

# The Executive Branch in Poland

## Legal Structure

**P**oland is governed by means of a mixed parliamentary and cabinet system. Power is divided between the legislative authority (exercised by the Sejm, Senate and, to a certain extent, the Constitutional Tribunal), the executive authority (the President, Prime Minister, and the Council of Ministers), and the judicial authority (an independent judicial system, with general, administrative, and military courts).

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Political System & Constitution of the Republic of Poland](#)

## Executive Branch

*cabinet:* Council of Ministers responsible to the prime minister and the Sejm; the prime minister proposes, the president appoints, and the Sejm approves the Council of Ministers

*elections:* President elected by popular vote for a five-year term, prime minister and deputy prime ministers appointed by the president and confirmed by the Sejm.

The President is the supreme representative of the Republic of Poland and the guarantor of the continuity of State authority. The President is elected by citizens in universal, equal and direct elections, conducted by secret ballot. The President is elected for a five-year term of office and may be only re-elected for one more term.

The Council of Ministers is composed of the President of the Council of Ministers (Prime Minister) and ministers (Article 147 of the Constitution). Council of Ministers manages the government administration and performs other duties (Article 146 of the Constitution). The President of the Republic nominates a Prime Minister who then proposes the composition of a Council of Ministers. Vice-presidents of the Council of Ministers (Deputy Prime Ministers) and presidents of committees specified in statutes can also be appointed within the Council of Ministers. [Article 154 of the Constitution]

Internet:

<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/un/unpan023221.pdf>

## EXERCISES

**I. Read the text and answer the following questions.**

**1. How is power in Poland divided?**

**2. Who is the executive authority exercised by?**

**3. What is the main function of the President of the Republic of Poland?**

**4. How is the President elected?**

**5. Who is the Council of Ministers composed of?**

**6. Who proposes the composition of a Council of Ministers?**

## 7. Who is the Council of Ministers responsible to?

### II. Match the following expressions with their Polish equivalents.

1.	govern	a)	zatwierdzać
2.	responsible to	b)	kadencja
3.	deputy	c)	głosowanie
4.	ballot	d)	nominować
5.	term of office	e)	określony
6.	nominate	f)	wyznaczać
7.	specified	g)	odpowiadać przed
8.	appoint	h)	rządzić
9.	confirm	i)	ustawodawczy
10.	legislative	j)	zastępca/wice

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