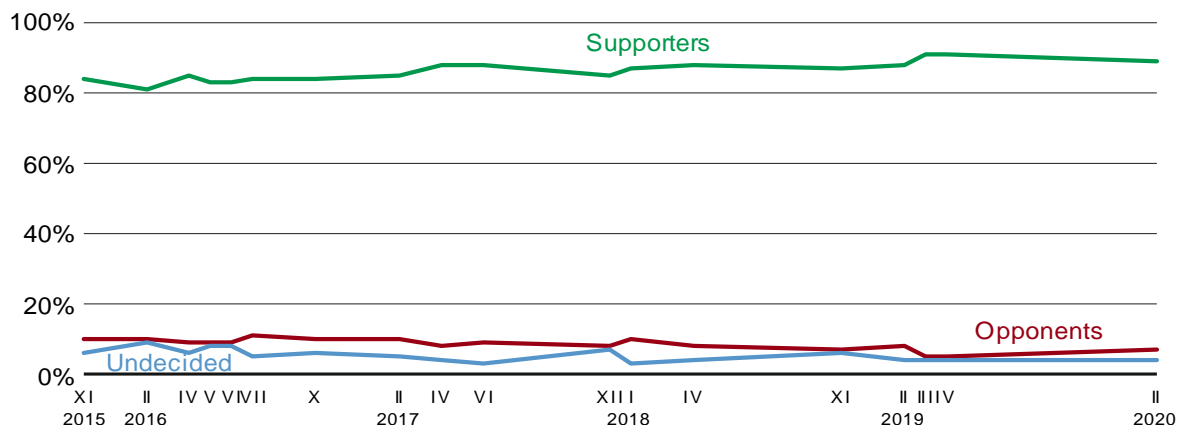


Perception of European Union and its institutions

The level of support for Poland's membership in the European Union remains very high: 89% of respondents express approval for Poland's presence in the EU. The opponents of our country's membership in the EU constitute 7% of respondents.

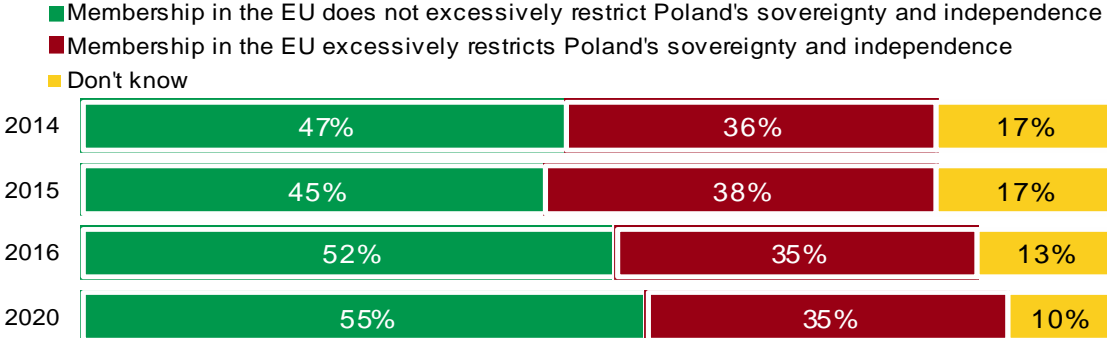
Attitude to Poland's membership in the EU



Most Poles (55%) do not feel that EU membership limits Poland's sovereignty too much. Since February 2016, the percentage of people disagreeing with the claim that our country's

sovereignty is diminished by the EU has increased by 3 percentage points, and since November 2015 it has risen by as much as 10 points. Slightly more than a third of respondents (35%) agree with the opinion that presence in the EU limits Poland's independence too much, which is as much as four years ago.

Which opinion is closer to your own view?

