ISSN 1233 - 7250

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ➤ ABOUT THE EU BUDGET
- PERCEIVED ATTITUDES OF THE EU MEMBER STATES TO POLAND
- > PROLONGING
 THE PRESENCE
 OF POLISH TROOPS
 IN IRAQ
- TRUST IN THE PRIVATE AND THE PUBLIC SPHERE
- POPULARITY OF WINTER SPORTS IN POLAND

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

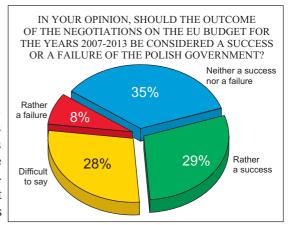
© COPYRIGHT BY CBOS 2006

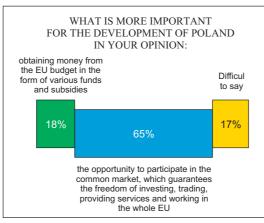
ALL SOURCES MUST BE CREDITED
WHEN ANY PART OF THIS
PUBLICATION IS REPRODUCED

ABOUT THE EU BUDGET

The public support for the membership of Poland in the European Union is currently the highest since the EU extension (80% of the respondents). Equally high support was recorded only once before (ten years ago - in May 1996).

The compromise on the EU 2007-2013 budget reached during the Brussels summit could have been one of the reasons for the growth of the public support for the integration. Most political and opinion-forming circles considered this agreement good for Poland. The respondents





expressed more balanced opinions. The most persons believed that the outcome of the negotiations on the EU 2007-2013 budget could be regarded as neither a success nor a failure of the Polish government. However, others saw it as a success of the cabinet of Kazimerz Marcinkiewicz much more frequently than as a failure.

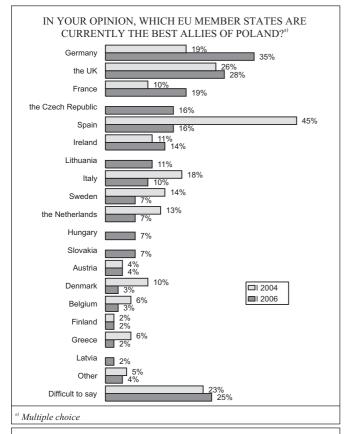
Obtaining money from the EU is not seen as the most important benefit arising from the accession. Almost two-thirds of the Poles believe that the very chance of

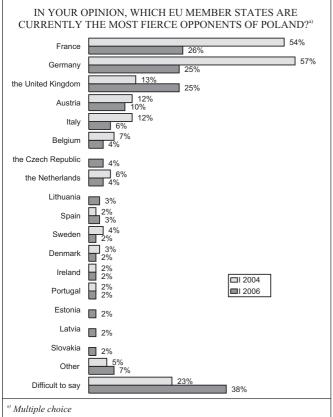
participating in the common market based on the free movement of persons, capital, goods and services is more important for the development of Poland.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Evaluation of the Brussels summit and the perceived attitude of the EU Member States to Poland*, February 2006. Survey executed in January 2006. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1007.

PERCEIVED ATTITUDES OF THE EU MEMBER STATES TO POLAND

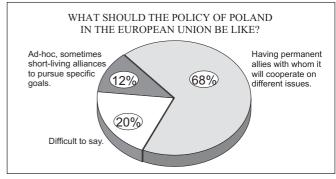
At the time of joining the European Union, the Poles believed that Spain was their best ally in the EU, and that the two largest Member States (France and Germany) were rather against the Polish ambitions of playing a significant role in Europe. Now, after the initial period of the membership and after all discussions concerning European constitution as well as the war in Iraq have ended and became partly forgotten, the respondents find it more difficult to indicate both the allies and the opponents of Poland in the EU. It is certainly worth noting that the perceived attitude of France and Germany to Poland has improved considerably. Moreover, most respondents now indicate Germany as the Member State whose attitude to Poland is the friendliest. The UK, France and Spain and the Czech Republic were also often mentioned as the allies of Poland.





The three largest Member States: France, Germany and the United Kingdom, were mentioned among the opponents of Poland with equal frequency. However, while the number of the respondents who believe in the hostility of France and Germany towards Poland has decreased significantly, the number of those who mention the UK in this context has increased. It was probably a reaction to the reduction of the EU budget 2007-2013 (in relation to an earlier proposal submitted by Luxembourg) by the cabinet of Tony Blair. The budget cut is disadvantageous for Poland.

The changes in the perceived attitude of the individual Member States to Poland in the last two years, as well as a lack of a clear indication of the allies of Poland in the EU, suggest that the policy of Poland in the Community has so far been focused on seeking allies on an ad-hoc basis rather than on building long-term strategic alliances. Both these approaches have their supporters and opponents among the Poles. A definite majority of our respondents believe that Poland should have permanent allies with whom it will cooperate on different issues on a long-term basis.

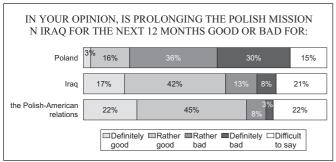


More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Evaluation of the Brussels summit and the perceived attitude of the EU Member States to Poland*, February 2006. Survey executed in January 2006. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1007.

