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THE IMAGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER LESZEK MILLER

Leszek Miller is one of the politicians with very long presence on the Polish political scene. In 1980s he was one of the leaders of the communist party (PZPR). In 1989 he participated in the preparations and talks at the Round Table. Subsequently, he was among the founders and leaders of the socialdemocratic party SdRP (later SLD). Several times he was a minister in the SLD-PSL coalition governments during 1993-1997. Since the success of



SLD in the last elections in autumn 2001, Leszek Miller has been the Prime Minister. Because of his important position on the political scene, Leszek Miller is among the politicians for whom CBOS regularly measures the level of social trust.

Generally speaking, during the whole period from 1993 to 2001, Leszek Miller was gaining the trust. The level of trust in him increased from below 20% in the late 1993 to 35%-40% in the years 1994-1997. It exceeded 40% and even reached 50% near the end of the term of the previous government, when he was the leader of the strongest opposition party. After the success of his party (SLD) in the 2001 elections and his appointment to the Office of Prime Minister, the proportion of the respondents trusting Leszek Miller grew rapidly to



two-thirds. Since January 2002, however, the percentage of persons who trust Leszek Miller has been decreasing systematically, but it still is close to 50%.

Due to his long political exposure, the respondents should have had an opportunity to develop an opinion on the personal characteristics of Leszek Miller. The feature attributed to him by the largest proportion of the respondents is intelligence. Furthermore, a definite majority like his apperance and believe that he has sufficient qualifications.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- > THE IMAGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER LESZEK MILLER
- SHOULD THE STATE SAVE PRIVATISED ENTERPRISES HEADING TOWARDS BANKRUPTCY?
- REDUCTION OF BEEF CONSUMPTION UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE NEWS ON BSE
- POLES ABOUT THE CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST
- > MOBBING AT THE WORKPLACE

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ALL SOURCES MUST BE CREDITED WHEN ANY PART OF THIS PUBLICATION IS REPRODUCED Such issues as his dynamism, consistency in pursuing his aims and ability to make difficult decisions cause a little more controversy. More or less half of the respondents evaluate the Prime Minister positively in these respects and nearly one-third express the opposite opinion. Also, over half of the respondents respect the Prime Minister, but at the same time one-third do not feel respect for him. The opinions on Leszek Miller's sincerity vary, although positive opinions in this respect outnumber negative ones. Two-fifths of the respondents describe him as sincere and straightforward, but over one-third see him as deceitful and false.

As far as Leszek Miller's communication skills are concerned, there are more critical opinions than positive ones. Most respondents describe his way of talking as unclear and unspecific and believe that he does not understand the problems of ordinary people and does not care about them. More than half of the respondents see him as a political player who puts his own and his party's interests first. Less than one-third describe him as a statesman for whom the country's good is the most important.

It must be noted that the image of Leszek Miller is strongly dependent on the respondents' political views. The followers of his party (SLD) and its ally in the government (PSL) notice his positive features much more frequently than negative ones. On the other hand, the supporters of the opposition are far more critical. Among all respondents, the most frequently mentioned features that best describe Leszek Miller are intelligence (37%) and the tendency to put his party's interest before the country's interest (25%).

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): "The image of the Prime Minister Leszek Miller", June 2002. Survey executed in May 2002. A random address sample of the general adult population of Poland. N=1047.

POLES ABOUT THE CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Poles are not indifferent to the conflict between Israel and Palestine. A clear majority of the respondents believe that it is important for Poland.



The importance attached to this issue follows from the belief of a majority of the respondents that this conflict may trigger off a global war. The fear of a global conflict reached the highest level after the terrorist attack on WTC, when it was felt by two-thirds of the respondents. In the following month, after the beginning of the American action in Afghanistan, it decreased a little and in December 2001 the proportion of the respondents afraid of a global conflict dropped below 50%. At present, as a consequence of the events in the Middle East, this proportion is back to the level recorded in October 2001.







More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): "The Poles about the conflict in the Middle East", June 2002. Survey executed in May 2002. Random address sample of the general adult population of Poland. N=1047.

