



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMAS

Cooperation between legislative and executive powers in Lithuania

Legislative process Part. I

Julijus Glebovas

Adviser

Office of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Content

- ☐ initiation
 - ☐ drafting
 - ☐ adoption
 - ☐ implementation
-

Legislative process in numbers

	Adopted	In force	Amended
1990	122	51	5
1991	133	43	20
1992	92	35	13
1993	146	53	21
1994	220	97	34

1999	358	235	34
2000	558	358	63
2001	390	260	30

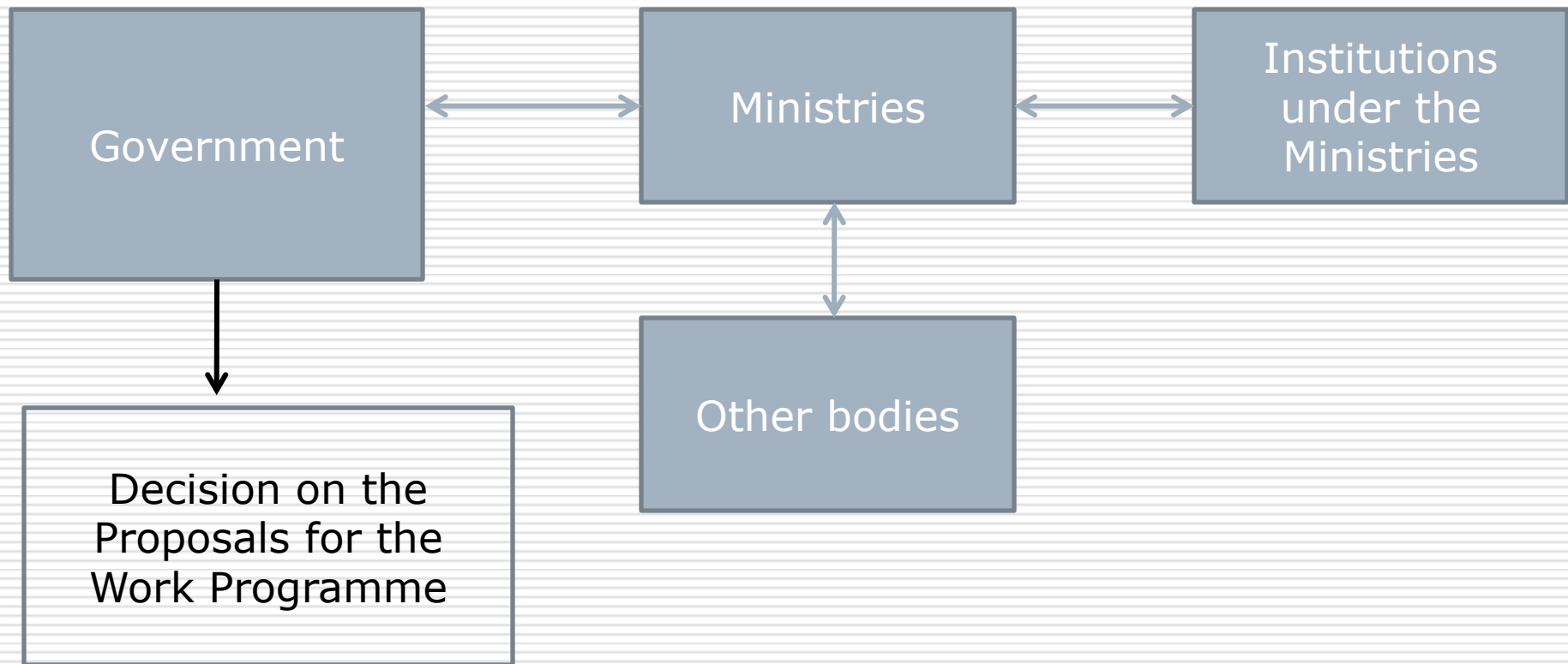
2004	473	436	25
2007	266	243	19

Right to initiate

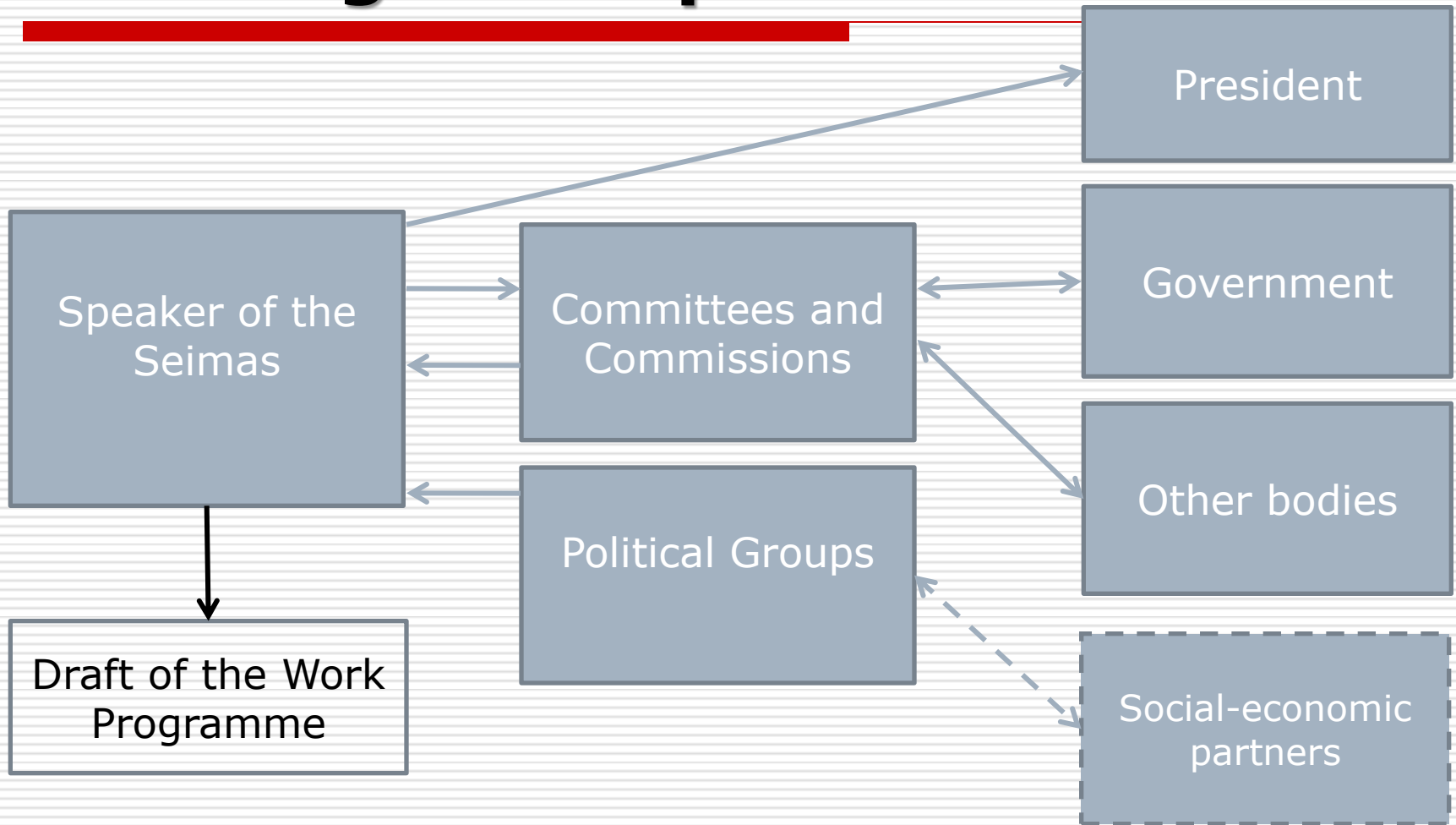
- ❑ President of the Republic
- ❑ Government (Cabinet)
- ❑ Members of the Parliament

	Totally registered drafts	Initiatives of the President	Initiatives of the MPs	Initiatives of the Government
1994	262	1	121	137
1999	1239	74	952	240
2000	1618	104	1164	344
2004	1303	86	949	267
2007	1188	40	870	277

Planning at the government level



Planning at the parliament level



Work Programme of the Seimas

- ❑ **adoption for each parliamentary session**
 - ❑ Plenary sittings (and meetings of the committees and commissions) consider **only the drafts included** in the programme
 - ❑ **priorities** of 2011 Spring Work Programme of the Seimas:
 - 1) Creation of the Modern Economy
 - 2) Financial Consolidation and Euro
 - 3) Energy and Transport
 - 4) Modern and Qualified Public Services
 - 5) Fight against Corruption
 - 6) ...
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Exceptions:

- ❑ proposals and reports upon the request of the **President** (*included in the agenda of the Plenary sitting without voting*)
 - ❑ **Government** has the right to request to include a relevant issue in the agenda of the Plenary sitting
 - ❑ written request by the **1/10 of MPs** (*the proposal has to be included into the agenda of the upcoming Plenary sitting*)
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Exceptions (II):

