

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

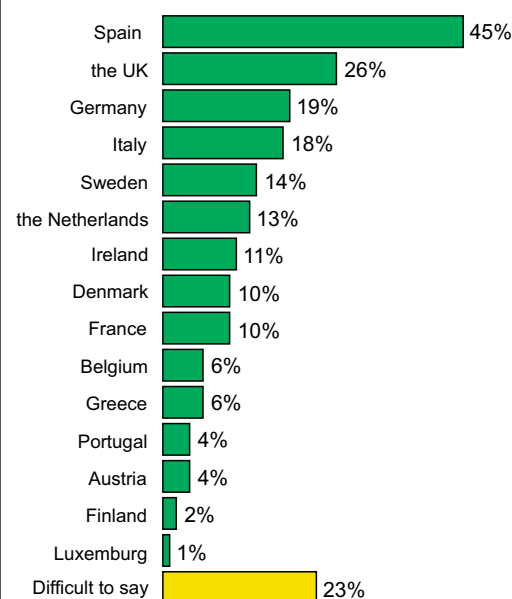
- THE PERCEIVED ATTITUDE OF THE EU MEMBER STATES TO POLAND
- OPINIONS ABOUT THE POSSIBLE LOCATION OF AMERICAN MILITARY BASES IN POLAND
- WHAT IS RUSSIA HEADING FOR?
- INVOLVEMENT OF THE POLES IN VOLUNTARY WORK
- IN THE CIRCLE OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS

## THE PERCEIVED ATTITUDE OF THE EU MEMBER STATES TO POLAND

In the last months, some differences among the present EU members and the candidate countries were revealed regarding the issues of the military intervention in Iraq and the European constitution. In both cases, Poland and Spain disagreed with the two largest EU countries. It was described in Poland as having an independent foreign policy, whereas our adversaries interpreted it as a lack of loyalty and a sign of excessive ambition.

Disagreements regarding the European constitution and possibly also the differences of opinion about the intervention in Iraq had a considerable impact on the perceived positive or negative attitude of the EU countries to Poland. Asked about the strongest allies of Poland in the EU, the Poles have mentioned Spain in the first place. The United Kingdom was also mentioned quite frequently, followed by Germany and Italy.

IN YOUR OPINION, WHICH EU MEMBER STATES ARE NOW THE BEST ALLIES OF POLAND? PLEASE INDICATE UP TO THREE SUCH STATES



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

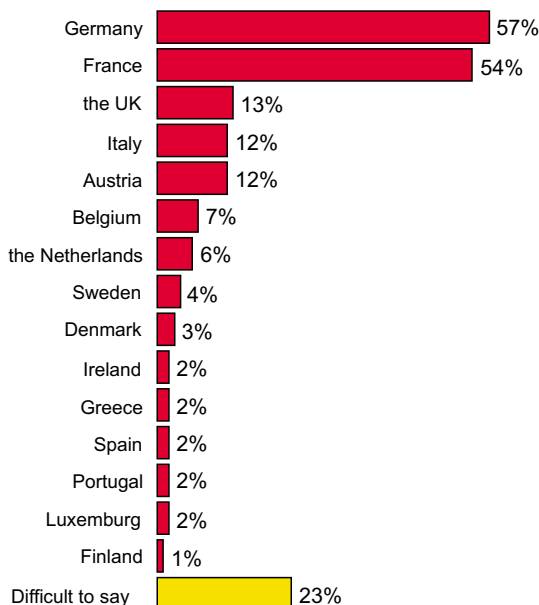
E-mail: sekretariat@cbos.pl  
<http://www.cbos.pl>

Editors: Krzysztof Zagórski and Beata Roguska

Translated by Kinga Pawłowska

© COPYRIGHT BY CBOS 2004  
ALL SOURCES MUST BE CREDITED  
WHEN ANY PART OF THIS PUBLICATION IS REPRODUCED

IN YOUR OPINION, WHICH EU MEMBER STATES ARE NOW THE STRONGEST ADVERSARIES OF POLAND? PLEASE INDICATE UP TO THREE SUCH STATES



