



# Addendum to the Chamber of Deputies of the Sejm of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth

## IV. General Introduction

The general principles of the Rules Handbook should apply to this committee, but the **parliamentary procedures will primarily come from this addendum**. Our version of the Sejm rules will be a revised version of the actual Sejm rules and customs that fit the purposes and schedule of EagleMUNC. For example, we changed the system of the Liberum Veto slightly to ensure that everyone has a chance to give speeches and pass legislation, instead of having the government come to a halt as it did later in Polish history. Except for the changes listed here, all other rules are the same as the Rules Handbook.

What will make this committee exciting is the unique parliamentary procedure. It may be challenging to adjust to the procedure at first, so **please read this document thoroughly** in preparation for the sessions of the Sejm. Understanding the procedure is vital to fully immersing yourself in the committee, so members of the dias will be more than happy to answer questions throughout the weekend and help you along the way.

## V. The Liberum Veto

In this committee, the Liberum Veto (meaning *I freely oppose* in Latin) procedure can be used at any time during a **moderated caucus** if the delegate **unmutes** themselves and shouts **sisto activitatem!** (Latin: "I stop the activity!") or **nie pozwalam!** (Polish: "I do not allow!"). It will **stop the moderated caucus**, even if another delegate is in the middle of a speech, and the committee will return to considering points and motions or revert back to the speakers list at the discretion of the Marshal of the Sejm.

The committee can vote to abolish use of the veto power if the King calls for a vote on the matter. It will be abolished by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote (counting by the number of deputies in each constituency, not by the number of delegates).

This power can only be used only if the delegate receives a **virtual veto ticket message** from the dias, which may come from foreign governments attempting to influence the proceedings of the Sejm. The Marshal of the Sejm will keep track of which delegates are in possession of a veto ticket based on who received veto messages and who used their veto tickets. The Marshal of the Sejm will not share who is in possession of a veto.

- Veto powers may be used for **the rest of the day** (meaning, if you receive one on Saturday morning it may be used in the second Saturday committee session).

- In order to use the veto ticket, the delegate must unmute themselves and say the correct phrase in either Latin or Polish.
- If a delegate receives a veto ticket, they are **not required** to invoke the Liberum Veto. They are also **not required** to follow any instructions on the veto ticket.
- Veto tickets are only valid for the delegate addressed on the ticket--**you cannot give veto tickets to other delegates or trade.**
- Veto tickets **cannot** be used during a Confederated Sejm.
- Veto tickets can only be used once. Once used, the delegate will need to wait for another virtual veto ticket before using the power again.

## VI. Special Sessions: The Confederated Sejm

A Confederated Sejm is when **use of the Liberum Veto power is banned**. During the time for points or motions, a delegate may make a motion to move into a Confederated Sejm.

- The committee will enter into a Confederated Sejm if the motion receives the support of over  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the present legislators (not counted by the number of deputies in each constituency).
- If passed, the committee will proceed as normal, except for the lack of the Liberum Veto, for the next **10 minutes**.
- The Confederated Sejm will proceed through any other standard procedures, such as moderated caucuses, unmoderated caucuses, and votes.
- After the 10 minutes has elapsed, delegates will once again be able to invoke the Liberum Veto, even if it ends in the middle of a moderated caucus or a speech.

In the hierarchy of disruptive motions, a Confederated Sejm will be considered **least disruptive**.

## VII. Counting Votes

The official position assignment for each delegate has a number representing the number of deputies allotted to the constituency. These deputies were elected by sejmiks, the local parliaments in each constituency.

- **For procedural votes**, each delegate will have one vote.
- **For votes on legislation or other important matters**, each delegate's vote will be counted based on the number of deputies from their constituency. For example, the vote of the delegate from Warsaw will be counted twice.

## VIII. Special Sessions of the Sejm: Electing a King

In the event of the election of a new King, the Sejm will go through the following special sessions. Historically, both the Convocation and the Election Sejm were automatically considered Confederated Sejms. However, for the sake of this committee, only the Election Sejm will be a Confederated Sejm, meaning that the *Liberum Veto* cannot be used.