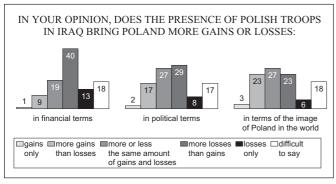
PROLONGING THE PRESENCE OF POLISH TROOPS IN IRAQ

By a decision of the highest Polish authorities, the presence of the Polish troops in Iraq has been prolonged for at least another year. The next (sixth) Polish contingent has begun its mission in Iraq in February. It is not be as big as the previous ones (about 900 soldiers). The decision to continue the Polish mission in Iraq did not affect the public support for the presence of Polish troops in that country. Similar to December 2005, more or less every fourth Pole is for the participation of Poland in the mission in Iraq (23%). Almost three quarters (72%) are against the Polish involvement in the Middle East.

In the opinion of most respondents, prolonging the Polish mission in Iraq for the next twelve months is good for Iraq and should have a positive effect on the Polish-American relations. However, less than a fifth of the respondents notice any positive implications of continuation the mission for Poland.



In the respondents' opinion, the balance of gains and losses resulting from the Polish involvement in Iraq is negative in both the financial and the political terms, and its implications for the image of Poland in the eyes of the rest of the world are at least ambivalent.

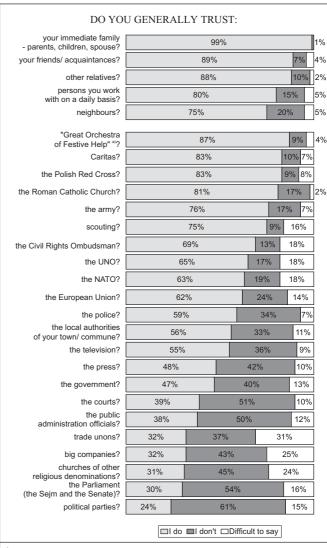


More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *The effects of extending the presence of Polish troops in Iraq*, February 2006. Survey executed in January 2006. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1007.

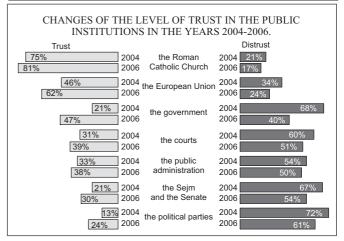
TRUST IN THE PRIVATE AND THE PUBLIC SPHERE

The level of trust in both the private and the public life is one of the more important factors affecting development of democracy and the civil society.

A definite majority of the Poles trust their relatives, friends, workmates and neighbours. Charitable institutions, such as the Polish Red Cross, "Great Orchestra of Festive Help" and Caritas, as well as the Roman Catholic Church, are also commonly trusted. Other most trusted institutions include the army, scouting and the Civil Rights Ombudsman. Such international institutions as the UNO, the NATO and the European Union, also enjoy a high level of trust among the public. More than half of the Poles trust the police, the local authorities and the television. Less than half trust the press and the government. Distrust prevails in relation to trade unions, big companies, churches of other religious denominations, the courts, the public administration, and, first and foremost, the Parliament and the political parties.



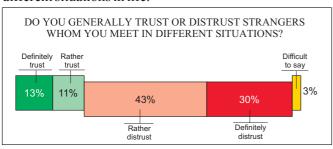
^{a)} A charitable organization, which organizes a yearly collection of funds for helping children's health service.



The Poles' attitude to most of the groups and institutions mentioned here has been stable during the last two years. All changes that have been recorded are positive. After the accession of Poland to the European Union the level of trust in this organization has increased significantly. After the parliamentary election held last

autumn, followed by the change of the ruling parties, the attitudes to the executive, legislative and judicial institutions has also improved, though they still predominantly negative. The attitude to the political parties and, although to a lesser extent, to the public administration and the Church, has also improved.

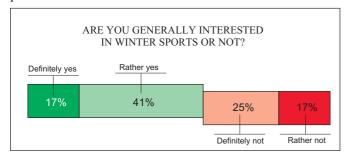
In spite of the declared trust in their relatives, friends, workmates and neighbours, the Poles usually do not trust strangers with whom they have contact in different situations in life.



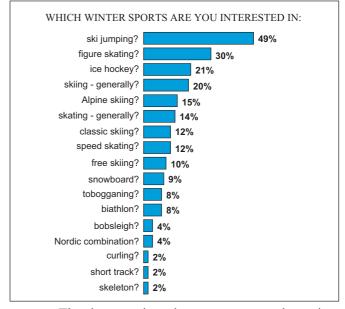
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Trust in the private and the public sphere vs. the civil society*, February 2006. Survey executed in January 2006. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1007.

POPULARITY OF WINTER SPORTS IN POLAND

Winter sports are quite popular in Poland. More than half of the Poles (58%) declare interest in sports practised on snow or ice.



Of all winter sports, the Poles are the most interested in ski jumping. Ski jumping competitions, e.g. the World Cup, are often broadcast on TV and commonly watched, particularly in connection with the last year successes of Adam Małysz. Consequently, almost half of the Poles (49%) declare interest in this discipline. Figure skating and ice hockey are also among the most popular winter sports.



The interest in winter sports translates into practice to a very limited extent. Only one in eleven adult Poles (9%) declare practising any winter sports.

The most popular discipline among those who practise any winter sports is skiing (73%), down-hill (67%) rather than cross-country (6%). Almost a third of the Poles who practise any winter sports (32%) skate, and one in eight (12%) sledge. Snowboard is mush less popular (only 8% of those who practice winter sports).

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Interest and active participation in winter sports among the Poles*, February 2006. Survey executed in February 2006. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1011.

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

- The Poles about the possible scenarios of solving the political crisis in Poland
- Political party preferences in February
- Interest in the winter Olympics in Turin and the assessment of the chances of the Polish representation for medals
- Political likes and dislikes of the Poles four months after the election
- Social moods in February
- The attitude to the government and the opinions abort its work
- Trust in politicians in February
- Opinions about the work of public institutions

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.