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**LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE POLICE COOPERATION
WITH THE NATIONAL FOREST HOLDING**

When considering the spheres of activity in which it is permissible to use non-governmental actions, attention should be paid to the sphere of cooperation of the Police with the State Forests National Forest Holding¹. When analyzing the legal regulations of the Police cooperation with the State Forests, special attention should be paid to individual forms of cooperation manifested in conducting joint activities, exchange of information, in the implementation of official activities or joint training.

The term “cooperation” occurs in legal language. However, the lack of a general legal definition of cooperation means that its manifestations should be identified on the basis of the provisions of the constitutional administrative law and substantive administrative law².

The concept of cooperation in the administrative law literature has been known for a long time. “It is primarily associated with specialization determined by the development of civilization and the diversity of public life”³. T. Kuta considers cooperation as non-governmental activities of the administration and points out that this term is used to indicate the most common internal forms of those activities. He also states that usually general competence regulations are the legal basis for non-governmental activities⁴. Z. Cieślak explains cooperation as a bond

¹ State Forests National Forest Holding, hereinafter referred to as: the National Forests or the PGLLP.

² M. Kisała, *Aksjologia współdziałania administracji samorządowej z administracją rządową* [in:] *Aksjologia prawa administracyjnego*, Vol. I, ed. J. Zimmermann, Warszawa 2017, pp. 789–800.

³ E. Ura, S. Pieprzny, *Rola porozumień administracyjnych w działalności organów bezpieczeństwa i porządku publicznego* [in:] *Podmioty administracji publicznej i prawne formy ich działania, Studia i materiały z Konferencji Naukowej Poświęconej Jubileuszowi 80-tych urodzin Profesora Eugeniusza Ochendowskiego*, Toruń 2005, p. 432; E. Ura, *Prawo administracyjne*, Warszawa 2015, p. 104.

⁴ T. Kuta, *Pojęcie działań niewładczych w administracji na przykładzie administracji rolnictwa*, Wrocław 1963, p. 46.

connecting independent entities and meaning at least permission to jointly achieve the objectives set by law or cooperating entities, the effect of which shall be the joint implementation of specific objectives undertaken in accordance with the law, by conducting factual activities and entering into administrative agreements⁵. As M. Mączyński indicates, the forms of cooperation in the public administration can be very diverse⁶. Cooperation is a joint operation of at least two entities that seek to implement a joint undertaking through the involvement of units and resources⁷, without the possibility of exerting any influence or imposing a specific position on the matter⁸. According to J. Zimmermann, the cooperation between public administration authorities is a kind of bond close to coordination⁹ that can only occur in a decentralized system¹⁰. Cooperation is a natural consequence of the dispersion of tasks into various public administration entities, most often striving to achieve the assumed objective¹¹. M. Ofiarska emphasizes that the concept of cooperation presupposes the voluntary existence and equivalent legal situation of entities that cooperate. There is no organizational superiority or subordination between the parties that cooperate. The most important feature of cooperation is a certain degree of independence of the given entity¹².

The main purpose of the Police cooperation with other entities is greater effectiveness of protection and security and public order, which is implemented by many public and non-public entities. Their cooperation, and often even permanent cooperation, are an important element in ensuring an adequate level of security and public order in the country¹³. Cooperation is also an intention to achieve

⁵ Z. Cieślak, *Podstawowe instytucje prawa administracyjnego* [in:] Z. Cieślak, I. Lipowicz, Z. Niewiadomski, *Prawo administracyjne. Część ogólna*, Warszawa 2002, p. 101.

⁶ M. Mączyński, *Koordynacja i współdziałanie w administracji (ze szczególnym uwzględnieniem szczebla powiatowego)* [in:] *Koordynacja działań lokalnych na rzecz bezpieczeństwa*, ed. J. Czapska, Kraków 2014, p. 46.

⁷ J. Dobkowski, *Administracyjnoprawne stosunki łączące Policję z samorządem terytorialnym*, Olsztyn 2013, p. 243.

