to the Senate.
-  Assumes the duties of the President of the Republic of Poland if they cannot be performed by the Marshal of the Sejm, temporarily appointed for this purpose.
-  Refers the bills for examination by competent committees.
-  Interprets the Rules and Regulations of the Senate and decides how they are to be applied in the course of the sessions.
-  Sets the work plan of the Senate, convenes sittings and sets the draft agenda, and chairs and supervises the sessions.

<p>ANDRZEJ STELMACHOWSKI</p>  <p>1st term (1989–1991)</p>	<p>AUGUST CHEŁKOWSKI</p>  <p>2nd term (1991–1993)</p>	<p>ADAM STRUZIŁ</p>  <p>3rd term (1993–1997)</p>
<p>ALICJA GRZEŚKOWIAK</p>  <p>4th term (1997–2001)</p>	<p>LONGIN PASTUSIAK</p>  <p>5th term (2001–2005)</p>	<p>BOGDAN BORUSEWICZ</p>  <p>6th term (2005–2007) 7th term (2007–2011) 8th term (2011–2015)</p>
<p>STANISŁAW KARCZEWSKI</p>  <p>9th term (2015–2019)</p>	<p>TOMASZ GRODZKI</p>  <p>10th term (2019–2023)</p>	<p>MAŁGORZATA KIDAWA-BŁOŃSKA</p>  <p>11th term (since 2023)</p>

Council of Seniors:



provides opinion on the draft agenda of the Senate



provides opinion on the work plan and comments on the dates of Senate sittings



indicates the legislative initiatives that need to be taken



examines and makes proposals on the manner in which discussions should be held and the sessions of the Senate should be conducted



provides opinion on draft resolutions on the appointment and dismissal of committee chairpersons



considers other matters submitted by the Marshal of the Senate, the Presidium of the Senate or representatives of clubs and associations

The **Council of Seniors** is made up of the **Marshal**, the **Deputy Marshals** and the **Senators** – representatives of senatorial clubs, and associations (established for the purpose of joint representation in the Council) and parliamentary clubs if they have at least 7 Senators.

Senator – representative of the voters

The right of the society to elect its rulers is widely recognised today as a central element in the theory and practice of democratic governance, “the heart of the democratic process ...”. Embedded in the essence of the modern democratic state, elections are the most important consequence of the idea of the sovereignty of the nation (the people) proclaimed by the constitutions and of the associated principle of political representation.

Grzegorz Kryszewski, *Prawo wyborcze do parlamentu. Status prawny posłów i senatorów*,
[in:] *Prawo konstytucyjne*, ed. Stanisław Bożyk, Białystok 2014, p. 171.

A Senator is primarily a representative of their voters. In exercising their mandate, they should – according to the oath – **„perform their duties to the Nation in a reliable and conscientious manner, uphold the sovereignty of the Fatherland and the welfare of the citizens, observe the legal order of the Republic of Poland”.**

Since 2011, **Senators have been elected in 100 single-mandate constituencies**. This means that the person who polls the highest number of votes in a constituency becomes a Senator. Senators, therefore, have a very strong democratic mandate.

To stand for election to the Senate of the Republic of Poland, one must (on the election day at the latest) be at least 30 years of age and have the passive electoral right. The validity of the election is decided by the Supreme Court. Prior to assuming their mandate, at the first sitting of the newly elected Senate, a Senator takes the oath of office.

The primary duty of a Senator is to participate in sittings of the Senate and its bodies. Senators should inform their voters about their work and the activities of the Senate.

Should a seat in a constituency become vacant, a by-election is held.

