

The political responsibility of a cabinet minister in the Third Republic of Poland

Summary

A cabinet minister is a single-person office of executive power, which is subject to the President of the Council of Ministers (Prime Minister). The ministers implementing decisions of government policy in within the area of the state affairs entrusted to them (a portfolio), they usually assume the head of a specific administration department. At the same time, the ministers under the leadership of the prime minister are acting jointly in the Council of Ministers (government), which is a collegial executive body that directs the internal and foreign policies of the state.

One of the important elements defining the ministerial legal status is his responsibility for his policy with the office. Constitutional responsibility and political responsibility are essential. Generally, political responsibility means responsibility for the political direction of office. In case this liability does not have to be a fault, there is only a negative assessment of the minister's activity. Since the minister is a member of a multi-person body - the Council of Ministers (the Cabinet), his political responsibilities may be individual (for his own actions and the civil servants' actions in his department) and collective (for the policy of the Council of Ministers). The political responsibility of the minister in the strict sense is reduced to the possibility of dismissing him from office and as such is borne by the central authorities of the state. In modernist regimes it can be considered a typical situation in which ministers have individual responsibility before a prime minister or a parliament or a head of state, and the whole cabinet is collective (solidarity) liable to the parliament or to the head of state.

The subject of this work is an analysis of the principles governing the political responsibility of the Minister in the political system of the Third Republic of Poland, both in solidarity and in individual terms.

The work consists of an introduction, five chapters, and a bibliography. In the first chapter, consideration was given to the genesis of the ministerial office in the systems of government of selected European states and the status of minister as a member of the Council of Ministers in the II Republic of Poland and People's Poland. Chapter two describes the course of the 1989-1997 transformation in the legal status of ministers, the contents of the current provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland as well as

the Prime Minister in the area of appointing and dismissal ministers from the cabinet is the part of the rationalized parliamentary-cabinet system of government adopted in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland. In practice, the government system adopted in Poland evolves towards a model of chancellor or prime ministerial government, which emphasizes the position of prime minister as head of government and chief executive in the state. In this situation, according to the author, further steps aimed at strengthening the Prime Minister's position should be making some amends to the Constitution of the Republic of Poland: firstly, abolition the institution of individual political responsibility of ministers to the parliament, secondly, introduction of several other changes in the process of appointing the cabinet and ministers to further strengthen the position of the Prime Minister as the only supervisor for ministers in Poland.