

## Poland

*The Polish Red Cross has recently sent the ICRC the official translation of the Act which concerns it. In view of this legislative regulation's interest, we now reproduce its English version.*

### Act on the Polish Red Cross

*passed by the Diet on 16 November 1964.<sup>1</sup>*

#### I. General provisions

- Art. 1. 1) The Polish Red Cross is a Social Organization based on the principle of voluntary work.
- 2) The Polish Red Cross has the following aims :  
to organize and pursue humanitarian and educational activities aiming at consolidating peace between nations by propagating the principles of humanity, to protect health and lives and to bring aid in all circumstances whenever these values are threatened.
- Art. 2. With the enactment of this law, the Polish Red Cross is the voluntary auxiliary of the public health service and of the medical service of the armed forces.
- Art. 3. The Polish Red Cross has the task in particular of :
- 1) pursuing activities in the sphere of medical health, raising the standard of medical knowledge as well as public health, and above all promoting and undertaking social aid actions in cases of epidemics and natural disasters.
- 2) pursuing humanitarian activities on behalf of persons protected by the international Conventions and, in particular, by the Geneva Conventions for the protection of the victims of war.

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<sup>1</sup> Law Gazette of the Polish People's Republic, No. 41 of 21. XI. 1964.

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- 3) directing the National Information Bureau as stipulated by the international Conventions relating to the treatment of civilian persons in time of war.
- Art. 4. The Polish Red Cross is the sole Polish Red Cross association legally recognized, operating on the territory of the Polish People's Republic and authorized, in this capacity, to maintain outside relations.
- Art. 5.
- 1) In the accomplishment of its tasks, the Polish Red Cross co-operates with the public powers and social organizations, respecting the fundamental principles of the Red Cross.
  - 2) The powers and organizations mentioned in paragraph 1 above, as well as labour institutions and establishments are bound to assist the Polish Red Cross in the accomplishment of its tasks.
- Art. 6. The Polish Red Cross is authorized to bring aid on the territory of the country and outside its frontiers in the framework of the activities determined by the international Conventions and of actions being the object of Red Cross activities and it is authorized to receive such aid from abroad.
- Art. 7.
- 1) In the performance of its activities, the Polish Red Cross benefits from exemption of postal, telephonic and telegraphic charges, transport and customs dues, as well as from privileges and facilities accorded by international agreements or special arrangements.
  - 2) The directing bodies of the Polish Red Cross are authorized—in the framework of Red Cross activities—to communicate direct with the Central Tracing Agency, the organizations in the International Red Cross, as well as with the representatives and delegates as stipulated by the international Conventions on the protection of the victims of war.

II. *Provisions of organization*

- Art. 8. The Polish Red Cross possesses legal personality.
- Art. 9. 1) The National Congress is the supreme authority of the Polish Red Cross.  
2) Its controlling bodies are the Central Committee and the Praesidium elected from within it.  
3) The controlling bodies of the Polish Red Cross have their headquarters in Warsaw.
- Art. 10. 1) The Statutes of the Polish Red Cross and their amendments have been adopted by the National Congress and approved by ordinance of the Council of Ministers.  
2) The Chairman of the Council of Ministers supervises the activities of the Polish Red Cross and can, in this respect, transfer his rights, in whole or in part, to the appropriate Ministers.
- Art. 11. 1) The Polish Red Cross has authorization to confer honours for services rendered in the realization of its aims.  
2) The Statutes determine the methods employed in the bestowal of these honours.
- Art. 12. 1) The red cross emblem is formed by a red cross on a white ground (Geneva Cross) with or without the inscription of the Polish Red Cross.  
2) The emblem and title of the Polish Red Cross remain under legal protection.

III. *Protection of the Red Cross sign and title*

- Art. 13. The sign and title of the Red Cross may be employed as emblem, distinctive or protective sign in circumstances and in accordance with the principles laid down by the international Conventions.

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- Art. 14.    1) The sign and title of the Red Cross or Geneva Cross must be employed in conformity with art. 13 above. Imitations of these are forbidden.
- 2) The prohibition defined in paragraph 1 applies also to the employment of the signs and titles of the Red Crescent and the Red Lion and Sun.
- 3) It is forbidden to employ the device of the Swiss Confederation (white cross on a red ground) or any other sign in imitation, against the provisions of the international Conventions.
- Art. 15.    1) Whoever, contrary to the provisions of the Act, makes use of the emblems, signs or titles as laid down in articles 12, 13 and 14 will be liable to a fine which may amount to 4500 zlotys.
- 2) Penalties relating to infringements mentioned in paragraph 1 above will be imposed in accordance with the provisions of administrative penal procedure.

### IV. *Final provisions*

- Art. 16.    The following are no longer in force:
- 1) the Regulations of 1 September 1927 on the Polish Red Cross Association (Law Gazette No. 79, text 688).
- 2) article 60 of the Act of 27 October 1932 on associations (Law Gazette No. 94, text 808).
- 3) Act of 8 January 1938 on the protection of the Red Cross sign and title and of the device of the Swiss Confederation (Law Gazette No. 3, text 12).
- Art. 17.    The present Act enters into force on the day of its publication.

Chairman of the Council of State — *E. Ochab*  
Secretary of the Council of State — *J. Horodecki*