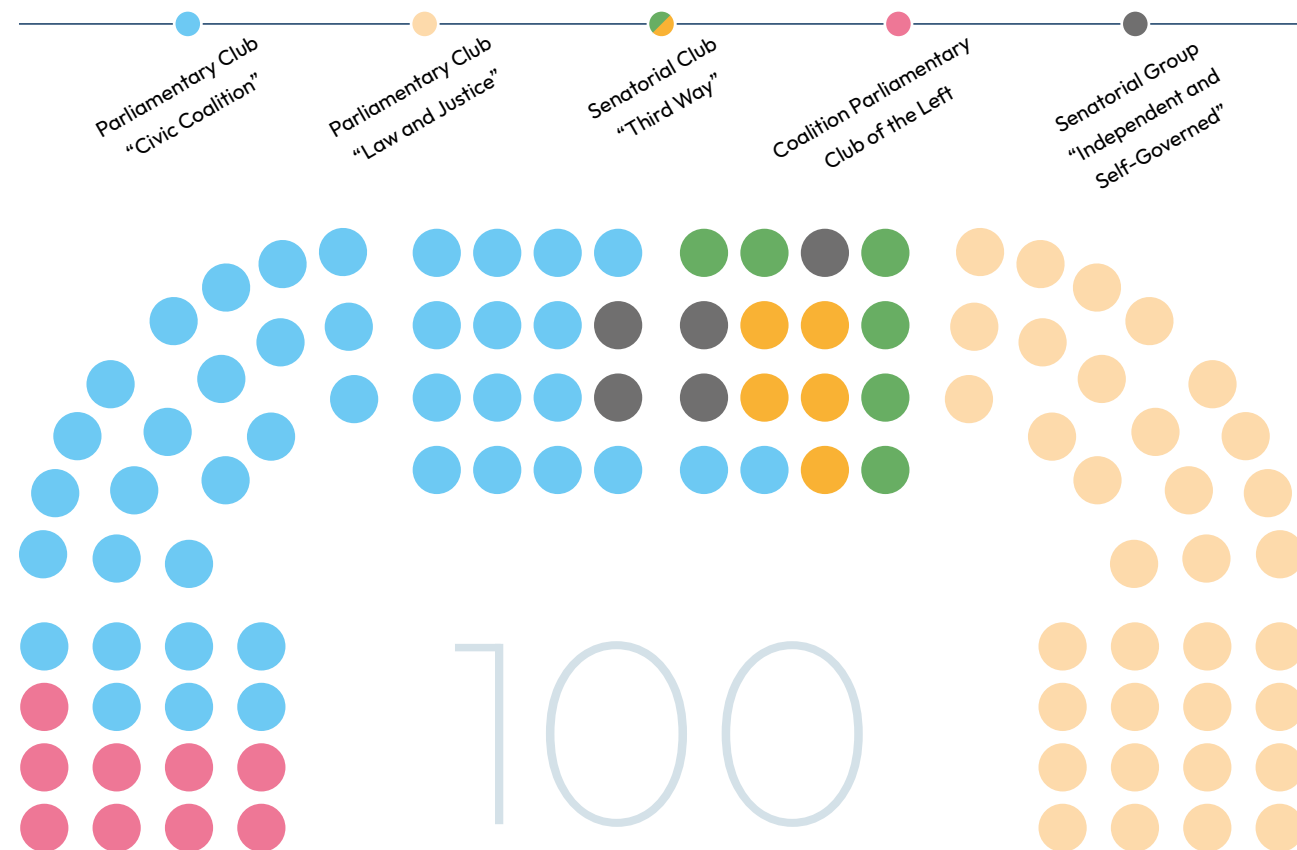
Senators unite into **senatorial clubs and groups**. According to the Rules and Regulations of the Senate, a **club** must consist of at least **7 Senators**. A **group** needs to have at least **3 Senators** to be formed.



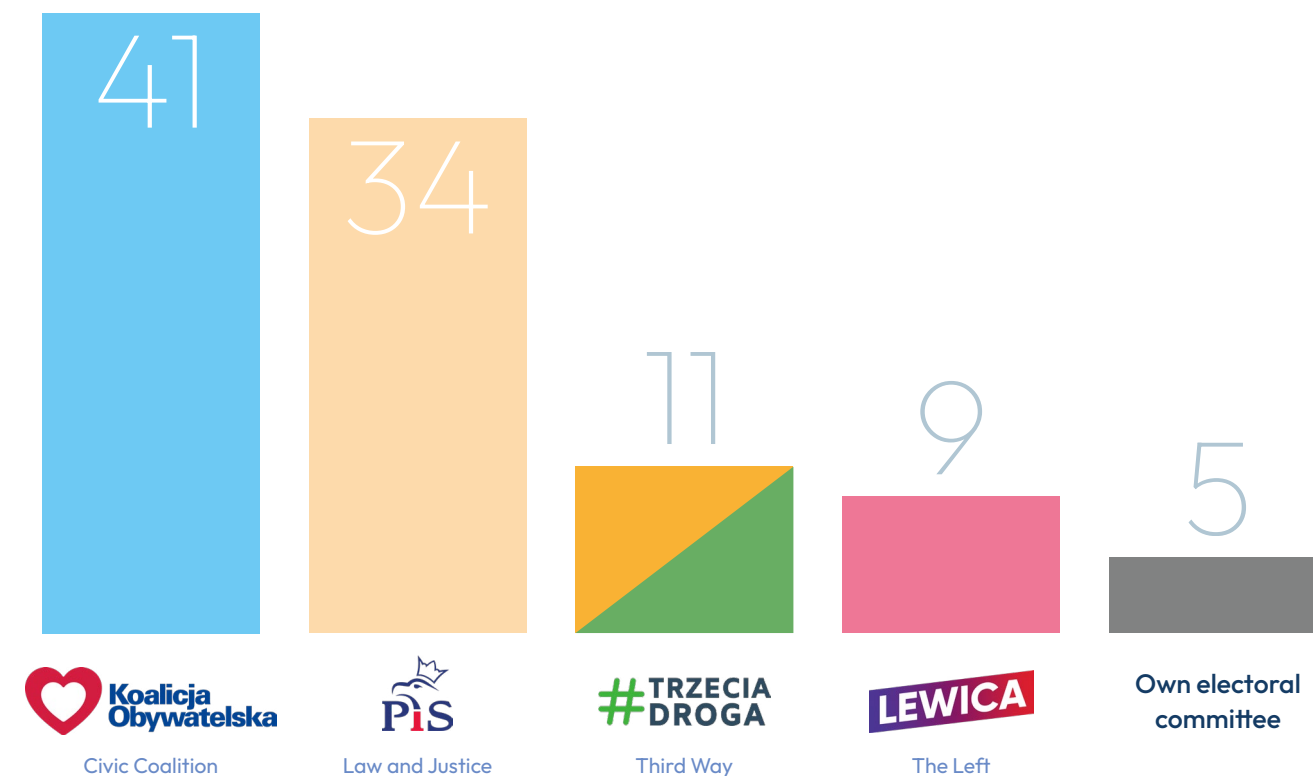
A Senator has the right to intervene with a government body, a local government body, a state-owned establishment or enterprise, a social organisation, as well as with private-sector entities, either on their own behalf or on behalf of their constituents, and to be informed of the course of the intervention.