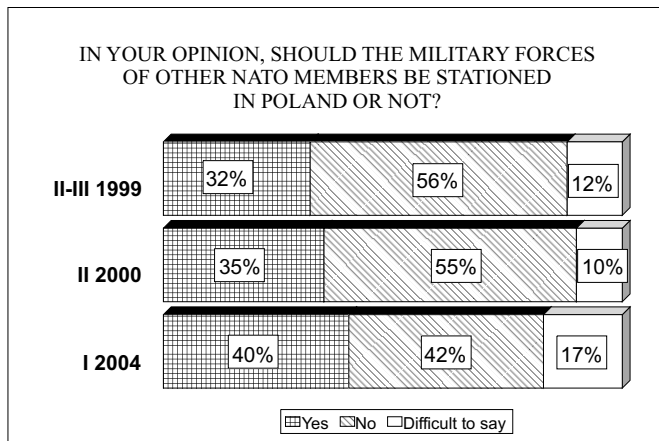
A few years ago (in December 1998) we asked the Poles which of the EU member states supported Poland's efforts to join the Union the most. A definite majority of the respondents mentioned Germany (59%). At present, the Poles see Germany in a quite different light and usually mention it among the adversaries of our country. Germany and France are the most frequently mentioned among the adversaries of Poland within the EU. Other EU countries are much less frequently mentioned in this context.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish) „The perceived attitude of the EU member states to Poland”, February 2004. The survey was conducted in January 2004. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 1057

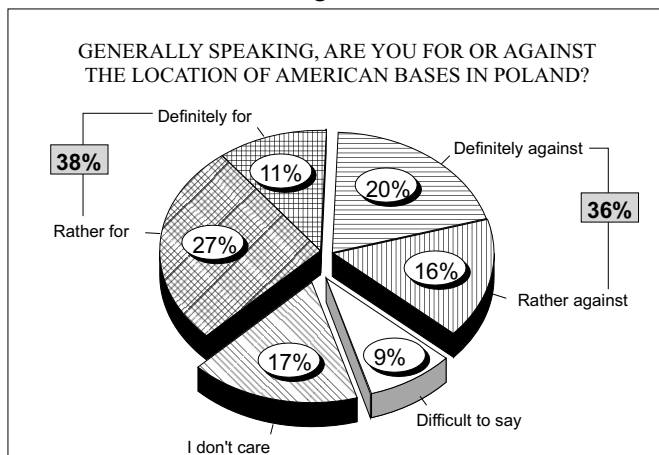
## OPINIONS ABOUT THE POSSIBLE LOCATION OF AMERICAN MILITARY BASES IN POLAND

Although Poland has been a member of the NATO since March 1999, there are no NATO military bases in our country as yet. For some time now the Polish media have been informing about a possible relocation of some of the American military bases from Germany to Poland.

Shortly before and a year after joining the NATO (in 1999 and 2000), most Poles believed that the forces of other NATO states should not be stationed in Poland. At present the opinions are more divided. The proportions of the supporters and opponents of the presence of NATO bases in Poland are almost equal (40% and 42%, respectively).



The opinions about the location of American bases in Poland are also almost equally divided. 38% of the respondents would like such bases to be located in Poland, whereas 36% are against it.



