

Directorate-General for the Presidency
Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments

Factsheet: The Polish Sejm



1. At a glance

The competence and functions of the Sejm are determined by the principle of separation of powers enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic. The Constitution of 1997 retained the principle of bicameralism of the legislature. The Sejm and the Senate sitting jointly constitute the National Assembly. Characteristically, the new Constitution conferred very extensive powers on the Sejm. On the other hand, the powers of the Senate are limited. Every 4 years, 460 deputies are elected to the Sejm. The terms of office of the Sejm and the Senate commence at the date the Sejm meets for its first sitting.

In Article 95 (1) of the Constitution, the Sejm and the Senate are mentioned as bodies exercising legislative power, i.e. lawmaking bodies. According to Article 95 (2), the Sejm also exercises control over the activities of the Council of Ministers, which is an executive body. The Constitution provides the Sejm with a dominant role in the legislative process. For the legislative process to get started, it is necessary to introduce a bill to the Sejm.

Parliamentary elections to both the Sejm and Senate were held in Poland on 25 October 2015. The opposition party, Law and Justice (PiS) won the election with 37.58% of the vote against the governing Civic Platform, who gained a 24.09% share. For the first a party won the absolute majority also thanks to the electoral system. Also for the first time there is no party from the left in Parliament. Beata Szydło from PiS has become the new Prime Minister, succeeding Ewa Kopacz from PO. Next elections are to be scheduled for October 2019 at latest.

2. Composition

Summary of the 25 October 2015 parliamentary election results							
Parties	Sejm					Senate	
	Votes	%	±%	Seats	±	Seats	±
Law and Justice (<i>Prawo i Sprawiedliwość, PiS</i>)	5,711,687	37.58	▲7.69	235 / 460	▲101	61 / 100	▲30
Civic Platform (<i>Platforma Obywatelska, PO</i>)	3,661,474	24.09	▼15.09	138 / 460	▼59	34 / 100	▼29
Kukiz'15 (<i>K'15</i>)	1,339,094	8.81		42 / 460	▲42	—	
Modern (<i>Nowoczesna Ryszarda Petru, Nowoczesna</i>)	1,155,370	7.60		28 / 460	▲28	—	
United Left (<i>Zjednoczona Lewica</i>)	1,147,102	7.55	▼11.26	— ¹	▼50	—	
Polish People's Party (<i>Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe, PSL</i>)	779,875	5.13	▼3.23	16 / 460	▼22	1 / 100	▼1
Coalition for the Renewal of the Republic - Liberty and Hope (<i>KORWiN</i>)	722,999	4.76		—		—	

3. Officeholders

Marshal of the Sejm  Marek Kuchciński (PiS – Law and Justice)	Chair of the EU Affairs Committee  Piotr Naimski (PiS – Law and Justice)
Secretary General of the Sejm: Mr Lech Czapla, since 23 July 2010	

4. Relations with Members of the European Parliament

Participation rights for Polish MEPs in plenary sittings	No
Participation rights for Polish MEPs in committee meetings	Right to attend meetings and possibility of participating in the discussion.
Availability of videoconferencing system in Sejm	Yes

5. Information links

- Official website: <http://www.sejm.gov.pl/>
- [Rules of procedure in English](#)
- [List of committees](#)
- [Recent documents submitted by the Sejm to the Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange \(IPEX\)](#)
- [European Parliament Information Office in Warsaw](#)

6. Contacts

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