ISSN 1233 - 7250

IN THIS ISSUE:

- DIMINISHING SUPPORT FOR THE INTERVENTION IN IRAO
- > SUPPORT
 FOR THE EUROPEAN
 INTEGRATION
 IN POLAND,
 THE CZECH REPUBLIC
 AND HUNGARY AFTER
 THE SUMMIT IN
 COPENHAGEN
- > HOPES AND FEARS OF THE POLES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW YEAR
- > THE RESULTS
 OF THE NEGOTIATIONS
 WITH THE EUROPEAN
 UNION

PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH CENTER - CBOS -

> 4a Żurawia 00-503 Warszawa POLAND

Ph: (48 22) 629 35 69 (48 22) 628 37 04 (48 22) 693 46 91

Fax:(48 22) 629 40 89

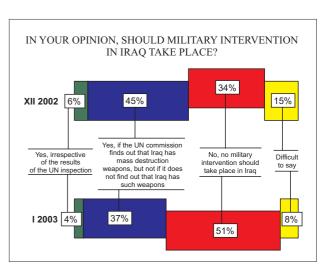
E-mail: sekretariat@cbos.pl http://www.cbos.pl

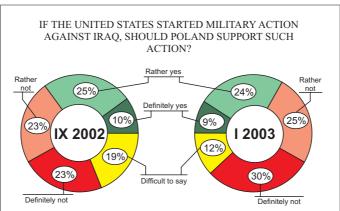
© COPYRIGHT BY CBOS 2003

ALL SOURCES MUST BE CREDITED WHEN ANY PART OF THIS PUBLICATION IS REPRODUCED

DIMINISHING SUPPORT FOR THE INTERVENTION IN IRAQ

The number of the respondents who believe that the attack on Iraq should not take place under any circumstances grew by 17 percentage points in the month between the beginning of December 2002 and the beginning of January 2003 and reached half of all respondents. The number of persons supporting the intervention (both unconditionally and on the condition that Iraq is proved to have mass destruction weapons) decreased. Furthermore, the proportion of those who have no

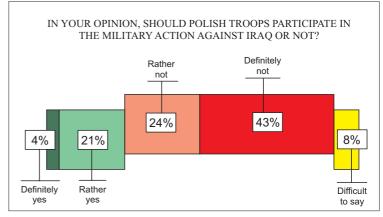




opinion in this matter doubled. The number of those who are against Poland's support for the military action of the United States grew and now exceeds half of all respondents. This growth is associated with a decrease of the number of the undecided. The number of those who think that Poland should support the United States dropped minimally. However,

some of those who believe that Poland should support the United States do not actually mean military support. Only one in four respondents opted for the participation of Polish troops in a military action in Iraq.

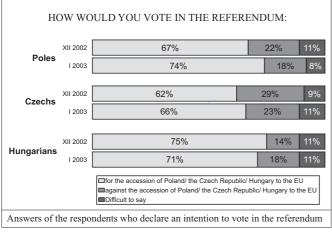
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS reports (in Polish):

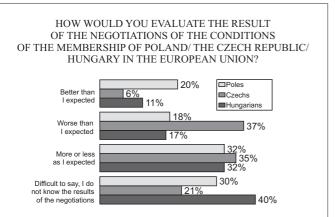


"Opinions about the plans of a military intervention in Iraq", January 2003. A representative random-address sample of the general adult population of Poland. N=1025 and "Should a war with Iraq take place?", January 2003. Survey executed in December 2002. A representative random-address sample of the general adult population of Poland. N=986

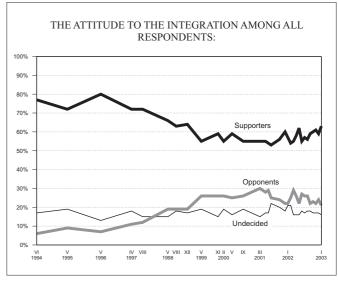
SUPPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION IN POLAND, THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND HUNGARY AFTER THE SUMMIT IN COPENHAGEN

After the end of the accession negotiations, the total percentage of people who intend to vote in the preaccession referendum increased slightly in Poland (XII '02 - 69%, I '03 - 73%) and in the Czech Republic, (XII '02 - 77%, I '03 - 79%) while in Hungary it slightly decreased (XII '02 - 77%, I '03 - 74%). The Czechs still declare that they will definitely vote in the referendum much less frequently than the Poles or the Hungarians. The support for the EU membership increased in Poland and (to a lesser extent) in the Czech Republic, while in Hungary it decreased a little. The Poles were the most satisfied with the negotiated conditions of their membership (the survey had been conducted before some differences in the interpretation of the agreement between Poland and the EU were revealed). The Czechs were disappointed the most and the Hungarians were poorly informed about the results of the negotiations.





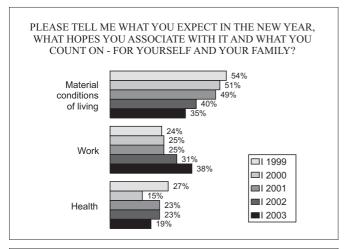
Among the Poles who are not going to take part in the referendum or have not decided yet whether to vote or not, the proportions of the supporters and the opponents of the integration are equal (31%). The biggest proportion of this group of the respondents (38%) have no definite opinion in this matter. As a result, the support for the integration among all respondents is lower than among those who declare participation in the referendum, but nevertheless higher than before the end of the negotiations.

