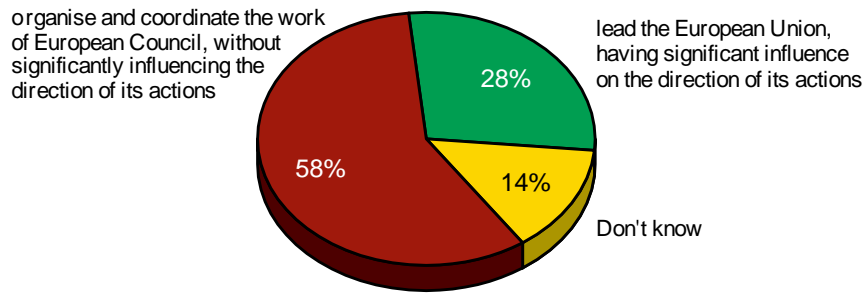


DONALD TUSK, PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

On December 1, Donald Tusk will become the second president of the European Council after Herman Van Rompuy. The election of the Polish Prime Minister was unexpected for the Polish public opinion. It was widely perceived as appreciation of the changing role of Poland in Europe and, first of all, as a personal success of Donald Tusk. Political opponents congratulated the new president on the nomination, while also accusing him of escaping from real challenges on the national level and questioning the influence associated with this position. Surveys show that the election of Donald Tusk increased the support for the Civic Platform and improved the image of the Polish political elites.

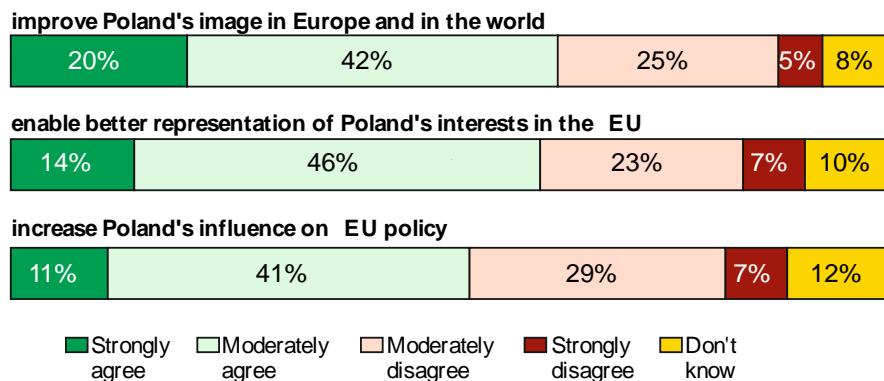
According to the European law, the president of the European Council presides over this body, assures preparation and continuity of its work, acts to achieve agreement, reports to the European Parliament on Council meetings and represents European Union in matters of common foreign policy and security. As the legal framework of this function is general, the actual influence associated with this function depends on the authority, charisma and character of the person nominated for this function. In the opinion of the majority of respondents (58%), Donald Tusk will, first of all, organize and coordinate the work of the European Council. Only slightly more than a quarter (28%) think that he will be the actual leader of the European Union, able to exert significant influence on the direction of its actions.

IN YOUR OPINION, DONALD TUSK, AS PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, WILL...



In public opinion, Donald Tusk's presidency will have positive consequences for Poland. In the opinion of the majority of respondents, it will improve its image in Europe and in the world (62%) and enable better representation of Poland's interests in the European Union (60%). A somewhat smaller group of people (52%) think that it will increase Poland's influence on the policy of the European Union.

