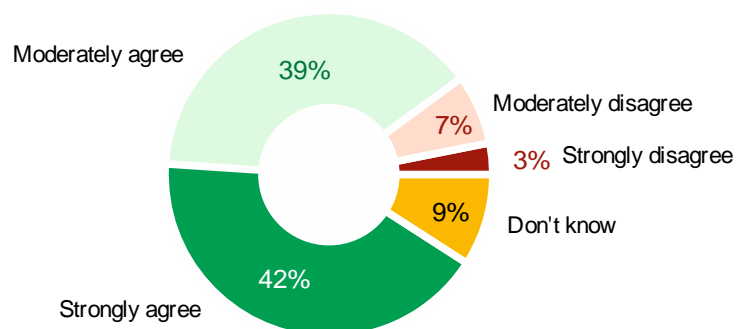


Opinions about presidential vetoes to changes in the judiciary

The laws on judiciary, adopted in July by the Polish parliament, aroused many controversies and caused social protests. The most serious allegations concerned violation of the constitutional principle of the separation of powers. Eventually, president Andrzej Duda vetoed two of the three laws: on the Supreme Court and the National Judicial Council. Poles are quite widely convinced about the need for judicial reform. In August, more than four-fifths of the respondents (81%) supported the reform of the judiciary.

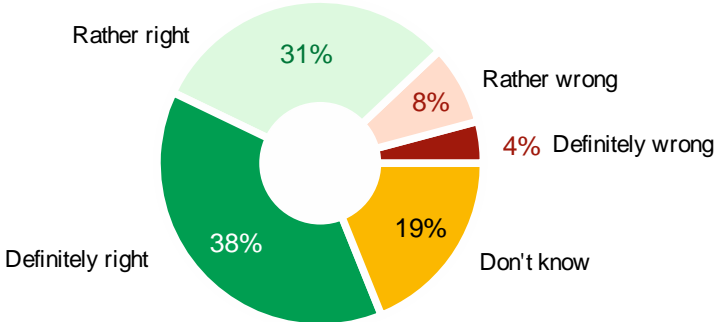
Do you agree that there is a need for reform of the judiciary?



Despite the perceived need for changes in the functioning of the Polish judiciary, more than two thirds of Poles (69%) believe that the decision of president Andrzej Duda to veto two of

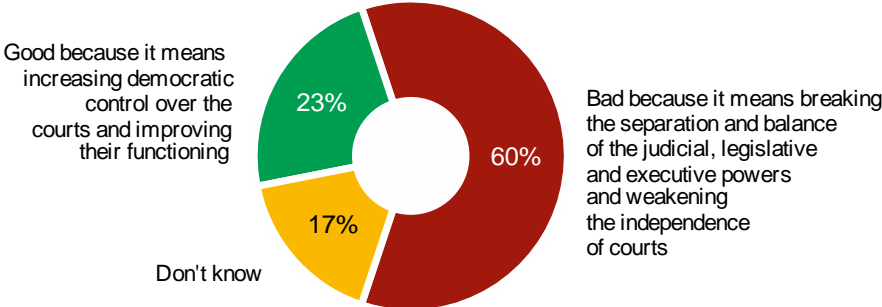
the three laws on change in the judicial system was correct. This opinion is also shared by most voters of the ruling party (56%).

Was the decision of president Andrzej Duda to veto two of three laws changing the judicial system right or wrong?



Laws adopted by the parliament assumed increased influence of politicians on the courts of law. Proponents of the proposed changes argued that this meant increasing democratic control over courts and improving their functioning. Opponents saw in this the violation of the principle of separation of powers and weakening of the independence of courts. The arguments of opponents of the solutions adopted by the parliament appear to be more convincing to the public opinion. Three fifths of respondents see increasing the influence of politicians on courts as threatening to separation of powers, and only less than a quarter consider it as strengthening democratic control over courts and improving their functioning.

Reform of the judiciary proposed by Law and Justice (PiS) assumed increased influence of politicians on the courts. Do you think it is good or bad?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Scenery after Presidential Veto", September 2017. Fieldwork for national sample: August 2017, N=1009. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.