



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 economic growth, its problems, possible solutions and future prospects.

STRUCTURE

The setup of the Committee is determined by the Saeima. The number of Committee members from each parliamentary group is proportional to the number of its seats in the Saeima. For the current composition of the Committee, visit www.saeima.lv.

FUNCTIONS

According to the Rules of Procedure of the Saeima and relevant decisions of the Saeima, the Committee is responsible for reviewing received draft laws, proposals and submissions. It may also submit its own draft laws and proposals within the scope of its competence.

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

The Committee drafts and prepares for consideration by the Saeima draft laws that have been forwarded to it as the responsible entity. It provides suggestions to the forwarded draft laws, as well as evaluates draft laws forwarded to it as the co-responsible committee. The Committee forwards to the Saeima draft resolutions on the appointment of public officials and 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 is entitled to convene closed meetings as well. Further-

more, 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 ministers 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 of the Ministry of Finance, which supervises the financial sector, as well as agencies 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



Mārtiņš Bondars, Chair of the Budget and Finance (Taxation) Committee

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

As part of parliamentary scrutiny, the Committee collaborates with independent agencies, such as the Bank of Latvia and the Financial and Capital Market Commission (FCMC).

The Bank of Latvia informs the Committee about Latvia's economic growth and its projections, whereas the FCMC informs the Committee about its work, activities and supervision of the financial sector. It also presents financial statements of the Deposit Guarantee Fund and the Fund for Protection of the Insured. The FCMC also reports on its involvement in the EU decision-making process and the EU's financial supervision authorities. The FCMC advises the Committee on issues related to legislation, in particular regarding questions of insurance, banks and financial instruments.

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 Interior, the State Labour Inspectorate subordinated to the Ministry of Welfare, as well as the Food and Veterinary Service and the State Forest Service subordinated to the Ministry of Agriculture.

COOPERATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

The Committee cooperation is not limited to public entities. 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, Latvian Tax Consultant Association, Latvian Insurers Association, Latvian Construction Association, Cooperative Banking Association of Latvia.

CHAIRPERSONS OF THE 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
8 th Saeima	Vents Balodis	04.04.2001 – 04.11.2002
	Baiba Brigmane	15.11.2002 – 18.03.2004
	Gundars Bērziņš	18.03.2004 – 09.12.2004
	Atis Slakteris	09.12.2004 – 10.05.2006
9 th Saeima	Ainārs Šlesers	10.05.2006 – 06.11.2006
	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	Since 20.11.2018



■ Saeimas Budžeta un finanšu (nodokļu) komisija

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 preparatory work and specific tasks.

The Budget and Finance (Taxation) Committee of the 13th Saeima has established the Financial Sector Supervision Subcommittee that reviews matters related to Latvia's financial sector and monitors the execution of the action plan for implementation of MON-EYVAL recommendations.

INTERESTING FACTS

- Andris Piebalgs, Chair of the 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 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 to 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 and Selection 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, 9 out of 13 prime ministers and 12 out of 15 ministers for finance have sat on 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 containing 113 draft laws. Rather large packages of budget-related draft laws were considered in 2010 and 2011 – 69 and 89 draft laws, respectively.
- If the Saeima in the first or second reading rejects the draft law on the state budget submitted by the Cabinet of Ministers, such a vote is deemed to be a vote of no confidence for the government.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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