

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- THE ATTITUDES TO FOREIGN POLITICIANS
- THE PRESIDENCY OF ALEKSANDER KWAŚNIEWSKI - ACHIEVEMENTS AND FAILURES
- RESIDENTS OF CENTRAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ABOUT INFLATION AND REAL INCOME
- THE OPINIONS ABOUT ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

## 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

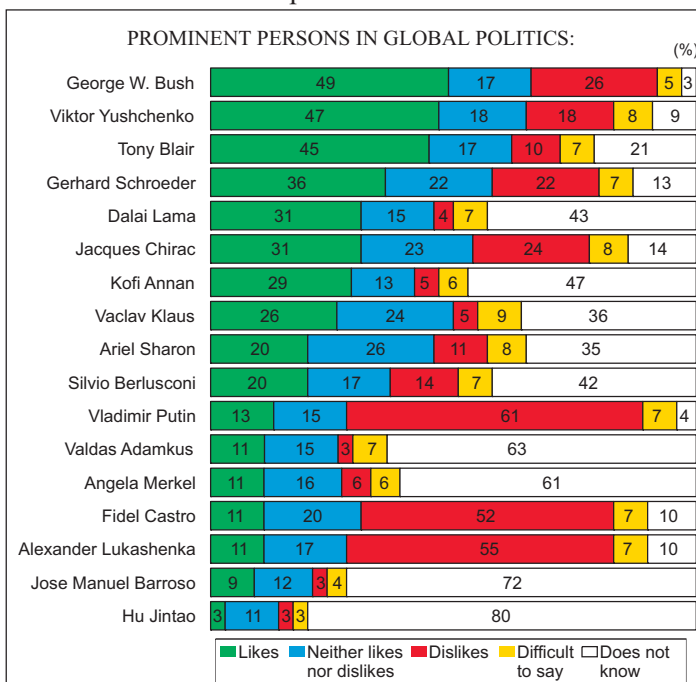
© COPYRIGHT BY CBOS 2005

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

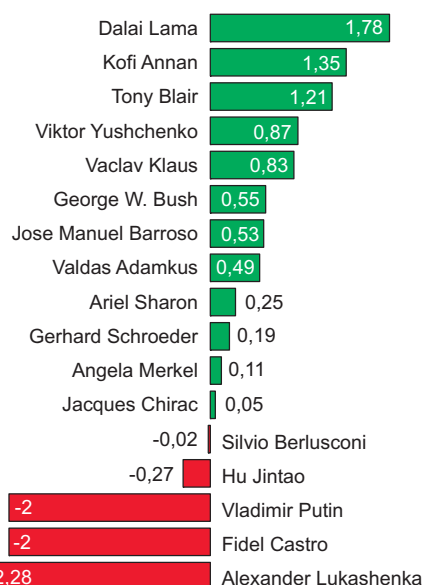
## THE ATTITUDES TO FOREIGN POLITICIANS

The Presidents of the United States and Russia, George W. Bush and Vladimir Putin, are commonly known in Poland. The politicians almost equally well known are: Fidel Castro and the Presidents of two Eastern neighbours of Poland, Viktor Yushchenko and Alexander Lukashenka. The Presidents of the Ukraine and Byelorussia are much more recognizable than the heads of the other states which are the neighbours of Poland, namely Vaclav Klaus or Valdas Adamkus. The best-known politicians also include the former German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder and the French President Jacques Chirac. The British Prime Minister Tony Blair is somewhat less known.

None of the leading figures on the international political scene seems to be liked by a majority of the Poles. Three of the politicians included in our survey are liked by almost half of the respondents. They are: George W. Bush, Viktor Yushchenko and Tony Blair. More than half of the respondents declare that they dislike Vladimir Putin, Alexander Lukashenka and Fidel Castro.