⁸ K. Hermanowski, *Zasady współdziałania Centralnego Biura Śledczego Policji z innymi jednostkami organizacyjnymi Policji w zakresie bezpieczeństwa i porządku publicznego* [in:] *Współdziałanie służb mundurowych i etyka zawodowa funkcjonariuszy*, eds. B. Jaworski, M. Ura, Rzeszów 2016, p. 251.

⁹ J. Zimmermann, *Prawo administracyjne*, Warszawa 2016, p. 231.

¹⁰ The following points out the differences between “cooperation” and “coordination”: M. Stahl, *Koordynacja i współdziałanie w gminie*, „Problemy Rad Narodowych. Studia i Materiały” 1980, No. 48, p. 79 n.

¹¹ B. Jaworski, *Relacje pomiędzy administracją rządową a samorządową – z uwzględnieniem relacji Policji z jednostkami samorządu terytorialnego* [in:] *Problemy współczesnej administracji publicznej w Polsce*, eds. E. Ura, S. Pieprzny, Rzeszów 2016, p. 20.

¹² M. Ofiarska, *Formy publicznoprawne współdziałania jednostek samorządu terytorialnego*, Warszawa 2008, p. 17.

¹³ M. Pomykała, *Wybrane aspekty współdziałania przy zapewnieniu bezpieczeństwa imprez masowych* [in:] *Bezpieczeństwo imprez masowych*, eds. E. Ura, S. Pieprzny, Rzeszów 2012, p. 61.

the set objectives, through joint operation of relevant entities by means of specific methods¹⁴. Certain organizational units with joint or similar objectives can achieve greater effects when they interact with each other and provide mutual assistance than when each of those units would operate independently¹⁵. Therefore, the cooperation can only be mentioned when the joint objectives of many entities are defined¹⁶. As indicated by B. Jaworski, the purpose of the Police cooperation is also to synchronize public tasks by the entities of this administration. It is especially important in the event of overlapping tasks, or in the event of the need to consolidate cooperation of entities in order to improve and strengthen their activities performed¹⁷.

The need for cooperation between public administration authorities in the implementation of their duties should not raise doubts regardless of whether there is an explicit legal regulation in this matter. It is necessary to mention the content of the preamble to the Polish Constitution¹⁸ in which the cooperation of all types of authorities was indicated in the context of the values on which the law should be based¹⁹. Recently, the legislator has decided to give this value the rank of a general rule of administrative procedure²⁰.

Any action by a public law authority in a rule of law, in accordance with the principles of legalism and the rule of law, requires an appropriate legal basis²¹. Public administration operates on the basis and within the limits of the law. One of the grounds for the legitimacy of public administration activities in a specific form is the public interest indicating the objectives of the service for which public administration authorities were established and the values they are to serve to. The specification of public interest manifests itself in the content of legal norms referring explicitly or implicitly to this concept, as premises for undertaking specific actions. If the legislator does not rely on the requirements of public interest in a given legal act, the authority applying the law must decode the pro-

¹⁴ K. Hermanowski, *Zasady współdziałania...*, p. 251.

¹⁵ M. Mączyński, *Koordinacja i współdziałanie...*, p. 46.

¹⁶ W. Brzozowski, *Współdziałanie władz publicznych*, „Państwo i Prawo” 2010, No. 2, p. 10.

¹⁷ B. Jaworski, *Policja administracyjna*, Toruń 2019, p. 133.

¹⁸ W. Piątek, A. Skoczylas, *Postępowanie egzekucyjne w administracji* [in:] *System Prawa Administracyjnego*, Vol. IX: *Prawo procesowe administracyjne*, eds. R. Hauser, Z. Niewiadomski, A. Wróbel, Warszawa 2020, p. 594.

¹⁹ Constitution of the Republic of Poland of 2 April 1997 (Dz.U. No. 78, Item. 483).

²⁰ Art. 7b of the Act of 14 June 1960 – Code of administrative procedure (Dz.U. 2019, No. 2020, Item 256), Art. 7b was added to the Code of administrative procedure on the basis of Art. 1 point 2 of the Code of administrative procedure. Within the framework of the same amendment, Art. 106a of the Code of administrative procedure regulating the so called “meeting in the mode of cooperation” was also added.