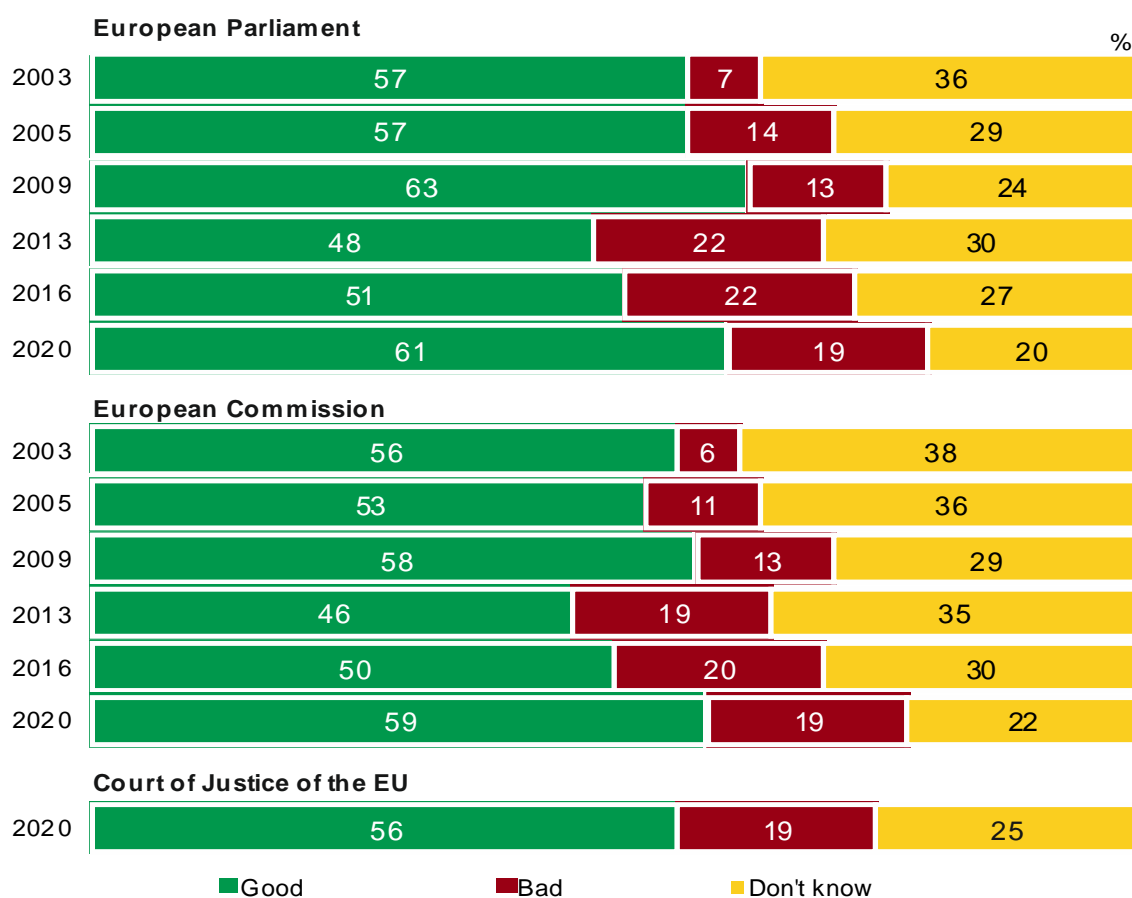


The vast majority of Poles have heard about the main EU institutions: the European Parliament and the European Commission (93% each). Only slightly fewer people (90% overall) know about the Court of Justice of the European Union. Although knowledge of these EU institutions is quite common, familiarity with their functioning is usually low. Relatively the most people (30%) declare that they know a lot about the European Parliament, slightly fewer claim to have extensive knowledge of the European Commission (27%) and the CJEU (26%).

Most people who have heard of individual EU institutions assess their performance well. For each of them, the percentage of positive opinions is about three times higher than the negative. The level of approval ranges from 56% to 61%.

The assessments of the functioning of the European Parliament and the European Commission have improved significantly in recent years. Over the past four years, the percentage of people expressing approval about the activities of the EP has increased by 10 percentage points, and over the past seven years by a total of 13 points. The proportion of people satisfied with the functioning of the EC has increased by 9 points since 2016, and since 2013 it has risen by a total of 13 percentage points.