### AVERAGE VALUES ON THE LIKE - DISLIKE SCALE AMONG THE RESPONDENTS WHO IDENTIFY THE POLITICIANS:



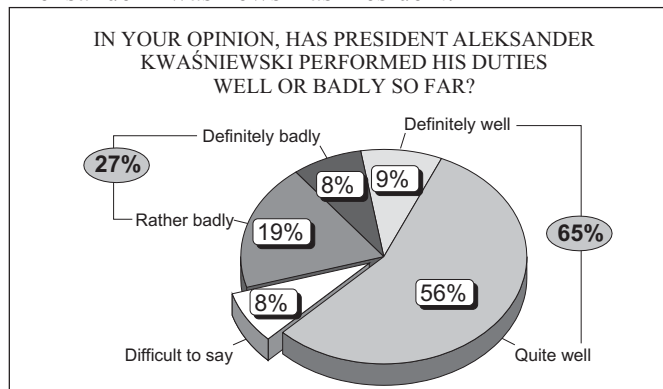
The attitudes to the politicians are measured by the eleven-degree scale, where the extreme points indicate deep disliking (-5) and deep liking (+5). The average evaluations obtained by the politicians (computed for those respondents only, who recognized them) indicate that the Dalai Lama is seen in the most positive light. Kofi Annan ranks second, although the distance between him and the Dalai Lama is quite big. Both are probably seen as peaceful persons who actively try to bring peace to the world. Tony Blair, Viktor Yushchenko and Vaclav Klaus are also relatively well liked by the Poles. On the other hand, Alexander Lukashenka, Fidel Castro and Vladimir Putin meet with mostly negative feelings.

More information about this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *The Poles' likes and dislikes with regard to foreign politicians and familiarity with those politicians*, October 2005. Survey executed in September 2005. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 1028.

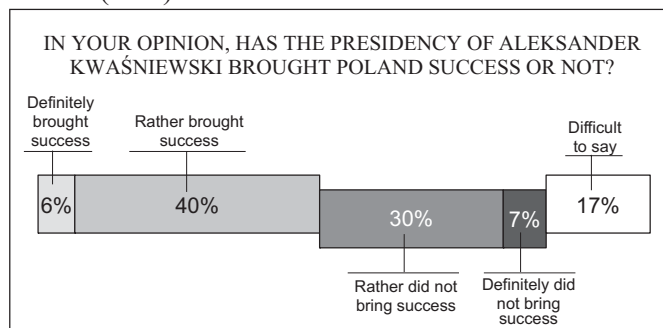
## THE PRESIDENCY OF ALEKSANDER KWAŚNIEWSKI - ACHIEVEMENTS AND FAILURES

The second and the last (in accordance with the Polish law) term of office of President Aleksander Kwaśniewski is coming to an end. The Poles reacted to Mr Kwaśniewski's election in 1995 with mixed feelings: mainly satisfaction (36%), but also anxiety (32%). Aleksander Kwaśniewski won trust of most Poles fairly quickly (in late 2002/ early 2003 more than 80% of the respondents trusted him). The opinions about his work as a President were positive throughout almost the entire term of office. The last year of the presidency was relatively the worst for him. His ratings dropped and the percentage of the respondents expressing positive opinions about the work of the President temporarily dropped below 50%. In October 2005, the positive opinions about the President (60%) outnumbered the negative ones (30%) again.

After almost 10 years in office, nearly two-thirds of the Poles express generally positive opinions about Aleksander Kwaśniewski as President.

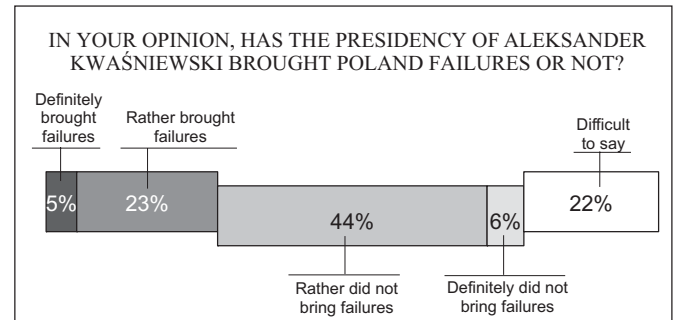


Speaking about his presidency, the respondents mention achievements (46%) more frequently than failures (28%).