²¹ K. Ziemiński, *Przekazywanie zadań i kompetencji przez organy jednostek samorządu terytorialnego* [in:] *Aktualne problemy funkcjonowania samorządu terytorialnego*, eds. E. Ura, E. Feret, S. Pieprzny, Rzeszów–Sandomierz 2017, p. 60.

tected interests²². The cooperation may take the organizational form, which may also be legally expressed in functional forms, administrative agreements or “ordinary” civil contracts. M. Stahl states that “the authorization to cooperate within the public administration system may be of a general or specific nature, the convergence of objectives and tasks and general constitutional and legal basis are sufficient to establish cooperation. The substantive rules are also often the substantive law provisions”²³.

The institution of administrative agreements is used in the implementation of cooperation between administrative entities²⁴. Assuming cooperation as one of the non-governmental forms of administration, it can be pointed out that the legal basis for taking actions may even be a general competence regulation, however, the best legal (non-governmental) form is the conclusion of administrative agreements²⁵. The basic structural element of the administrative agreement is the cooperation of entities. This is a legal act conducted by entities performing public administration tasks²⁶.

An administrative agreement as a legal form of administration, appeared in the papers of J. Starościk and entered into the dictionary of administrative law permanently²⁷. The administrative agreement, which is classified as non-governmental and public law²⁸, is a legal form of cooperation of hierarchically not subordinated²⁹ administrative authorities and institutions. The agreement should serve to enable mutual implementation of specific objectives of cooperation of independent entities³⁰. The position of entities grouped in the cooperation system is equivalent³¹. Recognizing the freedom to cooperate, equality of parties, lack of subordination, E. Ura argues that the subject of an agreement concluded between entities on an

²² M. Jaśkowska, *Pojęcie interesu publicznego i jego funkcje w prawie administracyjnym* [in:] *Teoria instytucji prawa administracyjnego. Księga pamiątkowa Profesora Jerzego Stefana Langroda*, ed. J. Niczyporuk, Paryż 2011, pp. 289–290.

²³ M. Stahl, *Zagadnienia ogólne* [in:] *System Prawa Administracyjnego*, Vol. VI: *Podmioty administrujące*, eds. R. Hauser, A. Wróbel, Z. Niewiadomski, Warszawa 2011, pp. 81–82.

²⁴ E. Stefańska, *Umowy zawierane w sferze administracji publicznej – wybrane zagadnienia* [in:] *Umowy w administracji*, ed. J. Boć, L. Dziewięcka-Bokun, Wrocław 2008, p. 155.

²⁵ E. Ura, *Prawne zagadnienia ochrony osób i mienia*, Rzeszów 1998, p. 125.

²⁶ E. Ura, *Prawo administracyjne*, p. 127.

²⁷ J. Starościk, *Studia z teorii prawa administracyjnego*, Warszawa 1967, pp. 71–89.

²⁸ K. Kłosowska-Lasek, *Prawne formy działania administracji publicznej* [in:] *Encyklopedia prawa administracyjnego*, eds. M. Domagała, A. Haładaj, S. Wrzosek, Warszawa 2010, p. 57.

²⁹ *Prawo administracyjne*, ed. Z. Niewiadomski, Warszawa 2011, p. 222.

³⁰ L. Bielecki, *Prawne formy i metody działania administracji* [in:] *Prawo administracyjne. Część ogólna, ustrojowe prawo administracyjne, wybrane zagadnienia materialnego prawa administracyjnego*, eds. M. Zdyb, J. Stelmasiak, Warszawa 2020, p. 225.

³¹ P. Łazutka-Gawęda, *Zasada decentralizacji a współdziałanie publicznoprawne jednostek samorządu terytorialnego – wzajemne relacje* [in:] *Decentralizacja i centralizacja administracji publicznej. Współczesny wymiar w teorii i praktyce*, eds. B. Jaworska-Dębska, E. Olejniczak-Szałowska, R. Budzisz, Warszawa–Łódź 2019, p. 254.

equal and cooperative basis are always matters falling within the sphere of administrative law, not civil law, and that the agreement primarily serves the implementation of specific administrative tasks and only within the competence of the action of its participants³². The arrangement of relations between the entities concluding the cooperation agreement may serve to improve the performance of the administrative police function³³. The administrative police shall be all those entities that perform police functions understood in a material sense. It points to activities aimed at protecting public safety and order or protecting against threats³⁴. In this sense, the administrative police can also include services, inspections and rangers³⁵.