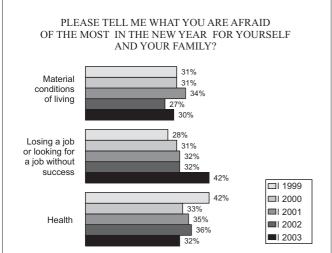


More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS reports (in Polish): "Support for the European integration in Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary after the Copenhagen summit", January 2003. Survey co-ordinated by CEORG. Participants: CBOS (Polska): survey executed 3 6. January 2003, N=1025, TARKI (Hungary): survey executed 3 - 8. January 2003, N=1030, CVVM (Czech Republic): survey executed 6 - 13. January 2003, N=1086 and "Support for the integration with the European Union after the Copenhagen summit", January 2003. A representative random-address sample of the general adult population of Poland. N=1025

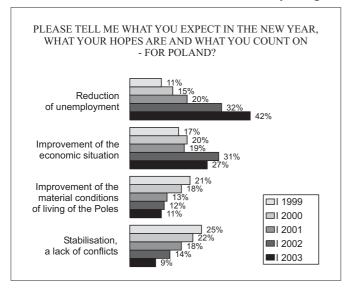
HOPES AND FEARS OF THE POLES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW YEAR

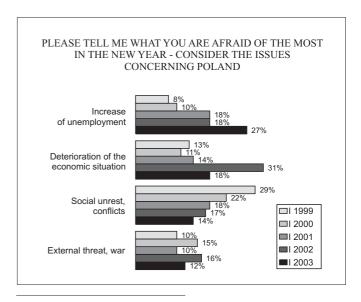
As far as the respondents' private life is concerned, both their hopes and fears associated with the nearest future are centred around three areas: the material conditions of living, work and health. However, this year work clearly dominates the Poles' thoughts about the nearest future. Most fears and hopes are focused on work. Spontaneous answers to an open question mention work-related issues (mainly hopes for finding or keeping a job or fears of losing a job and unemployment) much more frequently than the issues related to health or living conditions.





As far as the public issues are concerned, the Poles mostly think about one problem, also the unemployment. This issue dominates both in hopes and fears over economic situation, material conditions of living, domestic or international stability. Despite the tension in Iraq, the percentage of the respondents who are afraid of external threat or war is smaller than a year ago.

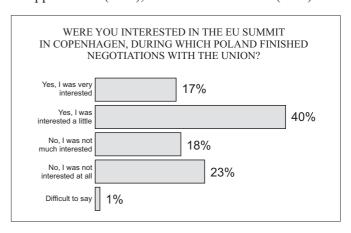




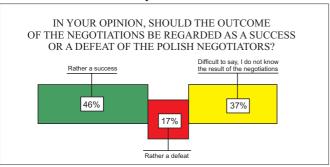
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): "What do we expect, what are we afraid of in the nearest future?", January 2003. A representative random-address sample of the general adult population of Poland. N=1025

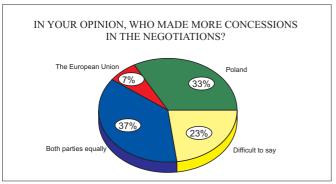
RESULTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

The December summit in Copenhagen met with moderate interest in Poland. Nevertheless, the reactions to the outcome of the negotiations were mostly positive and only one in six respondents declared that he or she did not know the results of the negotiations at all (the survey had been executed before some differences in the interpretation of the agreement between Poland and the EU were revealed). The supporters of the integration usually reacted to the result of the negotiations with hope (64%), as well as interest (29%) and satisfaction (27%). However, nearly one-fifth (18%) of them reacted with anxiety. On the other hand, the opponents of the integration reacted to the result of the negotiations mainly with anxiety (48%), dissatisfaction (29%) and disappointment (18%), as well as indifference (18%).

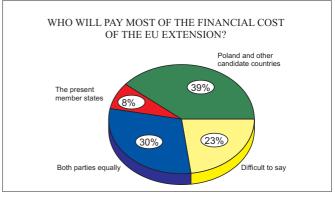


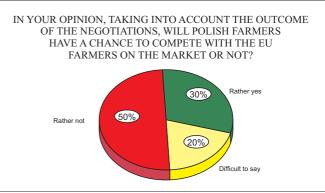
The outcome of the negotiations was much more frequently seen as a success than as a defeat of the Polish negotiators, although the opinion that Poland could have achieved much more prevailed slightly. At the same time, a third of the respondents believed that Poland made more concessions in the negotiations than the EU. A very small percentage of the respondents believed otherwise. However, the opinion that both parties made equal concessions was relatively the most common.





In the opinion of two-fifths of the respondents, Poland and other candidate countries will pay the most of the costs of the EU extension. Less than ten percent of the respondents believed that the extension will be financed by mostly the present member states. Furthermore, not even a third of the Poles believe that the outcome of the negotiations gives the Polish farmers a chance to compete with the farmers from the present member states.





More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): "Opinions about the outcome of the negotiations with the European Union", January 2003. A representative random-address sample of the general adult population of Poland. N=1025

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

- ◆ Do the Poles like other nations?
- The Poles' feelings of psychological wel-being and anxiety in the years 1988 2002
- Reasons for supporting or rejecting the European integration
- ◆ The Sejm of the 4th term after the first year
- ◆ Party preferences in January
- Evaluations of the public debate about the integration with the European Union
- Opinions about the increase of the health insurance contribution
- Politicians of the year 2002
- Improvement of the ratings of the government and the Prime Minister
- Does Poland need a new political party?
- ◆ Important events of the year 2002 for Poland and for the world
- Opinions about the labour market and the threat of unemployment
- The Poles, Czechs, Hungarians and Russians about the health care in their countries
- Are the Poles satisfied with their lives?
- Evaluations of the activity of political institutions
- About the physical activity of the Poles

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

E-mail: sekretariat@cbos.pl

Http://www.cbos.pl

Yearly subscription rate for "Polish Public Opinion" is 80 USD

Circulation: 210 copies

CBOS expertise in providing professional, accurate and timely research studies has made us the leading authority in political, social and consumer research in Poland.