Asked about the benefits arising from the location of American bases in Poland, the respondents usually (24% of all respondents) mention new jobs and

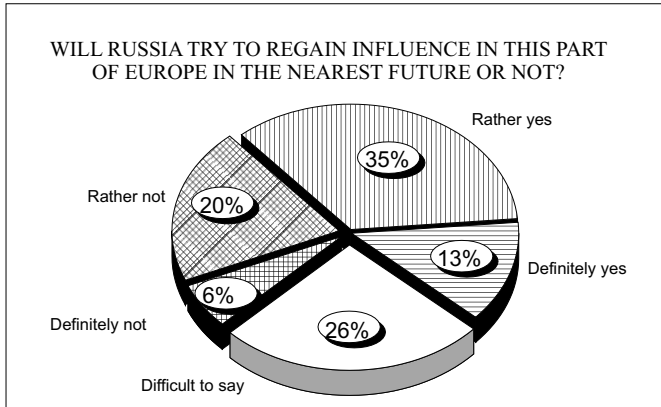
a decrease of unemployment, often in the local context. Next, they mention financial benefits (21%): either specific (e.g. fees for lease of land) or more general (e.g. more money for the state budget, inflow of dollars, financial aid from the USA). Almost every sixth Pole (17%) mention greater safety and better protection of the Polish borders. The following benefits were also mentioned: bigger demand for Polish goods and services (7%), economic development of the regions where the bases would be located (5%), strengthening of the international position of Poland (3%), benefits for the Polish army resulting from contact with modern equipment and experienced specialists (3%).

As far as the negative consequences of the location of American bases in Poland are concerned, the danger of terrorist attacks was mentioned the most frequently (21%). One in twelve respondents (8%) believe that Poland cannot afford to pay for the presence of such bases in Poland. One in sixteen (6%) are afraid that the relations with Russia would deteriorate as a result of the location of American military bases in the Polish territory. The same proportion (6%) are afraid of a deterioration of the relations of Poland with other countries, especially the EU members. 5% of the respondents cannot accept the presence of a foreign army in Poland, because it reminds them of the presence of the Soviet army. 4% of the respondents are afraid of environmental pollution and degradation of the natural environment; the same proportion (4%) mention a lack of safety and danger in the event of a conflict.

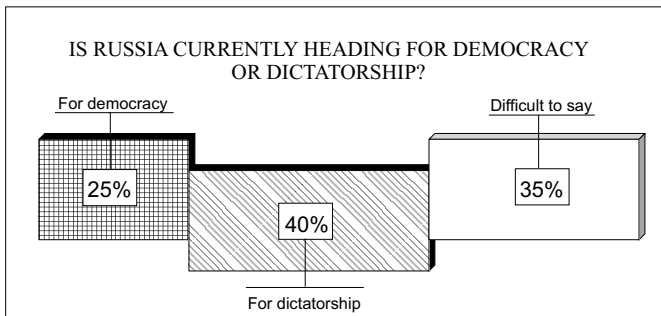
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish) „Opinions about the possible location of American military bases in Poland”, February 2004. The survey was conducted in January 2004. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1057

## WHAT IS RUSSIA HEADING FOR?

Despite the collapse of the USSR and the related geo-political transformation, the Poles are still afraid that Russia may try to regain influence in this part of Europe. Over half of the Poles expressed such fears between 1994 and 2002 (in May 1995 this figure went up to 72%). Russia's declared opposition to the extension of the NATO was interpreted as a sign of its hegemonist tendencies. At present, these fears are the weakest in the last ten years. 48% of the Poles believe that Russia will try to regain influence in this part of Europe (a decrease by 7 percentage points as compared with February 2002 and by as many as 20 percentage points as compared with May 2001). At the same time, 26% of the respondents are afraid that the imperialist tendencies of Russia will increase (a decrease by 3% and 8% percentage points, respectively).



The fears that the situation in Russia is developing towards dictatorship are less common than in the past years. Currently, 40% of the Poles express such fears (a decrease by 3 percentage points as compared with April 2000 and by as many as 22 percentage points as compared with May 1995). 25% of the respondents believe that Russia is heading for democracy (an increase by 7 and 12 percentage points, respectively).



