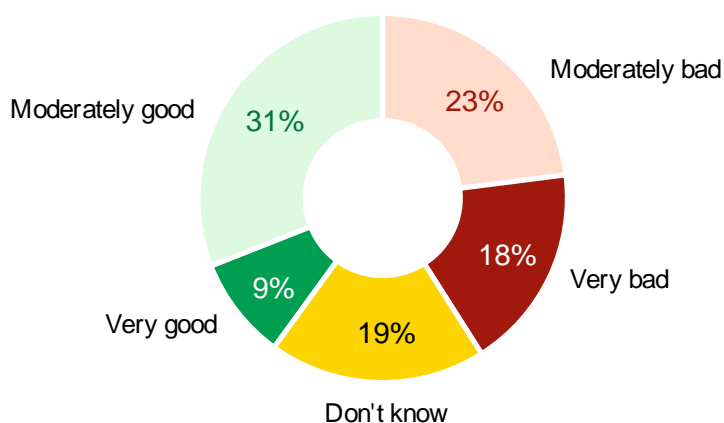


## Polish foreign policy: assessments and expectations

Assessments of foreign policy of the government created by Law and Justice (PiS) are divided. The number of people who evaluate Poland's foreign policy since PiS took power well is practically the same as the proportion of people who have a negative opinion about it (40% and 41% respectively).

### How do you evaluate Poland's foreign policy since the Law and Justice (PiS) took power?



Both those who assess foreign policy since PiS took power as good and bad were asked to justify their opinions. Respondents did not choose prepared answers, but formulated their opinions in a completely free manner.

People who have a good opinion of Poland's foreign policy after 2015 paid particular attention to the intentions of the ruling camp and expressed their conviction that PiS acts in defence of national interests, for Poland's good (18%). It was emphasized that those currently in government in Poland are pursuing sovereign foreign policy (9%). The determination of the current authorities was emphasized: their firmness, tenacity, not yielding under pressure from other countries (11%). Independence and the defence of Poland's sovereignty at the European Union level were noticed (2%). In the opinion of some supporters of the current foreign policy, it brings effects: the position of our country on the international arena is improving, and other countries have started to recognize Poland's importance (6%).

Some people indicated generally good relations and contacts between Poland and other countries, absence of conflicts (8%). Some noticed the improvement of international relations, better understanding with our foreign partners after changes in the government (3%). Speaking about Poland's good relations with specific foreign partners, the most important was the alliance with the United States (6%) and relaxation of the recent conflict with the European Union (5%). Sometimes, the Three Seas Initiative (1%), good relations with Hungary (1%) and improvement of relations with Germany (1%) were praised.

Among specific issues in the field of foreign policy, the decision on not accepting refugees to our country (7%) was pointed out with approval, as well as actions to ensure the security of Poland, such as signing a contract for the delivery of the American anti-aircraft and missile defence system "Patriot" (3%). Moreover, respondents mentioned development of economic and commercial relations, e.g. attracting new investments and seeking new export markets (3%) and better job opportunities abroad (2%).

Some attention was also paid to good representation of Poland abroad and improvement in this area in recent period (3%).

Some people limited themselves to general foreign policy approval (12%) or the entire work of the current team (4%).

People criticizing Poland's foreign policy accused the government of, above all, lack of cooperation and understanding with other countries and pointed to the negative effects of

such a policy. Respondents focused on excessive intransigence in foreign policy, inability to get along with others, causing conflicts and disputes (23%). As a result, this led to deterioration and even to the disruption of Poland's relations with other countries (9%), deterioration of the image of Poland and Poles (7%), and, as was pointed out less often, to marginalization of our country (2%). Some pointed out that Poland is currently alone in the international arena, it has lost its allies (7%). There were also opinions about the discredited image of Poland on the international arena caused by those currently in government, a sense of shame for what is happening in the country (3%).

By far the most visible area of conflict is the dispute with the European Union (18%). In this context, respondents talked, among others, about Poland's failure to comply with European Union law, the unsuccessful vote for the head of the European Council, and even about the policy to bring Poland out of the EU. They mentioned international consequences of the adoption of the law on the Institute of National Remembrance (2%) and the related deterioration of relations with Israel (3%) and the United States (2%). Moreover relations with neighbours have worsened (3%). There are also concerns about bad relations with Russia, which, in the opinion of some, may even pose a threat of the outbreak of war (4%). Deterioration of relations with Germany (2%), Ukraine (1%) and France (1%) was also noticed.

Some other specific issues, apart from the above-mentioned, with negative connotations were: refusal to accept refugees (1%), insufficient concern for economic contacts (1%) and putting historical settlements on the agenda at the international level (1%).

People negatively assessing the government's actions in the international arena referred to insufficient experience and incompetence of the current team in conducting foreign policy (6%). They pointed to chaotic, ill-considered moves and low effectiveness of actions (4%). They occasionally remembered embarrassing or awkward incidents (1%).

Some people criticized all PiS actions on the international arena (5%), sometimes speaking about the loss of the achievements of previous governments in foreign policy (3%). In addition, general dislike for PiS and its policies was expressed (2%).

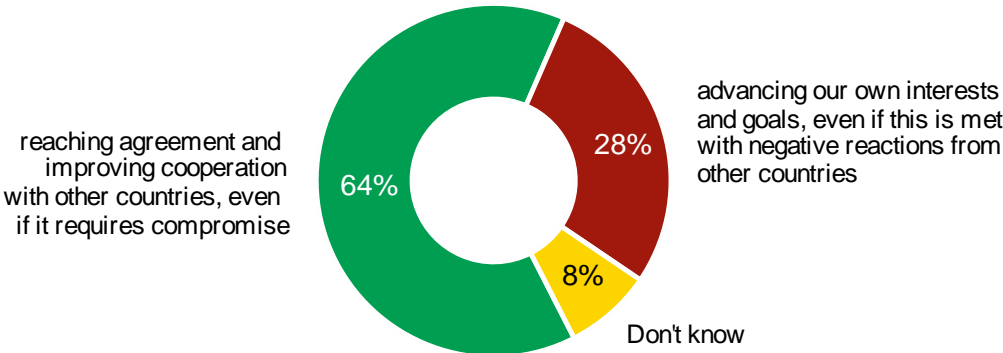
In public opinion, the priority of Polish foreign policy should now be to improve cooperation within the European Union. The second most important is to maintain the strategic alliance with the United States. Relatively many people have listed, among the most important postulated goals of Polish foreign policy, development of regional cooperation within the framework of the Three Seas Initiative.

**What should be the main goals and directions of Poland's foreign policy at present?**



In public opinion, Poland's actions on the international scene should now be focused on reaching agreement and improving cooperation with other countries, even if it requires a compromise, rather than on advancing our own goals and interests, even if it is criticized by other states and entities.

**In general, do you think that Poland's foreign policy should be focused on...**



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Polish Foreign Policy – Assessments and Postulates", April 2018. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2018, N=1140. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.