Although most Poles evaluate the performance of Aleksander Kwaśniewski from a definitely positive or a definitely negative perspective (indicating only achievements or only failures), a significant percentage

mention both the positive and the negative aspects of this presidency. More than one in five respondents (22%) evaluating the presidency as successful notice some failures as well, and more than a third (36%) of those who focus on the mistakes of the current President point out his achievements as well.



The expectations associated with Mr Aleksander Kwaśniewski coming to power in 1995 mainly concerned social issues, i.e. domestic policy issues, but the achievements attributed to him after ten years in office are mostly related to his foreign policy. Beyond any doubt, one of the most important achievements attributed to the presidency is the integration of Poland with the European Union (it was mentioned by 74% of those who see any achievements of the current President). Mr Kwaśniewski's efforts associated with the membership of Poland in the NATO are also highly appreciated. The respondents also mention successful foreign policy in general, the appropriate representation of Polish interests abroad and strengthening the position of Poland on the international scene (altogether 17%). The President's support for the "Orange Revolution" in the Ukraine has also been noticed and appreciated. On the other hand, the respondents rarely notice any achievements in the domestic policy of Aleksander Kwaśniewski. In this respect, his contribution to the lawmaking, the economic development, a general improvement in the standard of living and stabilization of the political life are mentioned relatively the most frequently, though by very small number of people (3%, 2%, 2% and 2% respectively).

One of the most criticized elements of Kwaśniewski's presidency is the participation of Poland in the war in Iraq. A quarter of the respondents who notice any faults (24%) blame him for it. His eastern policy is also criticized, in particular the inappropriate relations with Russia (11%), allowing the construction of a gas pipeline between Russia and Germany bypassing Poland (9%) and the policy towards Byelorussia (4%). Most Poles perceive the integration with the European Union as a success of the President, although some see it as his failure (5%). As far as the domestic affairs are concerned, Aleksander Kwaśniewski is the most frequently criticized for ineffective anti-unemployment policy (19%), a lack of reaction to numerous corruption affairs and a general growth of corruption (8%). Some

respondents also blame him for contributing to the impoverishment of the Poles (7%). According to the respondents, other failures of the present presidency include co-responsibility for the bad shape of the economy (4%), difficult situation of young people (4%) and errors in the reforms and laws (4%).

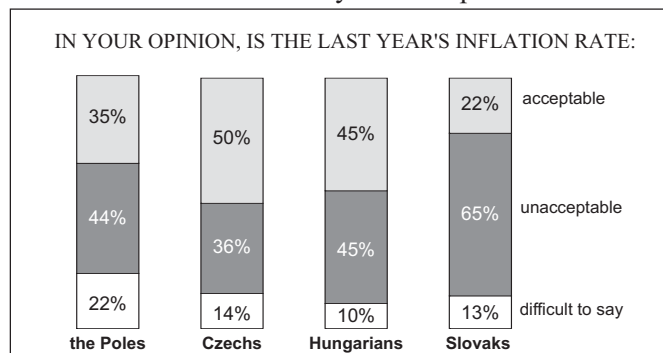
It has to be underlined, however, that many of President's achievements and failures, mentioned by respondents, in open-ended question actually are beyond his political prerogatives.

More information about this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *The presidency of Aleksander Kwaśniewski a summary of achievements and failures*, October 2005. Survey executed in September 2005. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1028.

