

XXIIIrd COSAC - Versailles - 16-17 October 2000

Poland - SEJM

1. Information of the European integration committee.

How does your Committee get the necessary information? From the Government? From the European Commission? From the European Parliament? From other sources? Does your Committee consider the information in its possession sufficient?

Upon demand Polish Government is obliged to deliver all necessary information on European integration process to the Committee.

2. Integration of European legislation.

Do the standard legislative proceedings apply to the integration of European legislation into national law or do you apply special proceedings? Does your Committee play a specific role in the legislative integration process?

European Integration Committee provides monitoring of the process of harmonisation of Polish law to EU legislation.

According to the rules of procedure of the Sejm, a statement mentioning their compliance with EU law or providing explanations for non-compliance must accompany all bills tabled. When requested by the Marshal of the Sejm, the Committee gives its opinion on the issue of compliance of current legislation, especially when bills tabled by members are concerned (as a group of any 15 MPs may table a bill). There is European Integration Committee, established in July 2000 exclusively for the adoption of the *acquis*. European Integration Committee is free to present opinion of its own accord to the European Law Committee while other committees give their opinions only upon request of the European Law Committee.

3. Accession negotiations.

How does your European integration committee follow the accession negotiations? Does the Committee give its opinion?

It conducts hearings of government officials on EU integration matters, including results of the negotiation sessions. Prior to the negotiation session European Integration Committee has been consulted only once – when Polish negotiation position on agriculture was debated.

4. Conformity of national law to European legislation.

Is there a procedure aiming at scrutinising the compliance of bills submitted to Parliament to European legislation? Does your Parliament play a role in this procedure? Is your committee associated to this procedure?

There is a Special European Law Committee, which deals exclusively with the approximation of the Polish laws with the *acquis*. The European Integration Committee co-operates closely with the European Law Committee, and is entitled to present its opinion on each bill of adapting law.

5. *Other committees for European legislation.*

Did you take your inspiration from the experience of other applicant states when your Committee was created?

No.

Are you in touch with European integration committees from other applicant states?

We have bilateral contacts with European Integration Committees from other applicant countries. We also have multilateral meetings

- of the Chairmen of the European Integration Committees of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia every 6 months;
- of the Chairman of the European Integration Committees, Foreign Affairs Committee and Defence Committee of Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia (Visegrad Group).

6. *Community aid.*

As part of the accession process, had your Parliament received any technical assistance from the Community or from some member states? What kind of assistance? Was this assistance sufficient?

EU member states' parliaments and EP organise stages, staff training, and seminars for MPs and for staff.