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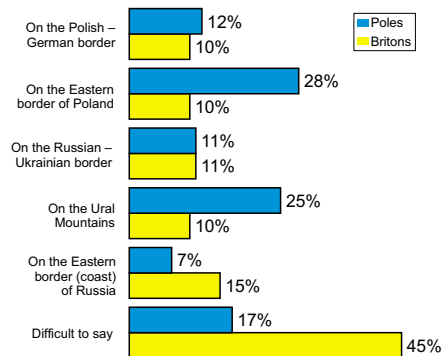
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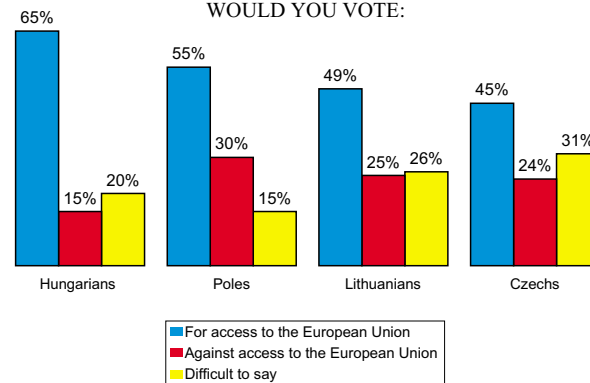
## ABOUT EUROPE AND ITS INTEGRATION

In connection with the European integration, a question of the identification of Europe arises: where does Europe end, what is or is not Europe in the opinion of ordinary people? We asked those questions to our respondents in Poland and Great Britain. A definite majority of Poles consider Poland a part of Europe: they believe that the border of Europe runs along the Eastern border of Poland or somewhere further to the East (71%). Only 35% of Britons share this opinion. It seems that this issue is not particularly important for the British, as a surprisingly high percentage of them have no opinion on where Europe ends.

IN YOUR OPINION, WHERE IS THE EASTERN BORDER OF EUROPE?  
(THE BRITISH RESPONDENTS WERE ASKED: WHERE DOES EUROPE END?)



IF A REFERENDUM ON YOUR COUNTRY'S ACCESS TO THE EUROPEAN UNION WERE HELD NOW, WOULD YOU VOTE:



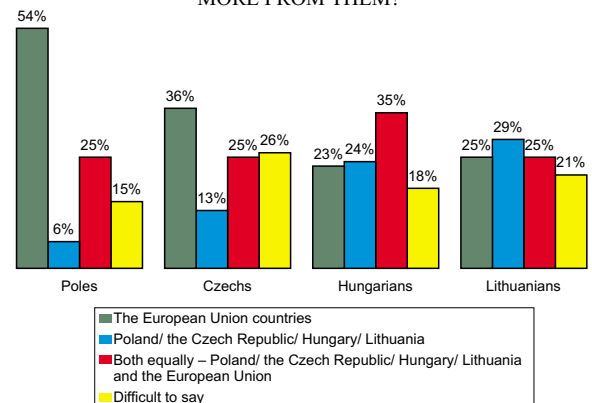
As compared to the previous poll, the support for integration decreased a little in the Czech Republic and Hungary but it remains stable in Poland.

Current economic relations with the European Union are evaluated the worst in Poland and the best in Hungary.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS reports "Opinions on the integration with the European Union in Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania and Russia" (the survey was conducted by CEORG member organisations and collaborators: CVVM in the Czech Republic, TARKI in Hungary, VILMORUS in Lithuania) and "Britons and Poles on the extension of the European Union" (CBOS jointly with ISP. In the UK, the survey was conducted by ICM Research and sponsored by the British Embassy in Warsaw, April 2001.

