

ACT of 7 October 1999 ON THE POLISH LANGUAGE

(Dziennik Ustaw 1999, No. 90, item 999 with subsequent amendments: Dziennik Ustaw 2000, No. 29, item 358; 2002, No. 144, item 1204; 2003, No. 73, item 661; 2004, No. 92, item 878; 2005, No. 17, item 141, No. 164, item 1365, No. 186, item 1567; 2008, No. 157, item 976; 2009, No. 161, item 1280)

The Parliament of the Republic of Poland

- having regard to the fact that the Polish language constitutes a fundamental element of the national identity and presents a value of the national culture,
 - having regard to the experience of history when the conquerors' and occupiers' fight with the Polish language was an instrument of denationalisation,
 - recognizing the need to protect the national identity in the process of globalisation,
 - whereas the Polish culture constitutes a contribution to the development of a common, culturally diverse Europe and the preservation of this culture and its development is possible only through the protection of the Polish language,
 - whereas this protection is a duty of all authorities and public institutions of the Republic of Poland and the obligation of all its citizens,
- hereby adopts this Act.

Chapter 1. General Provisions

Article 1. The provisions of this Act concern:

- 1) the protection of the Polish language;
- 2) the usage of the Polish language in the performance of public tasks;
- 3) the usage of the Polish language in transactions and in the implementation of the labour law provisions within the territory of the Republic of Poland.

Article 2. The Act shall not infringe upon:

- 1) the provisions of the Acts on the attitude of the State towards churches and other religious societies, in particular those relating to holding religious cults and practices;
- 2) the rights of national and ethnic minorities and the community using a regional language.

Article 3. 1. The protection of the Polish language shall, in particular, consist in the following:

- 1) caring for the correct use of the language and improving the linguistic competence of its users and in creating conditions for proper development of the language as an instrument of interpersonal communication;
- 2) counteracting vulgarisation of the language;