



Committee Members



Stanisław Bisztyga (PO)



Jarosław Duda (PO)



Witold Idczak (PiS)



Maciej Klima (PiS)



Henryk Górski (PiS)



Piotr Kaleta (PiS)



Bronisław Korfanty (PiS)



Waldemar Kraska (PiS)



Maciej Grubski (PO)



Andrzej Owczarek (PO)



Andrzej Misiołek (PO)



Michał Okła (PO)



Zbigniew Pawłowicz (PO)



Władysław Sidorowicz (PO)



Henryk Stokłosa (N)



Krzysztof Zaremba (PiS)

Committee Chair

Committee Deputy Chair

Committee Deputy Chair

Committee Deputy Chair

The Committee deals with matters concerning national security and defense, armaments industry as well as the functioning of the armed forces.

Like other Senate committees, the National Defence Committee, within its remit, examines the Budget Act and gives its opinions to the Budget and Public Finance Committee, which is the only committee to present a budget report at a Senate plenary session.

The National Defence Committee is one of 16 permanent committees in the 7th Senate (2007-2011).

The National Defence Committee is a successor of the committees functioning in the Senate of the Second Polish Republic (1922-1939). At the time, the Foreign and Military Affairs Committee and Military Affairs Committee were responsible for the oversight of national defense and military matters. 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 National Defence Committee was established in 1991, after the restoration of the Senate in 1989. The activities undertaken by the Committee correspond to the scope of activity of the Ministry of National Defence.

One of the tasks of the Committee is to analyse information provided by the Ministry of National Defence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding problems discussed at NATO summits. Committee meetings are attended not only by representatives of the Government and armed forces, but also by, among others, representatives of organisations and companies that operate for the benefit of national security and defense. The Committee cooperates with independent experts and the Council of Senior Officers of the Polish Professional Soldiers.

### The Committee in the First Six Terms

#### of the Restored Senate

(1989-2007)

After the regaining of independence by Poland in 1989, the main focus of the Committee's activities in the first half of the 1990s was on legislation related to the political transformation of the newly independent state, in particular the introduction of democratic civilian control of the armed forces. Together with the Minister of National Defense and the President, the Parliament plays a key role in this system. The Committee was originally concerned with amending laws on compulsory military service and professional military service as well as laws on accommodation and benefits for military staff, professional soldiers' military service, and soldiers' remuneration and accommodation. Other legislative changes included the functioning of military courts, prosecutor's offices and military education system.

Committee Members participated in the public debate pertaining to Poland's accession to NATO in 1999 and in the enactment of NATO-related legislation. In 2003, the Committee was tasked with examining issues concerning the NATO enlargement. It significantly contributed to the process of legislative changes, which started in 2001, leading up to the creation of the legal basis for the transition to a professional army, reorganisation of the armed forces' structure, military modernization and ensuring stable financing of the Polish army. It also addressed defense industry issues.

In 2001, the Senate expanded the Committee's competences and entrusted it with control over internal security issues. The Committee was responsible for adapting Polish legislation to EU norms with regard to producing and selling explosives, arms, and ammunition, as well as the trade of strategically important commodities.

Between 2005 and 2007, the National Defence Committee examined the laws dissolving the former Military Intelligence Service and establishing new military intelligence and counterintelligence structures. At the time, the Committee also considered legal acts related to the reform of the Polish Army command structures and creating the Operation Command, the Inspectorate for

Armed Forces Support and a new military unit – Special Forces. In particular, the Committee concentrated on the changes introduced to the military education and training system. Moreover, after Poland became a member of the European Defence Agency and the European System of Military Orders in 2005, the Committee was actively engaged in drafting legislation on the Polish defence industry.

### The Committee in the 7th Senate (2007-2011)

Since 2007 the National Defence Committee has continued its work on legislation regarding the creation of the legal basis for the transition to a professional army. The Committee also provides support to Polish military contingents operating abroad, which are involved in NATO, EU, UN and other coalition missions. Particular importance has been attached to Polish military presence in Afghanistan.

### Non-legislative Activity

Committee Members attend all events that are deemed to be of a particular significance for the armed forces and for the entire defence system. The Committee Chair takes part in annual briefings of the commanding structures of the Polish Armed Forces and the Ministry of National Defence, as well as in regular Strategic Reviews. Committee Members serving in the 7th Senate were involved in the inspections of Polish contingent bases in Iraq, Afghanistan, Chad, and Lebanon. Committee Members also participate in meetings held by chairs of defence committees of EU Member States.