



LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Legal Affairs Committee (hereinafter – Committee) is one of the legislative standing committees established pursuant to Article 149 of the Rules of Procedure of the Saeima.

COMPOSITION

The principles for establishing the Committee are determined by the Saeima. The number of Committee members representing each parliamentary group is proportional to the number of seats the relevant parliamentary group has in the Saeima. Currently, the Committee is composed of 13 MPs. The Chairperson of the Committee is Juris Jurašs, Deputy Chairperson – Jānis Iesalnieks and Secretary – Valērijs Aģešins. The current composition of the Committee can be viewed on the Saeima website www.saeima.lv.

WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Upon the decision of the Saeima, the Committee considers draft laws prepared in accordance with Article 65 of the Constitution of Latvia by the President of Latvia, the Cabinet of Ministers, parliamentary committees, including the Legal Affairs Committee itself, or at least five MPs, as well as one-tenth of the electorate according to the procedure prescribed in the Constitution.

Within the framework of the legislative process, the tasks of the Committee are as follows:

- To prepare for consideration by the Saeima draft laws for which it has been designated as the responsible committee. The Committee works mainly with draft laws pertaining to the judiciary, substantive and procedural legal provisions, as well as the work of bailiffs, notaries public and lawyers. The Committee also



Juris Jurašs, Chairperson of the Legal Affairs Committee

considers draft laws regarding the disposal of immovable property to meet the needs of the public, as well as amendments proposed for the Rules of Procedure of the Saeima and the fundamental law of Latvia – the Constitution

- To interview candidates for the position of judge at all levels, member of the Council of the State Audit Office, chairperson and member of commission of the Central Election Office, as well as to prepare and forward for adoption by the Saeima draft resolutions on their appointment, confirmation and removal from office
- Within the scope of its competence, to review and answer submissions from natural and legal persons.

As a part of parliamentary scrutiny, the Committee regularly assesses the work of the executive branch, requests necessary information from the line ministers and institutions under their supervision, as well as from the Board of Justice. In order to efficiently deal with issues within its competency, the Committee

invites officials and sectoral experts to take part in Committee meetings and listens to their reports and opinions.

Prior to adoption of the annual state budget, the Committee listens to information presented by the Minister for Justice, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Prosecutor General and the Auditor General on the financial situation of the relevant institution, as well as its accomplished and planned activities; if necessary, it also assists in obtaining budgetary funds.

When considering draft laws during its meetings, the Committee listens to the opinions given not only by the representatives of public administration institutions, but also by sectoral experts and representatives of trade unions, NGOs, associations and foundations.

During visiting meetings, members of the Committee learn about the situation in public institutions.

When preparing draft laws and solving issues of public importance, the Committee often encounters issues that are

within the scope of competence of other parliamentary committees; therefore, the Committee cooperates with other sectoral committees and organises joint meetings.

SUBCOMMITTEES

According to Article 155 of the Rules of Procedure of the Saeima, the Committee may establish two subcommittees to fulfil specific tasks or to perform certain preparatory work. The Committee has set up the Judicial Policy Subcommittee and the Criminal Law

Policy Subcommittee that will continue the work commenced during the 12th Saeima regarding the improvement of the judicial system and punishment policy matters.

If necessary, the Committee may establish *ad hoc* working groups that prepare proposals for specific draft laws. Such working groups are composed of representatives from all parliamentary groups of the Saeima, experts from the relevant line ministries, representatives of public organisations, as well as sectoral practitioners.

CHAIRPERSONS OF THE COMMITTEE

Convocation	Name	Tenure
5 th Saeima	Aivars Endziņš	26.07.1993 – 06.11.1995
6 th Saeima	Juris Kaksītis	16.11.1995 – 02.11.1998
7 th Saeima	Linards Muciņš	12.11.1998 – 04.11.2002
8 th Saeima	Solvita Āboltiņa	15.11.2002 – 18.03.2004
	Mareks Segliņš	18.03.2004 – 06.11.2006
9 th Saeima	Mareks Segliņš	17.11.2006 – 24.01.2008 25.05.2010 – 02.11.2010
	Vjačeslavs Stepaņenko	15.01.2008 – 13.03.2008
	Vineta Muižniece	13.03.2008 – 25.05.2010
10 th Saeima	Ilma Čepāne	08.11.2010 – 17.10.2011
11 th Saeima	Ilma Čepāne	20.10.2011 – 04.11.2014
12 th Saeima	Gaidis Bērziņš	06.11.2014 – 06.11.2018
13 th Saeima	Jānis Bordāns	20.11.2018 – 30.01.2019
	Juta Striķe	30.01.2019 – 18.03.2020
	Juris Jurašs	Since 03.04.2020

INTERESTING FACTS

- During different tenures, the former justices of the Constitutional Court (Aivars Endziņš, Ilma Čepāne, Vineta Muižniece) have chaired the Committee.
- Prominent figures who have been members of the Committee include former prime ministers (Ivars Godmanis, Andris Bērziņš), ministers for justice (Romāns Apsītis, Dzintars Rasnačs, Ingrīda Labucka, Vineta Muižniece, Solvita Āboltiņa, Gaidis Bērziņš, Jānis Bordāns, Mareks Segliņš, Aigars Štokenbergs), ministers for the interior (Roberts Jurdzs, Mareks Segliņš, Dzintars Jaundžeikars, Ivars Godmanis), ministers for welfare (Roberts Jurdzs, Uldis Augulis, Ilona Jurševska), minister for transport (Uldis Augulis), minister for economics (Artis Kampars) and minister for special assignments for e-governance (Jānis Reirs), as well as representatives of many other significant professions.
- Solvita Āboltiņa, speaker of the Saeima during the 10th and the 11th Saeima, was also a member of the Committee during the 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th Saeima.
- During the 12th Saeima, one of the Committee members was Gunārs Kūtris, former Chairman of the Constitutional Court.
- Former speaker of the 9th Saeima Gundars Daudze is currently member of the Committee.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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