<u><i>Name of Session</i></u>	<u><i>Function</i></u>	<u><i>Time Period</i></u>	<u><i>Location</i></u>
<i>Sejm Konwokacyjny:</i> Convocation Sejm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write the <i>pacta conventa</i> (essentially an employment contract) for the new monarch</li> <li>• Evaluate candidates for the position</li> </ul>	Two weeks	No traditional location
<i>Sejm Elekcyjny:</i> Election Sejm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All members of the <i>szlachta</i> (not just legislators) -- between 10,000 and 100,000 -- elect the next monarch</li> <li>• Candidates could not attend, but sent spokespeople</li> </ul>	Six weeks	Wola (village outside of Warsaw)
<i>Sejm Koronacyjny:</i> Coronation Sejm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coronation ceremony for new monarch</li> <li>• Primate (important bishop) formally gives powers to the new monarch</li> </ul>	Two weeks	Kraków

- During a **Convocation Sejm**, delegates are required to write the *Pacta Conventa* for the new king based on what powers and responsibilities they think the king should have, as well as debate the merits of various candidates. The *Pacta Conventa* requires the support of the majority of the delegates.
- Once the *Pacta Conventa* is passed, the committee will enter into the **Election Sejm**, where they will further debate the merits of the candidates and elect the new King (as is their right as members of the *Szlachta*). The candidate with the most votes wins, a majority is not required.
- After a king is elected, a coronation ceremony will occur during the **Coronation Sejm** where they sign the *Pacta Conventa* written and passed by the delegates.

## IX. Glossary

**30 Years War:** A major military conflict involving most European superpowers from 1618 to 1648, mostly occurring in central Europe within the Holy Roman Empire, that was based on conflict between Catholics and Protestants.

**Battle of Humenné:** A battle of the 30 Years War in which the Lisowczycy (a mercenary group loosely affiliated with the military of the PLC) and their allies defeated the forces of the Protestant rebels in western Slovakia. The Lisowczycy looted the village as payment for their victory.

**Bohemian Revolt:** A revolt of Protestant states seeking independence from the Catholic Holy Roman Empire, sparking the 30 Years War.

**Chancery Slavonic:** The language spoken by locals in the voivodeship Ruthenia. Members of the nobility gradually shifted towards speaking Polish when Ruthenia became a part of the PLC.

**Charles IX:** The King of Sweden at the start of the committee. He was the regent in Sweden for his nephew Sigismund III Vasa (King of the PLC at the time), who inherited the throne from his father and was ruling both Sweden and the PLC. Charles IX led a Protestant revolution in 1598 and became king of Sweden in 1604.

**Charles X Gustav:** The King of Sweden who led the “Deluge”--an attack on the PLC to secure more wealth to maintain the Swedish army (Topic 3).

**Confederation of Warsaw:** A policy supporting tolerance of both Catholics and Protestants in the PLC, which prevented the PLC from taking an official part in the Thirty Years War.

**Constituencies:** Regions of the PLC represented by legislators. Each delegate in this committee represents every deputy from the constituency in their position name.

**“The Deluge”:** The 1655 Swedish attack on the PLC, leading to significant destruction.

**Ferdinand II:** The Holy Roman Emperor whose actions sparked the 30 Years War by mandating that all members of the Empire be Catholic.

**Golden Liberty:** a system where the szlachta (nobility) maintained certain abilities which protected their political influence and prevented the monarch from infringing upon their powers.

**John II Casimir:** The King of the PLC during the Swedish invasion of 1655 (Topic 3).

**King Henry's Articles:** the first Pacta Conventa. All of the subsequent kings had to agree to King Henry's Articles, in addition to their individual pacta conventas which they negotiated with the Sejm.

**Lisowczycy:** A highly skilled mercenary group loosely affiliated with the official Polish-Lithuanian cavalry fought in favor of Emperor Ferdinand II and the Catholics in the Battle of Humenné in the Thirty Years War. This mercenary group was unique in the sense that they were not paid wages. Instead, they were permitted to ransack any villages or cities where they won battles and take anything they wanted for themselves.