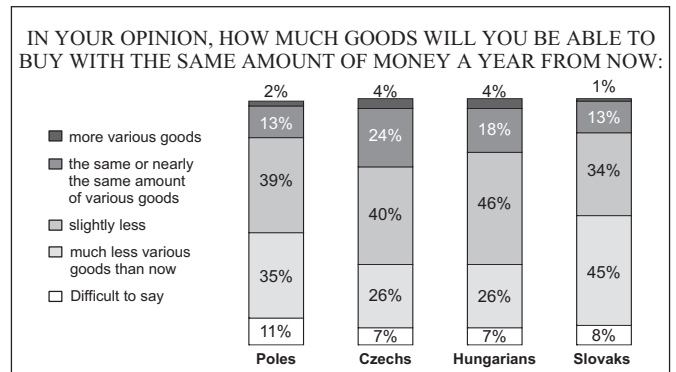
### RESIDENTS OF CENTRAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ABOUT INFLATION AND REAL INCOME

The perceived level of inflation depends not only on its actual rate in a given country, but on the expectations and habits of the citizens as well. Some Central European countries had very high inflation rates in the early 1990s, which were gradually reduced to quite low levels (for example, the annual inflation in Poland in August 2005 was 1.6%). In other countries of the region, the growth of prices had been relatively low in the 1990s and remained so in the years 2001-2005 (one of the examples is the Czech Republic, where the annual inflation rate is also 1.6%, and another one is Slovakia with inflation at the level of 2%). In Hungary, the inflation rate has recently been and still is slightly higher than elsewhere in the region (3.6%).

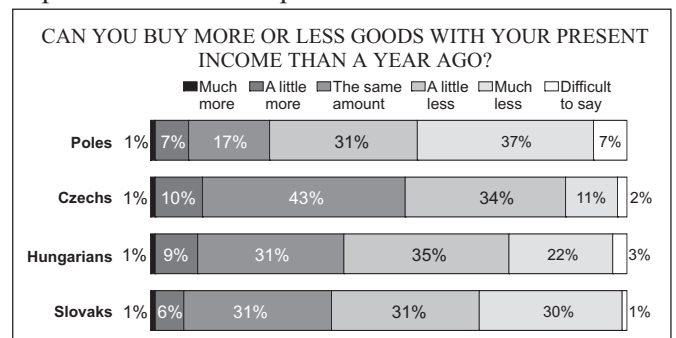
The Czechs are the most satisfied with the inflation rate in their country half of the respondents consider it acceptable. The public opinion is equally divided in Hungary, whereas in Poland those who do not accept the present rate of inflation outnumber those who accept it. The Slovaks are the most concerned, with almost two-thirds expressing the opinion that the inflation level in their country is unacceptable.



The expectations concerning the level of inflation in the next twelve months are the most optimistic in Hungary and in the Czech Republic. Although the inflation rate in the last year in Poland was the same as in the Czech Republic, the Poles are much more pessimistic about the future. More than a third of them expect a significant drop in the purchasing power of the domestic currency, compared to slightly over a quarter of the Czechs and Hungarians. The Slovaks are even more pessimistic. More than two-fifths of them believe that a year from now they will buy much less goods with the same amount of money.



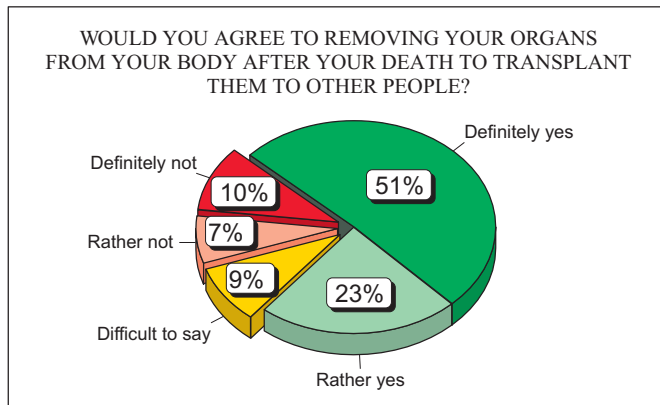
The Central European countries are among the poorest in the European Union, but the distance between them and other developed countries is shrinking gradually. In the years 2001-2005, GDP measured in terms of the purchasing power parity (PPP) increased from 62% to 66% in the Czech Republic, from 52% to 55% in Hungary, from 46% to 51% in Slovakia and from 44% to 46% in Poland. Despite these optimistic figures, the societies of the Central European countries feel that their purchasing power is declining. More than two-thirds of the Poles, more than half of the Hungarians and Slovaks and nearly half of the Czechs declare that their real incomes are decreasing. Few respondents notice any improvement in this respect.



