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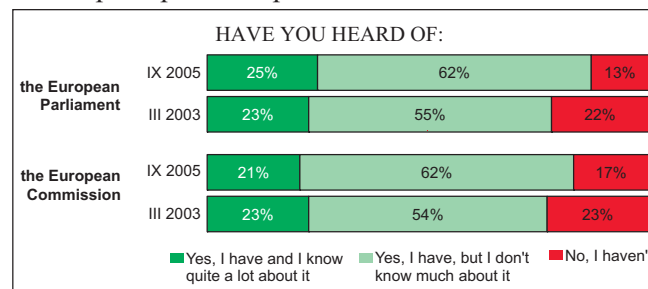
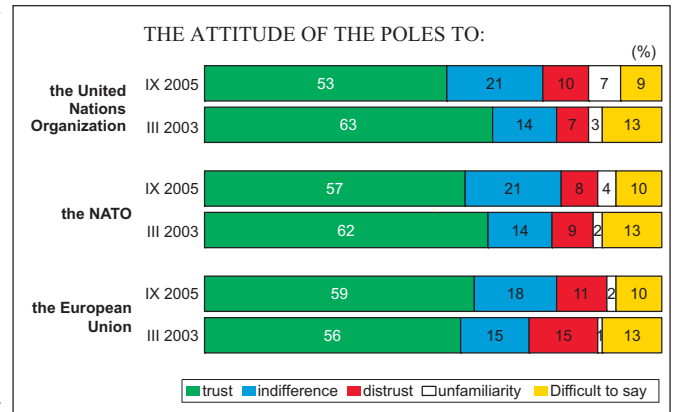
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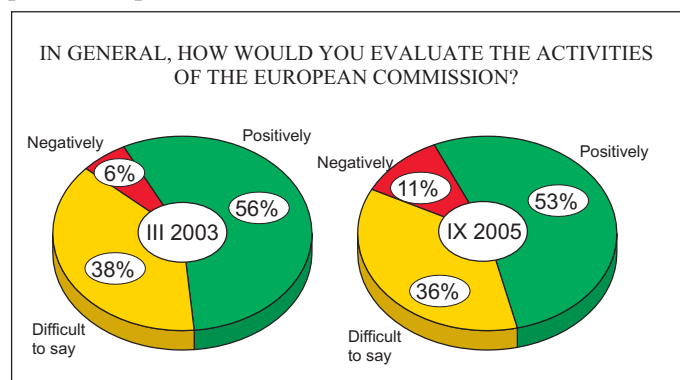
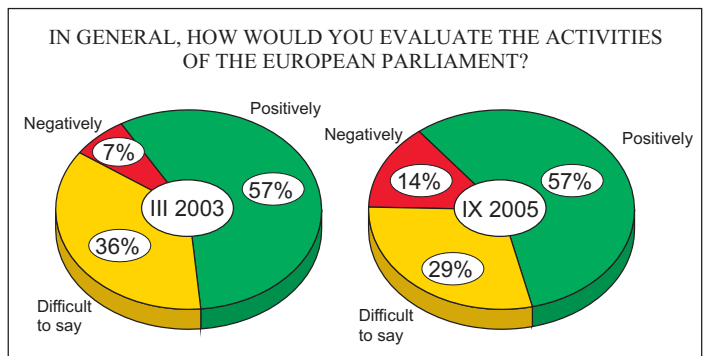
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## CHANGING THE OPINIONS ABOUT EU INSTITUTIONS

The membership of Poland in the European Union has had a positive effect on the public trust in this organization. The public opinion about the European Union seems particularly positive compared with the deteriorating evaluations of the UN and the NATO. While in March 2003 more Poles trusted the UN and the NATO than the European Union, today the percentages of those who trust the NATO and the EU are similar and higher than the percentage of those who express positive opinions about the UN. The increase of the respondents' trust in the EU is probably due to the satisfaction with the results that the membership of Poland in this organization has brought to date.



