



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 at hand, 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 institutions in order to discuss matters within its scope of competence; it also offers recommendations and proposals.

The Committee cooperates with other committees of the Saeima. In joint meetings, committees exchange information and deal with topical issues pertaining to their areas of specialisation.

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



■ Andris Skride, Chair of the Social and Employment Matters Committee

CHAIRPERSONS OF THE 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	06.11.2014–05.11.2018
13 th Saeima	Andris Skride	Since 06.11.2018

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 visiting meetings during which MPs learn about the actual institutional system of the social and health sector at both the central and municipal level.

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 NGOs.

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 element in elaboration 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 lead to a negative impact in 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

SUBCOMMITTEES

Convocation	Subcommittee
7 th Saeima	Subcommittee on Social Development of Disadvantaged Regions
	Public Health Subcommittee
8 th Saeima	Subcommittee on Demographic Development of Population
	Health Subcommittee
9 th Saeima	Employment Subcommittee
	Public Health Subcommittee
	Social Security Subcommittee
10 th Saeima	Public Health Subcommittee
	Social Security Subcommittee
11 th Saeima	Public Health Subcommittee
	Social Security Subcommittee
12 th Saeima	Employment Subcommittee
	Public Health Subcommittee
13 th Saeima	Public Health Subcommittee



Meeting of the Social and Employment Matters Committee

the Committee may also take part in the work of its subcommittees.

The Committee has had several subcommittees since its inception.

PUBLIC HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE

The Committee has authorised the Public Health Subcommittee to carry out parliamentary scrutiny over the elaboration and coordination of public-health and pharmaceutical policy. The Subcommittee is also tasked with involving NGOs and social groups in the elaboration 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 private entities.

EMPLOYMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

The Employment Subcommittee carries out parliamentary scrutiny over the implementation of employment related measures and employment policy initiatives, including integration of the most vulnerable social groups into the labour market, social entrepreneurship, and the Youth Guarantee. The Subcommittee also monitors labour market, identifies problems therein and improvements; it prepares and submits proposals on streamlining and implementing employment policy, considers draft laws and provides opinions.

INTERESTING FACTS

On 22-23 February 2015 the Saeima hosted the Meeting of Chairpersons of Committees on Social and Employment Matters – an event of the parliamentary dimension of Latvia's presidency. The meeting was attended by representatives of 26 parliaments – 22 EU member states, the European Parliament, the European Commission, 3 candidate countries (Albania, Serbia and Montenegro), Norway and the Baltic Assembly. The topics covered at the meeting included promoting employment of the most vulnerable social groups, social entrepreneurship, progress in implementing the Youth Guarantee.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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