The Senate of the 11th term

The Senators of the 11th term were elected on 15 October 2023. A majority in the Senate – 66 seats – was won by the so-called **Senate Pact**, formed by the Civic Coalition, Third Way, New Left and several candidates standing from their own committees. The only opposition group is Law and Justice, which won 34 seats.



Distribution of seats by electoral committees:



Data as at the start of the term.



Senators of the 11th term after being handed certificates of election
by the State Electoral Commission, 27 October 2023

Marshal of the Senate of the 11th term

MAŁGORZATA KIDAWA-BŁOŃSKA

Graduated in sociology from the Faculty of Philosophy and Sociology at the University of Warsaw. She has made her career in film and culture. She worked in the literary department of the Karol Irzykowski Film Studio and was a film producer at Gambit Production from 1994 to 2005. Together with her husband, she produced films and TV shows. Their most significant project was *Skazany na bluesa* (*Destined for Blues*).

She began her work in local government as a councillor in the Warsaw City Council and a member of the Culture Committee. In 2005, she was elected a deputy from the Warsaw constituency as a candidate from the list of Civic Platform. She has served as Deputy President of the Civic Platform since 2021.

She was a member of the parliamentary Culture and Media Committee and chaired the club's team on *in vitro* fertilisation. In 2010, she became the spokesperson for Bronisław Komorowski's presidential campaign. From 2014 to 2015, she was Secretary of State in the Prime Minister's Office. She served as spokesperson for the governments of Donald Tusk and Ewa Kopacz. In 2015, she was elected Marshal of the Sejm of the 7th term. She was Deputy Marshal of the Sejm of the 8th and 9th terms.

In the parliamentary elections on 15 October 2023, she won a senatorial seat in constituency No. 43.



Deputy Marshals of the Senate of the 11th term



Magdalena Biejał



Rafał Grupiński



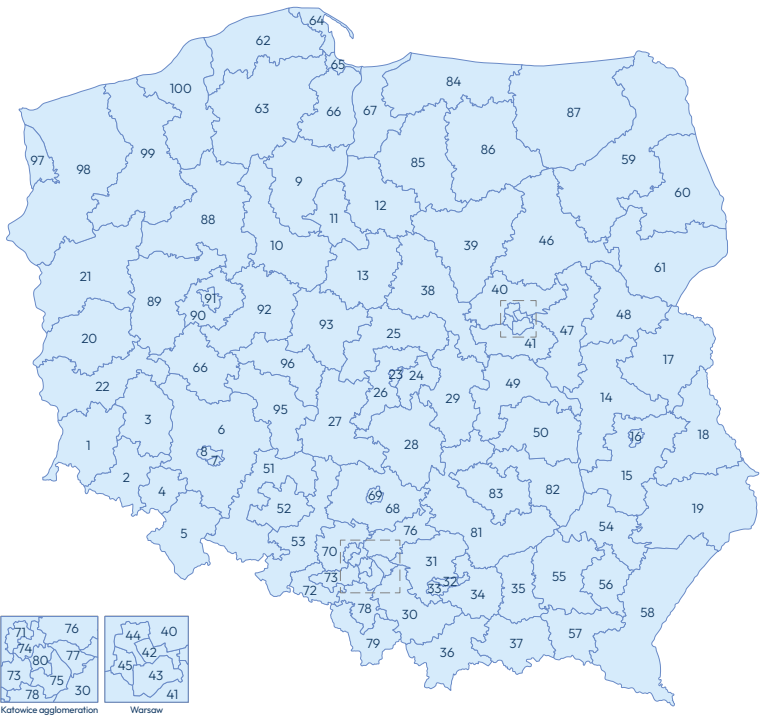
Michał Kamiński



Maciej Żywno

The Senior Marshal of the Senate of the 11th term is **Michał Seweryński**. The President appoints the oldest Senator as Senior Marshal.





CONSTITUENCY NO. 1	Waldemar Witkowski
CONSTITUENCY NO. 2	Marcin Zawila
CONSTITUENCY NO. 3	Małgorzata Sekuła-Szmajdzińska
CONSTITUENCY NO. 4	Agnieszka Kołacz-Leszczyńska
CONSTITUENCY NO. 5	Aleksander Szwed
CONSTITUENCY NO. 6	Kazimierz Michał Ujazdowski
CONSTITUENCY NO. 7	Grzegorz Schetyna
CONSTITUENCY NO. 8	Barbara Zdrojewska
CONSTITUENCY NO. 9	Andrzej Kobiak
CONSTITUENCY NO. 10	Ryszard Brejza
CONSTITUENCY NO. 11	Tomasz Lenz

CONSTITUENCY NO. 12	Ryszard Bober
CONSTITUENCY NO. 13	Stanisław Pawlak
CONSTITUENCY NO. 14	Stanisław Gogacz
CONSTITUENCY NO. 15	Grzegorz Czelej
CONSTITUENCY NO. 16	Jacek Trela
CONSTITUENCY NO. 17	Grzegorz Bierecki
CONSTITUENCY NO. 18	Józef Zajęc
CONSTITUENCY NO. 19	Jerzy Chróścikowski
CONSTITUENCY NO. 20	Mirostaw Różański
CONSTITUENCY NO. 21	Władysław Komarnicki
CONSTITUENCY NO. 22	Wadim Tyszkiewicz