SHOULD THE STATE SAVE PRIVATISED ENTERPRISES HEADING TOWARDS BANKRUPTCY?

More or less half of the Poles support the idea of re-nationalization of previously privatised enterprises which currently are on the edge of bankruptcy. The respondents see it as a way of saving jobs. Pointing out that the costs of such operations are borne by all taxpayers does not affect the support for state intervention in the economy if it is meant to prevent unemployment.



THE STATE MAY AFFECT THE ECONOMY IN DIFFERENT WAYS. SHOULD THE STATE TAKE CONTROL OF PREVIOUSLY PRIVATISED ENTERPRISES ON THE EDGE OF BANKRUPTCY USING THE STATE BUDGET FUNDS, I.E. THE TAXPAYERS' MONEY, IN ORDER TO SAVE THE JOBS IN THESE ENTERPRISES?



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): "Should the state save privatised enterprises heading towards bankruptcy?", June 2002. Survey executed in June 2002. A random address sample of the general adult population of Poland. N=1060.

REDUCTION OF BEEF CONSUMPTION UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE NEWS ON BSE

At the beginning of the year 1998, when the news on mad cow disease and its possible connection with Creutzfeldt Jacob disease appeared for the first time, approximately one-fifth of the Poles reduced their beef consumption or stopped eating it completely. When BSE cases were identified in a neighbouring country, i.e. in Germany, the number of people who cut down on beef almost doubled. The number of the respondents claiming that they do not eat beef for other reasons also increased. Only slightly over one-third of the respondents surveyed then said that they had not given up beef or reduced its consumption. However, at present, although a case of BSE has been recently found in Poland, over half of the respondents say that the information on mad cow disease has not affected their beef consumption.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): "Social reactions to the appearance of BSE in Poland", June 2002. Survey executed in June 2002. A random address sample of the general adult population of Poland. N=1060.

MOBBING AT THE WORKPLACE

A definite majority of the Polish workers feel well at work. The higher the respondents' social and occupational position, the better they feel at their workplace. Very good and good evaluations are the most frequent among managers and the intelligentsia (85%). Such evaluations are relatively the least frequent among unskilled workers (66%).



More or less one-sixth of the workers have been abused by their superiors during the last five years (in their own opinion) and only 6% complain of being mobbed by their colleagues in the same period.



The most frequently mentioned types of mobbing were related to the atmosphere at work malicious comments, rude behaviour, screaming, insults, humiliation in the presence of other workers (indicated by 21% of the victims), as well as to different kinds of non-financial restrictions and penalties, such as forcing employees to work overtime, overloading them with duties (20%), threatening them with dismissal (19%), unjustified criticism, "picking on someone", giving wrong opinions on the employees (17%).

More frequently than abused, workers are forced to do something which they consider inappropriate.



At the same time, the answers to detailed questions about different specific examples of abuse or ill treatment by superiors at work show that in fact as many as roughly 40% of workers have been abused in one way or another during the last five years. Such cases include mainly forcing to work overtime, refusals to give holiday or sick leave, taking away a bonus without a good reason, malicious comments of the boss.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): "Mobbing at the workplace", June 2002. Survey executed in May 2002. A random address sample of the general adult population of Poland. N=1047.

In addition to the reports referred to above, the following have been published recently (in Polish):	
 Local elections Psychological profiles of the supporters of different parties Strategies of coping with financial problems Evaluations of the work of the President, the Parliament and local administration Social support for Poland's membership in the European Union 	For more information on CBOS services and publications please contact: CBOS POLAND 4a, Żurawia, 00-503 Warsaw Phones: (48 22) 629 35 69, 628 37 04 Fax: (48 22) 629 40 89
 Social support for Poland's membership in the European Onion Political party preferences in June Deterioration of the evaluations and expectations concerning the situation in Poland Growing criticism in the opinions about the government and the Prime Minister Evaluation of the government's agricultural policy and the attitude to the farmers' protests Social moods in May Trust in politicians in June 	E-mail: sekretariat@cbos.pl Http://www.cbos.pl Yearly subscription rate for "Polish Public Opinion" is 80 USD

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