In the case of cooperation under an administrative agreement, a legal norm authorizing, or at least allowing for, the conclusion of such an agreement is necessary³⁶. The legal effects of an administrative agreement vary depending on what type of agreement is concluded³⁷. In implementing acts, it is sometimes *expressis verbis* provided for the possibility of further detailing the rules of cooperation by agreement. In the case of agreements concluded by the Police with the State Forests, provision was made for the obligation to jointly perform public tasks by entities concluding an administrative agreement in the strict sense. Such an obligation was formulated in the Forests Act³⁸, and then specified in the Regulation of the Minister of the Environment of 1 July 2014 on detailed rules of cooperation between the State Forests and the Police³⁹. Those standards give cooperating authorities a great opportunity to define the subject and forms of cooperation without fear of violating the principle of legalism⁴⁰.

Pursuant to Art. 49, paragraph 3, point 1 of the Forests Act, the above-mentioned Regulation was issued, which specified the manner in which the Police cooperated with the State Forests National Forest Holding. The cooperation under § 2 of the Regulation is undertaken by:

³² E. Ura, *Prawo administracyjne*, p. 128 n.

³³ B. Jaworski, *Policja administracyjna*, p. 145.

³⁴ See Z. Leoński, *Materialne prawo administracyjne*, Warszawa 2003, p. 188; S. Fundowicz, *Policja i prawo policyjne* [in:] *Nauka administracji wobec wyzwań współczesnego państwa prawa*, ed. J. Łukasiewicz, Rzeszów 2002, p. 179 n.; S. Pieprzny, E. Ura, *Formacje mundurowe w systemie administracji publicznej* [in:] *Służby i formacje mundurowe w systemie bezpieczeństwa wewnętrznego Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*, Rzeszów 2010, p. 21.

³⁵ J. Dobkowski, *Pozycja prawnoustrojowa służb, inspekcji i straży*, Warszawa 2007, p. 153.

³⁶ M. Grażawski, *Porozumienie administracyjne jako prawna forma działania współczesnej administracji publicznej*, Bielsko-Biała 2007, p. 26.

³⁷ *Ibidem*, s. 38.

³⁸ The Forests Act of 28 September 1991 (Dz.U. 2020, Item. 6).

³⁹ Regulation of the Minister of Environment on detailed rules of cooperation between the State Forests and the Police of 1 July 2014 (Dz.U. 2014, Item 910) – the term “regulation” used further in the article means the regulation indicated in this provision.

⁴⁰ E. Ura, *Prawo administracyjne*, p. 105.

- the General Director of State Forests and Chief Inspector of the Forest Rangers with the Main Chief of Police,
- directors of regional directorates of the State Forests with Provincial Chiefs of Police and the Capital Chief of Police,
- chief forester with District (Municipal, Regional) Chiefs of Police and with Chiefs of Police Stations.

Forms of cooperation include providing assistance in conducting official activities, conducting joint activities and exchanging information⁴¹. E. Olejniczak-Szałowska, using the criterion of activity and method of implementing a joint action, proposes to distinguish the following forms of cooperation:

- conducting joint undertakings and activities,
- mutual assistance,
- exchange of information and unilateral sharing of information,
- organizing joint trainings⁴².

As part of **conducting joint undertakings and activities** of the Police and State Forests within the cooperation, the legislator regulated: combating forest damage and combating crimes and offenses in this respect, in particular theft of wood and poaching, maintaining security and public order on land managed by the State Forests and protection of property managed by the State Forests. The cooperation of the State Forests with the Police in the scope specified in § 1 consists in providing assistance in conducting official activities, conducting joint activities and exchanging information.

