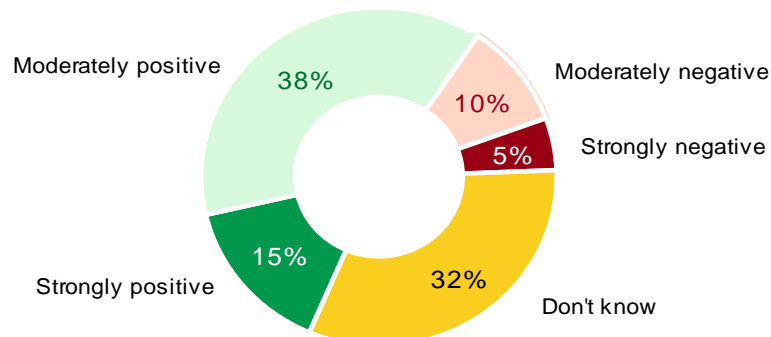


Polish-American military cooperation

On June 12 2019, in the White House, presidents of Poland and the USA signed a "Joint Declaration on Defence Cooperation Regarding United States Force Posture in the Republic of Poland." The provisions contained in the declaration were positively received by more than half of adult Poles (53%), whereas 15% of respondents have a negative attitude towards it, and nearly a third (32%) have no opinion on this subject.

Evaluation of Joint Declaration on Defence Cooperation Regarding United States Force Posture in the Republic of Poland

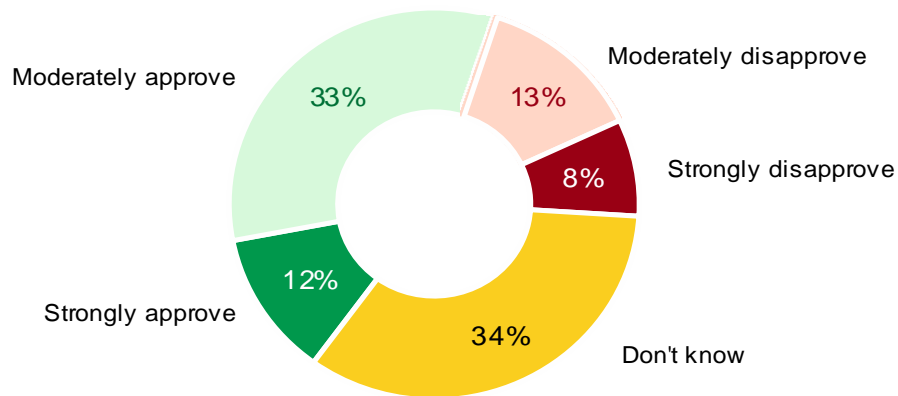


In response to an open question, respondents who positively received the Polish-American declaration on defence cooperation most often justify their opinion with general remarks about Poland's increased security and defence (51%). Among the detailed arguments, the most important are deterrence of Russia (15%) and securing American support in the event of a threat to Poland's security or an attack on Poland (11%). Quite often, respondents mentioned improved cooperation between the two countries, strengthening Polish-American friendship, and the view that Poland needs a strong ally and is too weak by itself (7% each). The signed declaration is quite often associated with hopes for acquisition of equipment and new technologies by the Polish army, as well as transfer of knowledge and experience to the Polish army (6%).

Negative assessments of the declaration on Polish-American defence cooperation are motivated most often by the costs of maintaining American troops in Poland, which will be borne by our country (28%), and by the conviction that it will not bring Poland any benefits, only the United States will reap them (21%). Opposition to the presence of any foreign troops in Poland was also quite often expressed, as their stationing in Poland, in the opinion of some respondents, means its occupation (15%). Every ninth negatively minded respondent (11%) expressed concern that the presence of American troops would deepen the crisis in Polish-Russian relations, creating an excuse for aggression by Russia. A slightly smaller proportion expressed the view that, in general, the presence of American troops causes an increase in threat of involvement in an armed conflict (9%). Some respondents do not believe that in case of danger Americans would defend Poland (6% of people with negative opinion on the declaration).

Signing of the Polish-American declaration on defence cooperation coincided with the decision of the Minister of National Defence to purchase 32 American F-35 aircraft for the Polish Air Force. This decision was positively assessed by Poles (45%) more often than negatively (21%). Every third (34%) cannot assess it.

The Minister of National Defence decided to purchase 32 American F-35 aircraft for the Polish Air Force. Do you approve of this decision?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Opinions about Polish-American Military Cooperation and Bilateral Relations", July 2019. Fieldwork for national sample: July 2019, N=1077. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.