

Continued on 17–19 November 2011

PRIME MINISTER DONALD TUSK presented before the Sejm the programme of the activities of the Council of Ministers along with the motion for a vote of confidence.

In his exposé, he announced the introduction of reforms aimed at preventing the crisis in Poland. The Prime Minister did not discuss Polish international strategy, which – in his opinion – remains the same over the years. With reference thereto, he announced the traditional address to the Sejm of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Prime Minister stated that it shall be his government's intention to act for the benefit of possibly the strongest position of Poland in the centre of the European Union. He focused on social-economic issues and presented a dozen or so key change proposals, i.a.: improving the functioning of the administration, deregulatory actions, the reform of the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund (Kasa Rolniczego Ubezpieczenia Społecznego – KRUS), changes as regards the principles of granting pro-family reliefs and the so-called maternity grant, changes in the pension system, i.a. increasing the social pension contribution and gradual increase of the retirement age (ultimately, 67 years of age for both women and men). He informed that his new government, upon reforming the tax system, shall aim at i.a. limiting certain tax privileges, which includes introducing provisions so as to reduce the opportunity to avoid the capital gains tax, as well as increasing the minerals resource tax (silver, copper and shale gas). Donald Tusk announced maintaining the heretofore level of expenses for the army and increasing the salaries of uniformed services.

Donald Tusk assured that his government shall have prepared mechanisms, procedures and ideas in case Polish economy and finances are affected by recession. The government's aim is to finish the procedure for the excess deficit in 2012 and to reach the public finance sector deficit of about 3% GDP at the end of 2012, to reduce the public debt to 52% GDP in 2012 and to systematically reduce it to 47% in 2015. All the government's actions are intended at achieving the level of about 1% GDP of the public finance sector deficit at the end of this government's term of office.

THE SEJMJ ADOPTED A RESOLUTION on granting a vote of confidence in the Council of Ministers.

THE SEJMJ ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS:

- on the election of the secretaries of the Sejm;
- amending the Standing Orders of the Sejm;
- on the election of the Tribunal of State;
- concerning the election of the member of the Tribunal of State;
- concerning the election of the personal composition of the standing committees of the Sejm;
- concerning establishing the number of members of the Special Services Committee;
- concerning the election of the personal composition of the Deputies' Ethics Committee;
- concerning the election of the personal composition of the European Union Affairs Committee;
- concerning changes within personal compositions of the Sejm committees.