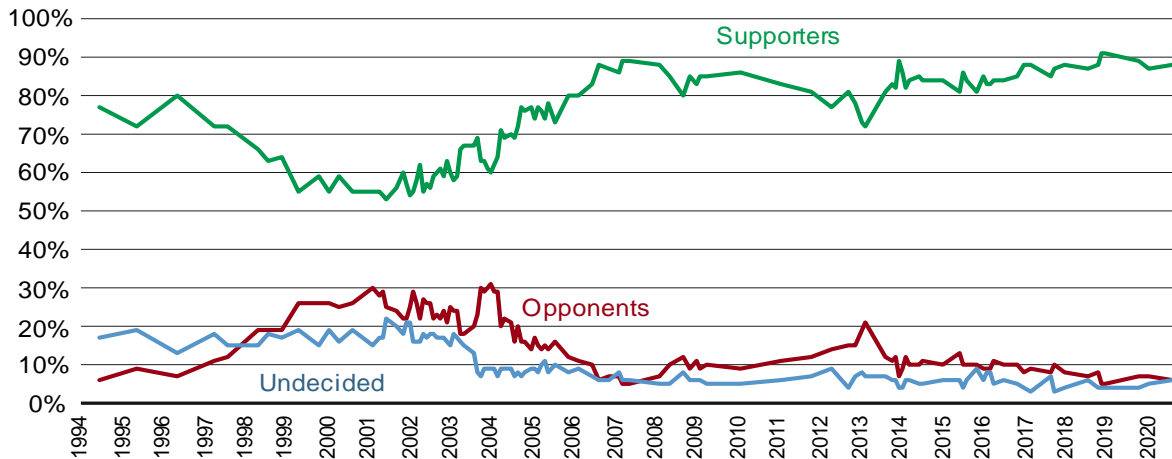


Conditionality of the EU budget

The leaders of the EU Member States agreed to link the disbursement of EU funds to the state of the rule of law. Although introducing the conditionality mechanism in the European Union budget and its effects on our country are not easy subjects for assessment by the broad public opinion, in the last few weeks Poles have had the opportunity to learn about the arguments of supporters and opponents of this solution, including on the one hand, the fear of losing sovereignty by Poland, on the other, the threat of a "creeping Polesxit".

Political emotions related to the threat of Poland's vetoing the EU budget had a very limited impact on attitudes towards the European Union and EU integration. Support for membership remains universal. Our country's membership of the EU is supported by 88% of adult Poles. Only 6% of respondents are against Poland's presence in the Community.

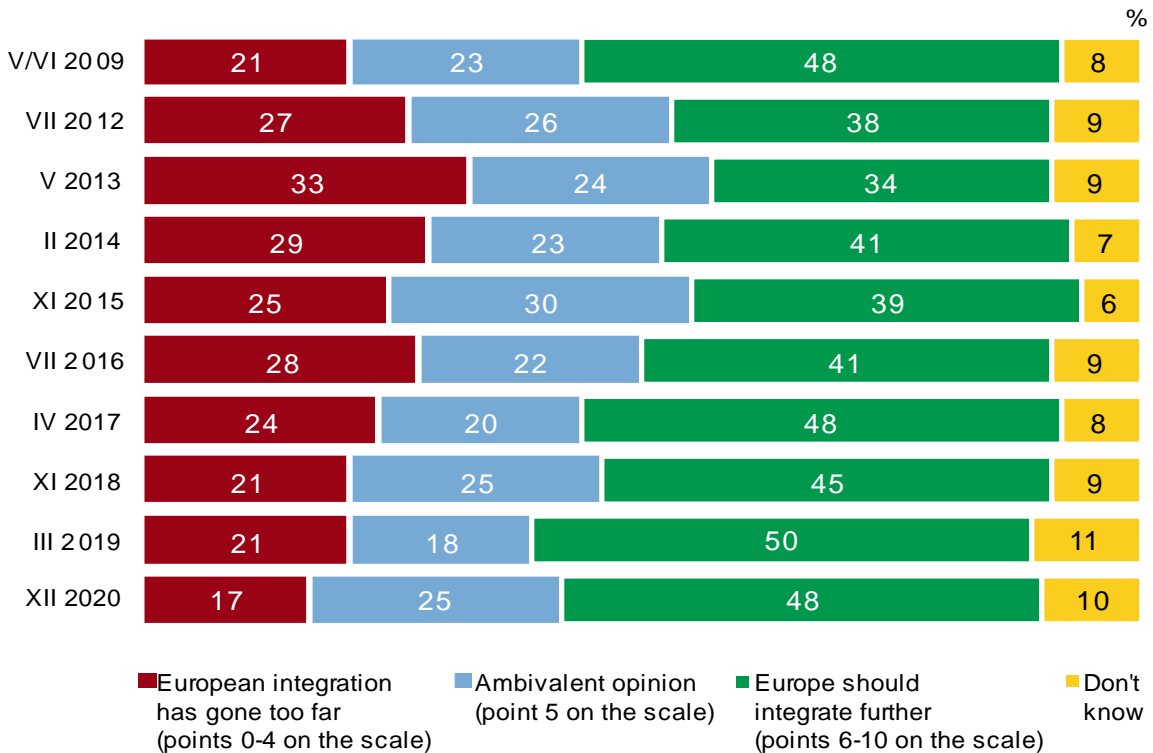
Attitude to Poland's membership in the EU



