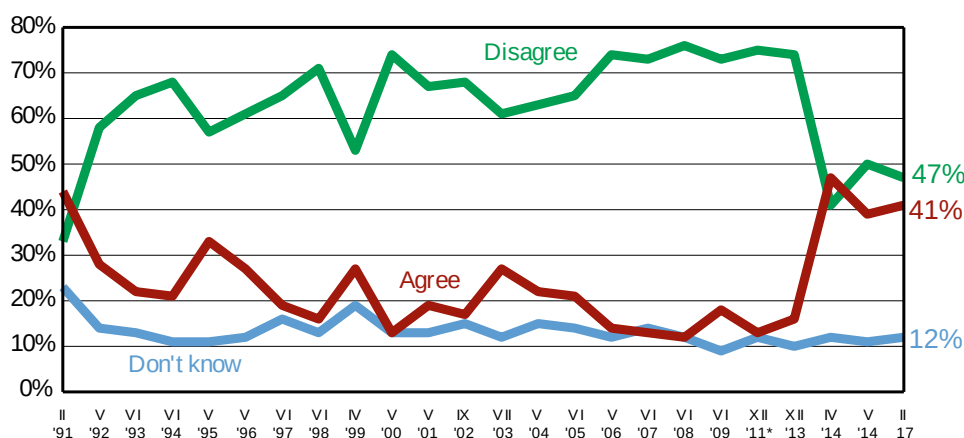


Attitude to NATO and to the presence of allied forces in Poland

Since the break-up of the Soviet Union until 2013 most of the Polish population did not see the threat to Poland's independence. The perception of international security in Poland changed dramatically after the outbreak of the conflict in Ukraine and the annexation of the Crimea by Russia: In April 2014, as many as 47% of respondents believed that there was a threat to Poland's independence. Currently, three years after these events, the level of concern is slightly lower, although compared to the previous period it is still quite high. Although nearly half of respondents (47%) are convinced that there is no threat to our country's independence today, only a slightly smaller group (41%) perceive such danger.

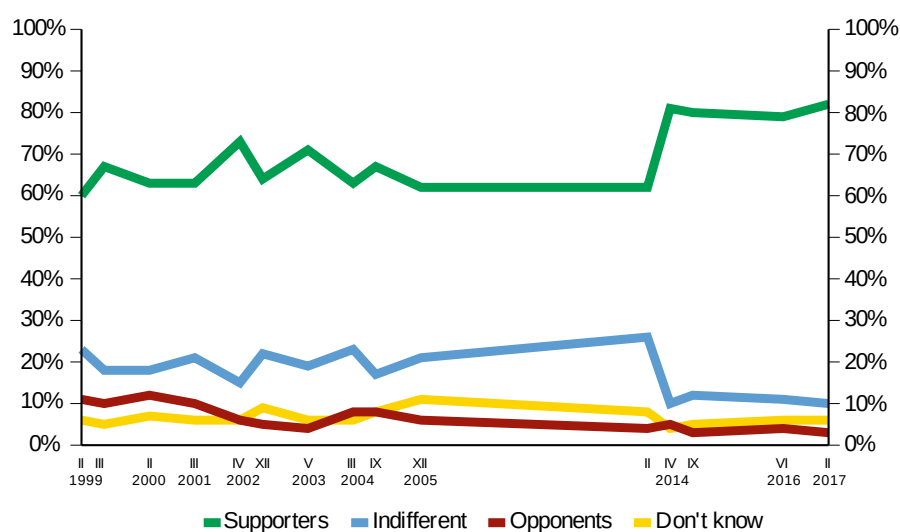
Do you agree that at present there is a real threat to Poland's independence?



Over the last eighteen years, Poland's membership in NATO has been supported by the vast majority of Poles, but the pro-NATO attitudes have never been as widespread in Poland as

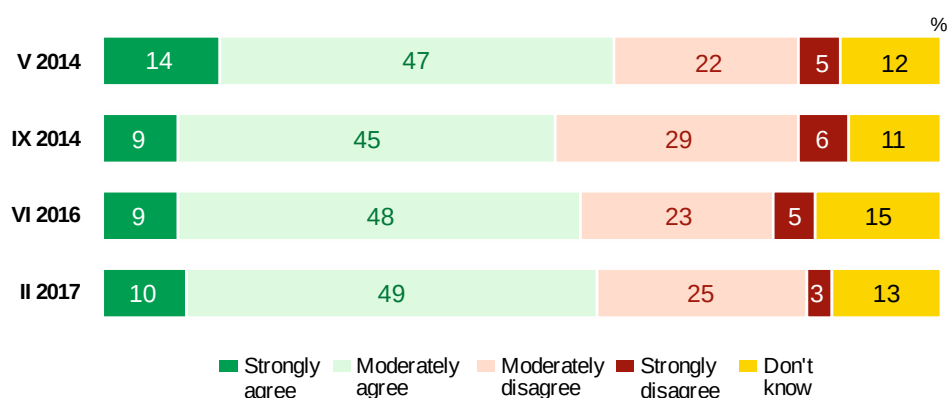
in the last three years. The increase in support for NATO membership must be clearly linked to the situation in the east of Ukraine. As recently as in February 2014, the attitude towards Poland's membership in NATO was similar to opinions noted immediately prior to accession, when 62% of Poles supported NATO membership. Two months later, in April 2014, after the "referendum" in the Crimea and the annexation of the peninsula by the Russian Federation, the percentage of supporters of membership reached 81%. Today, 82% support NATO membership, while only three out of a hundred Poles (3%) oppose it.

Attitude to Poland's membership in NATO



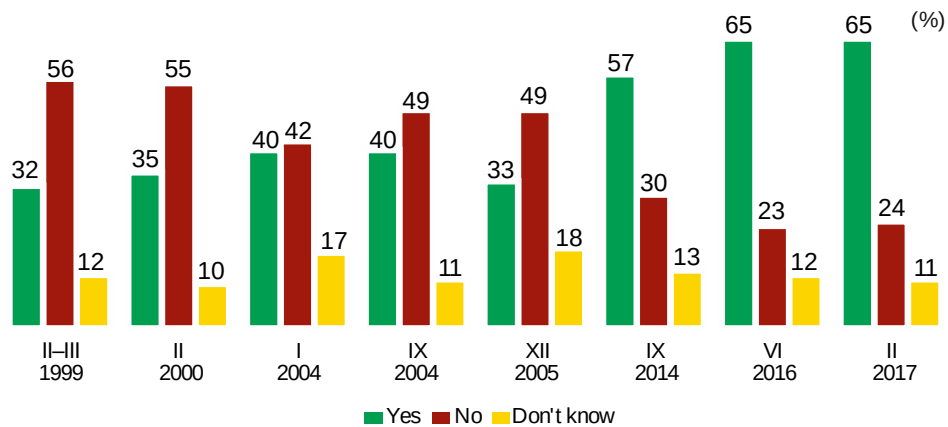
Since the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, which caused the growing sense of threat to national security, most respondents have expressed the view that Poland can be sure of the allied involvement in case of a need to defend Poland's borders. At present, 59% of respondents believe in NATO commitments.

Do you agree that Poland can be sure that NATO allies would engage in case of a need to defend our borders?



There is high acceptance of the permanent presence of forces of other NATO countries in Poland. Nearly two thirds of respondents (65%) are of the opinion that NATO troops should be stationed in Poland.

Do you agree that armed forces of other NATO member states should be stationed in Poland?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS reports in Polish: "Attitude to Territorial Defence Force", "Attitude to NATO and Presence of Allied Troops in Poland", March 2016. Fieldwork for national sample: February 2017, N=1016. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.