

## EUROPEAN INFORMATION ON THE SEJM WEBSITE

### The tasks of the European Information and Documentation Centre (OIDE)

Information concerning European affairs is very important, as it is required in the work of the parliament and parliamentarians, not only in terms of broadly understood legislation (including the participation of national parliaments in European legislative procedures), but also in their communication with citizens. This issue was assigned special significance by the Polish Sejm by locating the European Information and Documentation Centre in the Sejm Library.

The task of the European Information and Documentation Centre of the Sejm Library (OIDE) is to provide support to parliamentarians and to the staff of the Chancellery of the Sejm in their search for European information. The OIDE facilitates access to sources and documentation concerning the functioning of the European Union and, above all, the Sejm's activities in matters relating to Poland's membership of the EU. The main tool supporting these activities is the **OIDE Internet service**, which constitutes part of the Sejm website, and is based i.a. on our databases (EDL-S, UST, and the Sejm part of IPEX).

Presenting the European activities of the Sejm, we provide information on:

- Sejm *debates* and *resolutions* in EU matters,
- work of the EU Affairs Committee, especially on proposals of legal acts and other documents of the EU – the *EU Documents in the Sejm* section, including the *EDL-S Database* (European Legislative Documents in the Sejm),
- interparliamentary cooperation of the Sejm in the field of European matters – the *Interparliamentary Cooperation* section.
- state of implementation of EU law from the perspective of the legislative work of the Sejm – *Statutes implementing EU law – UST database*.

The issue of *subsidiarity check* constitutes a separate section on the website, containing information on both the Sejm proceedings (resolutions on non-compliance of EU legislative proposals with the subsidiarity principle) and its interparliamentary cooperation level (**IPEX database**), making it possible for national parliaments to trigger the procedure of so-called yellow or orange card.

Review of the Sejm's European activities is published every month in *Biuletyn OIDE* (also English version).

We provide information about the *European Union* by organizing and facilitating access to information presented in *europa.eu*, the official website of the European Union, including EU legal acts and other documents, as well as by monitoring the changes in the information sources. Our website presents the OIDE *notes* and *information* regarding current issues concerning EU integration, *bibliographies* of selected subjects which are important from the parliamentary point of view, links to specialist periodicals and publications of research centres, as well as to news services.

The OIDE website is also an archive containing information on the activity of the Sejm of the previous terms in the scope of EU matters (including the parliamentary dimension of the Polish EU Council Presidency 2011).

## PRESENTATION OF THE OIDE WEBSITE

<http://oide.sejm.gov.pl/oide/>

The screenshot displays the OIDE website interface. The header features the OIDE logo (a stylized building surrounded by stars) and the text "Ośrodek Informacji i Dokumentacji Europejskiej". Navigation links include "Map", "Archive", "About us", "PL", and "EN". A search bar is present on the right. Below the header, a banner for "BREXIT – selected publications (since 2016)" is shown with the date "7 sierpnia 2017". The main content area is titled "The Sejm and the European Union" and contains a numbered list of topics. A sidebar on the left lists "SEJM RP" categories: Debates of the Sejm on EU Affairs, Resolutions of the Sejm on EU Affairs, EU Documents in the Sejm, Subsidiarity Scrutiny, and Interparliamentary Cooperation. A right sidebar contains links to "Biuletyn OIDE", "Biuletyn OIDE PDF", "Bibliographies", "Publications", "News Corner", and "Broadcast from EU".

Information published on the OIDE website is collected in three basic parts: Sejm RP, European Union and Law.

### SEJM RP

This part focuses on broadly understood information concerning membership of the European Union and related activities of the Sejm. The “Sejm RP” section includes the following sections:

- **Debates of the Sejm on EU Affairs** – debates related to the legislative process of statutes granting consent for ratification of certain international agreements, resolutions on subsidiarity, debates within the framework of information of the Council of Ministers (e.g. bi-annual information on Poland's participation in EU work), or current information on issues related to the European integration.
- **Resolutions of the Sejm on EU Affairs** – texts of resolutions concerning Poland's participation in EU work during successive EU Council presidencies, lack of compliance of some draft EU legislative acts with the principle of subsidiarity, or selected aspects of European integration.