CONSTITUENCY NO. 23	Artur Dunin
CONSTITUENCY NO. 24	Krzysztof Kwiatkowski
CONSTITUENCY NO. 25	Przemysław Błaszczyk
CONSTITUENCY NO. 26	Marcin Karpiński
CONSTITUENCY NO. 27	Michał Seweryński
CONSTITUENCY NO. 28	Wiesław Dobkowski
CONSTITUENCY NO. 29	Rafał Ambrozik
CONSTITUENCY NO. 30	Andrzej Pajęk
CONSTITUENCY NO. 31	Marek Pęk
CONSTITUENCY NO. 32	Jerzy Fedorowicz
CONSTITUENCY NO. 33	Monika Jadwiga Piętkowska
CONSTITUENCY NO. 34	Włodzimierz Bernacki
CONSTITUENCY NO. 35	Kazimierz Wiatr
CONSTITUENCY NO. 36	Jan Hamerski
CONSTITUENCY NO. 37	Wiktor Durlak
CONSTITUENCY NO. 38	Waldemar Pawlak
CONSTITUENCY NO. 39	Krzysztof Bieńkowski
CONSTITUENCY NO. 40	Jolanta Hibner
CONSTITUENCY NO. 41	Michał Kamiński
CONSTITUENCY NO. 42	Marek Borowski
CONSTITUENCY NO. 43	Małgorzata Kidawa-Błońska
CONSTITUENCY NO. 44	Adam Bodnar
CONSTITUENCY NO. 45	Magdalena Biejał
CONSTITUENCY NO. 46	Robert Mamęłow
CONSTITUENCY NO. 47	Maciej Górski
CONSTITUENCY NO. 48	Waldemar Kraska
CONSTITUENCY NO. 49	Stanisław Karczewski

CONSTITUENCY NO. 50	Wojciech Skurkiewicz
CONSTITUENCY NO. 51	Tadeusz Jarmuziewicz
CONSTITUENCY NO. 52	Piotr Woźniak
CONSTITUENCY NO. 53	Beniamin Godyla
CONSTITUENCY NO. 54	Janina Sagatowska
CONSTITUENCY NO. 55	Zdzisław Pupa
CONSTITUENCY NO. 56	Józef Jodłowski
CONSTITUENCY NO. 57	Alicja Zajęc
CONSTITUENCY NO. 58	Mieczysław Golba
CONSTITUENCY NO. 59	Marek Komorowski
CONSTITUENCY NO. 60	Maciej Żywno
CONSTITUENCY NO. 61	Anna Bogucka
CONSTITUENCY NO. 62	Kazimierz Kleina
CONSTITUENCY NO. 63	Anna Górską
CONSTITUENCY NO. 64	Stawomir Rybicki
CONSTITUENCY NO. 65	Bogdan Borusewicz
CONSTITUENCY NO. 66	Ryszard Świłski
CONSTITUENCY NO. 67	Leszek Czarnobaj
CONSTITUENCY NO. 68	Ryszard Majer
CONSTITUENCY NO. 69	Wojciech Konieczny
CONSTITUENCY NO. 70	Zygmunt Frankiewicz
CONSTITUENCY NO. 71	Halina Bieda
CONSTITUENCY NO. 72	Henryk Piotr Siedlaczek
CONSTITUENCY NO. 73	Piotr Masłowski
CONSTITUENCY NO. 74	Gabriela Morawska-Stanecka
CONSTITUENCY NO. 75	Andrzej Dziuba
CONSTITUENCY NO. 76	Beata Małeczka-Libera

CONSTITUENCY NO. 77	Joanna Sekuła
CONSTITUENCY NO. 78	Agnieszka Gorgoń-Komor
CONSTITUENCY NO. 79	Andrzej Kalata
CONSTITUENCY NO. 80	Maciej Kopiec
CONSTITUENCY NO. 81	Jacek Włosowicz
CONSTITUENCY NO. 82	Jarosław Rusiecki
CONSTITUENCY NO. 83	Krzysztof Stoń
CONSTITUENCY NO. 84	Jerzy Wciśła
CONSTITUENCY NO. 85	Gustaw Marek Brzezina
CONSTITUENCY NO. 86	Ewa Monika Kaliszuk
CONSTITUENCY NO. 87	Jolanta Piotrowska
CONSTITUENCY NO. 88	Adam Szejnfeld
CONSTITUENCY NO. 89	Jan Filip Libicki
CONSTITUENCY NO. 90	Waldy Dzikowski
CONSTITUENCY NO. 91	Rafał Grupiński
CONSTITUENCY NO. 92	Grzegorz Fedorowicz
CONSTITUENCY NO. 93	Leszek Galemba
CONSTITUENCY NO. 94	Wojciech Ziemiak
CONSTITUENCY NO. 95	Ewa Matecka
CONSTITUENCY NO. 96	Janusz Pęcherz
CONSTITUENCY NO. 97	Tomasz Grodzki
CONSTITUENCY NO. 98	Magdalena Kochan
CONSTITUENCY NO. 99	Janusz Gromek
CONSTITUENCY NO. 100	Stanisław Gawłowski

Status as of: 26 March 2025

Senate committees

Committees are bodies of the Senate designated to examine and process matters on their own initiative and those referred to them by the **Senate**, the **Marshal of the Senate** or the **Presidium of the Senate**.