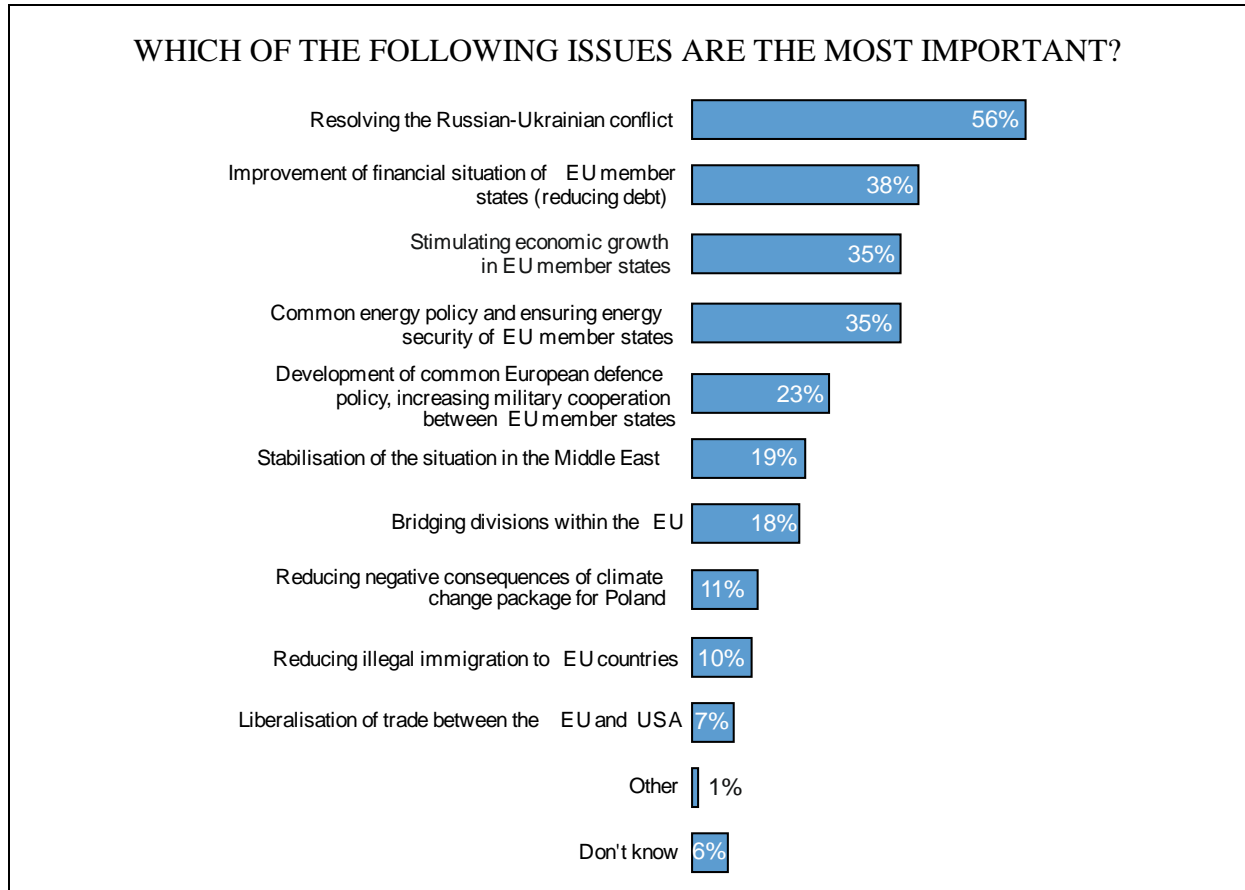
DO YOU AGREE THAT THE NOMINATION OF DONALD TUSK TO THE POST OF PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL WILL...



Donald Tusk will start his term in office in a difficult moment for the European Union, when member states need to be able to reach compromises and act effectively. The challenges facing the EU are related to the crisis in Ukraine, which could pose a threat to the security of EU members, and to the consequences of financial crisis in the Eurozone.

It appears that the Polish public opinion is largely aware of these challenges. In view of the people, the most important issues are resolving the conflict in Ukraine and restoring peace in Europe. The other important task is combating the financial crisis and its consequences: improvement of the financial situation of EU member states and reducing their debt on the one hand, and, on the other hand, stimulating economic growth within the EU. The list of priorities is closed by the energy security of the EU member states and common

energy policy. Taking into account the responses, the following issues may be considered as important, but not top priority: development of common defence policy and improved military cooperation between EU members, stabilization of the situation in the Middle East and bridging the divisions within the EU.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Donald Tusk as the president of the European Council: reactions and expectations"*, October 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: September 2014, N=946. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.