# POLISIEI DECEMBER 2005

ISSN 1233 - 7250

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# **EVALUATIONS OF THE YEAR 2005 AND EXPECTATIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR**

According to the Poles, the year 2005 was clearly better than the previous one. The evaluations of the respondents' personal situation and the situation of their families, as well as the evaluations of the situation at the workplaces, have never been so positive since we first asked this question in 1988. More than half of the Poles describe the last year as good for them personally (52%) and for their families (51%). Furthermore, more than half of the working Poles (53%) believe that the year 2005 was good for their workplaces.

The general evaluation of the last year for Poland and for the world is less positive, although better than a year ago. The biggest proportion of the respondents (47%) describe

the year 2005 as neither particularly good nor bad for Poland. Others usually describe it as good (26%) rather than bad (19%). The respondents' views on the development of the situation in the world are the most pessimistic. The past year was bad or, at best, neither good nor bad for the world according to 38% and 34% Poles respectively.



The positive evaluations of the last year were accompanied by optimistic expectations for the 2006. The level of optimism is the highest since 1991, when we first asked this question.



More than half of the adult Poles hope that the 2006 will be better for themselves and their families than the 2005 (54% and 53% r e s p e c t i v e l y). Th e expectations concerning the situation at the workplaces are also predominantly optimistic. Nearly half of the working respondents expect an improvement (47%).

The opinions

concerning the future of Poland and the world are also optimistic. Nearly half of the respondents (49%) believe that for Poland the year 2006 will be better than 2005, and more than two-fifths (43%) expect that the situation in the world will improve as well.

More information about this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Evaluations of the year 2005* and forecasts for the year 2006, December 2005. Survey executed in December 2005. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 1018.

### THE NEW PRESIDENT, NEW HOPES

Lech Kaczyński was sworn in as President of Poland on 23 December 2005. The Poles' expectations concerning the future President's role are quite optimistic. Most respondents believe that Mr Kaczyński will be a good president and nearly half expect him to be better than his predecessor Aleksander Kwaśniewski, who was usually evaluated very positively throughout his two five-years terms.



The hopes associated with the new President relate to the development of the situation in Poland more than to the foreign policy. According to the prevailing opinion, the presidency of Lech Kaczyński will help solve the most important social problems in Poland and improve the standard of the political life. At the same time, there is less hope for his success on the international scene, particularly for an improvement of the relations with Russia.



More information about this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *The new president, new hopes*, December 2005. Survey executed in November 2005. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 1026.

## POLISH-RUSSIAN RELATIONS

The decision of Russia and Germany to build a gas pipeline on the bottom of the Baltic Sea rather than trough Poland, and the restrictions imposed by Russian authorities on import of Polish meat, meat products, fruits and vegetables have been widely commented in Poland. They were interpreted by the Polish society as being political and aimed against Poland rather than based on rational economic considerations.



The events of the last months have contributed further to the negative opinion about the Polish-Russian relations. The belief that the relations between the two countries are bad culuminated after the celebrations of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II in Moscow, during which President Putin did not mention the fact that Poland had fought against Fascist Germany. It remains at a high level.



Those who describe Polish-Russian relations as bad usually blame Russia in the first place or both countries equally.

WHICH COUNTRY IS MORE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BAD STATE OF THE POLISH-RUSSIAN RELATIONS?					
N=522	9%	44%	44%	3%	
	Mainly Poland	Both countries equally		cult to ay	

The Poles' expectations as to the development of Polish-Russian relations in the near future are also pessimistic. The opinion that nothing will change in this respect is the most common. One in four respondents expect an improvement, but nearly a fifth expect a deterioration.



In spite of the critical evaluations of present relations between Poland and Russia and pessimistic expectations for the near future, the Poles believe that friendly and equal relations between these two countries are still possible.



In the Polish public opinion, Poland should be flexible in the relations with Russia and try to reach a compromise.



More information about this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Opinions about the Polish-Russian relations*, December 2005. Survey executed in December 2005. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 1018.

### TIME FLIES, DOESN'T IT?

The political economic and social changes which took place in Poland have affected the perception of the passage of time. People now live faster due to a bigger number of duties, choices and opportunities available to them and the chase for money. A definite majority of the Poles (82%) have a feeling that time is running fast or even very fast. For very few respondents time passes slowly or very slowly (6%). The passage of time is subjectively faster to the Poles than to the Germans. The Poles tend to describe it as very fast much more frequently than the Germans.



For women, the passage of time is much faster than for men. Likewise, the oldest respondents describe the passage of time as very fast much more frequently than the youngest ones. The differences in the respondents' education and professional standing also affect the way they see the passage of time. The persons with higher education and office workers (both senior and junior) perceive the passage of time as much faster than the less educated respondents, mainly manual workers and farmers. Among the non-working persons, the pensioners describe the passage of time as particularly fast, whereas the unemployed say relatively the most frequently that time "drags on".

The actually perceived and the desired speed of the passage of time are totally different. A definite majority of the respondents would like the time to slow down. As many as 41% would like the time to pass slowly. In this group, one in twenty respondents (5%) would prefer it to stand almost still. More than a third (36%) prefer the time to pass neither particularly fast nor slowly, and below a quarter (23%) accept the fast passage of time.

The Poles accept the fast passage of time significantly less frequently than the Germans, although the latter also think that the time runs too fast.



More information about this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Time flies, doesn't it?*, December 2005. The questions asked previously by the Allensbach Institute in Germany were included in the CBOS survey executed in December 2005. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 1018. Data for Germany has been taken from Allensbach Archieves, IfD Survey 7072, 1-3 July 2005.

In addition to the reports referred to above, the following have been published recently (in Polish):	
<ul> <li>Holiday trips of the Poles, 1992-2005</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Evaluations of the functioning of democracy in Poland</li> </ul>	For more information on CBOS services
Dissatisfaction with healthcare	and publications please contact:
<ul> <li>Reasons behind absenteeism in the parliamentary and presidential elections</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>About the failed government coalition and the potential ones</li> </ul>	CBOS POLAND
Political party preferences in December	4a, Żurawia, 00-503 Warsaw Phones: (48 22) 629 35 69, 628 37 04
<ul> <li>Bird flu: reactions of the Poles, the Czechs, the Hungarians and the Slovaks</li> </ul>	Fax: (48 22) 629 53 69, 628 57 64 Fax: (48 22) 629 40 89
<ul> <li>The right of gays and lesbians to organize public demonstrations</li> </ul>	1 ux. (40 22) 025 40 05
The attitude of the Poles to democracy	e-mail: sekretariat@cbos.pl
Social moods in December	
<ul> <li>The nations the Poles like and dislike</li> </ul>	http://www.cbos.pl
The attitude to the government	Variation and far "Daliah
Trust in politicians in December	Yearly subscription rate for "Polish Public Opinion" is 80 USD
Preparations for Christmas	
The moods of the Poles in 1988-2005	Circulation: 210 copies
• The new Parliament, the outgoing President - evaluations of the most important political institutions in December	
<ul> <li>About the retirement age of women and men again</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Personal achievements and failures of the Poles in 2005</li> </ul>	

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