- **EU Documents in the Sejm** – this section is devoted primarily to the procedure of the Sejm’s scrutiny of EU lawmaking, regulated in the so-called Cooperation Act and in the Sejm's Standing Orders. The work of the EU Affairs Committee (SUE) is presented in this section. EU Affairs Committee examines draft EU legislation and other EU documents (reports, communications, white and green papers, etc.) sent to the Sejm, as well as matters which constitute the subject of the Sejm’s plenary sessions.

EDL-S database for the 8th term: <http://www.sejm.gov.pl/Sejm8.nsf/EDLS.xsp>

**EDL-S European Legislative Documents in the Sejm** Polski

EU documents

by EC document number  
by EU Council document number  
by interinstitutional reference

search

SUE documentation

all opinions  
opinions on subsidiarity  
opinions in political dialogue

Enter year  Enter number  

< 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 >

Reference	Title
COM(2015) 61	Sprawozdanie Komisji dla Parlamentu Europejskiego i Rady z oceny ex post unijnego mechanizmu ochrony ludności i Instrumentu Finansowego Ochrony Ludności w latach 2007–2013
COM(2015) 60	Wniosek dotyczący decyzji Rady w sprawie zawarcia, w imieniu Unii Europejskiej i jej państw członkowskich, protokołu zmieniającego umowę o wspólnym obszarze lotniczym między Unią Europejską i jej państwami członkowskimi a Republiką Mołdawii w celu uwzględnienia przystąpienia Republiki Chorwacji do Unii Europejskiej

Documentation of the work of the EU Affairs Committee and the resolutions adopted by the Sejm in connection with the control of EU documents are collected in the on-line database “**European Legislative Documents in the Sejm**” (EDL-S). The database covers the period from the fifth to the current term of office of the Sejm and is maintained in two languages (Polish and English). A record in EDL-S constitutes a description of the entire course of proceedings related to a given EU document. Apart from the bibliographic description of the EU document, the database contains the following 3 sections:

“Scrutiny of the document by the EU Affairs Committee” – information about the decisions made by the EU Affairs Committee (opinions, draft resolutions, desiderata and others) and their legal basis, as well as full record of the proceedings of the committee, and optionally also so-called “expert reports”,

“Scrutiny of the document by the Sejm” – texts of resolutions on non-compliance with the principle of subsidiarity with a link to the legislative process and the date of sending the reasoned opinion to the EU institutions,

“Scrutiny of the document in the EU and in national parliaments” – links to EU databases.

- **Subsidiarity check** – this section provides information on the examination of the compatibility of draft EU legislative acts with the principle of subsidiarity. It presents the procedure for such scrutiny in the Sejm, as well as a list of the reasoned opinions adopted by the Sejm concerning the draft’s non-compliance with the principle of subsidiarity, as well as the overview of the cases of triggering the procedure of the early warning mechanism set out in Protocol [No. 2] to the Treaty of Lisbon (so called “yellow card procedure”).
- **Interparliamentary cooperation** – this section contains information and documents concerning the participation of the Sejm in the meetings of the EU multilateral parliamentary assemblies (including the EU Speakers Conference, COSAC, the Common

Foreign Policy Conference, the Conference on Economic Governance of the European Union, and the Parliamentary Week of the European Semester), as well as **structures of regional cooperation in EU affairs** (e.g. the Visegrad Group, the Weimar Triangle, or cooperation of the Baltic States). Both basic information about the various forms of cooperation (regulations, guidelines, and cooperation lexicon), as well as current information about the conducted meetings (including the list of participants, agendas, and the documents adopted) are published in this section. The schedule of the parliamentary presidencies in the EU, the link to the IPEX calendar and the calendar of meetings with the Sejm for the coming year are also published here.

Additionally, it is possible to access the **IPEX** database from the level of this section.