The cooperation is primarily aimed at facilitating and improving the implementation of administrative tasks⁴³. When analyzing the entities implementing the joint undertaking discussed in the article, it seems important to indicate the tasks for which the indicated entities were established. The Police tasks have been defined in Art. 1, paragraph 2 of the Act on the Police⁴⁴. The basic tasks of the Police include:

- protection of human life and health and property against unlawful attacks affecting those goods,
- protection of public safety and order, including ensuring peace in public places and in means of public transport, in road traffic and in waters intended for general use,
- initiating and organizing activities aimed at preventing committing crimes and offenses as well as criminogenic phenomena and cooperating in this respect with state, local government and social organizations,

⁴¹ W. Radecki, *Ochrona lasów przed zagrożeniami* [in:] *Polskie prawo leśne*, ed. A. Habuda, Warszawa 2016, p. 236.

⁴² E. Olejniczak-Szałowska, *Prawny obowiązek współdziałania Policji z innymi służbami w sferze ochrony bezpieczeństwa i porządku publicznego* [in:] *Policja. Prawne formy działania*, eds. E. Ura, M. Pomykała, S. Pieprzny, Rzeszów 2019, p. 40.

⁴³ E. Ura, *Prawo administracyjne*, p. 104.

⁴⁴ The Act on the Police of 6 April 1990 (Dz.U. 2020, Item 360).

- conducting counter-terrorism activities within the meaning of the Act of 10 June 2016 on anti-terrorist activities,
- detecting crimes and offenses and prosecuting their perpetrators,
- protecting facilities being the seat of members of the Council of Ministers, with the exception of facilities serving the Minister of National Defense and the Minister of Justice, indicated by the minister competent for internal affairs,
- supervision of specialist armed protective formations within the scope specified in separate regulations,
- monitoring compliance with order and administrative provisions related to public activities or in public places,
- cooperation with the Police of other countries and their international organizations, as well as with the authorities and institutions of the European Union under international agreements and arrangements as well as separate provisions,
- processing of criminal information, including personal data,
- maintaining data sets containing information collected by authorized authorities about fingerprints of persons, unidentified fingerprints from crime scenes and the results of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) analysis.

Well thought-out nature protection is a necessary activity on the one hand, and requiring some expenditure on the other hand. The nature protection usually loses in conflict situations caused by the desire and necessity to meet many social needs, with limited funding. It is important to show how important institution protecting nature in Poland the State Forests National Forest Holding is, which as part of its activities, supports nature protection in forests, in cooperation with the police units⁴⁵. The Police also take action in forest areas. The state-owned forests are managed by the State Forests National Forest Holding, while supervision is exercised by the minister competent for the environment. The State Forests is managed by the Director General with the help of regional directors of the Directorate of State Forests. A Forest Service is created in the State Forests, which includes employees who deal with, among others combating crimes and offenses in the field of forest damage and nature protection as well as performing other tasks in the field of property protection. The indicated tasks are performed by forest rangers belonging to the Forest Service. The Forest Rangers are managed by the Forest Rangers Chief Inspector reporting to the Director General. According to Art. 48 of the Forest Act, the powers of forest rangers in the field of combating forest damage are vested in the chief forester, the deputy chief forester, and the surveillance engineer, forester and deputy forester. Article 47, paragraph 2 of the Act defines the tasks of forest rangers. They are authorized to:

- make identification of persons suspected of committing a crime or offense, as well as witnesses of a crime or offense, in order to establish their identity,

⁴⁵ K. Kannenberg, T. Leszczyński, E. Zysnarska, *Wybrane aspekty ochrony przyrody w polskich lasach*, Toruń 2016, p. 7.

- impose and collect criminal fines in matters and to the extent specified in separate provisions,
- stop and control means of transport in forest areas and in their immediate vicinity, in order to check the cargo and view the contents of luggage, in the event of a justified suspicion of committing a criminal offense,
- search rooms and other places in cases of reasonable suspicion of a crime, under the terms set out in the Code of Criminal Procedure,
- catch the perpetrator of a crime or offense red-handed or in pursuit taken immediately after committing the crime and bringing him/her to the Police,
- receive upon receipt items from crime or offense, as well as the tools and means used to commit them,
- conduct investigations and bring and support indictments if the subject of the crime is a tree or wood from forests owned by the State Treasury, in the manner and under the rules set out in the Code of Criminal Procedure,
- conduct proceedings in cases of misdemeanors and participate in hearings before the misdemeanour court as a public prosecutor and bringing appeals to the district courts against the misdemeanour court's decisions on combating offenses in the field of forest damage,
- carry long and short firearms, handcuffs, baton, hand-held thrower of incapacitating substances and objects intended to incapacitate persons by means of electricity,
- demand the necessary assistance from state institutions, apply for such assistance to business entities, social organizations, as well as in case of urgency to provide every citizen with *ad hoc* assistance, under the terms specified in the Act on the Police.