Before a bill is debated by the Senate, it is first examined by the committee competent for its subject, which then submits a report, recommending that the Senate reject the bill, adopt the bill without amendments, or pass amendments to the bill.

The committees also take positions on the correct implementation and execution of acts.

In the 11th term of the Senate 20 standing committees were established.



Agriculture and Rural Development Committee



Budget and Public Finance Committee



Climate and Environment Committee



Culture and Media Committee



Education Committee



Emigration Affairs and
Contacts with Poles
Abroad Committee



European Union Affairs
Committee



Family, Senior and Social
Policy Committee



Foreign Affairs Committee



Health Committee



Human Rights and Rule
of Law Committee



Infrastructure Committee



Legislation Committee



Local Government and
Public Administration
Committee



National Defence
Committee



National Economy
and Innovativeness
Committee



Petitions Committee



Rules, Ethics and
Senatorial Affairs
Committee



Science Committee



Sports Committee

The sessions of the committees are public, except in special cases where the committee convenes in closed session.



A Senator may be a member of **no more than two standing committees** and may also participate in the work of other committees, but without voting right.



THE SENATE

A CORNERSTONE
OF DEMOCRACY



Parliamentary diplomacy

The international activity of the Senate and Senators is a valuable supplement to the Polish foreign policy pursued by the Council of Ministers. The involvement of parliamentarians in matters of international relations increases democratic control over this area and enriches the forms of diplomatic action, which is why it is sometimes referred to as **parliamentary diplomacy**.

Foreign visits by chamber presidents and parliamentary delegations

Hosting official visits to the Parliament of the highest representatives of other states (heads of state, presidents of parliaments, prime ministers, foreign affairs ministers)

Hosting visits by parliamentarians from other countries

Participation of parliamentarians in the work of parliamentary assemblies of international organisations and interparliamentary associations

Bilateral and multilateral parliamentary meetings

Activities of parliamentary friendship groups

Meetings with representatives of international organisations and European institutions

Participation of parliamentarians in international conferences

Resolutions of the Chambers on international matters

Meetings with ambassadors



From the declaration adopted at the Second World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments in New York:

We emphasize that parliaments must be active in international affairs not only through inter-parliamentary cooperation and parliamentary diplomacy, but also by contributing to and monitoring international negotiations, overseeing the enforcement of what is adopted by governments, and ensuring national compliance with international norms and the rule of law.



Summit of Speakers of Parliaments of the Visegrád Group Countries, 28 February 2024

The Senate of the Republic of Poland cooperates with the parliaments of other countries. It also participates in multilateral bodies, including i.a.: Inter-Parliamentary Union, the parliamentary assemblies of the Council of Europe, NATO, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Central European Initiative and the Union for the Mediterranean as well as the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference.

Standing parliamentary delegations hold joint sessions with the Parliaments of Lithuania, Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia.

The Senate of the Republic of Poland is also a member of the Association of European Senates.



Meeting between the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Senator Grzegorz Schetyna, and a delegation from the Committee on Foreign Affairs Defence and Armed Forces of the Senate of the French Republic, 18 December 2023

The Marshal of the Senate meets on many occasions with representatives of countries that maintain diplomatic relations with Poland.

The Marshal also participates in the annual meetings of the heads of Polish diplomatic missions.

Once accredited and in post, ambassadors often pay a visit to the Senate.



Meeting between the Marshal of the Senate Małgorzata Kidawa-Błońska and the President of the Austrian Bundesrat Franz Ebner, 7 November 2024



Meeting between the Deputy Marshal of the Senate Rafał Grubiński and members of the Interparliamentary French-Polish Friendship Group of the Senate of the French Republic, 25 September 2024



Meeting between the Deputy Marshal of the Senate Maciej Żywno and Ambassador of Yemen Mervat Mojali, 17 April 2024



Meeting between the Deputy Marshal of the Senate Michał Kamiński and the President of the European Court of Auditors Tony Murphy, 6 February 2024



Meeting between the Deputy Marshal of the Senate Magdalena Biejat and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka Ali Sabry, 18 July 2024



Visit of the President of the European Parliament Roberta Metsola to the Polish Senate, 15 February 2024

SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINE

The Senate of the Republic of Poland has supported Ukraine and its people since the beginning of the full-scale Russian assault. Senators have taken numerous legislative, resolution-making and diplomatic actions, both to strengthen the defence of Ukrainians and to help refugees, and have become involved in fundraising and charitable events. They also emphasise that Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity are a guarantee for the security of Poland and the whole of Europe, and that its victory in the war against Russia is the Polish *raison d'état*.



Speech by the Marshal of the Senate Małgorzata Kidawa-Błońska before the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 24 May 2024



Meeting between the Marshal of the Senate Małgorzata Kidawa-Błońska and the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy, 24 May 2024

Selected Acts:

- ① **on aid to citizens of Ukraine in connection with the armed conflict on its territory**
– 12 March 2022
- ② **on special regulations for transport and maritime economy in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine**
– 13 March 2022
- ③ **on special arrangements to counteract the aggression against Ukraine and to protect national security**
– 13 April 2022

Resolutions of the Senate:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ① on support for Ukraine
– 4 February 2022 | ④ on the anniversary of Russia's aggression against Ukraine – 21 February 2023 |
| ② on Ukraine's European aspirations
– 9 March 2022 | ⑤ to condemn the illegal deportations of Ukrainian children to Russia – 30 March 2023 |
| ③ to declare the Russian Federation government as a terrorist regime – 26 October 2022 | ⑥ on Ukraine's membership of NATO
– 11 May 2023 |



Visit of the Marshal of the Senate of the 10th term Tomasz Grodzki and the President of the Senate of the Czech Republic Miloš Vystrčil with delegations to Ukraine, 14 April 2022

The Senate and the Polish community abroad

The tradition of the Upper House's care for the Polish community and Poles abroad dates back to the inter-war period, when the first conventions of Poles from abroad were held under the auspices of the Senate, and the World Union of Poles Abroad "Światpol" was established.