Poles can generally be described as moderate supporters of the development of European integration. Almost half (48%) believe that Europe should unite more than before. The belief that integration is too far-reaching is expressed by 17% of all respondents.

Some believe that Europe should integrate further. Others think that the European integration has gone too far. What is your opinion?

Please define your views on a scale from 0 (European integration has gone too far) to 10 (Europe should integrate further).

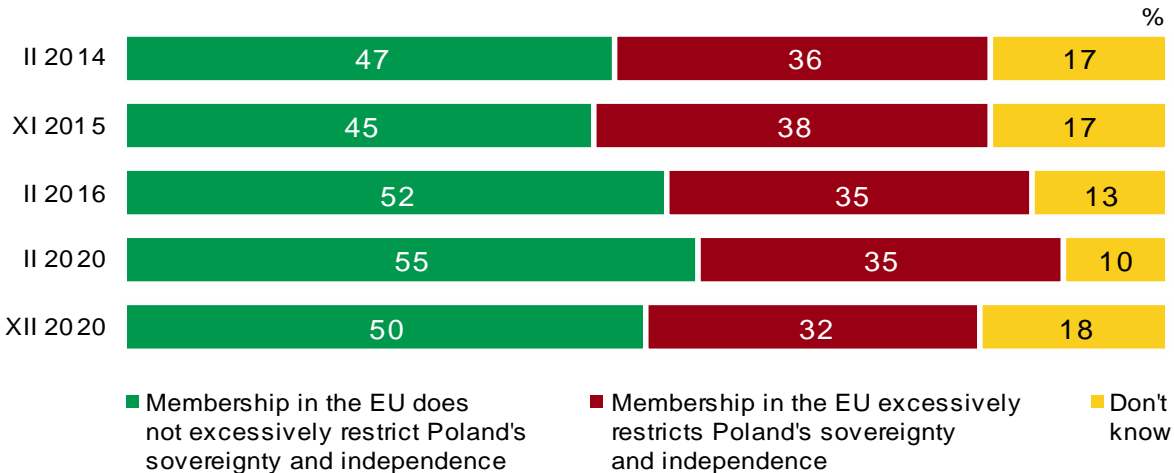


The percentage of people convinced that the unification of Europe has gone too far is now the lowest since we have examined the issue since 2009, and 4 percentage points lower than in 2018 and 2019. One in four respondents has an ambivalent attitude to deepening integration.

The possibility of shaping a common EU policy is associated with transferring to the EU authorities some competences of nation states. The issue of state sovereignty has often reappeared in Poland in recent years in connection with the reform of the judiciary, and recently in the context of linking the disbursement of EU funds with the assessment of the rule of law in the Member States.