**Mikolaj Zebryzdowski:** The governor of Kraków who formed a rokosz (rebellion of the noble class) in opposition to King Sigismund III (Topic 1).

**Pacta Conventa:** An agreement negotiated between the newly elected monarch and the Sejm outlining the monarch's responsibilities

**PLC:** An abbreviation for the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth

**Radziwiłł family:** A powerful Lithuanian family (who are not members of the Sejm) who signed an agreement with Sweden during the invasion on behalf of all Lithuanian szlachta claiming to dissolve the ties between the Crown of Poland the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and establishing a union between Lithuania and Sweden instead. This document was called the Union of Kėdainiai.

**Rokosz:** The ability of the szlachta to form a legal rebellion if they determined that the king had infringed upon their rights.

**Ruthenia:** a voivodeship (province) that experienced a significant amount of "Polonization" among the szlachta when it became a part of the PLC, including re-establishing the Ruthenian Orthodox Church as the Ruthenian Uniate Church under the Pope.

**Sejm skonfederowany:** A "Confederated Sejm" where the Liberum Veto was not used

**Sejm:** The Legislative Body of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, made up of the "Senat" and the "Chamber of Deputies" (this committee). "Sejm" can also refer to only the Chamber of Deputies.

**Sejmiks:** Local legislative bodies

**Sigismund III Vasa:** The King at the start of the committee (Topic 1). Members of the szlachta formed a rebellion against him because of his request to create a permanent standing army, his increased intolerance of non-Catholics, and the belief that he wanted to establish a dynastic monarchy

**Szlachta:** Members of the Nobility in the PLC.

**Union of Kėdainiai:** The agreement signed between some Lithuanian nobility and the government of Sweden in 1655 (Topic 3), essentially claiming to dissolve Lithuania's ties to the Crown of Poland and establish a Swedish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

**Union of Krewo:** An early union between Poland and Lithuania, where they both maintained their own laws and customs.

**Union of Lublin:** A treaty establishing the PLC under one government for Poland and Lithuania.

**Voivodeships:** Larger regions of the PLC made up of smaller constituencies. "Ruthenia" is an example of a voivodeship, which includes multiple constituencies.

# X. The Pacta Conventa

In the event of an election of the new King, deputies will need to draft a new Pacta Conventa. This document will take the format of a directive, and should be included in this template. As was tradition in the PLC, the document should include King Henry's Articles, which apply to all Kings, and other provisions outlining the new King's powers and responsibilities.

## **New Provisions Established by the 1607 Sejm**

[Insert Directive Here]

## **King Henry's Articles These Provisions are Required to be Upheld by Every King**

### **Summary:<sup>1</sup>**

*Requiring* that Kings are to be chosen by election by the szlachta, and his children have no right of inheritance with regard to the throne;

*Mandating* that the king has to convene a general sejm at least once every two years for six weeks;

*Preventing* the King from carrying out certain actions and governmental functions without the approval of the Sejm, including:

1. Creating new taxes or tariffs without approval of the Sejm
2. Entering into marriage
3. Calling a draft, or sending troops across borders of the Commonwealth without compensating them
4. Declaring war or peace

*Ensuring* that between sejms, 16 resident senators are to be at the king's side as his advisers and overseers. The Royal Council of 16 senators is elected every two years during the Sejm's session. Four of their number (rotating every six months) are obliged to accompany the king and serve as advisers and supervisors to ensure that the king makes no decision contrary to the laws of the Commonwealth. All royal decrees have to be counterstamped by the chancellors or the deputy chancellors;

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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henrician\\_Articles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henrician_Articles)

*Supporting* the standing royal army;

*Enforcing* the king following the Warsaw Confederation's guarantees of religious freedom.

*Protecting* the right of the szlachta to refuse the king's orders if the king were to transgress against the law or the privileges of szlachta by forming a rokosz.