Forestry rangers are also authorized to inspect business entities dealing in the marketing and processing of wood and other forest products in order to check the legality of the origin of wood raw materials and other forest products (Art. 47, paragraph 2b).

Pursuant to § 5 of the aforementioned regulation, the Police and the State Forests (and within them primarily the Forest Rangers), conduct joint operations as part of the cooperation. They mainly include patrolling forest areas to ensure public safety and order in forests, along busy communication and tourist routes, in forest areas around cities and in tourist facilities, fire protection, nature and environmental protection, including forest floor protection, and protection of watercourses and water reservoirs, as well as organize and conduct, with the consent of the appropriate provincial chief of police or Capital City Chief of Police, activities in a given area based on

The concept of Art. 47 of the Forests Act is that forest rangers perform official duties only on land owned by the State Treasury managed by State Forests National Forest Holding⁴⁶. Undertaking cooperation strengthens the possibility

⁴⁶ W. Radecki, *Ochrona lasów...*, p. 235.

of performing a public task that surpasses the potential of an individually perceived unit⁴⁷.

Mutual assistance to each other in the performance of official duties is regulated in § 4 of the Regulation and includes:

- assistance provided to the organizational units of the State Forests by the Police authorities in the areas of: searching rooms and other places as well as controlling means of transport in cases of justified suspicion of committing a crime and prosecuting persons suspected of committing a crime or offense in the forests, in particular persons suspected of poaching,
- assistance provided to the Police authorities by organizational units of the State Forests in the scope of: locating and identifying persons suspected of committing a crime or offense, sought by law enforcement authorities and staying in the forest or on the premises of the State Forests organizational units, securing traces of crimes or offenses committed in forests, sharing data from video monitoring in cases of reasonable suspicion of committing a crime or offense, providing the assistance of a guide who is an employee of the Forest Service in the event of the Police investigations in forest areas,
- providing means of transport as well as means of communication and signaling and alarm devices for the purposes of conducting joint activities of the State Forests and the Police.

The indicated forms of cooperation between the Police and the State Forests, regarding the provision of assistance in the performance of official activities and conducting joint operations, shall take place at the reasoned request of one of the parties.

According to Z. Leonski, the issue of cooperation can also be seen as a requirement for mutual provision of information by public administration authorities when other authorities are interested in the operation of one of the authorities. This rule could also be applied as sharing the necessary documents, which would be an extremely important element in favor of proper cooperation and effective performance of functions in public administration⁴⁸. The simplest exchange of information serves-making joint choices in the broadly understood decision-making process⁴⁹. A typical form of the Police cooperation with other services is the **exchange of information or unilateral provision of information**⁵⁰. The exchange of information between the Police and the State Forests, regulated in § 7 of the Regulation, consists of:

⁴⁷ M. Grażawski, M. Małecka-Lyszczek, *Związek jako forma współdziałania jednostek samorządu terytorialnego* [in:] *Jednostka, państwo, administracja – nowy wymiar*, ed. E. Ura, Rzeszów 2004, p. 188.

⁴⁸ Z. Leoński, *Nauka administracji*, Warszawa 2002, pp. 132–133.

⁴⁹ M. Sulczewski, *Informacja i współdziałanie*, Warszawa 1982, p. 91 n.

⁵⁰ E. Olejniczak-Szałowska, *Prawny obowiązek...*, p. 43.

