

● On 29 September 2010 the National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation coins commemorating the 25th anniversary of establishing the Constitutional Tribunal with the following face values:

100 zł struck in proof finish in gold,

25 zł struck in proof finish in gold.

The National Bank of Poland

holds the exclusive right to issue currency
in the Republic of Poland.

In addition to **coins and notes for general circulation**,
the NBP issues **collector coins and notes**.

Issuing collector items is an occasion to commemorate
important historic figures and anniversaries, as well
as to develop the interest of the public in Polish culture,
science and tradition.

Since 1996, the NBP has also been issuing **occasional 2 złoty**
coins, struck in **Nordic Gold**, for general circulation.

All coins and notes issued
by the NBP are legal tender in Poland.

COINS ISSUED IN 2010 COINS ISSUED IN 2010



Information on the issue schedule
can be found at the
www.nbp.pl/monety
website.

Collector coins issued by the National Bank of Poland
are sold exclusively at the Internet auctions held
in the Kolekcjoner service at the following website:

www.kolekcjoner.nbp.pl

 **KOLEKCJONER**

The coins were struck at the Mint of Poland in Warsaw.
Edited and printed: NBP Printing Office

NBP

National Bank of Poland

c o i n s



25th anniversary
of establishing
the Constitutional Tribunal

25th anniversary of establishing the Constitutional Tribunal

● Poland's Constitutional Tribunal has conducted its activities for 25 years now. The first Constitutional Tribunal Act was adopted on 25 April 1985. Three years earlier, the constitutional amendment of 26 March 1982 provided for introducing this institution into the Polish legal system. The time between those acts saw strenuous conflict as to its jurisdiction. From the very beginning, influential groups opposed the idea of establishing a constitutional court, aptly considering this institution independent and difficult to be politically subordinated.

● Under these circumstances it is no surprise that the Constitutional Tribunal Act of 29 April 1985 - a result of a difficult compromise - contained a number of limitations imposed upon the Tribunal's position and competences. The most important limitation was set out already in the constitutional amendment of 1982, whereby only some of the Tribunal's decisions would be final. If a statute was deemed not to conform with the Constitution, the Tribunal's ruling was subject to a review by the Sejm, which could overrule it with a two-thirds majority vote. Such a solution was an attempt at a compromise between establishing the constitutional judiciary and maintaining the principle of unity of state authority. In practice, from its very first decision of 28 May 1986, Polish Constitutional Tribunal was able to operate with a degree of independence and developed a substantial portfolio of rulings.

● Even though its powers regrettably remained limited, even following the breakthrough of 1989, the Court issued many decisions and won considerable authority among political elites and experts in legal doctrine.

The Tribunal's jurisprudence expanded, in particular, such constitutional clauses as the principle of the rule of law or the principle of equality. Thus it eliminated legislative gaps and uncertainties which arose in the absence of a modern constitution.

● Not earlier than with the Constitution of 2 April 1997 and the Act of 1 August 1997 was the Tribunal entrusted with a mandate on par with its counterparts in other countries.

● The primary function of the Constitutional Tribunal is to control hierarchical conformity of legal norms, i.e. to adjudicate on the conformity of legal norms of lower rank to those considered superior (especially the Constitution), thus eliminating the norms inconsistent with the system of law in force. The exclusive point of reference for such adjudication is the law (Constitution).

● The Constitutional Tribunal primarily seeks to:

- 1) review legal norms (both abstract and specific); a particular procedure for reviewing the norms is the adjudication on constitutional complaints;
- 2) settle disputes over authority between the central constitutional organs of State;
- 3) decide on the conformity with the Constitution of the purposes or activities of political parties;
- 4) acknowledge a temporary incapacity of the President of the Republic to discharge his office.

● No doubt, the fundamental competence of the Tribunal is the review of legal norms. The Polish system of legal norm review assigns priority to a posteriori review, which refers to such normative acts which are already enacted, are in force or are still in the *vacatio legis* period. Only exceptionally may the review of norms be of preventive nature (review conducted a priori) and the only subject entitled to initiate such a review is the President of the Republic.

● The Constitutional Tribunal is composed of 15 judges chosen individually by the Sejm for a term of office of 9 years. It is of crucial importance for the Tribunal's position and its method of functioning that – pursuant to Article 195 para. 1 of the Constitution - Judges of the Constitutional Tribunal shall be independent in the exercise of their office. A fundamental guarantee of this independence is the prohibition to appoint the same judge for more than one term of office and, on the other hand, the prohibition to remove a judge from the office during the term.

Made by: Adam Jankiewicz, J.D.

COINS ISSUED IN 2010 COINS ISSUED IN 2010 COINS ISSUED IN 2010 COINS ISSUED IN 2010 COINS ISSUED IN 2010 COINS ISSUED IN 2010 COINS ISSUED IN 2010



FACE VALUE 100 ZŁ

metal Au 900/1000 ■ finish proof ■ diameter 21.0 mm ■ weight 8.0 g
mintage (volume) 5,000 pcs

OBVERSE: At the top, against stylized fragment of the outline of the Eagle in the background, an image of the Eagle established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland, below, centrally, a stylized image of the façade of the Constitutional Tribunal. Below, an inscription: 100 ZŁ. At the top, a semicircular inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (Republic of Poland), separated by an interpunct dot from the notation of the year of issue: 2010. The mint's mark: M/W below the Eagle's left leg.

REVERSE: Centrally stylized image of scales, an image of the symbol section (§) in the background. In the rim an inscription: 25. ROCZNICA POWSTANIA TRYBUNAŁU KONSTYTUCYJNEGO (25th anniversary of establishing the Constitutional Tribunal).

Coin designer: DOMINIKA KARPIŃSKA-KOPIEC



FACE VALUE 25 ZŁ

metal Au 900/1000 ■ finish proof ■ diameter 12.0 mm ■ weight 1.0 g
mintage (volume) 5,000 pcs

OBVERSE: To the right, at the bottom, an image of the Eagle established as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland. On the left-hand side of the Eagle, at the bottom, an inscription: 25 ZŁ. In the centre, a stylized image of the symbol section (§). At the top, a semicircular inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (Republic of Poland), separated by an interpunct dot from the notation of the year of issue: 2010. The mint's mark: M/W below the Eagle's left leg.

REVERSE: Centrally, a stylized image of the entrance gate decorated with rustication, inside the Constitutional Tribunal. At the bottom, against the inside of the gate, a stylized image of a book. In the rim an inscription: 25. ROCZNICA POWSTANIA TRYBUNAŁU KONSTYTUCYJNEGO (25th anniversary of establishing the Constitutional Tribunal)

Coin designer: DOMINIKA KARPIŃSKA-KOPIEC