**Full Text:**<sup>2</sup>

We, the Councils of the state, the gentry, and the knighthood of the Kingdom of Poland, of the Polish as well as the Lithuanian nation, no less from Ruthenia, Prussia, Samogitia, Masovia, Livonia, and also from all the other provinces and lands belonging to this our Rzeczpospolita [Commonwealth], by means of this present document, that is, diploma, this do stipulate, so that our future Prince and Lord newly-elected by us be under obligation to give us a privilege, that is, a document, by which the Articles expressed here below, containing certain rights and prerogatives of ours, shall be acknowledged and endorsed, and this in the following manner: Henry1, by grace of God the King of Poland, Grand Duke of Lithuania, Lord of Ruthenia, Prussia, Masovia, Samogitia, as well as Duke of Anjou, Bourbon, and Auvergne, etc. We make it known by means of this present document, to whomever it be due to know, to all in general and each singularly, to the Councils and the Senators, the gentry and the estates of the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, of Ruthenia, Prussia, Masovia, Samogitia, Volhynia, Podlachia, and to the other realms:

[1] That during our lifetime, we and our descendants the Kings of Poland, and those very same Grand Dukes of Lithuania, Ruthenia, Masovia, Samogitia, Kiev, Volhynia, Livonia, and of the other States, shall not nominate, or elect, or present in any shape or form no matter how conceived, a king, and place him as our successor upon the State, and this for the reason that always and for time eternal after our demise, and of our descendants, the free election [of the monarch] may remain with all the Estates of the Crown; for which reason we are not to use the title of heir, nor shall our descendants, to the kings of Poland.

[2] And since in this worthy Crown of the Polish and Lithuanian nation, of the Ruthenian, Livonian, and other nations, there is no small amount of heterodoxy, certain citizens of the Crown, mindful of the threat of seditions and tumults that may give rise to schism or discord in religion, have stipulated among themselves by a singular Confederation that in this respect, as concerns religion, they should be preserved in peace. This [Confederation] we promise to uphold in peace, for time eternal.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://polishfreedom.pl/en/document/the-henrician-articles>

[3] And in matters of the Crown that should touch upon our a person and our eminence, the sending of legations to foreign countries, and the hearing and dismissing of foreign legations, also the gathering or accepting of certain armies and soldiers, we and our descendants are to commence no such thing, or do so, without being counselled by the Crown Councils of both the nations, violating in no wise matters belonging to the Sejm. However, those legations which would not touch upon the Rzeczpospolita, and might be dismissed according to their time and needs, we shall and will be able always to dismiss, upon notification to the Lords of the Crown Councils of both the nations, who will be abiding amongst us.

[4] As regards war or a levée en masse<sup>1</sup>, we are not to commence anything without the Sejm's consent from all the Estates, nor are we and our descendants the Kings of Poland to lead the Crown Knighthood beyond the Crown borders of both the nations as war-time custom has it, nor by any custom whatsoever, nor by our Royal request, nor by payment of five grzywnas per spear. And this we hereby swear by our solemn word. For if under a Sejm resolution we raise a levée en masse, we should not command our subjects at the place whereto, by means of the general call-to-arms, that is, war-letters, we have marked the time and place, longer than but two weeks. And if we, with consent of all the Estates, be willing to lead our subjects beyond the borders, and they having voluntarily consented with us to do so: then, per each of the mounted knights separately, no person excluded, including dismounted gentrymen under the duty to serve at war, we shall give them prior to our setting-off from the borders five grzywnas each. And we are not to keep them in the pay of these five grzywnas otherwise than for a quarter-year, nor shall we divide these forces into parts, whether large or small. And if we have not moved them beyond the borders within two weeks, then they shall no longer be obliged to stand by us any longer. And in the time of war, we shall render all needs satisfied at our own cost, such as cannons, gun-powder, gun-smiths, infantrymen, and guards of all sorts.

[5] The Crown frontiers of both the nations and of all the States belonging to the Crown, obliged we are and shall remain, and so too our descendants, to provide with defence against the incursion of any enemy, bearing the expenditure upon ourselves, and keeping the quarter<sup>3</sup> in force according to the Polish statute.