More information about this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Evaluations and projections concerning inflation and real incomes opinions of the respondents from Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia*, October 2005. Survey executed in September 2005. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1028. In the Czech Republic, the survey was conducted by CVVM on a sample N=988; in Hungary (TARKI) on a sample N=1047; in Slovakia (FOCUS) on a sample of N=1003.

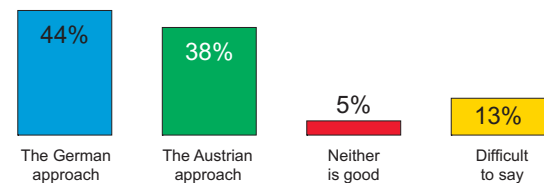
## THE OPINIONS ABOUT ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

The approval for transplanting organs obtained from deceased persons to save someone's life or restore health is almost universal (87%). At the same time, almost three quarters of the Poles declare that they would agree to donate their organs for transplantation after their death. The percentage of persons willing to be donors is slightly lower now than two years ago.



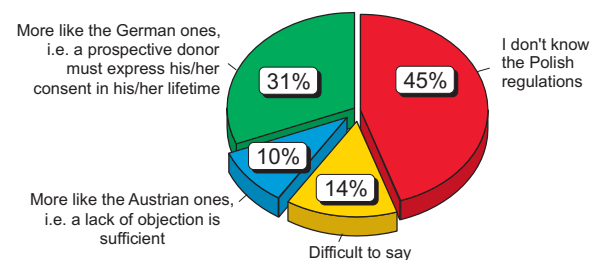
There are two approaches to regulating the issue of donation of organs for transplantation: the first one is based on "assumed consent", and the other is based on consent declared by a living person. The first approach has been implemented e.g. in Austria, and the other one e.g. in Germany. The Poles' opinions as to which approach is better are divided. somewhat greater number of people believe that a prospective donor's consent given during his/her lifetime should be required to remove the organs.

WHICH OF THE TWO APPROACHES TO REGULATE TRANSPLANTATION DO YOU PREFER, THE GERMAN ONE (CONSENT MUST BE GIVEN BY A LIVING PERSON) OR THE AUSTRIAN ONE (NO OBJECTION BEFORE DEATH IS SUFFICIENT)?



In Poland, a lack of objection expressed by a donor during his/her lifetime, i.e. the assumed consent, is sufficient. If no such objection has been recorded, organs can be removed irrespective of the family's opinion, although in practice the doctors usually ask for the family's consent. In spite of these regulations being in force in Poland for 10 years, nearly half of the Poles (45%) admit that they do not know the regulations in this respect.

IN YOUR OPINION, ARE THE POLISH REGULATIONS MORE LIKE THE GERMAN OR THE AUSTRIAN ONES?



More information about this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Opinions about organ transplants*, October 2005. Survey executed in September 2005. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 1028.

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

- ◆ Holiday rest and paid work of school students
- ◆ Preferences in the presidential election a week before voting
- ◆ The voters' preferences in the second round of the presidential election
- ◆ About mobilization of the electorates, importance of negative voting motivations and the projected winner of the presidential election
- ◆ The opinions about the PiS - PO coalition
- ◆ The opinions about the labour market and the perceived threat of unemployment in October
- ◆ The opinions about the work of public institutions
- ◆ Social moods in October
- ◆ The parents' expenses on education of schoolchildren in the school year 2005/2006

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 has made us the leading authority in political, social and consumer research in Poland.