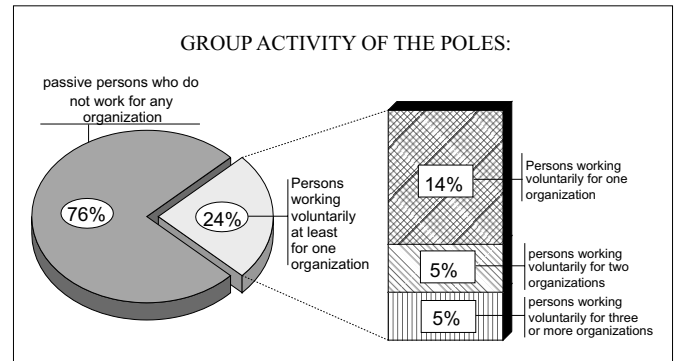
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): „What is Russia heading for?“, February 2004. The survey was conducted in January 2004. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 1057

## INVOLVEMENT OF THE POLES IN VOLUNTARY WORK

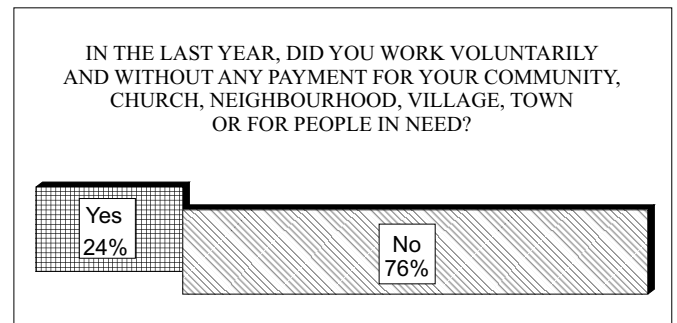
A definite majority of the Poles (76%) are not actively involved in any organization. However, at least a quarter (24%) of adult Poles declare that they devote their free time to voluntary work; one in seven (14%) work for one organization, one in twenty (5%) - for two organizations and the same proportion (5%) work for three or more organizations. The level of such group activity of the Poles has been quite stable for the last six years.

The Polish volunteers usually work for sport organizations (5%), school and education organizations (4%), religious and Church organizations (4%) and trade unions (4%). They are also involved in the unions of gardeners, breeders, fishermen and hunters (3%), charity organizations working for children (2%) and other people in need (2%), youth organizations (2%), rescue (2%),

Artistic (2%) and pensioners' (2%) organizations. The level of and range of such activity varies quite significantly from one socio-demographic group to another.



Irrespective of their involvement in the work of non-government organizations, almost a quarter of all Poles (24%) declare that in 2003 they worked voluntarily and without any payment for their community, church, neighbourhood, village, town or people in need. This figure increased by 5 percentage points over the last two years.



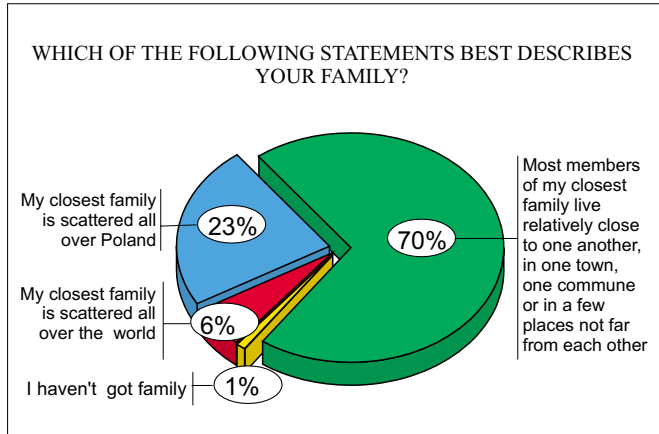
Taking into account the respondents who declare working voluntarily and without payment for the community or for people in need and those involved in non-government organizations, on the whole over 37% of the Poles did some kind of voluntary work in 2003.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish) „Involvement of the Poles in group work for the community in the years 1998-2004“ and “Are the Poles involved in voluntary work?“, February 2004. The survey was conducted in January 2004. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 1057.

