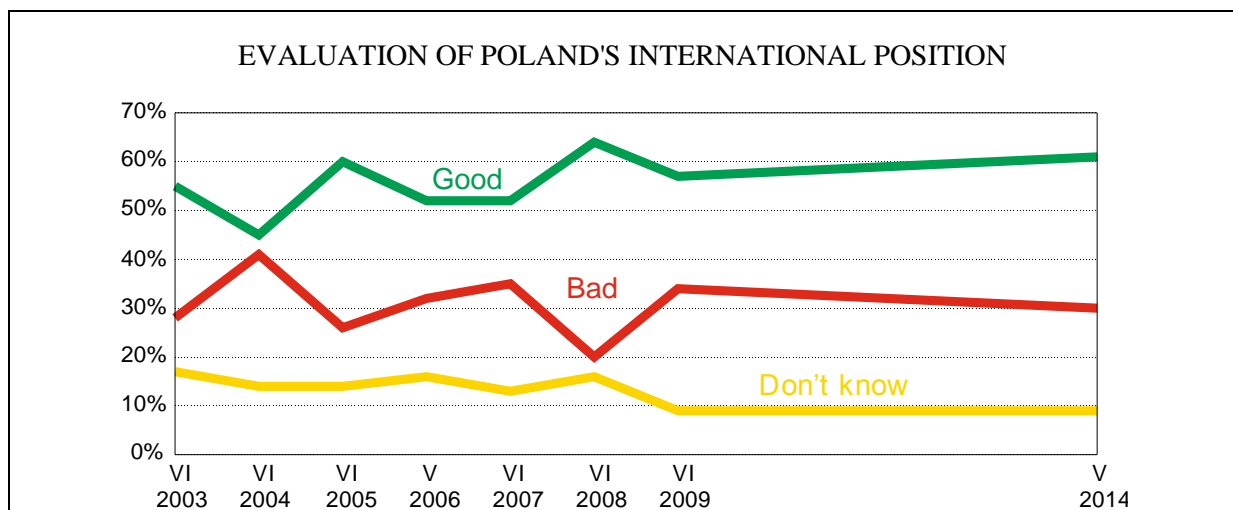


POLAND'S INTERNATIONAL POSITION

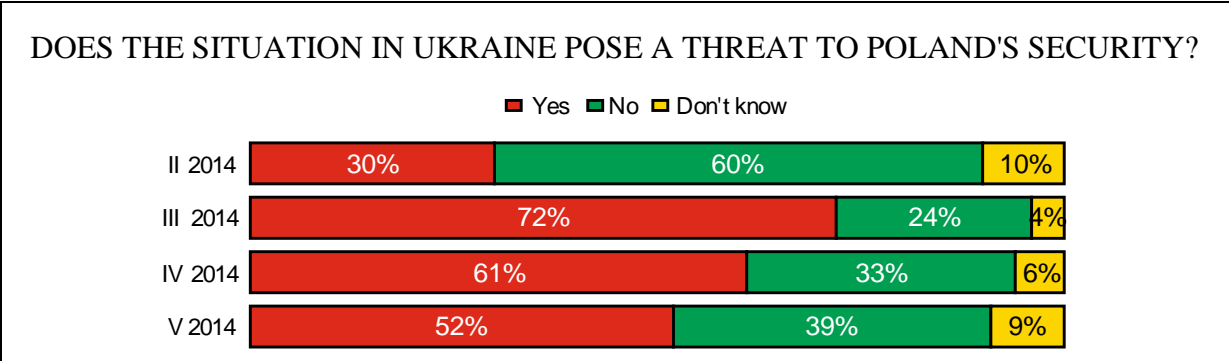
The majority of respondents (61%) evaluate Poland's international position positively. Negative opinions are half as prevalent (30%). In spite of the unstable situation in Ukraine, the opinions are now better than five years ago, after the beginning of the financial crisis. It is interesting to note that, after 2003, the opinions were worst immediately after the EU accession, when there was a great deal of uncertainty about the consequences of membership. The best evaluations were noted in June 2008, several months after the coalition of Civic Platform and the Peasant Party (PO-PSL) formed the government. It was related to the change in the style of foreign policy introduced by this coalition, following the blunt rhetoric of the government of Jarosław Kaczyński, with its stress on the defence of Polish interests.