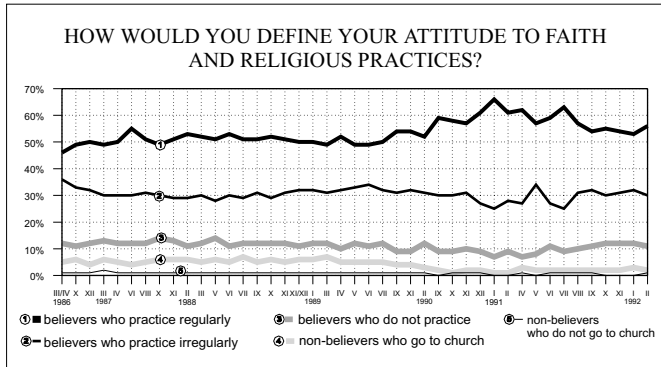
Among the societies of Central and Eastern Europe that regularly participate in our surveys, the Hungarians declare the strongest support for the integration with the European Union. In Poland the support for the integration is lower, but still higher than in Lithuania, where less than half of respondents would support the integration. The proportion of supporters of the European integration is the smallest in the Czech Republic.

HOW DO YOU EVALUATE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN POLAND/ THE CZECH REPUBLIC/ HUNGARY/ LITHUANIA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION TO DATE? WHO BENEFITS MORE FROM THEM?



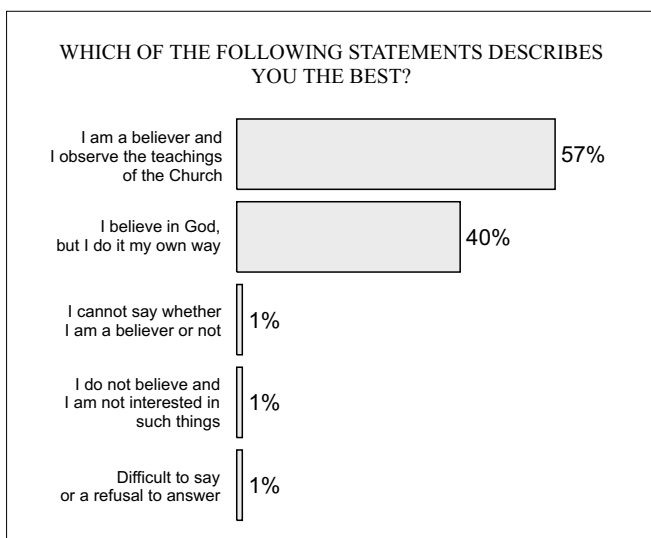
## RELIGIOUSNESS OF POLES

The declared level of religious faith and practices of Poles is exceptionally stable. It has almost not changed during the last fifteen years, though a certain increase of the participation in religious practices was visible after 1989, when the political and economic changes started.



The Poles commonly declare that they are believers and members of the Catholic Church (96%). However, this self-identification is not accompanied by the equally common participation in religious practices. Nearly three-fifths of Poles (58%) go to church regularly (at least once a week). One-sixth (16%) go there from time to time (once or twice a month). A significant proportion of Poles (18%) participate in religious practices occasionally (a few times a year). 8% admit that they do not practice at all.

Almost three-fifths of adult Poles declare their attachment to the Church and the remaining two-fifths stress the private, selective and independent nature of their faith.



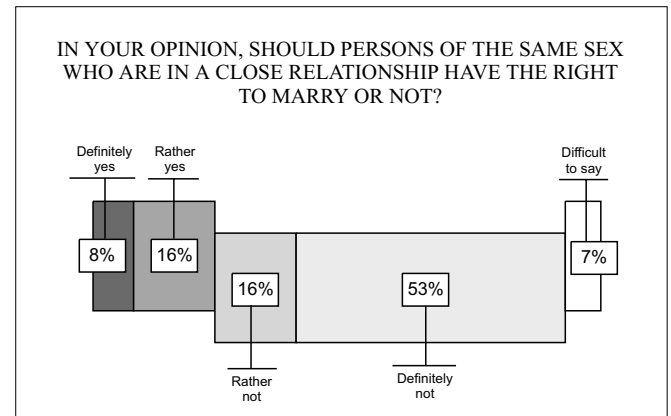
The frequency of religious practices is strongly determined by gender (women practice regularly more frequently than men) and the place of residence (the

smaller the town or village, the more residents practice regularly and less go to church occasionally or not at all). Elderly people (pensioners) practice the most frequently, while young men living in big cities go to church the least frequently.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Religiousness of Poles on the turn of the century", April 2001.

