



LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS
SAEIMA



■ Meeting of the Education, Culture and Science Committee

Education, Culture and Science Committee

The Education, Culture and Science Committee (hereinafter—Committee) is one of the standing committees of the Saeima that holds legislative powers.

Structure of the Committee

The setup of the Committee is determined by the Saeima. During the 14th Saeima, the Committee is chaired by Agita Zariņa-Stūre. The composition of the Committee is available on the Saeima website at www.saeima.lv.

Working format of the Committee

Committee meetings are open to the public, although it may also decide to hold closed meetings. Committee meetings are convened and chaired

by its Chair. The Committee also holds visiting meetings and organises working groups, seminars, and conferences within the scope of its area of responsibility. The Committee collaborates with other committees of the Saeima by holding joint meetings to discuss draft laws and pressing issues related to the work of the committees.

Functions of the Committee

The Committee is responsible for matters pertaining to education, culture, science, official language, and sports, as these areas are interlinked and vital for the state of Latvia. The Committee closely follows both the developments in these sectors and monitors the strategic goals and sustainable development of the country.



■ Agita Zariņa-Stūre, Chair of the Committee

Legislative functions of the Committee include:

- preparation of assigned draft laws for parliamentary consideration;
- providing opinions on draft laws under joint assignment procedures;
- proposing suggestions for draft laws and initiating legislative proposals;
- preparing and submitting draft decisions for approval by the Saeima resulting from the tasks stipulated in the legislation.

The Committee exercises parliamentary scrutiny by constantly monitoring the work of the executive power, ensuring that it handles socially relevant matters in the most efficient way, as well as by reviewing the letters and suggestions received. During its visiting meetings, the Committee MPs meet ▶

Chairs of the Education, Culture and Science Committee

Convocation	Name, surname	Tenure
5 th Saeima	Andrejs Siliņš	26.07.1993–06.11.1995
6 th Saeima	Dzintars Ābiķis	16.11.1995–02.11.1998
7 th Saeima	Dzintars Ābiķis	12.11.1998–04.11.2002
8 th Saeima	Jānis Strazdiņš	15.11.2002–06.11.2006
9 th Saeima	Jānis Strazdiņš	17.11.2006–02.11.2010
10 th Saeima	Ina Druviete	04.11.2010–17.10.2011
11 th Saeima	Ina Druviete	20.10.2011–23.01.2014
	Dana Reizniece-Ozola	28.01.2014–03.11.2014
12 th Saeima	Jānis Vucāns	10.11.2014–18.02.2016
	Ilze Viņķele	18.02.2016–14.09.2017
	Aldis Adamovičs	19.09.2017–06.11.2018
13 th Saeima	Arvils Ašeradens	21.11.2018–01.11.2022
14 th Saeima	Agita Zariņa-Stūre	Since 23.11.2022

Subcommittees of the Education, Culture and Science Committee

Saeima	Subcommittees
6 th Saeima	Subcommittee for the Preparation of the Education Law
7 th Saeima	Sports Subcommittee
8 th Saeima	Sports Subcommittee
	Subcommittee for the Future Development of Latvia
9 th Saeima	Sports Subcommittee
	Subcommittee for Monitoring the Implementation of the National Development Plan
10 th Saeima	Sports Subcommittee
11 th Saeima	Sports Subcommittee
	Civic Education Subcommittee
12 th Saeima	Sports Subcommittee
	Civic Education and Youth Affairs Subcommittee
13 th Saeima	Sports Subcommittee
	Higher Education, Science and Innovation Sub-Committee
14 th Saeima	Sports Subcommittee
	Higher Education, Science and Human Capital Subcommittee

representatives of local governments and local education, culture, or sports experts to determine whether challenges identified in specific territories or institutions require legislative changes.

The work of preparing draft laws and assessing topical economic issues is carried out in cooperation with representatives of public institutions, local governments, trade unions, various NGOs, higher education institutions, colleges, schools, private education and culture institutions, as well as teachers, students, and pupils' parents.

The Committee also meets with its counterparts from foreign parliaments and representatives of international institutions. The Committee works together with the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO to discuss such vital issues as the role of life-long learning, the synergy between culture and the national development plan in facilitating the country's growth, the challenges of inclusive education, the accessibility of high-quality education, etc.

The Committee considers such matters as the state budget funding for education, science, culture, and sports; the improvement of the quality of general education and optimal utilisation of resources; the gradual transition to the official language as the sole language of instruction at the pre-school and primary education level; balancing teachers' workload; preparation of new teachers; ensuring accessibility of relevant teaching materials; decreasing bureaucratic

obstacles in education institutions; the promotion of inclusive education; the introduction of higher education quality monitoring; matching the number of students in the STEM field and the demand in the labour market; the link between scientific progress and economic development; reviewing the procedure of awarding academic degrees; the protection of art, cultural, and architectural monuments and the construction of new culture sites; the development of the film industry; the infrastructure development of the National Archives of Latvia.

The Committee's meetings serve as a forum for exchanging diverse political ideas and opinions on the most appropriate solution for a particular problem. Committee meetings are usually attended by a wide range of representatives to provide a better insight into the opinion of the society and the views of industry experts.

The legal framework for the education sector includes the Education Law, the Vocational Education Law, the General Education Law, and the Law on Institutions of Higher Education.

The science sector is regulated by the Law on Scientific Activity. The commercialisation of innovation and research outcomes is governed by the Patent Law and the Law on Industrial Property Institutions and Procedures.

The culture sector is governed by the Law on Museums, the Law on Libraries,

the Law on Coats of Arms, the Film Law, the Design Law, the Copyright Law, the Law on the Latvian National Opera and Ballet, the Law on Protection of Cultural Monuments, etc. Special emphasis should be placed on the Song and Dance Celebration Law that plays a crucial role in preserving and furthering the tradition of song and dance festivals that are at the heart of the Latvian culture.

The Sports Law and the Law on the Status of a National Sports Facility specify the general and legal basis for organising and developing sports, the mutual relationships of sports organisations, state and local government institutions, as well as the basic tasks in sports development, and the basis for the financing of sports, as well as the principles to be observed when taking part in the international sports movement.

The Official Language Law ensures the maintenance, protection, and development of the official language—the Latvian language.

Laws are constantly updated to address public concerns and to introduce innovations in response to public and economic development. It is the main task of the Committee. The Committee is the main forum in the Saeima for comprehensive and thorough debates on proposed legislation that falls within its competence.

Subcommittees

The Committee may establish subcommittees to fulfil specific tasks.

The Education, Culture and Science Committee of the 14th Saeima has two subcommittees: the Sports Subcommittee and the Higher Education, Science and Human Capital Subcommittee.

The agendas of the meetings of the Committee and its subcommittees are available on the Saeima website. ■



Contact information

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