Increased familiarity with the EU institutions has not improved the evaluations of their activity. On the contrary, the number of those who criticize both the European Parliament and the European Commission has increased. However, still more than half of the Poles express positive opinions about the



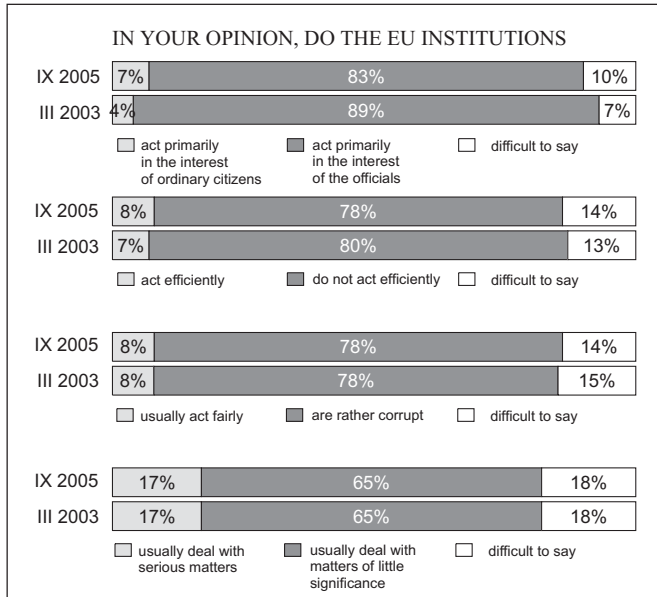
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European Parliament (57%), and speak well about the activities of the European Commission (53%).

The increase in the number of critical opinions about the activities of the European Parliament and the European Commission was accompanied by negative opinions about different aspects of the work of the

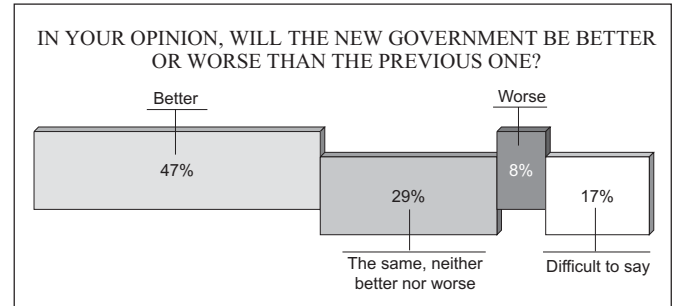
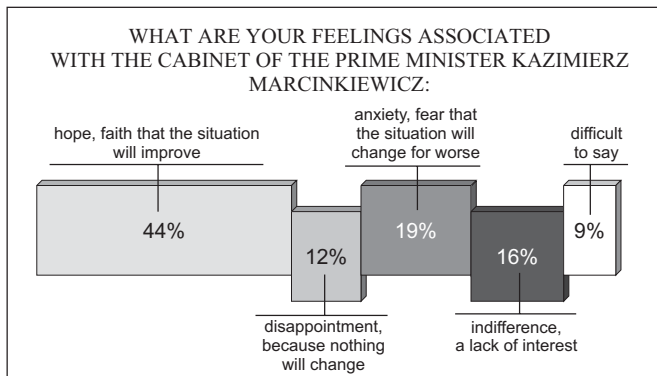
European institutions. That could be due to the growing expectations associated with the EU and its institutions after the accession.



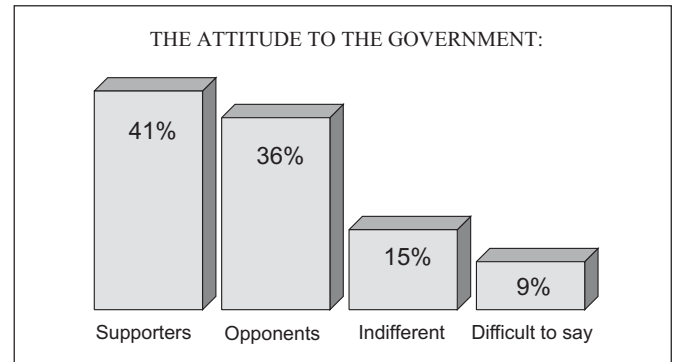
More information about this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Deterioration of the opinions about the functioning of the EU institutions*, November 2005. Survey executed in September 2005. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 1028.

