



*ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARIES
GENERAL OF PARLIAMENTS*

CONTRIBUTION

by

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to the General Debate on

**“The role of the parliamentary administration in measuring the legislative
impact of laws”**

**Istanbul Session
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Draft contribution of the Head of the Chancellery of the Senate, Ewa Polkowska, for the meeting of Secretaries General (ASGP session) in April 2026 in Istanbul

Debate: The role of the parliamentary administrative and legislative impact of laws

Scope of the contribution: • How evidence-based evaluation contributes to improving law-making quality and accountability.

• How collaboration with academic and research institutions, and using AI tools, can strengthen legislative impact assessment frameworks

The primary mechanism for assessing the functioning of legislation in Poland is the governmental evaluation of legal acts, carried out within the Regulatory Impact Assessment system (ex post RIA). Its purpose is to determine whether the objectives of a regulation have been achieved, what effects—both intended and unintended—a given legal act has produced, and whether those objectives could have been achieved at lower cost. Legal regulations are instruments for implementing public policy objectives and should contribute to addressing socio-economic challenges. A modern state governed by the rule of law is expected to ensure a high-quality regulatory environment, as good regulations support economic development, contribute to improving citizens' standard of living, and strengthen the state's position on the international stage, whereas unclear, inconsistent and defective legislation undermines public trust in the state and its institutions. In this context, ex post evaluation, based on reliable and robust data, aligns with the philosophy of evidence-based policymaking, enabling decision-makers to assess the actual effects of adopted regulations and to prepare potential legislative amendments.

The Senate of the Republic of Poland holds the right of legislative initiative, which enables it to actively participate in shaping the legal order of the state. This right allows the Senate not only to respond to current social and economic challenges but also to actively influence the directions of the state's development and the future of its citizens. Senators are supported in fulfilling this role by the Legislative Office of the Chancellery of the Senate, which ensures the quality and correctness of the legislative process and provides legal and legislative assistance to the Senate, its bodies and senators. In particular, the Legislative Office supports the process of examining laws adopted by the Sejm, initiating legislative proposals and other resolutions by the Senate, and prepares legal opinions and analyses concerning law-making and the Senate's legislative activity, as well as regulatory impact assessments for Senate legislative initiatives. The RIA, prepared by staff of the Legislative Office in line with international trends aimed at improving the regulatory process, is a key tool supporting rational public decision-making. This document presents the results of an assessment of the anticipated socio-economic effects of an intervention, estimated at the stage of drafting a legal act. Its preparation requires high-level analytical and methodological competences, as well as access to reliable data sources. For this reason, the Legislative Office employs several legal drafters and two

economists specialising in impact assessment and the preparation of RIAs, with experience in analytical work, including the application of data analysis methods, forecasting and simulations, as well as knowledge of statistics and econometrics. Only a rigorous approach makes it possible to properly identify the potential effects that a given regulation may produce in the economy and society.

However, the role of parliamentary administration in the evaluation of legislation is significantly more limited. The Polish Parliament does not have extensive, formalised tools for assessing regulatory impact comparable to those available within the governmental system. Although the Sejm and the Senate may, to a certain extent, analyse the functioning of existing laws—for example, within the work of committees, through parliamentary questions and senators' statements, or by drawing on expert analyses—these instruments are indirect in nature and do not constitute a comprehensive system of legislative evaluation. In practice, therefore, the main responsibility for systematic evaluation of regulatory impact rests with the government administration, while the parliament retains only partial capacity to monitor and assess the functioning of adopted legislation.

Although the Senate does not have a comprehensive system of formal legislative evaluation comparable to governmental mechanisms, certain opportunities to assess the functioning of laws arise within the activities of Senate committees. Article 12(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Senate provides that Senate committees, within their competences, take positions on the correctness of the implementation and application of laws. Citizens also have a constitutional right to bring issues to the attention of the Senate. In this context, the institution of petitions constitutes an important form of public participation in both the law-making and law-evaluation processes. Pursuant to Article 63 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, '[e]veryone shall have the right to submit petitions, proposals and complaints in the public interest, in their own interest or in the interest of another person with their consent, to organs of public authority as well as to social organisations and institutions in connection with the performance of their delegated public administration tasks.' The detailed rules governing this right are set out in the Act on Petitions, which introduced uniform procedures for their examination by public authorities. At the parliamentary level, petitions submitted to the Senate are examined in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Senate, and responsibility for their analysis lies with the Petitions Committee, which may treat issues raised by citizens as a stimulus for revisiting the functioning of existing regulations. In this process, support is provided by the Analysis and Petitions Office of the Chancellery of the Senate, which prepares analyses and materials necessary for the Senate bodies to examine petitions. After considering the content of a petition, the Committee may take action—for example, request

opinions from relevant public institutions, commission an external expert to prepare an expert opinion, or refer the matter for further legislative work. In this way, the petition mechanism enables citizens to signal real problems arising from the functioning of existing legislation, while giving Senate committees a limited but tangible possibility to initiate evaluative actions in respect of existing law.

Staff of the Chancellery of the Senate support senators in the tasks outlined above. In their daily work, officials of the Chancellery are aware that cooperation with individual experts, academic and research institutions, as well as the use of artificial intelligence tools, can significantly strengthen systems for assessing regulatory impact. Thanks to cooperation with leading experts and academics from various fields, it is possible to develop more in-depth legal, social and economic analyses based on solid empirical data. Incorporating expert input into the legislative process fosters the development of professional networks that facilitate the exchange of knowledge, good practices and international experience. In accordance with the relevant resolution of the Presidium of the Senate, advisory support for the Senate and its bodies consists in the preparation of consultations, expert opinions and analyses relating to ongoing or planned work. Support for the Senate and its bodies is also provided by staff of the Analysis and Petitions Office, who prepare analytical and informational materials based on reliable and verified domestic and international sources, placing particular emphasis on objectivity and a multi-perspective approach, presenting issues from different viewpoints.

In this context, international cooperation and the development of institutional competences are of particular importance.

An important forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience is the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD). It is an international network established for the specialised exchange of information and cooperation among parliamentary administrations. The Chancellery of the Senate has been a member of the ECPRD since 1990. Through the ECPRD, staff of the Analysis and Petitions Office obtain data, for example for the preparation of comparative analyses of legislative solutions or the practical functioning of legal provisions in individual countries.

The Chancellery of the Senate is also a beneficiary of a project implemented under the European Commission's Technical Support Instrument (TSI) entitled 'Supporting evidence-informed policymaking for the twin transition' (EIPM 2.0), aimed at strengthening the ecosystem of evidence-based policymaking. Launched in Poland in February 2026, the project will enable further development of the competences of Chancellery staff and provide specialised expert knowledge, thereby enhancing support for senators in their day-to-day legislative work. At the same time, EIPM 2.0 offers

opportunities for the exchange of experience with international partners and for learning about best practices in data collection and legislative analysis.

Artificial intelligence tools constitute an important support for this process. AI can accelerate the analysis of large datasets, identify social and economic trends, and support the modelling of the potential effects of new regulations. This makes it possible to prepare comparative analyses, literature reviews and statistical analyses more efficiently. On 3 March 2026, the 'Strategy for the use of artificial intelligence in the Chancellery of the Senate' entered into force. The vision of the Chancellery is the responsible, secure and transparent use of artificial intelligence as a tool supporting the performance of public tasks, improving work efficiency and enhancing the quality of prepared materials. Artificial intelligence is treated as a tool supporting employees of the Chancellery, rather than replacing their competences, expertise, responsibility and decision-making.