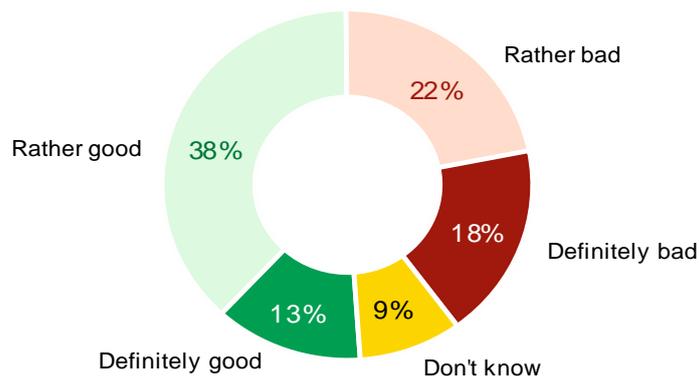


Assessment of the Law and Justice (PiS) government after over three years in power

Over half of Poles (51%) assess PiS activities to date positively. Two fifths of respondents (40%) are critical about current authorities.

How do you evaluate the actions of the Law and Justice (PiS) after over three years of exercising power?



The vast majority of people who positively assess PiS actions in the current term (69%) indicate positive changes in the socio-economic sphere. Respondents mention the family policy and the Family 500 plus program, which has been implemented for almost three years and has become its flagship. Those satisfied with the achievements of the government generally appreciate the government's social policy and notice the improvement of the

situation of the poorest social groups. Respondents perceive an improvement in the economic situation and the condition of enterprises during the period of PiS government. Some appreciate its fiscal policy, including mainly the increase in VAT revenues. Good assessments of more than three years of PiS government are also justified by the improvement of the situation on the labour market, lowering the retirement age, higher wages and increases in pensions and general raise in living standard.

Good ratings of PiS activities over the last three years are much less frequently justified by decisions and changes in other areas (indicated by 14% of respondents satisfied with the achievements of the current authorities). Responses in this group concentrate on two issues: foreign policy, including the refusal to accept refugees as part of relocation program, and the clarification of scandals and irregularities, as well as the fight against corruption and crime.

A relatively small proportion of responses concern values and ethics of exercising power (mentioned by 6% of respondents). They indicate that the party in government represent traditional values such as patriotism and religiosity, and have moral qualifications to govern, are honest, do not deceive or lie

A large part of people (26% in total) express general satisfaction: they notice improvement of the situation in Poland, praise the determination and effectiveness of the government, and appreciate the implementation of PiS election promises.

Support for PiS activities is basically one-dimensional and is based mainly on a positive assessment of activities and changes in the socio-economic sphere. The motives for rejecting PiS and critically assessing the government policies over the past three years are far more complex. The main accusations against the authorities (levelled by a total of 37% of respondents) concern the abuse of power. Among them, the most common are accusations concerning the lack of the rule of law, violation of the law and the constitution by the authorities. as well as the limitation of democracy and the desire to take over all power in Poland. The most commonly given examples of specific actions are changes in the judiciary, which, in the opinion of respondents, went in the wrong direction and violate the principle of the separation of powers. Further allegations concern low standards of public

debate and the manner of adopting the law: excessive pace of enacting laws, marginalizing the opposition and blocking discussions in parliament. In the opinion of respondents, authorities are guided by their own and their party interests, not by the common good. Moreover, in public opinion, politicians appropriate the state by filling positions with their own nominees. The authorities are also criticized for arrogance, not listening to the public and disregarding public opinion.

Apart from the abuse of power by PiS, other reservations related to the quality of governance are often formulated (27%). The allegations relate primarily to deceit, failure to deliver on promises and incoherence between words and actions. People dissatisfied with PiS actions point out to excessive criticism of people associated with the previous government, lynch mob actions against politicians and hate speech, as well as escalating social conflicts and deepening divisions in society.

A large part of PiS critics (27%) question the sense and effectiveness of the current social and economic policy. Critical remarks mainly concern the Family 500 plus program, its budgetary and political impact. Respondents call it the wrong type of social policy, giving money away and buying votes. Others, in turn, do not question the idea of child support from the Family 500 plus program, but express reservations about the unjust criteria for granting it. The government economic policy is criticized for insufficient support for entrepreneurs. The rise in prices and services also raises concern. Other comments relate to raising or maintaining high taxes, or low wages and pensions.

Negative assessments of activities of current authorities are less often related to other areas (17%). Among them the most common objections refer to foreign policy: perceived conflicts in the international arena and deterioration of relations with other countries. In addition to foreign policy, a lot of criticism is levelled at the educational reform.

Sometimes ideological objections are raised (10% in total). In the opinion of critics of the PiS government, this party is too close to the Church.

A large proportion of people (17%) are generally critical towards the activities of the governing party since it gained power. They enumerate bad decisions, lack of achievements, and even acting to the detriment of Poland.

In the opinion of the majority of respondents (59%) PiS meet their election promises. Less than a third (31%) are of the opposite opinion.

Do you agree that PiS is fulfilling its election promises?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Evaluation of the Law and Justice (PiS) Government after More than Three Years of Exercising Power", February 2019. Fieldwork for national sample: January 2019, N=928. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.