□ **Agenda of the opposition**

plenary sitting on the last Thursday of each month according to the principle of proportionality

simplified procedure for the amendments of the Work Programme

□ **Unforeseen major events**

Seimas responds on very important and sensitive issues occurring in the country (social and economic matters) and the world (*by statements and declarations*)

Legal Guidelines/ Concept Law

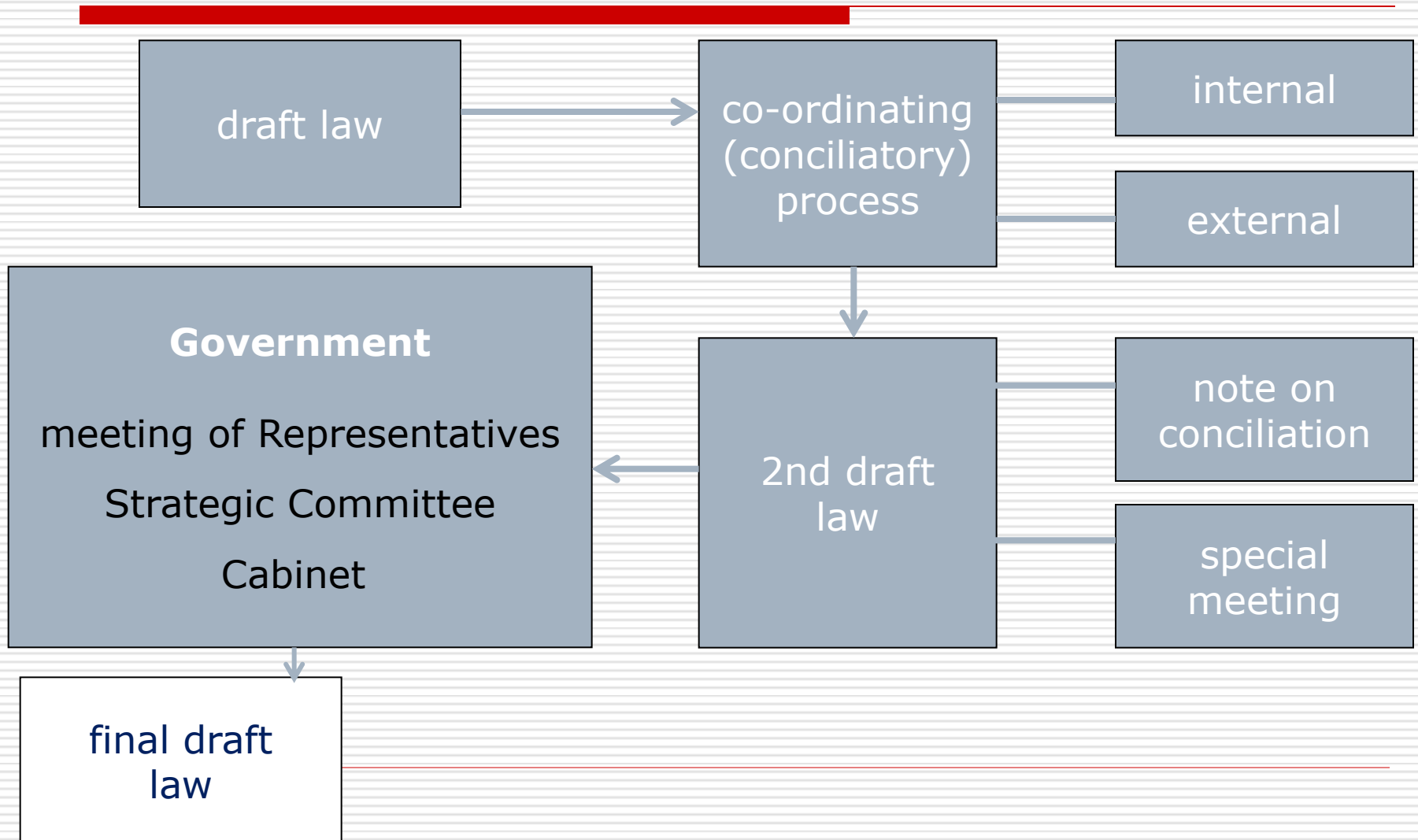
I.e., Legal Guidelines on the Improvement of the Legislative Process, Legal Guidelines on the Reform of the Legal System, Concept Law on National Family Policy, Concept Law on Budgetary Structure, etc.