## OPINIONS ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT OF KAZIMIERZ MARCINKIEWICZ

The Law and Justice (PiS) government appointed in November, with the Prime Minister Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz, has received quite a warm, although by no mean enthusiastic, welcome. The reactions to its appointment are quite similar to the reactions to the cabinets formed after the 1997 and 2001 parliamentary elections. More than two-fifths of the respondents (44%) believe that the new government will contribute to an improvement of the situation in Poland. Nearly half of the respondents (47%) expect the government of Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz to be better than the previous one.



At the onset of the term of this cabinet, slightly more than two-fifths of the Poles declare their support for it (41%). 15% of the respondents are in the opposition and more than a third (36%) are indifferent. The support for the cabinet of Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz at the onset of its term is somewhat lower than the support for the governments appointed after the elections of 1997 and 2001.

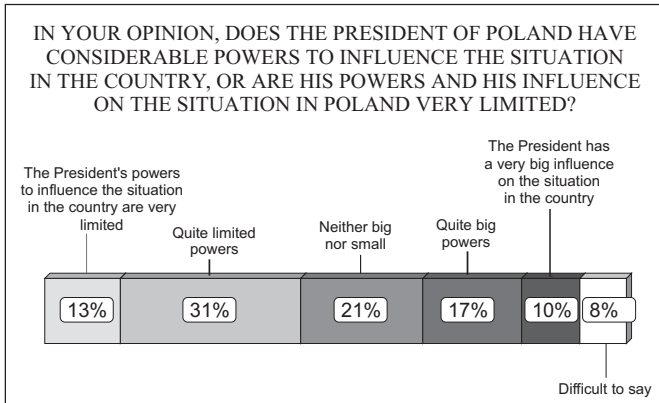


More information about this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish) *Opinions about the government of Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz*, November 2005. Survey executed in November 2005. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 1026.

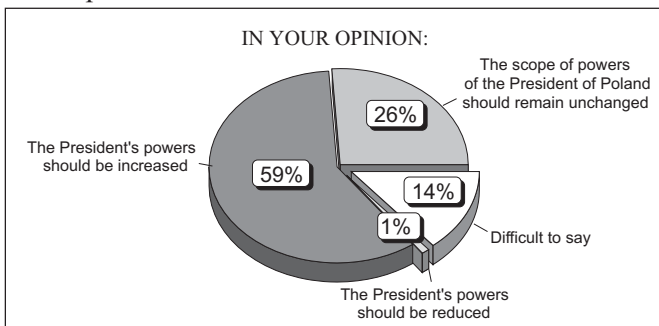
## THE POLES ABOUT THE SCOPE OF THE PRESIDENT'S POWER

The discussions conducted before the parliamentary and presidential elections touched the concept of the reconstruction of the Polish political system and changing the division of powers between the major institutions. The Law and Justice (PiS), the current ruling party, opted for the extension of the Presidential power by adding, among others, the right to veto the candidates for the Prime Minister and the ministers and the right to issue decrees with the effect of a law (on the request of the government). The president-elect, who was a candidate of the PiS, declared that for the time being he would make more use of the existing powers of the head of the state than the outgoing President.

The public opinions on the existing scope of the President's power are very varied. A majority of the Poles see them as quite limited.



Before the final result of the presidential election was known, most Poles had opted for increasing the powers of the President. Only just over a quarter of the respondents opted for maintaining the current status in this respect.

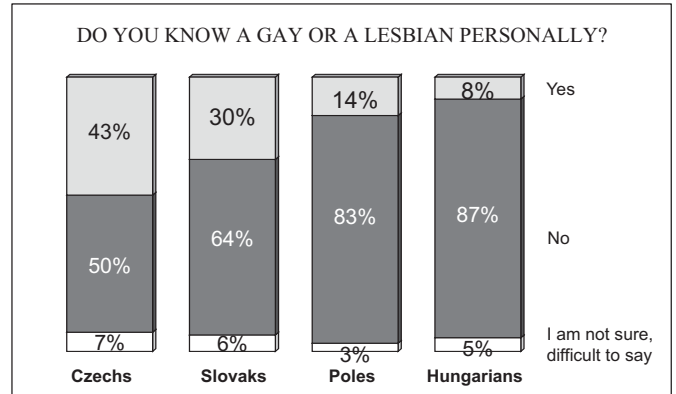


More information about this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *The Poles about the scope of powers of the President*, November 2005. Survey executed in October 2005. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 1003.