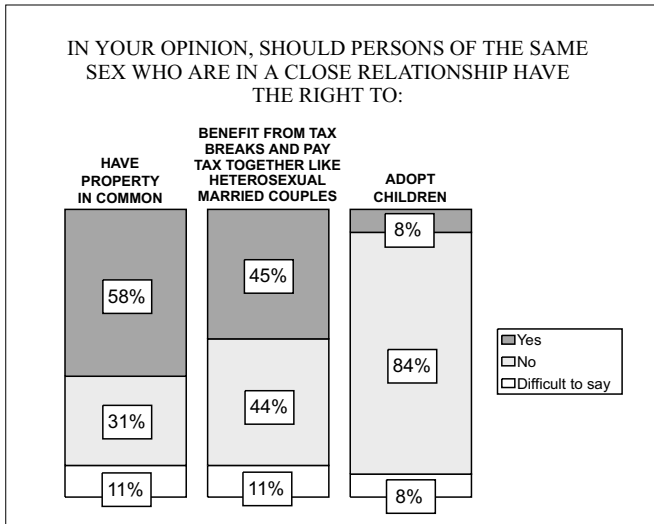
## ATTITUDES TO HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGES

The law adopted by the Dutch Parliament allowing homosexual couples to marry and to adopt children has caused the discussions in Poland. Most Poles share the opinion that only a man and a woman can be united by marriage. Over two-thirds of respondents (69%) are against legalisation of homosexual marriages. A quarter of respondents (24%) believe that two persons of the same sex should have the right to marry, but a definite minority of this group support the idea of homosexual marriages strongly.



Poles are strongly against giving gay or lesbian couples the right to adopt children. Less than one-tenth of Poles would approve such adoptions. The proportion of those who oppose them is ten times as big. The economic aspects of legal recognition of homosexual relationships raise less doubts: most respondents accept the right of such couples to have common property and almost half would allow them to benefit from tax breaks on an equal basis with heterosexual couples.

Only one in twenty Poles (5%) regard homosexuality as a normal behaviour. In the opinion of a vast majority of Poles (88%), it constitutes a deviation from the norm. The group of those who believe that homosexuals should be tolerated in the society (47%) is a little bigger than the group of those who do not accept them (41%).

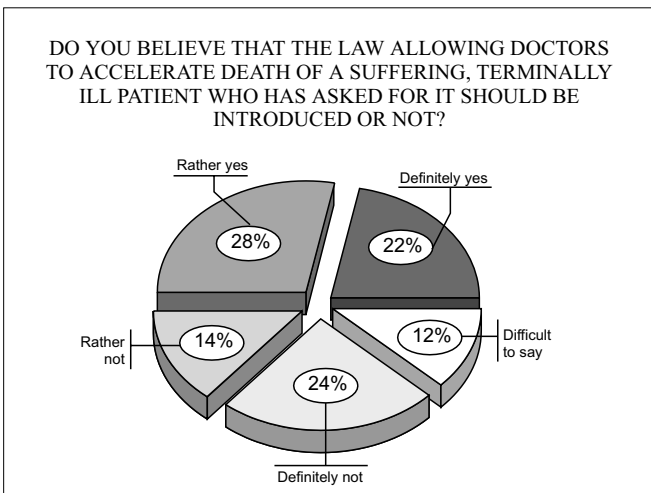


More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Attitudes to homosexual marriages", April 2001.