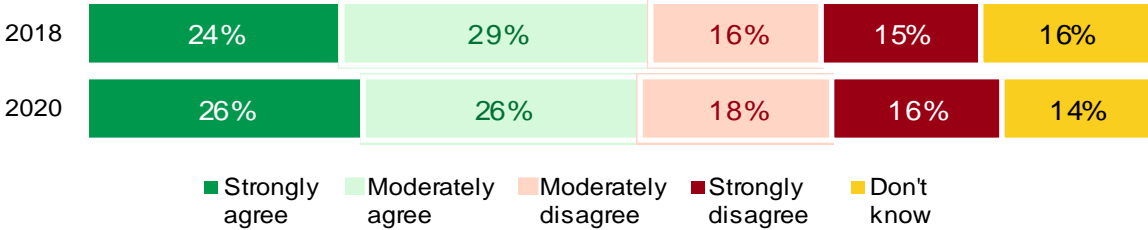
What is your opinion about the activities of the ...?



On December 20, 2017, the European Commission launched the procedure under Article 7 of the Treaty on European Union towards Poland. As part of it, the EC expects Poland to retract some of the changes in the judiciary, which can, in EC opinion, threaten the rule of law in our country. So far, however, the EU Council has not determined the risk of a serious breach of EU values by Poland. In the absence of the effects of the procedure of art. 7 of TEU, disputed issues related to changes in the judiciary are submitted to the EU Court of Justice. In 2018, the EC challenged before the CJEU the provisions regarding the retirement age of Supreme Court and common court judges. As a result, Poland changed the provisions questioned by the EC. In the case lodged in October 2019, the EC questioned the independence and impartiality of the Supreme Court Disciplinary Board, as well as provisions regarding disciplinary proceedings.

CBOS research shows that in the dispute regarding changes in the Polish justice system, the European Union enjoys relatively high level of authority. This is probably due to the rather cautious policy of EU bodies that focuses on dialogue rather than confrontation. In total, 52% of respondents believe that Poland should take into account the recommendations and provisions of the European Union institutions regarding judicial reform. The opposite view is expressed by 34% of respondents (3 percentage points more than in 2018).

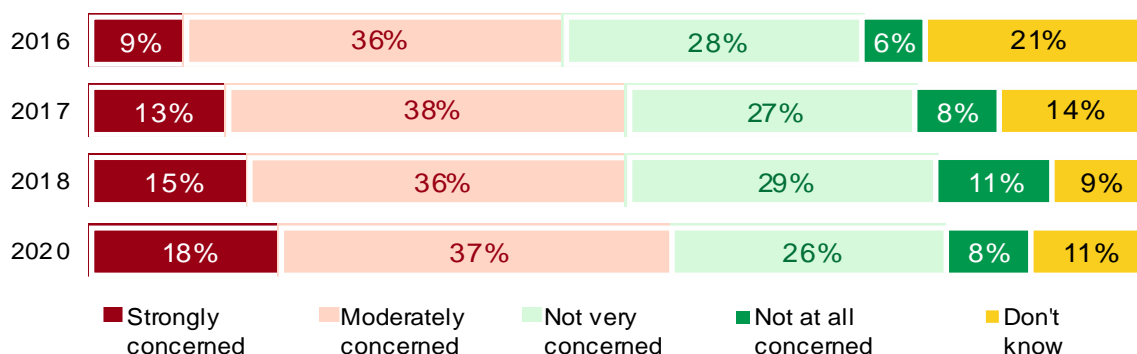
European Union has reservations regarding the reform of the judiciary in Poland. Do you agree that Poland should take into account the recommendations and resolutions of the European Union bodies regarding judicial reform?



If EU authorities determine that Poland does not comply with EU values, they may impose various types of sanctions. In accordance with the procedure in art. 7, the European Council's determination of a serious and persistent violation of EU values may lead to the suspension of certain rights of Member States, including the right to vote of its representative in the Council of the EU. Failure to comply with CJEU judgments may lead to financial penalties. Moreover, there are proposals for creating a mechanism linking the receipt of money from EU funds with the assessment of the state of rule of law in a given country.

Concerns about the introduction of sanctions against Poland are now expressed slightly more often than in previous years. A total of 55% of respondents have them (4 percentage points more than in 2018 and 10 points more than in 2016).

Are you concerned that not taking into account the opinions and expectations of the European Union directed at Poland may result in the introduction of sanctions against Poland?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Perception of European Union and Its Institutions", March 2020. Fieldwork for national sample: January 2020, N=958. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.