

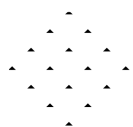
## **Uniwersał Komisji Edukacji Narodowej z 24 października 1773 roku - Tłumaczenie angielskie**

The Commission of National Education of the Polish Crown and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania

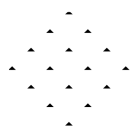
The adverse circumstances and serious concerns could not hide the most basic need of all nations and the foundation of every society from the legislative care of the Commonwealth. It has noticed that the upbringing and education of the youth is the only condition for a country's continuous well-being. The caring mother feels and sees that – with the number of its inhabitants cut – it should put all of its effort in improving their skills and preparing them to their service to her. Let her vigilance and care pronounce itself to you, pitiable nation! Read her rulings with due respect!

The establishment of a commission with supervision over the education of the noble youth

Through his bull issued to all Christian states and soon to be published in the Commonwealth, the Holy Father suppressed the Society of Jesus, who – with permission from the Commonwealth granted through many constitutions – maintained the education of young people and managed most of the resources devoted to this purpose. In order to prevent any damage to the education of our youth or to national goods and riches that could result from the suppression of the Society, we are announcing the following decisions:



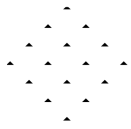
Firstly: We establish a commission in Warsaw devoted to the education of our noble youth under the protection of his Royal Majesty and appoint to it ex senatu et ministerio Bishop of Vilnius Ignacy Massalski, Bishop of Płock Prince Michał Poniatowski, Gniezno Province Governor August Sułkowski, Grand Chancellor of Lithuania Joachim Chreptowicz, ex ordine equestri Lithuanian man of letters Ignacy Potowski, Crown General of Podolia Prince Adam Czartoryski, Knight of the Order of the White Eagle Andrzej Zamoyski and Kopanica County Governor Antoni Poniński. The Commission will be presided over by above-mentioned Bishop of Vilnius Ignacy Massalski or – in his absence – the first Commissioner in ordine. The Commissioners today appointed shall serve their function until the day of the ordinary session of the Sejm in – God willing – 1780. Thereupon, according to the will of the estates of the Commonwealth, they will be either appointed anew or replaced and shall serve their function again per sexennium. In case of death of any of the Commissioners or in case of one's resignation per recessu officiosum, His Royal Majesty will appoint a substituere in accordance with the regulations applying to the Treasury and Military Commissions found in the Constitution of 1764. We hereby hand over all general academies, gymnasia, high schools and state schools with no exceptions, including everything that can serve to improve sciences and education of young people, under the supervision and management of the Commission and order that the Commission prepare a statute describing their activities and submit it to us for approval or improvement.



Secondly: Crown and Lithuanian Confederation Marshals shall appoint inspectors to control and register all personal and real property of the Jesuits. Depending on the need, there shall be at least two inspectors per each college, including all its residences, mission houses and other goods. For economic reasons, the inspectors will be supported in their work by local citizens living near the colleges, residences, houses and goods.

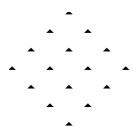
In order to work as inspectors, the appointed ones shall swear an oath, whose form shall be accepted by us. The oaths have be taken before they start serving their function in the municipal offices in those districts where the respective colleges are located, and the Commission of National Education shall receive an original testimony of their oath. Since it seems necessary to manage as well clergymen, who will now have different attire and rule, continue church service and gather information on church equipment, the Bishop of Gniezno and other bishops will be allowed to appoint and send persons fit for the task to accompany the inspectors of the Commonwealth while the latter work on the inventories of all church equipment.

The inspectors of the Commonwealth shall refer to the Commission of Education with all their doubts so that the Commission can propose appropriate resolutions. After their work, which should end in two months, the inspectors shall present their opus to us.



And until the Commonwealth passes all the necessary orders and decisions, we put a sum of 300.000 Polish zlotys from the income gathered from the Jesuits' property at the disposal of the Commission of National Education per intervallum of two months to maintain the functioning of state schools and support those Jesuits who will now become secular clergymen, sine convenienti victu et amictu et sine deservita or scholastici et novitii, who will not be needed for work and public service according to future decisions, who will not be able to change the order, reach their parents' or relatives' houses or who have already reached such an age that they are unfit to work.

The diligence of our caring mother finds ways for you, dearest fellow citizens appointed to the Commission, to support her with your service. Serve her most willingly and with all your strength. The Commonwealth gives us a chance to shape our future generations. Let us eagerly serve this role, which is the only way in which we can repay our Homeland. Combining our good intentions, let us focus on this great work and immediately start raising the faded hopes of the Commonwealth. After all, we do not have to look far for the greatest example of perfection: look, dear noble youth, at your King, and you will find all that in the one who has not hesitated to include the protection of your education in the honours of his majesty.



Enjoying the authority granted to us, we therefore recommend all academies, schools and other educational institutions to take no breaks from their work so that both teachers and students can await our decisions while working in peace. All rectors and superiors are requested to regularly send us as detailed reports as possible on the state of the schools and education under their supervision in spatio of six Sundays, at the address of the Commission of National Education.

We also implore them, for the sake of the common good, to share their own thoughts and ideas on improvements to education with us and assure them that we will certainly use every idea that we consider beneficial for national education found in their advice with deepest gratitude for its proponent.

Signed in Warsaw on the twenty-fourth day of October in 1773

Ignacy Massalski, Bishop of Vilnius, President.

Prince Michał Poniatowski, Bishop of Płock.

Prince August Sułkowski, Gniezno Province Governor.

Joachim Chreptowicz, Grand Chancellor of Lithuania.

Ignacy Potocki, man of letters from the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

Andrzej Zamoyski, Knight of the Order of the White Eagle.

(Ustawodawstwo szkolne za czasów Komisji Edukacji Narodowej [Education legislation during the times of the Commission of National Education], ed. J. Lewicki [Kraków, 1925], pp. 1–5)