



## MANDATE, ETHICS AND SUBMISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Mandate, Ethics and Submissions Committee (hereinafter Committee) is one of the standing committees established pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the Saeima.

At its first plenary sitting, the newly elected Saeima elects a Temporary Mandate, Ethics and Submissions Committee (hereinafter Temporary Committee).

The Temporary Committee carries out the task set forth by the Constitution: the Saeima itself verifies the mandates of its members. Not later than four days after the official election results have been announced, in accordance with the procedure prescribed by law, it verifies election documents and investigates complaints about elections if such complaints have been submitted to the Central Election Commission.

On the grounds of the report by the Temporary Committee, the Saeima rules on the mandates of its members.

### COMPOSITION

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, the Committee must include two members from each parliamentary group.

Members of the Committee must refrain from unjustified criticism of political opponents or unjustified defence of another MP's misconduct solely on the grounds of his/her political affiliation.

The current composition of the Committee can be viewed on the Saeima website [www.saeima.lv](http://www.saeima.lv) and the website of the Committee <http://mandati.saeima.lv>.

### FUNCTIONS

- To draw up reports on confirming or terminating mandates of MPs



■ Janina Kursite-Pakule, Chairperson of the Mandate, Ethics and Submissions Committee

- To prepare a draft resolution of the Saeima in connection with a request by the Prosecutor General's Office on granting permission to start criminal prosecution of an MP, arrest or detain an MP, search an MP or his/her premises or otherwise restrict his/her personal freedom; to draw up motions concerning requests to impose an administrative sanction on an MP
- For each regular session of the Saeima, to prepare reports on administratively penalised MPs
- To supervise compliance with the Code of Ethics for Members of the Saeima and to review cases concerning violation of the Code

### CHAIRPERSONS OF THE COMMITTEE

Convocation	Name	Tenure
5 <sup>th</sup> Saeima	<b>Māris Budovskis</b>	21.07.1993 – 06.11.1995
6 <sup>th</sup> Saeima	<b>Ilmārs Bišers</b>	07.11.1995 – 02.11.1998
7 <sup>th</sup> Saeima	<b>Vineta Muižniece</b>	12.11.1998 – 04.11.2002
8 <sup>th</sup> Saeima	<b>Ingrīda Labucka</b>	19.11.2002 – 05.02.2004
	<b>Ainārs Baštiks</b>	09.02.2004 – 18.03.2004
	<b>Pāvels Maksimovs</b>	22.04.2004 – 06.11.2006
9 <sup>th</sup> Saeima	<b>Sergejs Dolgopolovs</b>	17.11.2006 – 16.07.2009
	<b>Vitālijs Orlovs</b>	24.11.2009 – 02.11.2010
10 <sup>th</sup> Saeima	<b>Vitālijs Orlovs</b>	09.11.2010 – 17.10.2011
11 <sup>th</sup> Saeima	<b>Vitālijs Orlovs</b>	20.10.2011 – 04.11.2014
12 <sup>th</sup> Saeima	<b>Vitālijs Orlovs</b>	10.11.2014 – 06.11.2018
13 <sup>th</sup> Saeima	<b>Janina Kursite-Pakule</b>	Since 20.11.2018



■ Meeting of the Mandate, Ethics and Submissions Committee

- To verify the compliance of the presidential candidate with the Law on the Election of the President of Latvia
- To review data prepared by the Presidium on MPs' absence from plenary sittings
- To evaluate draft resolutions on sending MPs to an examination of the official language proficiency and provide opinion to the Saeima
- To prepare monthly reports for the Saeima on submissions filed with the Public Relations Department of the Saeima and their consideration by the Presidium, parliamentary groups, committees and other organisational units of the Saeima; these reports are published on the website of the Committee
- To follow the processing of submissions filed by private entities and to hear a monthly report on the work of the Visitor and Information Centre; relevant information is published on the website of the Saeima and the Committee
- To consider submissions filed by private entities and legal entities

and to prepare answers to questions contained therein

- To review collective submissions filed by citizens of Latvia, draft a report and prepare a draft resolution of the Saeima regarding each submission and its further processing within three months after receiving it

## FOLLOW THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

The website of the Committee features the agendas of its meetings and information on other matters considered by the Committee.

Committee meetings are open to public – visitors only need an ID document and a pass to the Saeima in order to attend a meeting; applications for a pass to the Saeima can be submitted to the Committee.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## INTERESTING FACTS

- During the period from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> Saeima, the name of the Committee was the Mandate and Submissions Committee.
- So far, the longest-serving member of the Committee has been Martijans Bekasovs. He was a Committee member from 21 July 1993 to 6 November 2006 – that is, during the period from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> Saeima.
- Up to 14 June 2016, the Committee considered applications by public authorities and prepared draft resolutions for consenting to MPs held administratively liable, for instance, during the period from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> Saeima charges were brought against MPs in 130 administrative cases
- During the 6<sup>th</sup> Saeima, the Committee drafted a code of ethics for members of the Saeima, but the Saeima rejected it in the 1<sup>st</sup> reading.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> Saeima approved the Code of Ethics for Members of the Saeima. When the Code was adopted, the name of the Committee was changed by adding the word Ethics. The aim of the Code of Ethics for Members of the Saeima is to establish high standards of behaviour and thereby to increase society's trust in the Saeima.
- The Visitor and Information Centre was created upon the initiative of the Committee and inaugurated on 29 January 2009. Its objective is to develop the dialogue between the Parliament and the society and promote its participation in the work of the Saeima.
- During the period from February 2012 to February 2019, the Committee has reviewed 42 collective submissions by citizens of Latvia, the majority of proposals expressed therein have been included in amendments to laws.
- The only MP who has been expelled from the Saeima for unjustified absence from plenary sittings is Joahims Zigerists (resolution of the Saeima of 23 August 1995).