## IPEX

<http://www.ipex.eu/>



**IPEX**, that is, the **Inter-Parliamentary EU Information Exchange**, is meant to facilitate the cooperation of national parliaments and the EP in the scope of electronic exchange of information and making it available to the public. The database was established in 2006 and was thoroughly modernized in 2011.

This database of documents contains EU legislative proposals, consultation documents and others. Each national parliament (chamber of the national parliament) hosts its part of the database, to which it submits its own documents, information and links related to the scrutiny of the EU document, including reasoned opinions on the non-compliance of the draft legislative act with the subsidiarity principle. OIDE is responsible for the part concerning the Polish Sejm.

Navigation is expressed in the EU official languages, parliamentary documents are presented in national languages, and reasoned opinions are translated into English or French.

Projects which are subject to the subsidiarity check are listed on the main IPEX website, together with information on the 8-week deadline.

The IPEX website offers not only the database, but also an updated calendar of interparliamentary meetings, and **3 separate subpages** devoted to the following **conferences**: the Conference of the Speakers of European Union Parliaments, the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Common Foreign and Security Policy and on Common Security and Defence Policy, and the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union.

Basic information and all documents in Polish regarding IPEX can be found on the OIDE website:

[http://oide.sejm.gov.pl/oide/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=209&Itemid=280](http://oide.sejm.gov.pl/oide/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=209&Itemid=280)

- **Important interparliamentary debates** – this section presents debates (ongoing and closed) on important EU political issues in the context of interparliamentary meetings (course of the debate and related documents).
- **Polish Presidency 2011** – archival information on the parliamentary dimension of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council in 2011.

## EUROPEAN UNION

This part aims to provide information on the institutions and functioning of the European Union but also to facilitate access to EU information and documents through links, overviews and own information. The section includes the following sections:

- **OIDE Notes** – a series of short guides to current important legal and political issues of the European Union. “OIDE Notes” include, in addition to the condensed presentation of the issue, links to selected documents, websites and publications. Examples of OIDE Notes which have been published so far include: “Brexit - documents”, “European Public Prosecutor's Office”, “European Citizens' Initiative - revision of regulation”, as well as “Transparency of the legislative process in the Council - European Ombudsman inquiry” and others.
- **Programmes and calendars** – a compilation of EU Council programming documents (programmes of the Presidency and the Presidency Trio) and the European Commission, as well as calendars of work carried out by EU institutions and bodies. Additionally, we publish a calendar of parliamentary events with the Sejm participation and the schedule of parliamentary presidencies in the EU, prepared by OIDE.
- **EU Information** – this section contains links to the most important EU institutions, bodies and agencies, as well as to selected thematic sources, EU terminology, press and media services. The “Guides on EUROPA portal” subsection contains sources concerning the EU access and the structure of EU acts, as well as search options related to said acts.
- **European Parliament** – this section is a source of information and links on the European Parliament, the EP elections and the Polish MEPs.
- **Review of Policies** – a collection of key links and selected publications on specific EU policies.

## LAW

The third part of the OIDE website includes the following sections:

- **Treaties** – an overview broken down into treaties currently in force, accession treaties, founding treaties, and others. Consolidated versions of the Treaty on European Union, the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the Charter of Fundamental Rights were additionally developed by OIDE in the html version, the main advantage of which is its interactive table of contents which allows for quick browsing of the text, article by article.
- **Polish Legal Acts** – the texts of the most important legal acts related to Poland's membership in the European Union, that is, aside from the Constitution of the Republic of Poland and the Standing Orders of the Sejm, the so-called Cooperation Act or the electoral code concerning the elections to the EP. It is worth emphasising that the consolidated text of the Standing Orders of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland is published, as the texts of the Treaties, in the html version, with an interactive table of contents (quick browsing of the text by clicking on selected articles).
- **Judgements of the Constitutional Tribunal** – a list of selected judgements of the CT, together with references to the text, concerning the compliance of Polish legal acts related to Polish membership of the European Union with the Constitution of the Republic of Poland.
- **Statutes Implementing EU Law** – the UST database run by OIDE presents implementation of EU law from the perspective of the legislative work of the Sejm. The UST database contains Polish and EU records. They describe, on the one hand, bills and statutes adopted by the Sejm to implement EU law, and on the other hand, EU legal acts which are implemented by said statutes. This section contains not only the link to the database, but also tabular lists of statutes implementing EU law which were adopted during subsequent Sejm terms. The list concerning the current Sejm term includes additionally bills which are still going through the legislative process.
- **Statutes on Ratification** – lists of adopted statutes granting consent for ratification in matters relating to Poland's membership of the European Union, split along the Sejm terms.
- **EU Databases** – links to the most important EU databases containing EU law and documents, together with brief descriptions of their contents. The most significant databases include: **EUR-Lex**, **Legislative Observatory**, **Curia**, registers of EU institutions and bodies, the database of international agreements, and N-lex.
- **EU Member States** – this last section of the “Law” part briefly discusses and links databases that provide access to the legislation of the EU Member States, including

databases showing the implementation of EU law in the Polish legal system (UST database, the e-step database run by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

## PUBLICATIONS OF OIDE

Current activity of the Sejm resulting from Poland's membership in the European Union is summarized in the monthly *Biuletyn OIDE* (Polish and English versions). It is published electronically, on the OIDE website and in files which are sent to subscribers, as well as in a printed version, available in the Sejm Library.

The screenshot displays the OIDE website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Map', 'Archive', 'About us', 'PL', and 'EN'. Below this, the main header includes the OIDE logo and the text 'Ośrodek Informacji i Dokumentacji Europejskiej'. A search bar is located on the right side of the header. The main content area features a blue header for 'Biuletyn OIDE' with the subtitle 'Review of the Sejm's European activities' and the date '28 February 2015'. Below this, there is a section titled 'EUROPEAN DEBATES IN THE SEJM' with a brief description of the Sejm's activities. The left sidebar contains a menu for 'SEJM RP' with various categories like 'Debates of the Sejm on EU Affairs' and 'EU Documents in the Sejm'. The right sidebar includes links for 'Biuletyn OIDE', 'Bibliographies', 'Publications', 'News Corner', 'Broadcast from EU', and 'Exhibitions'. At the bottom right, there is a logo for the 'POLISH PRESIDENCY OF THE EU COUNCIL'.

Its content is divided into seven sections in which information concerning passed month is presented in accordance with the topic:

- ***European Debates in the Sejm***, including resolutions;
- ***EU Documents in the Sejm*** – an overview of the work of the EU Affairs Committee, the EU documents under its consideration, thematic meetings and meetings with representatives of the European Commission. This section contains also information on the subsidiarity scrutiny in the Sejm is also shown here – from the opinion of the EU Affairs Committee to the reasoned opinion of the Sejm;
- ***Work in Committees*** – a short description of European issues which were handled by parliamentary committees (other than the EU Affairs Committee) in a given month;
- ***Implementation of the EU Law – UST Database*** – a list of statutes implementing EU law – from the first reading of bills to their publication;
- ***Subsidiary Check in National Parliaments*** – information on subsidiarity checks in the parliaments of the EU Member States, with particular regard to the adopted reasoned opinions, presented in a tabular form;

- ***Interparliamentary Cooperation*** – presentation of interparliamentary meetings in which representatives of the Sejm participated in a given month, together with the meetings' agendas and links to information on the OIDE website;
- ***Recent Publications*** – in addition to the bibliography concerning current and political issues, with links to publications which are available on-line, this section contains also an overview of selected new book publications from the Sejm Library.

Moreover, the European Information and Documentation Centre publishes also:

***Informacja OIDE*** [OIDE Information] – a series, which so far has included publications devoted to such topics as 2014 European Parliament elections, *Documents of the Sejm in the IPEX*, *European Commission and European Parliament databases* (PL/EN), and the European Semester.