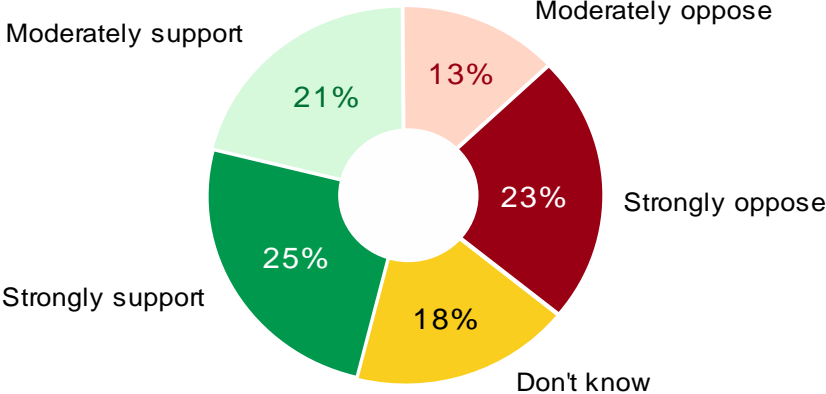
Half of respondents do not feel that EU membership limits Poland's sovereignty too much. Nearly one-third (32%) agree with the opinion that the presence in the EU limits the independence of our country excessively. In recent months, there have been an increase in the number of people who do not have an opinion on this subject (from 10% to 18%).

Which opinion is closer to your own view?



Opinions on the link between EU funds disbursement and compliance with the rule of law are divided, but more people support the introduction of budgetary conditionality (46%) than are against it (36%).

European Union wants the disbursement of EU funds to depend on compliance with the rule of law. Do you support the introduction of such a solution?



Characterizing the opponents of the link between the disbursement of EU funds and the assessment of the rule of law, it can be said that while the vast majority (83%) are supporters of Poland's presence in the EU, at the same time most of them (66%) feel that membership limits the independence of our country to an excessive degree.

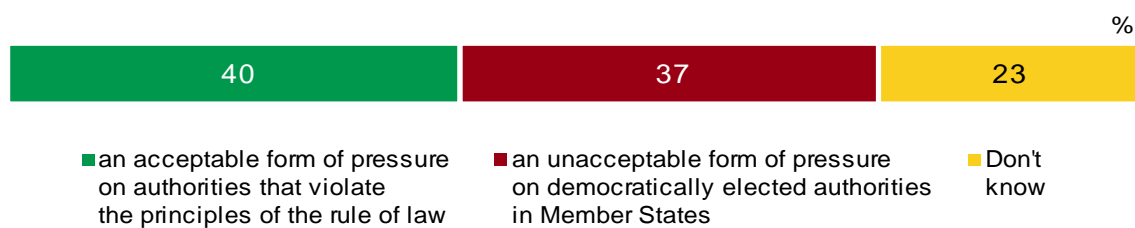
The attitude to linking the disbursement of EU funds with the observance of the rule of law is determined by the political orientation: this solution is supported by the majority of respondents declaring left-wing (83%) or centrist (57%) political views. It is opposed by respondents who identify with the right (63%).

Poles are divided in the assessment of the decision to link the disbursement of EU funds to the state of the rule of law. More than two fifths (42%) believe that the introduction of the "money for the rule of law" mechanism had political reasons, namely hostility to governments of some EU Member States. However, slightly fewer people (38%) believe that the adoption of this solution was dictated by concern for the rule of law in the Member States. Two-fifths (40%) believe that the conditionality mechanism is an acceptable form of pressure on authorities that violate the rule of law. Almost the same number (37%) share the opinion that this is an unacceptable form of pressure on democratically elected authorities in the Member States.

Does the introduction of such a mechanism primarily ...



Is the introduction of such a mechanism ...



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Opinions about EU Budget Conditionality", December 2020. Fieldwork for national sample: December 2020, N=1010. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.