### OPINIONS ON EUTHANASIA

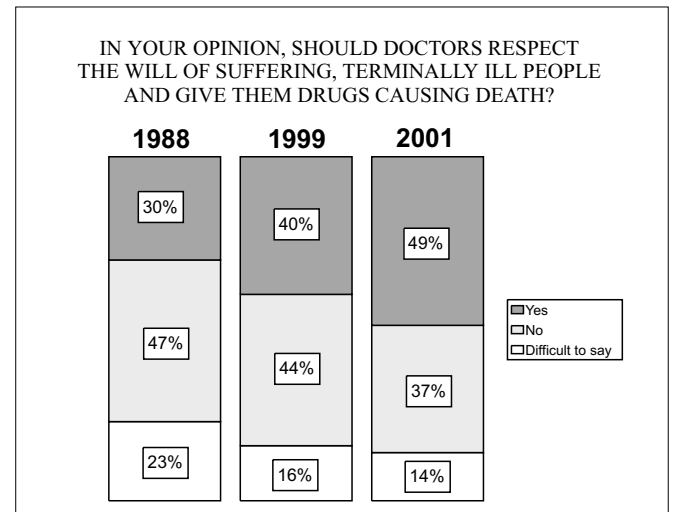
The legalisation of euthanasia in Holland is another issue that has been widely discussed in Poland. The Polish press has informed recently that as many as 92% of the Dutch support euthanasia and that in Catholic Belgium, where the legalisation of euthanasia is being considered, 80% of respondents declared their support for it. Also in Poland the supporters of euthanasia outnumber the opponents, although the support is not as high as in Holland or Belgium. Half of the Poles (50%) believe that doctors should be allowed to accelerate death of a terminally ill person, on his or her request. Less than two-fifths of the respondents (38%) express the opposite opinion.

The number of persons opting for the possibility to take the life of terminally ill, suffering people, if they wish so, is constantly growing.



The picture is different, when the term "euthanasia" is used. In the opinion of 37% of respondents, euthanasia can be justified under certain circumstances, 38% do not agree with this opinion and a significant proportion (18%) has ambivalent feelings. As compared to 1999, the number of those who believe that euthanasia can be justified under certain circumstances has grown by 7 percentage points. The percentage of respondents who are against euthanasia has decreased.

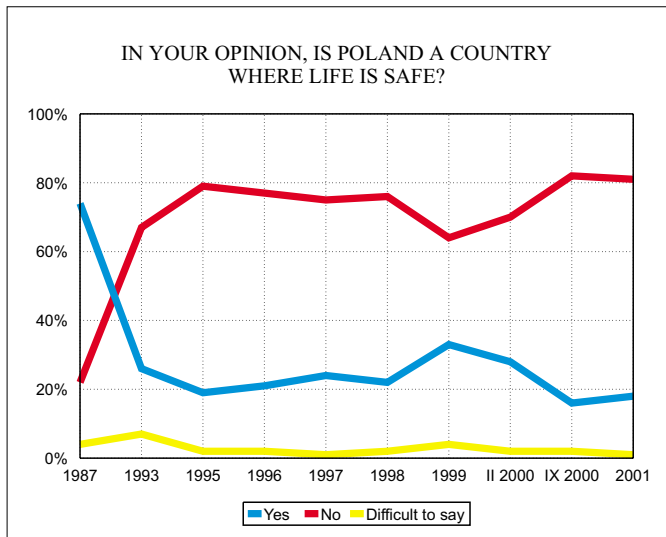
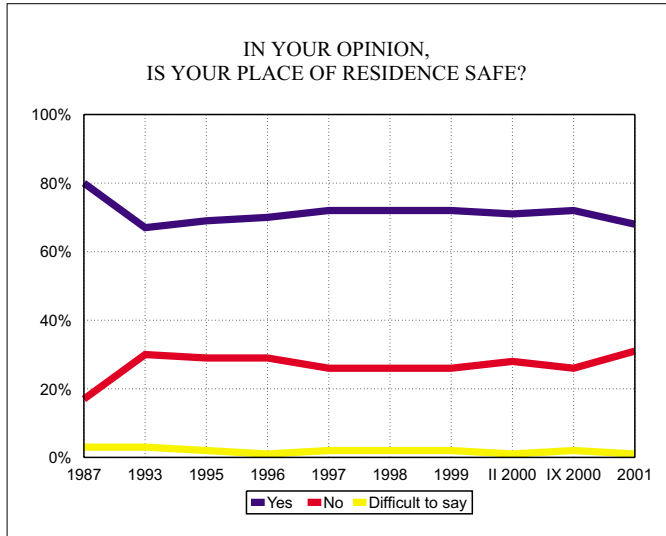
The question about respecting the will of terminally ill yields similar results to the question about the law allowing doctors to accelerate the death of those, who suffer.