- ❑ brief information on targeted challenges
 - ❑ proposals for the solution and other ideas (political guidelines)
 - ❑ initiative:
Seimas,
President, and
Government
-

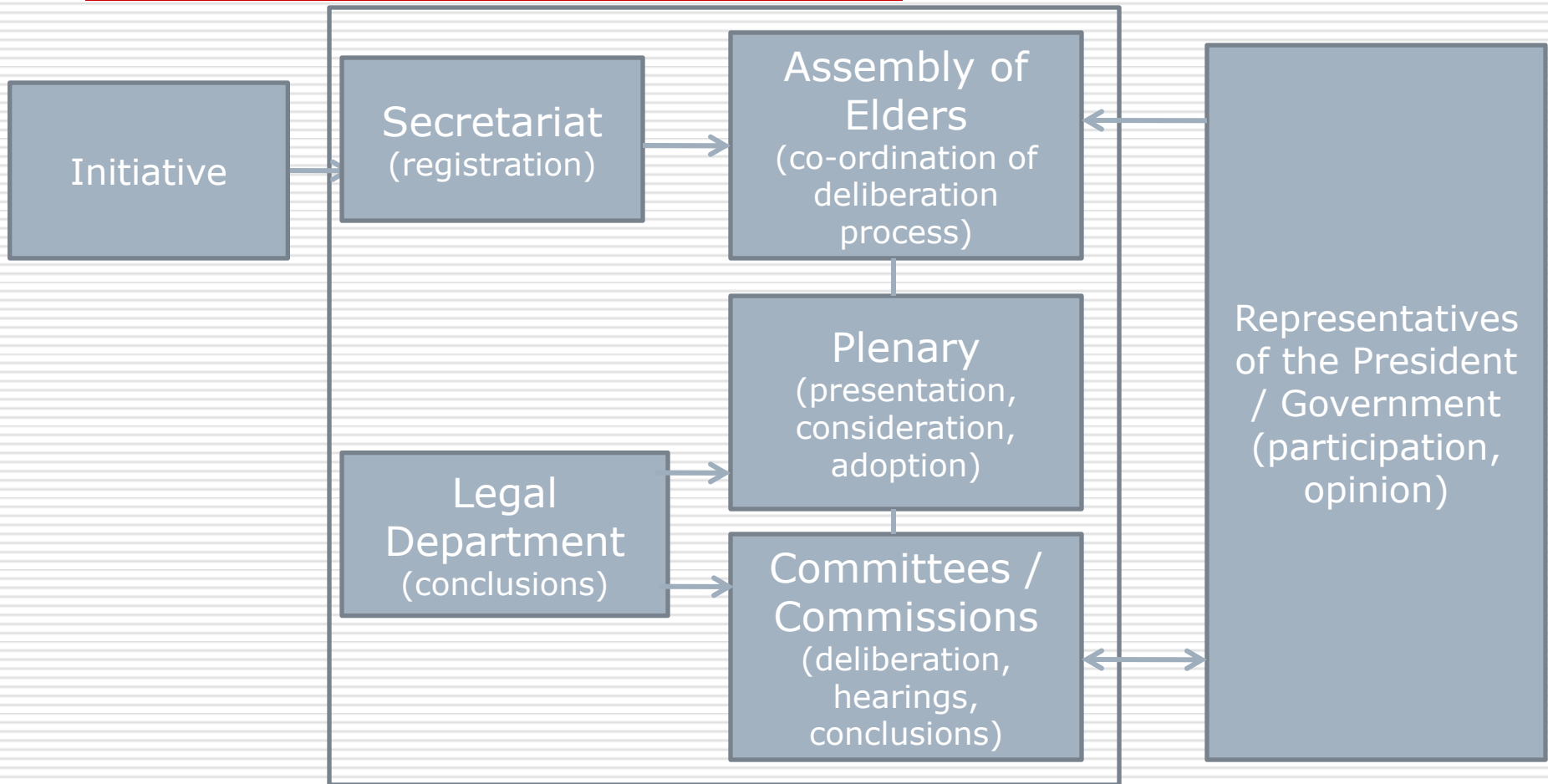
Legal Guidelines/ Concept Law (II):

- ❑ in most cases the Seimas and the President initiate Legal Guidelines, and the Government proposes Concept Laws (*not necessarily debated at the parliamentary level*)
 - ❑ drafting by the **working group**:
 - MPs,
 - civil servants,
 - NGOs,
 - scientists,
 - ...
 - ❑ a draft is deliberated at the parliament in accordance with the standard procedure.
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Law-making process at the Government



Law-making process at the Seimas



Law-making process at the Seimas (II)

Stages of consideration at the committee level:

☐ **Preparation**

appointment of rapporteurs (position vs. opposition)
agreement on the procedure: public hearings, debate at the Committee, request of the opinion from state bodies, NGOs, etc.

