

1st SITTING OF THE SEJM OF THE 8th TERM, 12, 13, 16 NOVEMBER

The first sitting of the Sejm of the 8th term was opened by Marshal-Senior **Kornel Morawiecki**, appointed by the President from amongst the elder Deputies. In his pronouncement, Marshal-Senior pointed to the fact that the new Deputies have the honour of representing all citizens, including those, whose votes are not represented in the Parliament, and those, who did not participate in the elections. Furthermore, he expressed his opinion that the present Parliament shall propose a new constitution for Poland.

During the first sitting of the Sejm, President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda delivered a message. President emphasised the fact that the results of the elections were a manifestation of the strength of Polish democracy. "It is so in each democratic state, that the authorities change. The elections brought about a change on the political scene, which in itself is a testimony to democracy". The President congratulated all the newly elected Deputies. He remarked that there are a lot of young Deputies in the Sejm. "I am really glad that by people with a great practical and political experience, there sit young people, with a youthful outlook on life, who also have a great desire to work. The Republic of Poland may greatly benefit from the union of youthful enthusiasm and practical and political experience", the President explained. He asked the Deputies to carry the debates with mutual respect. Also, the President reminded that the Nation is the sovereign. He appealed to the Chamber to hear the voice of the citizens, to consider citizens' initiatives, but also to respect the voice of the opposition. Expressing his will to be close to the work of the Sejm, he decided for the "presidential duty hours" to be held by ministers of the Chancellery of the President in the Sejm building on the days of the sittings, most probably on Thursdays. "I wish you all to work well during the coming four years of the eighth term of the Sejm, so that you meet again in the Chamber after the next elections, so that all of you have your place here again. This shall signify, that you fulfilled the obligations taken, obligations towards Poles and Poland", he concluded.

The newly elected Deputies to the Sejm of the 8th term took the Deputies' oath.

Prime Minister **Ewa Kopacz** submitted the resignation of the Council of Ministers.

Marek Kuchciński (Law and Justice, PiS) was elected Marshal of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland of the 8th term.

Marek Kuchciński, politician, journalist, Deputy to the Sejm of the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th term, vice-Marshal during the 6th and 7th term, born on 9 August 1955 in Przemyśl. In 1980s, he organized the independent culture community in his home town. In 1985, he was arrested for his opposition activities. Co-organizer of the Solidarity Citizens' Committee in Przemyśl Voivodeship, member of the National Citizens' Committee. Since 1990, member of Centre Agreement (Porozumienie Cen-

trum), headed the organization in Przemyśl Voivodeship. In 2001, he joined Law and Justice (Prawo i Sprawiedliwość). Councilman of Przemyśl, Subcarpathian Vice-Voivode. Since 2001, a Deputy. Initiator of a cycle of conferences of Carpathian countries „Europe of the Carpathians”, aimed i.a. at strengthening the cooperation in all areas of public activity between the Eastern European countries, as well as organizing an international network of parliamentary cooperation for sustainable development of the region. Married, has three children.

The following Deputies were elected Vice-Marshals of the Sejm of the 8th term:

- **Joachim Brudziński** (Law and Justice, PiS);
- **Barbara Dolniak** (Modern, Nowoczesna);
- **Małgorzata Kidawa-Błońska** (Civic Platform, PO);
- **Ryszard Terlecki** (Law and Justice, PiS);
- **Stanisław Tysza** (Kukiz'15).

THE SEJM PASSED THE ACT amending the act on divisions in government administration and some related acts.

Three divisions were added to the structure of government administration: energy, management of mineral deposits and inland navigation. The tasks of the minister relevant for construction, planning and spatial planning and housing constructions now also include the matters related to geodesy and cartography; requirements for candidates for the position of a voivode were changed. Compatibility between holding state management posts and employment in higher education was introduced.

THE SEJM ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

- determining the number of Vice-Marshals of the Sejm;
- concerning the appointment and election of the personal composition of the Special Committee to consider the draft resolution amending the Standing Orders of the Sejm;
- amending the Standing Orders of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland;
- determining the number of members of the Special Services Committee.

THE SEJM ELECTED

- the personal composition of the Sejm permanent committees;
- the personal composition of the European Union Affairs' Committee.

WITH A MOMENT OF SILENCE, THE SEJM HONOURED THE MEMORY OF

- the deceased persons who served the Homeland;
- victims of the terrorist attacks of 13 November in Paris.