

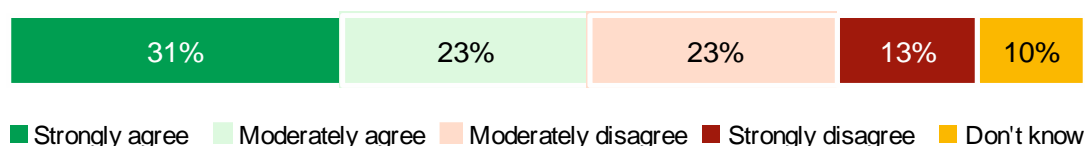
## **Opinions about war reparations**

The question of war reparations from Germany has appeared in the Polish public debate after 1989 several times. In September 2004, the Sejm unanimously adopted a resolution in which it stated that Poland had not yet received war reparations from Germany and called on the Polish government to take action in this matter. That resolution of the Sejm was a reaction to property claims of German citizens against Poland and an attempt to prevent their effective enforcement. The German state separated itself from the claims advanced by the German displaced citizens, and the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg in 2008 rejected the complaint submitted in this case by the Prussian Trust. Currently, due to the policies of the governing party, the issue of war reparations has returned, although it is not clear how seriously PiS (Law and Justice) is considering applying for compensation, and to what extent it treats this issue instrumentally. Doubts arise as to whether there are legal grounds to apply for reparations (according to a recent expert opinion of the Sejm Analysis Office - yes, according to the German side - no), although this is not only a legal problem, but also a political one. Meanwhile, the German government, recognizing the German responsibility for the crimes of the Nazi regime, explicitly rejects any claims, arguing that in 1953 Poland renounced reparations and repeatedly confirmed it later. The expertise

prepared for the Bundestag shows that possible claims lost their power at the latest at the time the "2 + 4" treaty was signed in 1990.

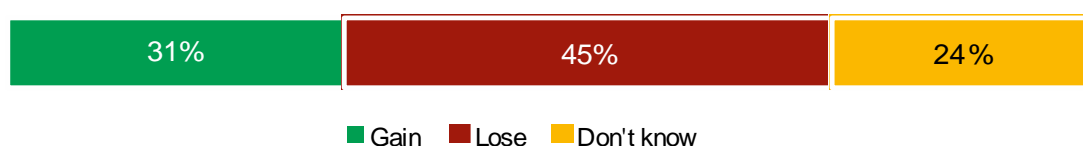
More than half of adult Poles (54%) think that Poland should demand reparations from Germany for losses incurred during World War II. There are more than one-third of respondents against it (36%).

**Do you agree that Poland should demand reparations from Germany for losses incurred during World War II?**



Despite significant public support for demanding war reparations from Germany, the opinion prevails that by raising this issue Poland may lose rather than gain.

**Do you think that by demanding from Germany reparations (compensation) for losses suffered during World War II, Poland may gain more or lose more?**

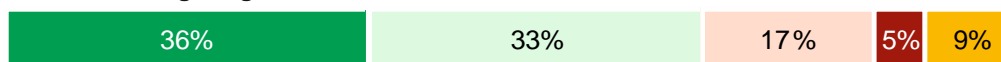


Generally, Poles consider the reasons behind the demands for reparations from Germany to be right, but at the same time to a greater or lesser extent share doubts and reservations regarding the sense of applying for compensation. Most respondents believe that paying reparations to our country is morally right (70%), and also think that Germany should be reminded of their responsibility for World War II and the resulting obligations (69%). At the same time, however, three-quarters of all respondents (75%) do not believe in the success of any attempts to obtain reparations. Almost three-quarters of respondents (71%) are afraid that demanding compensation will spoil Polish-German relations. The majority (60%) also agree with the opinion that claims for payment of compensation for losses incurred during World War II may trigger claims of Germans regarding the Western parts of Poland, formerly a part of Germany. Over half of the respondents (56%) think that it is too late to apply for war reparations. Moreover, almost half (48%) are inclined to agree with the

opinion that Germany is fulfilling its potential obligations towards Poland, for instance due to the fact that they are the largest payer to the European Union budget used by Poland.

### Do you agree with the following statements?

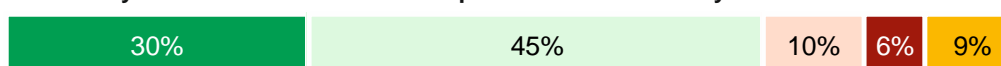
Regardless of whether the Polish government decides to apply for reparations or not, Germans should be reminded of their responsibility for the Second World War and the resulting obligations to Poland



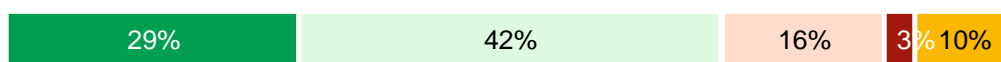
The demand for war reparations to Poland is morally right



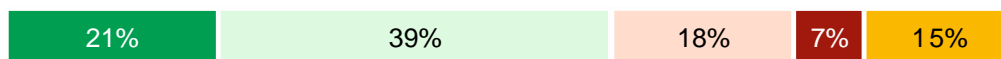
It is unlikely that Poland will receive war reparations from Germany



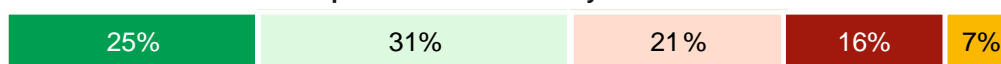
The demand for war reparations (compensation) from Germany will spoil Polish-German relations



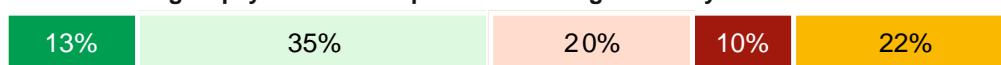
Demands for reparations (compensation) may trigger Germans' claims regarding the Western lands, formerly a part of Germany



It is too late to demand war reparations from Germany



Germany fulfills its potential obligations towards Poland, e.g. due to the fact that it is the largest payer to the European Union budget used by Poland



■ Strongly agree   
 ■ Moderately agree   
 ■ Moderately disagree   
 ■ Strongly disagree   
 ■ Don't know

All the arguments are significantly related to the attitude to reparation claims towards Germany and to the general prediction of the effects of this initiative. Support for claiming damages for war losses is most strongly correlated with the belief in the moral validity of possible reparation claims and with the disapproval of the view that it is too late to demand war reparations. In turn, the opinion that by applying for reparations Poland may lose more

than gain, is most strongly associated with the belief that it is too late to undertake such actions and with the fear that it will spoil the Polish-German relations.

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More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Poles on Reparations", November 2017. Fieldwork for national sample: October 2017, N=1033. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.