

STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE POLICE IN POLAND

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The police is created as a unified armed force, serving society and having the task of protecting the safety of people and maintaining public safety and order.

The essential tasks of the police include:

- 1) protection of people's life and health, as well as their material possessions against unlawful attempts for breach of these values;
- 2) protection of public safety, including maintenance of order in public places and on public transport, in road traffic and on waters in common use;
- 3) initiation and organization of activities in order to prevent crime and petty offences and co-operation in this respect with state and self-government agencies and public organizations;
- 4) detection of crimes and petty offences and pursuit of their perpetrators;
- 5) supervision over municipal guard (town guard) and over specialized armed security services in activities defined in separate regulations;
- 6) control over compliance with public order and administrative regulations related to public activity or applying in public places;
- 7) co-operation with the police forces of other countries and their international organizations on the basis of international agreements as well as separate regulations;
- 8) collection, storage and transmission of crime-related information;
- 9) management of database containing information on DNA test results.

The police also implements tasks arising from international agreements, according to the rules and scope prescribed by them.

The police force consists of the following types of services: criminal, preventive and supporting service dealing with organizational, logistic and technical matters.

The Court Police is part of the police service. Detailed scope and rules governing the Court Police structure are specified in a regulation issued by the Minister of Interior in consultation with the Minister of Justice. The police force also consists of: Higher Training Police School, training centres and police schools, special prevention detachments and anti-terrorist sub-detachments, research and development units.

The central authority of the government administration in charge of matters of protection of the safety of people and maintenance of public safety and order is the Chief Commander of the Police, subordinated to the Minister of Interior.

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The Chief Commander of the Police is appointed and dismissed by the Prime Minister on a motion of the Minister of Interior.

Government administration agencies competent on the territory of voivodships (provinces) for implementing police tasks are:

- 1) voivod with the voivodship commander of the police acting on his behalf or the voivodship commander of the police acting on his own behalf in matters of:
 - a) performing inquiry activities, investigation activities and prosecution of petty offences,
 - b) issuing of individual administrative documents, if the appropriate legislation so requires,
- 2) powiat (county) commander of the police,
- 3) commander of a police station.

The voivodship commander of the police is appointed and dismissed by the Minister of Interior on motion of the Chief Commander of the Police, after obtaining the opinion of the voivod. The county commander is appointed and dismissed by the voivodship commander, after obtaining the opinion of the starost. The commander of the police station is appointed and dismissed by the (county) commander after obtaining the opinion of mayor or mayors.

The voivodship commander, in consultation with the Chief Commander of the Police, establishes a railway, water or air police stations or other specialized police stations as needed. The commanders of the specialized police stations are subordinate to the territorially competent voivodship commander.

Police commanders submit annual reports of their activities and information on the state of public order and safety to competent voivods, starosts (mayors), voits (mayors of towns) as well as powiat (county) councils and gmina (commune) councils. If hazard to public safety or violation of public order takes place, the reports and information shall be submitted to the bodies forthwith on every request. The voivod or starost can demand the appropriate commander of the police to restore the state of law and order or to take actions in order to prevent violations of law and eradicate the hazards to public safety.

The Minister of Interior specifies in a regulation:

- 1) the armament of the police,
- 2) the uniform of the police,
- 3) rules and methods for wearing uniform and orders, decorations, medals and badges,
- 4) provisions governing uniform,
- 5) design of banner and the procedure in which it is given,

- 6) design of police badges and detailed rules and procedure in which they are given to the police officers.

The Chief Commander of the Police specifies the rules determining the number of jobs in the police forces. Costs of operation of the police forces are born by the part of the state budget provided for internal affairs. Units of territorial self-government, state organizational units, associations, foundations, banks, and insurance institutions can participate in financing, investment, modernization, and renovation expenditures, as well as the costs of maintenance and operation of organizational units of the police, and also in the purchase of necessary goods and services.

The financial resources constituting 20% of the income obtained by the State Treasury from forfeit of goods or material profits derived from crimes and petty offences against property and tax offences detected by the police forces are transferred to the incentive fund to awards for police officers who directly contributed to their detection.

Within the limits of its objectives, in order to investigate, prevent and reveal crimes and petty offences, the police force performs the following activities: inquiry, investigation, as well as administrative and order-keeping operations. The police force also implements various activities at the request of the court of justice, public prosecutor, agencies of state administration and territorial self-government authorities. The scope of such activities is specified in separate regulations.