After its revival in 1989, the Senate again took care of Poles abroad, both those in the West, who mostly emigrated for economic or political reasons, and those in the East, who happened to live outside Poland as a result of repressions or border shifts. In 1990, the "Polish Community" Association was established, with Andrzej Stelmachowski, Marshal of the Senate of the 1st term – now the patron of the organisation – as its President.

The Senate of the 11th term continues the Chamber's rich record of action on behalf of the Polish community.

At the very beginning of her term, the Marshal of the Senate Małgorzata Kidawa-Błońska announced the "Senate – Polonia 2024" competition for the execution of public tasks in the field of care for the Polish community and Poles abroad with a total value of PLN 10 million. The budget for the 2025 edition has increased sevenfold to over PLN 70 million.

The Marshal also renewed the tradition of the Polish Expatriate Consultative Council by establishing it on 25 September 2024. The Council consists of 16 Polish expatriate community leaders from all over the world. There is also an annual competition for Polish and Polish expatriate journalists.

Senators meet with Poles during visits abroad and also receive representatives of Polish expatriate organisations in the Parliament. The Marshal of the Senate is an honorary patron of many initiatives for the Polish community.

The **Emigration Affairs and Contacts with Poles Abroad Committee** takes care of maintaining the ties of Poles with their country and their status in their countries of residence.



Meeting of the Marshal of the Senate Małgorzata Kidawa-Błońska and Senator Halina Bieda with children from Polish schools in Český Těšín, 2 May 2024

The legislative initiatives of the Senate are an important aspect of the state's policy towards the Polish community and Poles abroad, who, as a result of the Upper House's actions, are able i.a. to participate in the second round of the presidential election. The Senate amended the Act on the Pole's Card and the Act on repatriation, under which people of Polish descent – especially from Kazakhstan and other Asian regions of the former USSR – could return to their homeland. **Thanks to the Senate, 2 May is celebrated as the Day of the Polish Community and Poles Abroad.**



DIRECTIONS OF THE SENATE'S ACTIVITIES FOR THE POLISH COMMUNITY AND POLES ABROAD:

- 1 Activating the young generation of the Polish community and Poles who live abroad
- 2 Strengthening the position of Polish communities in their countries of residence
- 3 Promotion of Poland and Polish culture, and preservation of cultural and historical heritage abroad
- 4 Development of existing and creation of new Polish expatriate structures
- 5 Support for and development of the Polish media
- 6 Activities for Polish education
- 7 Activities for Poles in the East

Source: Resolution No. 16 of the Presidium of the Senate of 14 November 2024 on defining directions of activities for the Polish community and Poles abroad in the years 2025–2027



Ceremony of the establishment of the Polish Expatriate Consultative Council to the Marshal of the Senate, 25 September 2024

The Senate –

There is more than just legislative work going on in the Senate. **The Upper House has also become a place for expert discussions, a forum for debating on important social issues, and a centre for cultural events.**

The Senate holds many seminars and conferences on issues of public interest, including women's rights, new technologies, oncology and climate change. There are also regular debates with young people.

The Senate building hosts many exhibitions on important anniversaries and historical events, commemorating the activities of the patrons of the year declared by the Chamber, as well as highlighting important issues such as nuclear energy, defence or health care.



Opening of the exhibition "35 Years of the Restored Senate of the Republic of Poland," 4 June 2024



9th session of the Civic Parliament of Seniors, 15 July 2024



Youth Debate "On First Name Terms with the Senate", 7 June 2024



The Night of Museums at the Senate, 18 May 2024



Summit on the mental health of children and young people, 15 February 2024

The Chamber also supports educational campaigns, competitions and other activities to promote Polish parliamentary traditions and knowledge of history and politics. Every year it organises a national competition on knowledge of the Senate. Groups visiting the Parliament can take advantage of the extensive educational offer of the Chancellery of the Senate, including, for example, a lesson on the duties and rights of parliamentarians, a workshop on vote counting under the proportional representation system, and a costumed simulation of the sitting of the Old Polish Senate.

