

## 75<sup>th</sup> SITTING OF THE SEJM, 24–26 SEPTEMBER 2014

### THE SEJM ADOPTED A RESOLUTION CONCERNING ELECTING RADOŚLAW SIKORSKI THE MARSHAL OF THE SEJM

Radosław Sikorski was born on 23 February 1963 in Bydgoszcz, Poland. He graduated from the University of Oxford with a B.A. and an M.A. in Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE).

Sikorski headed the students' strike committee during the unrest in Bydgoszcz in March 1981. He was granted political asylum in Great Britain in 1982–1989.

He was a war correspondent in Afghanistan and Angola in 1986–1989. He won the World Press Photo award in 1987 for a photograph taken in Afghanistan.

As Deputy Minister of National Defence in 1992, Radosław Sikorski initiated Poland's NATO accession campaign. In 1998–2001 he served as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Honorary Chairman of the Foundation for Assistance to Poles in the East.

From 2002 to 2005, he was resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C. and executive director of the New Atlantic Initiative. He was editor of the analytical publication *European Outlook* and organized international conferences on topics such as UN reform and the 25th anniversary of the Solidarity movement. He appeared before the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Foreign Affairs as an expert on Atlantic issues. In 2012 he was named one of the Top 100 Global Thinkers by the Foreign Policy magazine 'for telling the truth, even when it's not diplomatic'.

Radosław Sikorski was elected senator for Bydgoszcz in 2005 and served as Minister of National Defence in 2005–2007. In 2007, he was elected to the Lower House of the Polish Parliament (the Sejm) from the Civic Platform list.

He was sworn in as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland on 16 November 2007.

He was a Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs in 2010–2014.

He was elected Vice-Chairman of the Civic Platform in October 2010.

Sikorski is the author of several books, including *Dust of the Saints*, *The Polish House: An Intimate History of Poland*, and *Strefa Zdekomunizowana* [The Decommunized Zone].

Radosław Sikorski is married to the American journalist and writer Anne Applebaum, who received the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for her book *Gulag*. They have two sons, Alexander and Tadeusz.

### THE SEJM ADOPTED A RESOLUTION CONCERNING ELECTING ELŻBIETA RADZISZEWSKA THE VICE-MARSHAL OF THE SEJM

Elżbieta Radziszewska was born on 6 January 1958 in Białocin. She graduated from the Medical Faculty of the Medical Academy in Łódź and is a medical doctor.

In the years 1982–1988 she was an assistant in the District Hospital in Piotrków Trybunalski, in 1988–1997 – a medical doctor and a senior assistant in the Copernicus Autonomous Voivodship Hospital in Piotrków Trybunalski, in 2008–2011 – a secretary of the state in the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, Equal Opportunities Ombudsman.

In the years 1990–2001, successively, she was a member of: Citizens' Committee, Citizens' Movement for Democratic Action, the Democratic Union, the Freedom Union. She was a co-founder of the Civic Platform in 2001.

In the years 1990–1994, she performed the function of the councilor of the City Council of Piotrków Trybunalski representing the Citizens' Committee.

She was a Deputy in the Sejm of the third term (Deputy Chair of the Committee on Liaison with Poles Abroad), fourth term, fifth term (Deputy Chair of the Special Committee to consider the Deputies' bill to amend the Constitution of the Republic of Poland), sixth and seventh term.

### THE SEJM PASSED THE ACTS

- amending the act on public finances and some related acts;
- amending the act on the personal income tax and some related acts;
- amending the Attorneys Act and the Legal Advisors Act;
- amending the act on the commercial quality of agricultural products and foodstuffs and the act on the safety of food and nourishment;
- amending the act on gambling games;
- ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, drawn up in Lanzarote on 25 October 2007.

### THE SEJM ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

- concerning genocide committed on Christians, Yazidis, Kurds and representatives of other religious and ethnical minorities by the terrorist organization Islamic State in the territory of northern Iraq and Syria;
- honouring the memory of victims of the mass murder committed in Pomerania in the years 1939–1940;
- concerning changes within personal composition of the Sejm committees.

**THE SEJM CONSIDERED THE SENATE'S RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ACT** establishing Polish Space Agency (*some of the Senate's amendments were accepted*).

### THE SEJM RETURNED TO COMMITTEES

- Deputies' bill amending the act on plant protection chemicals;

- Senate's bill amending the act on orders and decorations;
- Government bill ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, drawn up in Stambul on 11 May 2011;
- Deputies' bill annulling 9 May as the National Day of Victory and Freedom.

### THE SEJM REFERRED TO COMMITTEES

- Government bill amending the Construction Law and some related acts;
- Government bill on bonds;
- Government bill amending the act on the turnover of the financial instruments and some related acts;
- Government bill amending the Civil Code, the Code of Civil Procedure and some related acts;
- Senate's bill amending the Penal Code;
- Government bill amending the act on the Customs Service, the act on fiscal offices and chambers and some related acts;
- Deputies' bill amending the act on sport and some related acts.

### THE SEJM REJECTED IN THE FIRST READING

the Deputies' bill amending the Penal Code.

### THE SEJM ACCEPTED

the report on the realisation of the National Cancerous Disease Counteraction Pro-

gramme in 2013 presented by the Minister of Health, and the schedule of tasks being realised as regards the long-term National Cancerous Disease Counteraction Programme in 2014 and 2015 adopted by the Council of Ministers (*the Sejm did not accept the motion to reject the report submitted at the previous sitting*).

**THE SEJM CONSIDERED THE CURRENT INFORMATION** concerning a dramatic situation of the transport companies, i.a. as regards the Russian embargo.

### THE SEJM CONSIDERED

- information of the Council of Ministers on the effects of the tax on particular minerals extraction on the extraction sector of copper and silver and on the sector of public finances (*the Marshal of the Sejm postponed the vote on the motion to reject the information to the next sitting*);
- information of the Council of Ministers on the effects of the binding force of the act of 16 September 2011 on the protection of rights of the purchaser of a flat or a detached house along with proposals for changes (*the Marshal of the Sejm postponed the vote on the motion to reject the information to the next sitting*).

Czesław Sobierajski took the Deputies' oath.