## ACCEPTANCE OF GAYS AND LESBIANS IN CENTRAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

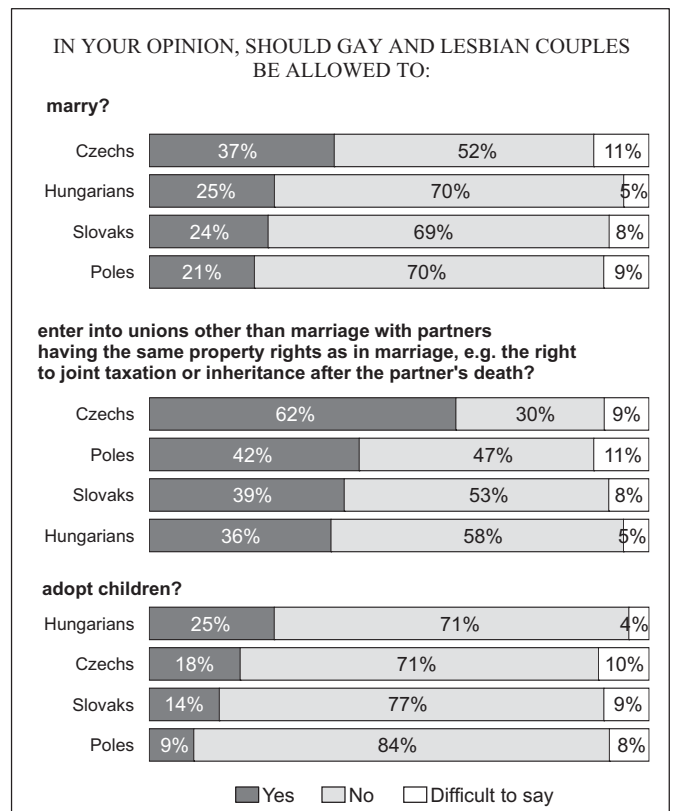
Central European nations differ significantly from one another with regard to the frequency of declared personal contact with gays and lesbians. Such contact is declared the least frequently by the Hungarians, and the most frequently by the Czechs. The proportion of persons who say they know some gays or lesbians can be a measure of the level of tolerance a different sexual orientation in a given society, because if a big proportion of the respondents admit having such acquaintances, it means that they are not afraid to stain their own image.

A definite majority of the Poles, Hungarians and Slovaks are of the opinion that gays and lesbians should not be allowed to marry the partners of the same sex. The opponents of same-sex marriage also prevail in the Czech Republic, but their proportion is much lower.



In each of these four countries, the acceptance of a formal union between partners of the same sex having the same property rights as in a marriage is significantly more common than the acceptance of same-sex marriage. However, the supporters of the legalization of homosexual relationships outnumber the opponents only in the Czech Republic.

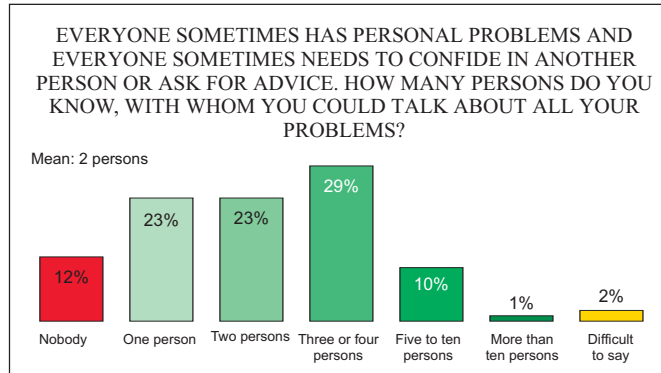
The idea of granting gays and lesbians the right to adopt children meets the strongest opposition. It is rejected by a definite majority of the respondents in each of the four countries.