[6] What moreover may also occur, is that amongst so many Senators there will be statements, opinions, and understandings that might vary, rather than being concordant in everything and always. Therefore, we and our descendants are not to establish anything on our own authority, but instead are most diligently to endeavour that we bring all into unison, considering all the arguments which prove to be in accord with the law, and common liberties, and for the greater benefit of the Rzeczpospolita, and [discarding those] which do not prove to be in accord with the freedoms, laws, and liberties as bestowed to all the States. And if we be unable to bring all to a single and concordant opinion, then our conclusion shall be that which most adheres to the liberties, laws, and customs, according to the laws of every land and the good of the

Rzeczpospolita, save for the matters of the Sejm, which are to be settled by way of regular custom, to the knowledge and permission of all the Estates.

[7] As it is a certain and well-proven thing that the person of the king alone cannot be equal to all the affairs occurring within the great states of this Kingdom, whereby the Crown might succumb to lawlessness and peril; therefore, we hereby establish, and will it to be everlasting law, that for each General Sejm, instituted and nominated be sixteen persons from the Councils of the Crown, from Poland as well as from Lithuania and the other states belonging to the Crown, this being conveyed to all the estates, to the other Crown officials, Polish and Lithuanian alike, who would continually be with us, honouring the person of our majesty and common liberty, without the counsel and advice of whom we and our descendants are to do nothing, nor shall we do so in regular matters (violating nothing due to the Sejm); and these lords shall be obliged to safeguard that nothing, in all the affairs, may occur contrary to our dignity, and against the common law: in respect whereof they shall afterwards respond at the General Sejm soon to come; and, nevertheless, every one of the Lords of the Councils, the Senators, whenever whoever of them deigns arrive at our locality, he shall be allowed to dwell thereat, and as the Councils we admit them to this matter and to every other one, and about everything shall they deliberate and be aware: also, these deputies shall have nothing more than any others, except that until their time comes, they shall safely be dwelling amongst us, without preserving the old custom of describing by our letters to the absent Councils whenever some like thing has occurred.

[8] The designation of these Senators at the Sejm is to include 16 persons concurrently, four for each half- year: one from the Bishops, the other from the Voivodes, and two from the Castellans; in the order that they sit at the Council. And should any of them be unwilling to take his turn, or may not do so because of an impediment of a legal nature, let him readily announce this at that same Sejm, that another one be appointed in his stead. And these shall be provided for from our treasury and that of our descendants: the other bishops from the Ruthenian countries, and other senators of the secular estate, shall each receive for his half-year five-hundred zloties; whereas the lords clerical of the Polish countries need this not, for they are well-provided for.

[9] The General Sejm of the Crown is to be convened within two years at the furthest, and wherever there be urgent and dire need of this for the Rzeczpospolita, then upon the advice of the Lords of both the states, as the time and need of the Rzeczpospolita may require, we shall therefore convene it, and shall conduct it no longer than up to six Sundays at the furthest. And, prior to any such Sejm in Poland, in accordance with custom, and in Lithuania, in accordance with the Statute of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the sejmiks [lit. 'little sejms', i.e., dietines] of the poviats [i.e., districts] shall be held, as the famous sejmik is at times in Koło and in Korczyn, and a grand sejmik must be held also in Lithuania and in Wołkowysk; for which the sejmiks,

through their deputies, shall be obliged to notify, by the ordinary custom, of the urgencies occurring.

[10] We also promise by our solemn word that we and our descendants shall not use any signet-ring nor any individual seal in matters resting with the Rzeczpospolita, whether within or without, as the only [valid such] are the Crown seals that are with the chancelleries and the vice-chancellors, Polish as well as Lithuanian.

[11] The crown offices of both the nations must be preserved in entirety, thus we shall neither obstruct nor repress the courtly offices; but indeed, to solid and worthy people of merit, of both the nations, and not to foreigners, shall [such offices] be given whenever they are vacant.

