



LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS
SAEIMA



■ Meeting of the Budget and Finance (Taxation) Committee

Budget and Finance (Taxation) Committee

The Budget and Finance (Taxation) Committee is one of the legislative standing committees of the Saeima. The Committee focuses on matters pertaining to the state budget, finances, and taxes, and addresses issues related to the growth, problems, possible solutions, and future prospects of the national economy.

Structure

The Saeima determines the setup of the Committee. The number of Committee members from each parliamentary group is proportional to the number of its seats in the Saeima. The current composition of the Committee is available on the Saeima website www.saeima.lv.



■ Jānis Reirs, Chair of the Committee

Chairs of the Budget and Finance (Taxation) Committee

Convocation	Name	Tenure
5 th Saeima	Andris Piebalgs	28.07.1993–28.09.1994
	Ojārs Kehris	28.09.1994–06.11.1995
6 th Saeima	Aivars Guntis Kreituss	16.11.1995–07.03.1996
	Roberts Zīle	07.03.1996–29.04.1997
	Vents Balodis	29.04.1997–02.11.1998
7 th Saeima	Roberts Zīle	12.11.1998–18.03.1999
	Imants Kalniņš	18.03.1999–16.07.1999
	Aija Poča	16.07.1999–04.04.2001
	Vents Balodis	04.04.2001–04.11.2002
8 th Saeima	Baiba Brigmane	15.11.2002–18.03.2004
	Gundars Bērziņš	18.03.2004–09.12.2004
	Atis Slakteris	09.12.2004–10.05.2006
	Ainārs Šlesers	10.05.2006–06.11.2006
9 th Saeima	Kārlis Leiškalns	17.11.2006–21.04.2009
	Guntis Bērziņš	21.04.2009–02.11.2010
10 th Saeima	Jānis Reirs	08.11.2010–17.10.2011
11 th Saeima	Jānis Reirs	20.10.2011–03.11.2014
12 th Saeima	Kārlis Šadurskis	06.11.2014–18.02.2016
	Jānis Vucāns	18.02.2016–06.11.2018
13 th Saeima	Mārtiņš Bondars	20.11.2018–07.06.2022
	Vita Anda Tērauda	07.06.2022–01.11.2022
14 th Saeima	Anda Čakša	23.11.2022–14.12.2022
	Jānis Reirs	Since 15.12.2022

Functions

According to the Rules of Procedure of the Saeima, the Committee is responsible for reviewing draft laws, proposals, and submissions on the basis of a decision by the Saeima. The Committee may also submit its own draft laws and proposals concerning matters within the scope of its competence.

Legislative process

The Committee formulates draft laws and provides suggestions for draft laws which have been forwarded to it as the responsible committee, preparing them for consideration in plenary sittings. The Committee also evaluates draft laws forwarded to it as the co-responsible committee. ►



Interesting facts

• Andris Piebalgs, Chair of the Budget and Finance (Taxation) Committee during the 5th Saeima, was later appointed the European Commissioner for Energy and the European Commissioner for Development.

• Dr Jānis Priedkalns was a member of the Budget and Finance (Taxation) Committee during the 6th Saeima. Dr Priedkalns is a scholar, professional race driver and has conquered the Himalayas. He is also a professor who sold his Ferrari and donated the proceeds of LVL 100 100 for the support of medical science in Latvia. He has also served as Latvia's ambassador to the UN and member of the Nobel Prize nomination committee.

• During the 6th, 7th, and 8th Saeima, the speakers of the Saeima were also members of the Budget and Finance (Taxation) Committee.

• Since the restoration of Latvia's independence, 11 out of 16 prime ministers and 15 out of 19 ministers for finance have been members of the Budget and Finance (Taxation) Committee.

• In June 2009, during the adoption of amendments to the Law on the State Budget for 2009, the Committee considered the biggest package of budget-related draft laws, amending 113 related laws. Rather large packages of budget-related draft laws were considered in autumn 2009 and in 2011—amendments to 70 and 89 laws, respectively.

• If the Saeima rejects in the first or second reading the draft law on the state budget submitted by the Cabinet of Ministers, such a vote is considered a vote of no confidence for the government.

The Committee forwards to the Saeima draft resolutions on the appointment of public officials and the reallocation of appropriations based on the Law on Budget and Financial Management.

Working format of the Committee

Meetings of the Committee are open to public; however, it may also convene closed meetings. Furthermore, the Committee may hold field visits and meetings with third parties. The Committee collaborates with other sectoral committees of the Saeima by holding joint meetings to discuss draft laws and other pressing matters in their field of expertise.

As part of parliamentary scrutiny, the Committee assesses the work of the

government, requests necessary information from line ministries and institutions under their supervision, invites officials to take part in Committee meetings, and hears reports and opinions of the relevant executive institutions.

The Committee carries out parliamentary scrutiny over the Ministry of Finance, which supervises the financial sector, as well as bodies subordinated to it, such as the State Revenue Service and the Treasury. The Ministry of Finance reports to the Committee on the following:

- Drafting and implementation of the state budget
- Use of emergency funds
- Macroeconomic development trends and forecasts
- Reallocation and increase of appropriations for specific purposes based on the Law on Budget and Financial Management
- Convergence Programme of the Republic of Latvia

The State Revenue Service reports to the Committee on the following:

- Key activities
- Progress in fighting the shadow economy and facilitating fair competition
- Remuneration of officials and staff members of the services fighting the shadow economy and facilitating fair competition

The Treasury provides the Committee with the latest data regarding the implementation of the state budget.

As part of parliamentary scrutiny, the Committee also collaborates with the Bank of Latvia, which is an independent body not subordinated to the Cabinet of Ministers.

The Bank of Latvia informs the Committee about the economic development of Latvia and its projections, monetary policy, and other issues related to the functions of the Bank of Latvia, including economic and fiscal policy matters concerning the effectiveness of monetary policy implementation, the activities and oversight of the financial sector, the financial statements of the Deposit Guarantee Fund and the Fund for the Protection of the Insured subordinated

to the Bank of Latvia, and its participation in EU decision making process and EU financial supervision bodies.

The Committee carries out parliamentary scrutiny of activities of the institutions responsible for fair competition and combating the shadow economy, such as the State Revenue Service subordinated to the Ministry of Finance, the State Police and the State Border Guard subordinated to the Ministry of the Interior, the State Labour Inspectorate subordinated to the Ministry of Welfare, and the Food and Veterinary Service and the State Forest Service subordinated to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Cooperation with NGOs

The Committee cooperation is not limited to public entities only. It has established successful cooperation with various organisations, including the Finance Latvia Association, the Employers' Confederation of Latvia, the Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia, the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments, the Latvian Association of Certified Auditors, the Latvian Tax Consultant Association, the Latvian Insurers Association, the Latvian Association of Cooperative Credit Unions, and the Foreign Investors Council in Latvia.

Subcommittees

According to the Rules of Procedure of the Saeima, Committees are authorised to appoint their members and invite other MPs to form subcommittees that perform specific work or tasks.

The Budget and Finance (Taxation) Committee of the 14th Saeima has established the Shadow Economy Combating Subcommittee and the Exports and Competitiveness Subcommittee. ■



Contact information

Address: Jēkaba iela 6/8, Rīga, LV-1811, Latvia

Phone: +371 6708 7319

E-mail: budzeta.komisija@saeima.lv