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<https://doi.org/10.4467/27204383TER.23.034.18336>

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Book review: Legal aspects of the European intelligence services' activities
edited by Piotr Burczaniuk, PhD¹



At the end of 2022, the publishing house of the Internal Security Agency released an English-language multi-author monograph entitled *Legal aspects of the European intelligence services' activities*) scientifically edited by Piotr Burczaniuk, PhD. It focuses on the functioning of special services within the legal systems of 19 European countries, i.e. Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania,

¹ *Legal aspects of the European intelligence services' activities*, P. Burczaniuk (scientific editor), Warszawa 2022, Agencja Bezpieczeństwa Wewnętrznego.

Slovakia, Spain and Sweden. The book discusses the organisational models, structure and scope of competences of the special services in the mentioned countries, as well as selected problems related to their activities.

The book is 302 pages long and consists of 20 chapters and an extensive bibliography. It begins with a foreword by the Head of the Internal Security Agency, Colonel Krzysztof Waclawek, and an introduction by Burczaniuk. Then, within the framework of 19 chapters devoted to individual countries, analyses concerning the issues indicated in the title are presented, carried out on the basis of a clear scheme proposed by the scientific editor of the publication. According to this scheme, the chapters consist of two main parts. In the first, the authors discuss: the place of a given service in the national legal system, the legal definition of special services, their position and role in the public administration system, the activities they carry out, control and supervision of services, the legal status of officers and employees of services. The second part is devoted to issues selected by the authors related to the activities of such entities, including: the tasks and mandate of the services, especially their investigative powers, the role of the services in criminal proceedings, information collection, protection of classified information and personal data, and international cooperation. Given the multiplicity of the countries in question, the diversity of their legal systems and the issues to be analysed, the introduction of a common structural template should be viewed positively.

The only chapter that deviates from the pattern described and provides a valuable complement to the previous considerations is the twentieth chapter, entitled *National Security Clause in the EU Law and Its Implications for Intelligence and Security Services*. It presents selected issues related to the policies of the European Union countries and their secret services in the context of national security, and the concept of national security itself is put into a broader perspective, taking into account recent case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union.

It appears that the legal systems of the states described in the publication have, despite their differences regarding the models and location of the special services, many features in common. Among the issues that are universal and yet most controversial are the supervision and control of such state structures and the status of their officers.

The book in question should be rated very highly. Not only the collection in one place of comprehensive analyses concerning special services of so many countries deserves appreciation, but also the selection

of authors. These are persons who are experts in their respective fields and, above all, are directly involved in the activities of special services in individual states and who use the legal acts described in the book in practice. As a result, the analyses presented are credible, reliable and concrete, and the issues raised are up-to-date. They also touch on issues as vital as cyber security, *big data* and disinformation.

In the literature of legal sciences, political sciences and national security, the monograph *Legal aspects of the European intelligence services' activities* is a unique publication. It can be of great use to professionals dealing with the issues of special services and to academics due to the fact that it brings together and discusses many important issues related to the functioning of special services in as many as 19 European countries.

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