Analyses indicate that the opinions about international position of Poland are related to the perception of threat resulting from the destabilization of Ukraine and, more than anything else, on the attitude to the EU membership. Thus, Poland's international position is perceived in a broader context determined by membership in NATO and, above all, the European Union.

Recent events in Ukraine caused a great deal of anxiety in Poland. The strongest fears were recorded during the Russian operation of takeover of Crimea. At that time, in March, almost three-quarters of Poles (72%) shared the opinion that the situation in Ukraine was a threat to Poland's security. In subsequent months the anxiety subsided to 61% in April and 52% in the present moment.

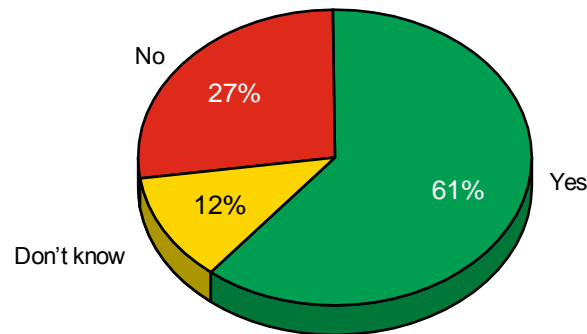
People perceiving the situation in Ukraine as a threat to Poland evaluate Poland's international position much worse than respondents who do not consider events beyond the eastern border as a threat. Importantly, in both groups positive evaluations of Poland's international position prevail (accordingly 53% and 74%).



The events in Ukraine caused an increase in the support for Poland's membership in NATO: the proportion of respondents supporting Poland's membership in this organization increased from 52% to 81% in the period from February to April 2014, reaching the level never recorded before. The most recent survey confirms that Poles attach a lot of confidence in the alliance. Most (61%) think that Poland can be sure of allied engagement in border defence in case of armed conflict, while a quarter (27%) have doubts.

The conviction that Poland, in case of external threat, may count on the help of its NATO allies improves the perception of international security. Respondents declaring confidence in NATO predominantly have a positive opinion about Poland's international position (72%). People who have doubts about our allies are divided in their opinions (46% positive, 48% negative).

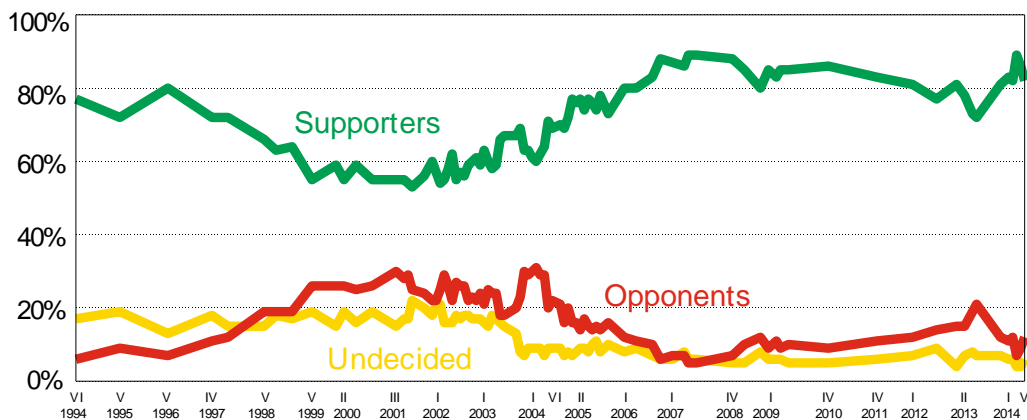
CAN POLAND BE SURE THAT OUR ALLIES WILL BE ENGAGED IN THE DEFENCE OF POLISH BORDERS IF THE NEED ARISES?



The destabilization in Ukraine caused the increase in support for the membership in the European Union. In March, when the fears related to the situation beyond the eastern border was strongest, the proportion of people in favour of Poland's membership in the EU reached 89%, which was the level noted never before. In subsequent months the support subsided slightly, but, at 82%, it remains higher than in 2012-2013.

The attitude to the European integration has strong influence on the evaluation of Poland's international position. Those in favour of EU membership have positive opinion about Poland's international position (69%), while the opponents hold a negative view (72%).

ATTITUDE TO POLAND'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"International situation and the security of Poland"*, June 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: May 2014, N=1074. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.