More information about this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Personal contact with and acceptance of gays and lesbians in the Central European countries*, November 2005. Survey executed in October 2005. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 1003. In the Czech Republic, the survey was conducted by CVVM on a sample N=988; in Hungary (TARKI) on a sample N=1035; in Slovakia (FOCUS) on a sample N=1060.

## SOCIAL TIES AMONG THE POLES

A definite majority of the Poles do not complain about having nobody to confide in or ask for advice. However, one in eight have nobody who could listen to them or offer their support. On average, a grown-up Pole has two persons with whom he/she can talk about all his/her personal problems.

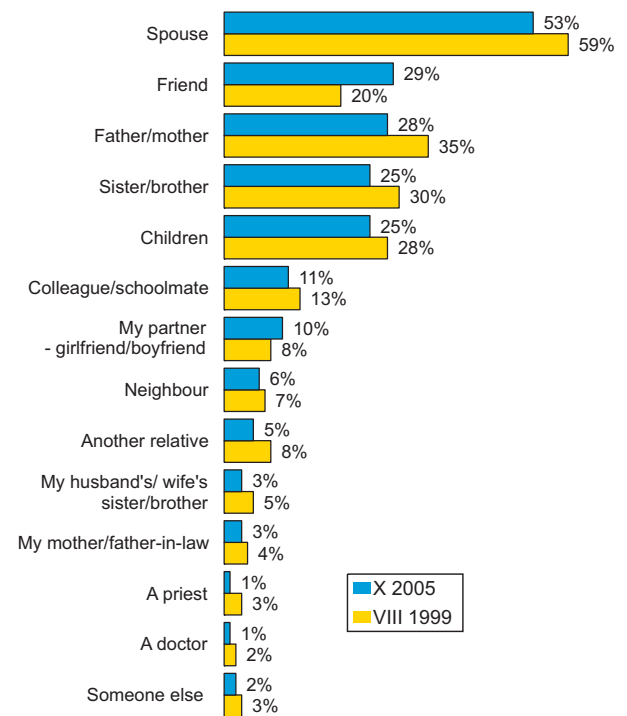


Those who declare that they know some people on whose support they can always count usually mention the members of the closest family, i.e. the spouse, parents, brothers or sisters and children. Compared with the year 1999, the importance of friends as confidants has grown, and the role of family members has decreased.

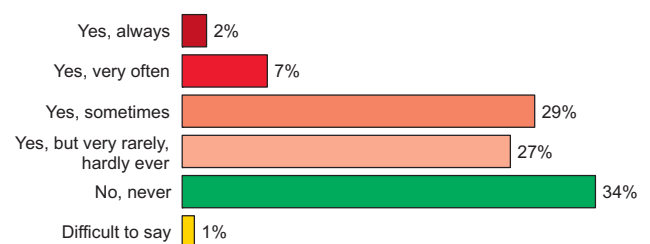
Although most Poles can count on the support of other people, almost two-thirds of declare that there are situations when they feel lonely, though the majority of them have such feelings not very often.

The feeling of loneliness is mainly associated with the respondents' marital status. It is the most common among widows and widowers, a quarter (25%) of whom feel lonely very often or even always. Divorced or separated persons come next. In this group, one in five respondents (19%) feel lonely very often. According to the respondents' declarations, married persons feel lonely the least frequently (5% of them feel lonely very often).

### WHO IS IT? PLEASE NAME UP TO THREE MOST IMPORTANT PERSONS.



### DO YOU EVER FEEL LONELY EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE PEOPLE AROUND?



More information about this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *The social ties among the Poles*, November 2005. Survey executed in October 2005. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 1003.

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

- ◆ A summary of the work of the Prime Minister Marek Belka and his cabinet
- ◆ Culinary likes and dislikes, nutritional habits and consumer behaviour of the Poles
- ◆ Social ties among the Poles
- ◆ The hopes and fears associated with the new Sejm
- ◆ Political party preferences in November
- ◆ Opinions about compliance with the law and the law enforcement system
- ◆ Social moods in November
- ◆ Bird flu
- ◆ Trust in politicians in November

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