☐ **Hearings**

☐ Debate at the Committee and **Conclusions**

Law-making process at the Seimas (III)

Public Hearings:

- ☐ draft is published in the media (short description, initiative, deadlines for submission of proposals)

Hearings at the Committee:

- ☐ majority of the Committee MPs or rapporteurs only
 - ☐ presentation of all the opinions and proposals related
 - ☐ outcome of the hearings – draft conclusions (*no decision yet*)
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Law-making process at the Seimas (IV)

Debate at the Committee and Conclusions:

- ❑ **information** to the Government
- ❑ presence of the **initiators**
- ❑ presentation of the draft, and **conclusions on it**, speeches (for/against) on the draft, conclusions and proposals

Important: deliberation of and giving opinion on the legal conclusions and the conclusions submitted by additional committees

- ❑ **outcome:**
 - approval or disapproval of the draft
 - proposals on draft
 - setting up of a working group on improving the draft

Interaction with the Government

- Speaker of the Seimas or the Board of the Seimas, independently or upon the request of the Committee, may ask the **Government** and other bodies to present their **conclusions** on the draft (*four-week period*)
 - **independent expert assessment** of the draft (*if proposals significantly affect legal regulation*)
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Publicity

- ❑ all the **drafts and proposals** are published in the web data base
 - ❑ **conclusions** and **opinions** of other institutions are published as well
 - ❑ **citizen initiatives** and proposals are not published (*it is possible to find them in the conclusions of the committees*)
 - ❑ **conclusions of the committee** must be published (*in certain cases, draft conclusions as well*)
 - ❑ **meetings** of the committees are open
 - ❑ **plenary sittings**, conferences, seminars, etc. are broadcast on the web and cable television
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Implementation of the Law

specific provisions on implementation:

- ☐ non-official interpretation
- ☐ secondary legislation
- ☐ practice
- ☐ monitoring

no specific provisions on implementation:

- ☐ commissioning of an implementing body (*according to the competences and functions*) at the Government level
 - ☐ more „supervisory“ bodies (*i.e., National Audit Office, Medical Audit Office*)
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*Office of the Committee on European Affairs
Office of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania*
<http://www.lrs.lt/erk>



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Parliamentary oversight Part. II

Julijus Glebovas

Adviser

Office of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Content

- ☐ powers and methods
 - ☐ activities
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Parliamentary powers of the oversight

- ❑ formation and resignation of the Government
 - ❑ interpellation (inquiry) and censure procedure
 - ❑ impeachment
 - ❑ right to question
 - ❑ account on the activities upon the request
 - ❑ right to dismiss certain officials
 - ❑ budgetary control
 - ❑ parliamentary oversight of the intelligence services and criminal prosecution institutions
-

Methods of oversight

Activities at the Plenary level:

- ❑ hearing of information and reports of the ministries and other state institutions
 - ❑ consideration of annual reports on the activities of the state institutions accountable to the Seimas and presentation of conclusions
 - ❑ analysis and control of the economic efficiency of the State Budget
 - ❑ consideration and submission of conclusions and proposals on the items and programmes of the draft State Budget for the next year
 - ❑ plenary debate
-

Methods of oversight (II)

Activities at the Committees and Commissions:

- ☐ circuit meetings and ordinary meetings
 - ☐ debate with officials
 - ☐ hearings
 - ☐ working groups
 - ☐ analysis of the legal regulation
 - ☐ oversight of individual issues and presentation of conclusions
-

Committee on Audit

- ❑ considers government audit reports and opinions
 - ❑ debates on the efficiency of the implementation of the “supervisory” functions
 - ❑ submits proposals on the conclusions presented on the State budget execution statements and on the reports on the State debt and property
 - ❑ considers whether the managers of the State budget and property use it rationally and efficiently
 - ❑ ...
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Committee on European Affairs

- ❑ consideration of major issues of the membership in the European Union
 - ❑ exercising of parliamentary scrutiny of the activities of the Government and other institutions related to the EU
 - ❑ supervision of the legislative procedures
 - ❑ scrutiny of the national EU related positions, and the results reached
 - ❑ ...
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