## IN THE CIRCLE OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Most Poles (70%) feel geographically close to the members of their closest family who do not live in the same household. Almost a quarter of the respondents (23%) have relatives scattered all over Poland and one in sixteen (6%) all over the world. For most respondents, proximity of the place of residence of their relatives means frequent direct contact with them. The Poles meet

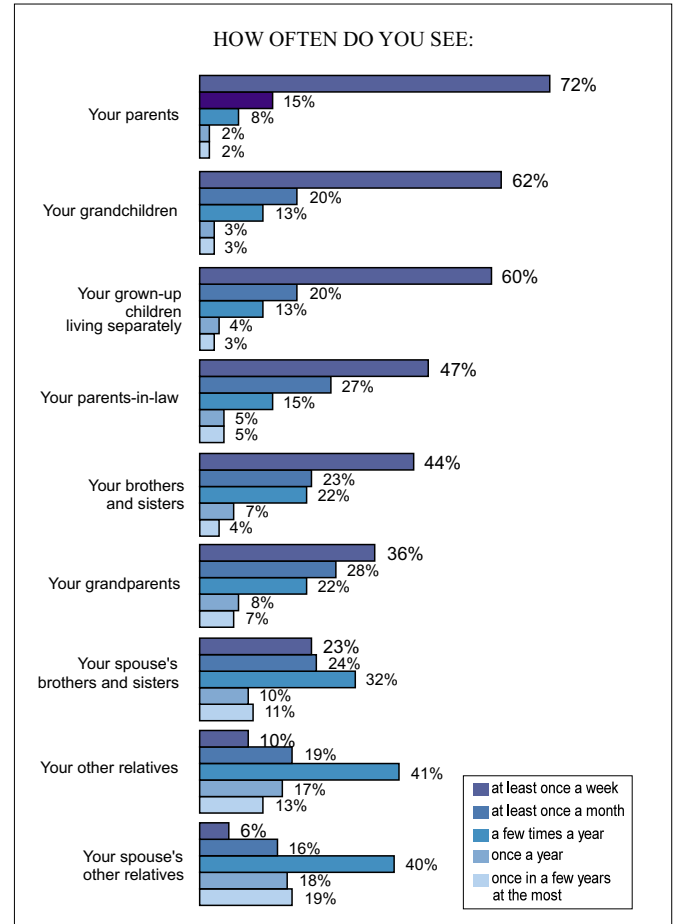
with their parents, grandchildren or grown-up children who live separately a few times a week. The meetings with parents-in-law, brothers and sisters and grandparents are also quite frequent. The contacts with the spouse's brothers and sisters are much less frequent, though. As for more distant relatives, the Poles usually meet them a few times a year.



A definite majority of the Poles have relatives with whom they are really close and friendly. On average they maintain friendly relations with seven members of their family.

An average adult Pole currently has seven friends outside the family. In December 2003, over half of the respondents (54%) had at least five such friends, one in five (21%) three or four, and one in eight (12%) only one or two. 6% of the respondents said that they had no friends outside their family.

A large number of friends contributes to greater life satisfaction.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish) „In the circle of family and friends”, January 2004. Survey executed in December 2003. A representative random sample of the adult population of Poland. N = 1000

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

- ◆ The year 2004 - expectations and fears
- ◆ Participation in culture and selected leisure activities in 2003
- ◆ What happened to us in 2003
- ◆ Evaluations of the work of the Parliament and the President
- ◆ Support for the stabilisation mission in Iraq
- ◆ The Poles about the political future of President Aleksander Kwaśniewski
- ◆ Do we like Valentine's Day?
- ◆ Political party preferences in February
- ◆ The Poles' opinions about wealth and wealthy people
- ◆ Social moods in February
- ◆ The situation on the job market and the perceived threat of unemployment in February
- ◆ The attitude to the government and to the Prime Minister Leszek Miller
- ◆ Opinions about the work of public institutions
- ◆ Opinions about Hausner's plan and other plans of saving public money
- ◆ Trust in politicians in February
- ◆ Trust in public and private life

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.