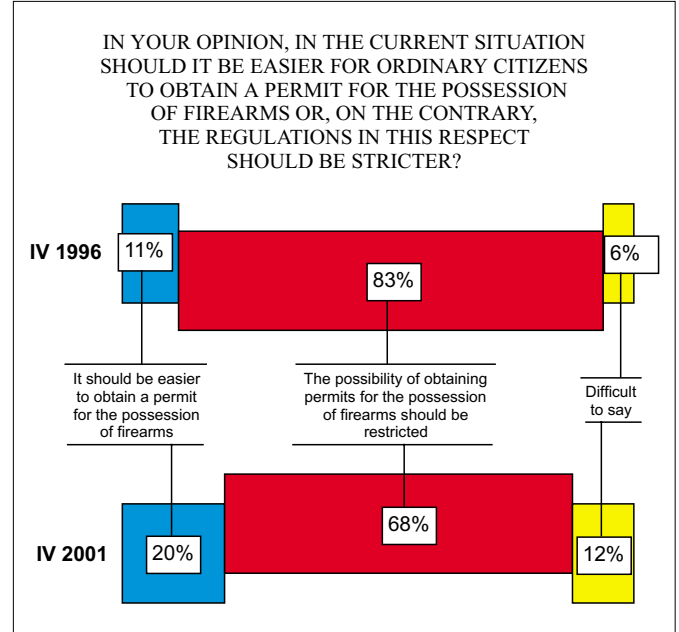
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Opinions on euthanasia", April 2001.

### SHOULD ACCESS TO FIREARMS BE EASIER?

During the last six months, the feeling that their place of residence is not safe has become slightly more common among Poles. At present almost one-third of the respondents (31%, 5 percentage points more than last September) do not feel safe in their place of residence. More than two-thirds (68%, a decrease by 4 percentage points) believe that they live in a safe and quiet place. However, that has not visibly affected the opinions about safety in the country as a whole and has had a minimal effect on the feeling of threat to personal safety. 18% of all respondents are very concerned about their personal safety (14% of men and 21% of women). This proportion is higher among persons aged 65 and above (25%). If all fears are considered jointly, it appears that persons afraid of becoming victims of a crime constitute almost two-thirds of the society.



Despite those fears, most respondents believe that in Poland access to firearms should be restricted rather than facilitated.



Half of the respondents (51%) believe that a permit to keep firearms at home, without the right to bear them in public places may make the Poles feel safer. At the same time, even more respondents (56%) believe that it will not help to reduce crime. On the other hand, more weapons may go to the hands of criminals as a result (78%) and the number of cases of unjustified use or arms may increase (83%). Two-thirds of respondents (66%) express the opinion that the introduction of a law permitting people to have a weapon at home may contribute to an increase in homicide rates.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "The citizens' feeling of safety and the opinions on access to firearms", May 2001.

**In addition to the reports referred to above, the following have been published recently (in Polish):**

- ◆ Poles and Britons about each other and the mutual relations
- ◆ Social moods in April
- ◆ Opinions on the Polish political class
- ◆ Poles on the crime in Jedwabne
- ◆ Opinions on the government, Prime Minister, Parliament and President
- ◆ Political party preferences in April

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