[12] So that there be no doubt whatsoever concerning the gentry's lands, they must always remain free, with all the benefits which might ever emerge in those lands, as shall their ores of all sorts, and salt orifices, and we, and our descendants, shall not forbid their free use for time eternal.

[13] We also promise that we shall not admit any exposition or argument from an alien law so that the tributes from our ancestors' estates, bestowed under hereditary law, might be considered as naught; for so it is that they were expressly bestowed under feudal law.

[14] The starostas [i.e., sheriffs] of frontier and court castles and of the main cities, and also those main cities that have no starosta, are to swear to the Kingdom and the King; that during any interregnum they shall not discharge the castles and cities to the detriment of the Rzeczpospolita, and to none other than the King who has been freely, and upon the consent of all, elected and crowned, on pain of death and loss of noble rank and property.

[15] The Crown of the Kingdom of Poland must be kept at the Crown treasury in Cracow by the Lord Treasurer of the Crown, under the seals and keys of the senators and the Castellan of Cracow and of Troki, who shall not open it, unless upon joint consent of all the Councils of the Crown, and the Estates. However, in absence of any one of them, by malady or another legal impediment, they shall not convey any joint permission to the detriment of the Rzeczpospolita; the person absent, indeed, having duly informed the senators, is obliged to send his key to the other colleagues. Should anyone happen to be taken by death, then his colleagues have the power to open his lock and break the seal.

[16] Certain countries of the Crown of Poland have ascribed common judicial justice to themselves, taking it from the royal person; which we permit them to do, and shall not inhibit, with the addition that others who should also will to so establish at their place, are always to be permitted, and this amendment must be free upon their joint permission. And, should they wish

to have it placed upon our royal person, then we shall place it upon ourselves, we and our descendants. And similarly, also the Lords Councils, and all the estates of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and of the Land of Kiev, Podolia, Volhynia, Yaroslav, Bratslav, which hold justice under Lithuanian law, have thus resolved, in this same manner, that until the future Sejm be convened for our coronation, they shall amend their laws and decide between themselves the custom of justice, and how they may between themselves resolve matters, and what a major part of those holding justice under Lithuanian law will consent to – all this we shall have sworn at our Coronation, and thereafter they shall also be allowed, forever, to amend their laws and courts.

[17] We stipulate, in particular, that we shall not raise or establish any taxes whatsoever, nor collections upon our royal names, and of the clerical councils, also new custom-duties on our cities, in Poland and in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and in all our Lands belonging to the Crown, unless with the consent from all the Estates at the General Sejm; neither shall we

establish or admit the monopolies on these things which come from the states of the Crown, both Polish as well as Lithuanian ones.

[18] And, since there is much that is conditional upon our marriage for the good of the Rzeczpospolita, we hereby promise and pledge, for ourselves and for our descendants, the Kings of Poland, never to ordain or undertake anything concerning our marriages, against the notice and assent of the Crown Councils of both nations, and, apart from such reasons which are expressed by Scripture and the word of God, we shall seek no opportunities for living outside marriage, or for divorce, whatsoever.

[19] All of the conditions, proposed and strengthened in our name, by the envoys of His Majesty the French King, we shall all fulfill and do solemnly vow to uphold.

[20] All of what might else ever be proposed to us upon the coronation, of their liberties and rights, by the Crown Estates of both the nations, we do accept and are obliged to accept, and to vow, confirm, and hold eternally for time evermore, we are obliged to fulfill and do vouchsafe, upon our faith and our oath, on our word, and do promise, and confirm, for time eternal.

[21] And should we (God forbid) trespass against the laws, liberties, articles, or conditions, or fail to fulfill them, then we shall render free the Crown citizens of both the nations from the obedience and loyalty owed to us.

All this has been ordained and written by the Councils of the Crown of both the nations, the Knighthood and the Estates of all the States belonging to the Crown, at the General Sejm of

Elections, near Warsaw, in the village of Kamień, on the twelfth day of the month of May, in the year of our Lord 1573.