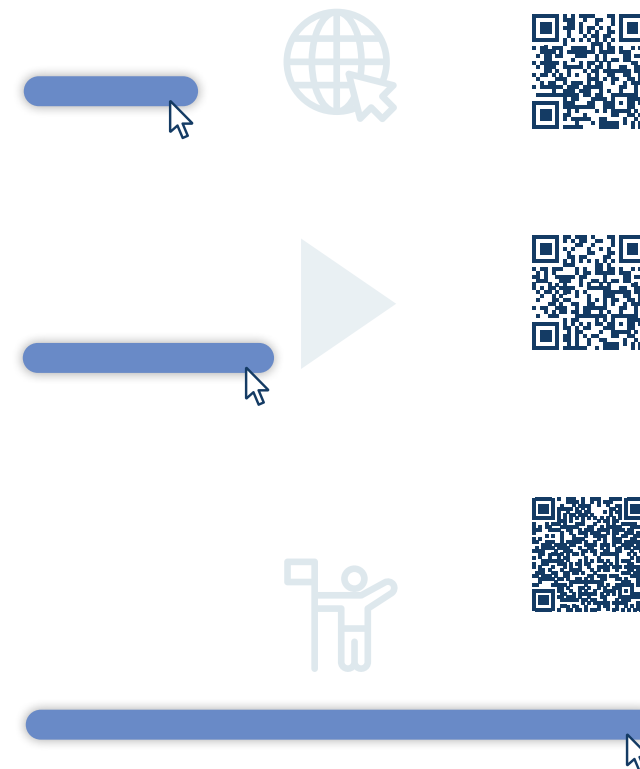
a meeting place

The Senate close to you

Through its legislative activity, the Senate has an impact on the creation and modification of laws that regulate many aspects of Polish citizens' lives – from the education system to labour law. By examining the laws thoroughly and amending them, the Senate contributes to improving the quality of legislation in various aspects – systemic, content-related and technical – and ensures that the legislation is in line with the intent of the legislator and meets the public interest.

The Senate is an institution that is close to you, and you can be close to it. Watch the broadcasts, follow the Senate's social media profiles and don't miss the chance to visit the Upper House during special events. **Seize these opportunities to discover more about Poland and Polish parliamentarianism!**

However, the Senate's activities do not end with the legislative process alone. The Upper House opens its doors to both Polish citizens and visitors from abroad. While it may appear remote and inaccessible, it actually offers many opportunities to get involved.



Exercise your right to petition.

Petitions are formal submissions of demands or proposals for legal amendments relating to any matter of public life. Petitions may be submitted by associations, foundations, societies, clubs, cooperatives, companies, trade unions, and public institutions, as well as by foreigners living in Poland (the petition must be submitted in Polish).

Petitions to the Senate can be sent to:

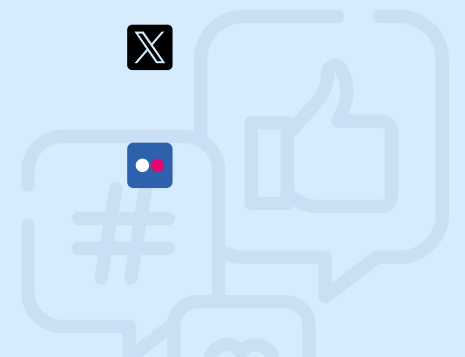
Kancelaria Senatu
Dział Petycji i Korespondencji
ul. Wiejska 6/8
00-902 Warszawa

or by e-mail:

petycje@senat.gov.pl

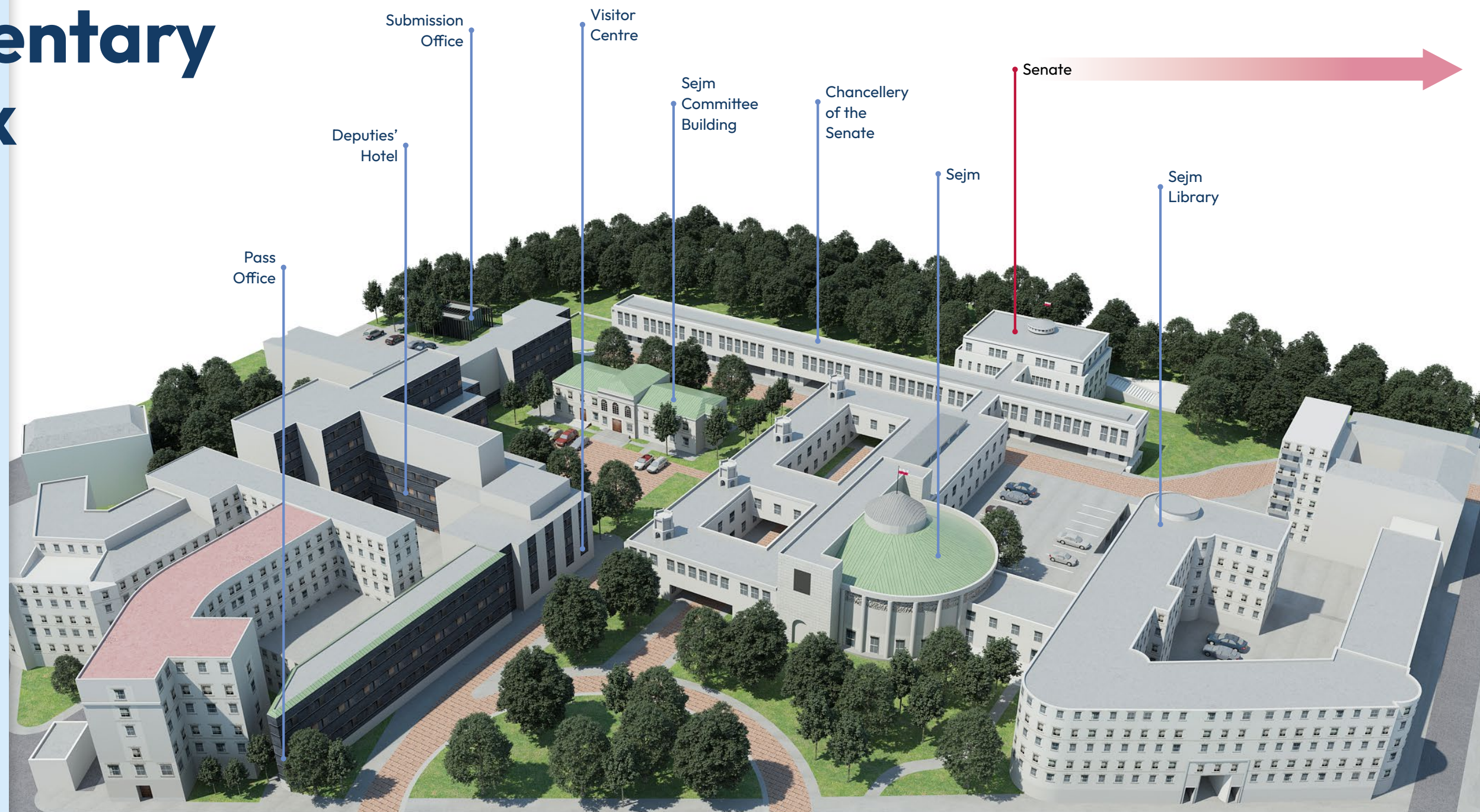
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Stay up to date and be informed about important events.



