



LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS
SAEIMA



■ Meeting of the Social and Employment Matters Committee

Social and Employment Matters Committee

The Social and Employment Matters Committee (hereinafter—the Committee) is one of the standing legislative committees of the Saeima. It deals with issues pertaining to the social sector.

In its work, the Committee abides by the Constitution of Latvia and other applicable legislation. Committee meetings are convened and chaired by the Chair of the Committee.

Work of the Committee

Based on a decision of the Saeima, the Committee considers draft laws prepared by the Cabinet of Ministers, the Committee itself, or at least five MPs, or those initiated by the President of Latvia or a tenth of the electorate according to

the procedure and in cases outlined in the Constitution.

The Saeima votes on the committee to be responsible for a draft law, and that committee then considers the draft law prior to each reading. If necessary, the preliminary preparation of a draft law can be delegated to a subcommittee if one has been established.

The Committee holds regular meetings with representatives of the government and other relevant institutions in order to discuss matters within the scope of its competence; it also offers recommendations and proposals.

The Committee cooperates with other committees of the Saeima. In joint meetings, committees exchange information



■ Andris Bērziņš, Chair of the Committee

and deal with topical issues pertaining to their specialisation.

The Committee also maintains regular contact with its counterparts in other national parliaments.

Submissions, complaints, and proposals are considered according to the statutory procedure.

The Committee is where the substance of specific matters is thoroughly debated before each reading of a draft law.

The Committee frequently holds external meetings during which MPs learn about the actual institutional system of the social and health sector at both the central and municipal level. ▶

Chairs of the Social and Employment Matters Committee

Convocation	Name	Tenure
5 th Saeima	Ludmila Kuprijanova	27.07.1993–06.11.1995
6 th Saeima	Ludmila Kuprijanova	16.11.1995–02.11.1998
7 th Saeima	Andrejs Požarnovs	12.11.1998–04.02.1999
	Aija Barča	04.02.1999–04.11.2002
8 th Saeima	Jevgenija Stalidzāne	28.11.2002–06.11.2006
9 th Saeima	Aija Barča	17.11.2006–02.11.2010
10 th Saeima	Aija Barča	08.11.2010–17.10.2011
11 th Saeima	Aija Barča	20.10.2011–04.11.2014
12 th Saeima	Aija Barča	06.11.2014–06.11.2018
13 th Saeima	Andris Skride	21.11.2018–01.11.2023
14 th Saeima	Inga Bērziņa	23.11.2022–20.09.2023
	Andris Bērziņš	Since 27.09.2023



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When necessary, the Committee sets up temporary working groups that prepare proposals on specific issues. Working groups consist of MPs, staff of the relevant line ministries, and NGO representatives.

Cooperation with NGOs

Social policy concerns the whole of society; therefore, it is crucial to assess the social impact of decisions, their effectiveness and validity. Since this assessment is the main requirement in the development and implementation of social policy, it is necessary to involve society and other stakeholders in political decision-making. Cooperation with NGOs in the political decision-making process not only improves the quality of policy but also reduces distrust and ensures regular feedback between the state and society, thus eliminating drafting inaccuracies that could have a negative impact on the implementation of the respective laws.

Benefits of cooperating with NGOs

- Elaboration of specific legislative initiatives
- Opportunity to benefit from NGO experience by involving their representatives in working groups preparing draft laws or proposals

- Better understanding of the problem at hand
- Opportunity to delegate functions of public administration

Forms of cooperation

- Involvement of NGOs as experts in the consideration of matters
- Joint conferences
- Visits to NGOs by Committee members

Subcommittees

The Committee may establish up to two subcommittees to perform specific tasks or certain preparatory work. MPs who are not members of the Committee may also take part in the work of its subcommittees.

The Committee has two subcommittees in the 14th Saeima.

Public Health Subcommittee

The Social and Employment Matters Committee has authorised the Public Health Subcommittee to carry out parliamentary scrutiny over the development and coordination of public health and pharmaceutical policy. The Subcommittee is also tasked with involving NGOs and social groups in the formulation of

public health policy. Pursuant to the decision of the Committee, the Subcommittee considers draft laws and provides opinions on submitted proposals. The Subcommittee considers healthcare-related complaints and proposals submitted by NGOs and individuals.

Inequality Reduction Subcommittee

The Social and Employment Matters Committee tasks the Inequality Reduction Subcommittee with parliamentary scrutiny and oversight of the implementation of policies targeting unequal opportunities and income inequality to achieve priority goals: to ensure equal opportunities to receive good quality education and health care; to work in a respectable job according to one's abilities and wishes; to grow up and live in a safe environment and to receive equal social protection in every Latvian region, etc. The Subcommittee examines issues and seeks effective solutions together with public governance bodies, high level experts, NGOs, and other stakeholders. ■



Contact information

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