- mutual provision of all information on the threat of crime and criminal circles related to forest damage and committed crimes and offenses in forests and organizational units of the State Forests, in particular in the field of theft of wood and poaching,
- mutual provision of materials regarding preventive actions in the field of forest protection against forest damage,
- participation of the Police representatives in the periodic meetings of the State Forests organizational units regarding the assessment of forest threat,
- submitting to the Main Chief of Police by the Chief Inspector of Forestry Rangers Annual Information on the protection of forests against forest damage and an annual report on conducted proceedings in cases of offenses,
- exchange of experience in the field of methods used to combat forest damage and disturbance of public peace and order, particularly in tourist facilities located in forests,
- exchange of information about regions (zones), dimensions and periods of fire hazard and threats related to various types of forest damage,
- providing police units of State Forests organizational units with information on persons suspected of committing a crime or offense in the field of forest damage,
- making available to the Police by organizational units of the State Forests detailed forest maps and providing information on the physiography of forest areas.

The last of the commonly used forms of cooperation is the **organization and conduct of training**. The Regulation in § 5, paragraph 3 obliges to conduct, as part of cooperation, joint trainings for employees of State Forests and the police officers, in particular on the rules of the use, storage and maintenance of firearms, rules for the use of direct coercion measures, combating forest damage, including poaching and theft in forests.

Most often during cooperation policemen and forest rangers control forest car parks, forest entry roads and check compliance with the prohibition on entering the forest. The aim of the activities is to ensure safety and order in forest areas. Areas of patrolled forests are increasingly covered by video monitoring, of which video material is evidence in ongoing proceedings. Through monitoring, they control whether illegal removal of garbage to the forest, violation of forest prohibitions, littering, poaching or theft of wood occur. Joint actions of foresters and uniformed services are not only to prevent the destruction of nature and disturbing animals, but also to improve the safety of people traveling on forest trails.

On the one hand, the cooperation of the Police with the State Forests prevents unlawful activities, because the mere presence of the police officers with forest rangers is a significant preventive factor, while on the other hand, it facilitates submitting the offender to legal liability⁵¹.

⁵¹ W. Radecki, *Ochrona lasów...*, p. 236.

The presented example of cooperation between the Police and State Forests confirms the use of this form of action in the implementation of public administration tasks. Greater effects can be achieved by both entities only if they cooperate with each other, conducting joint activities, providing mutual assistance in conducting official activities and exchanging information, than when each of those units would operate independently. The cooperation is aimed at facilitating and improving the implementation of assigned tasks and achieving joint objectives, which will lead to ensuring more effective protection of public safety and order in forest areas.

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Summary

This article is devoted to the analysis of legal regulations constituting the basis for the Police cooperation with the State Forests National Forest Holding. The paper explains the concept of “cooperation” based on the doctrine of administrative law. The cooperation is aimed at facilitating and improv-

ing the implementation of assigned tasks and achieving joint objectives in ensuring safety and public order in forest areas. Greater effects can be achieved by both entities only if they cooperate with each other, conducting joint activities, providing mutual assistance in conducting official activities and exchanging information, than when each of those units would operate independently.

Keywords: Police, State Forests National Forest Holding, cooperation

PRAWNE ASPEKTY WSPÓLDZIAŁANIA POLICJI Z PAŃSTWOWYM GOSPODARSTWEM LEŚNYM LASY PAŃSTWOWE

Streszczenie

Niniejszy artykuł poświęcono analizie regulacji prawnych stanowiących podstawy współdziałania Policji z Państwowym Gospodarstwem Leśnym Lasy Państwowe. W opracowaniu dokonano wyjaśnienia pojęcia „współdziałania” na podstawie doktryny prawa administracyjnego. Współdziałanie ma na celu ułatwienie i usprawnienie realizacji przyznaných zadań oraz osiągnięcie wspólnych celów w zapewnieniu bezpieczeństwa i porządku publicznego na terenach leśnych. Większe efekty są w stanie osiągnąć oba podmioty tylko wówczas, gdy będą ze sobą współdziałały, prowadząc wspólne działania, udzielając sobie wzajemnej pomocy w realizacji czynności służbowych oraz wymieniając informacje, niż wtedy, gdy każda z tych jednostek działałaby samodzielnie.

Słowa kluczowe: Policja, Państwowe Gospodarstwo Leśne Lasy Państwowe, współdziałanie