Parliamentary Complex

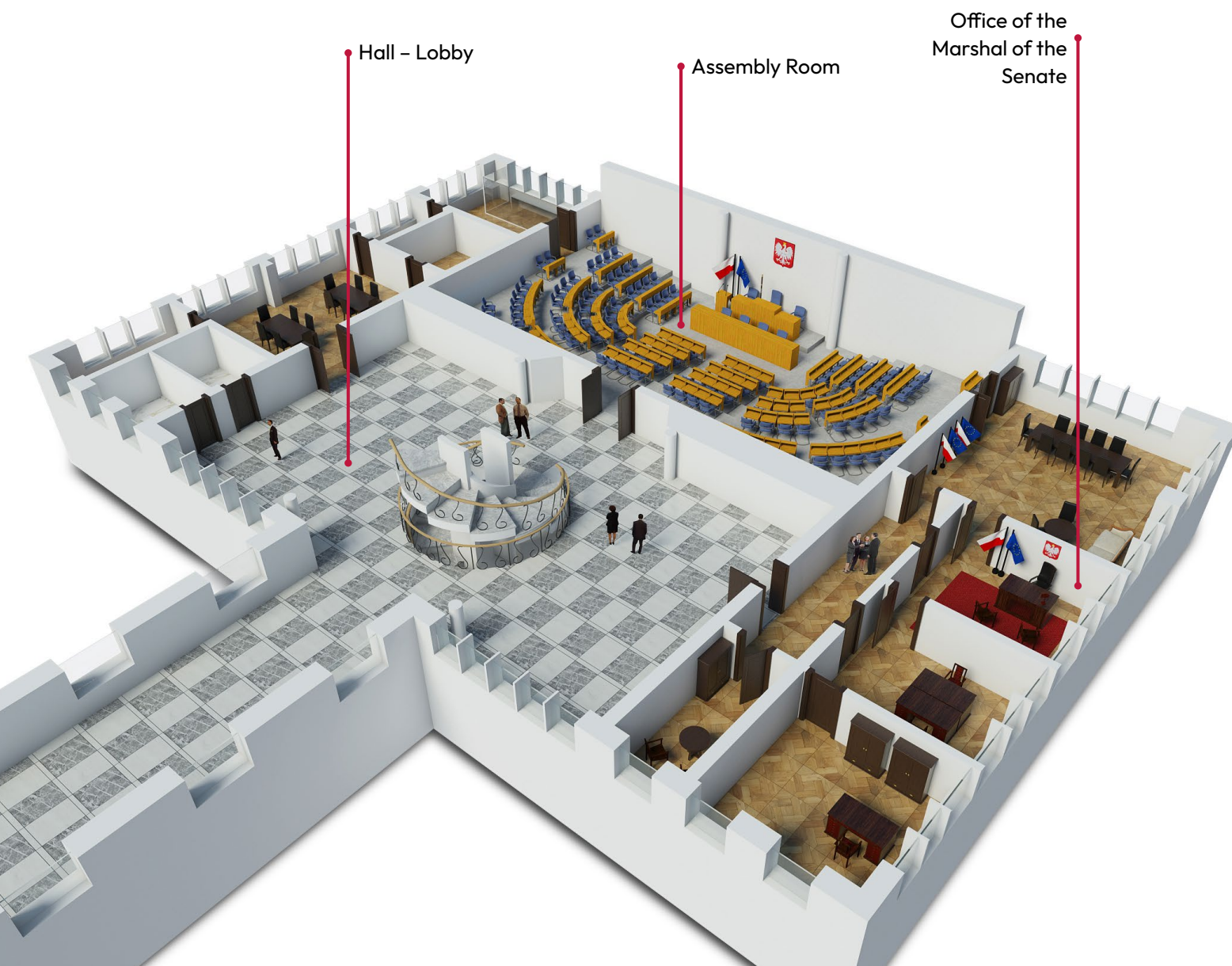
IN WIEJSKA
STREET IN
WARSAW



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THE CHANCELLERY
OF THE SENATE



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