ISSN 1233 - 7250

IN THIS ISSUE:

- > OPINIONS
 ON THE POLISH VETO
 AGAINST THE EU-RUSSIA
 TALKS
- ➤ THE POLES ABOUT THEIR WORK
- ➤ ARE WOMEN IN POLAND DISCRIMINATED AGAINST?
- ➤ PAID WORK OF WOMEN VS. FAMILY LIFE

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

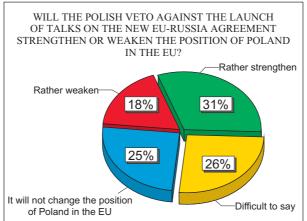
ALL SOURCES MUST BE CREDITED
WHEN ANY PART OF THIS
PUBLICATION IS REPRODUCED

OPINIONS ON THE POLISH VETO AGAINST THE EU-RUSSIA TALKS

Poland used its veto to block the talks between the European Union and Russia on the new cooperation agreement. The reason was the Russian embargo on import of Polish meat and other food products, which was introduced a year ago. Poland is ready to withdraw its objection to the EU-Russia talks if Russia lifts the restrictions on trade with Poland.

Two-thirds of all the respondents believe that this policy of Poland is justified. Only one-tenth express the opposite stance.

POLAND VETOED THE LAUNCH OF TALKS ON A NEW AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EU AND RUSSIA ON THE GROUNDS THAT RUSSIA SHOULD LIFT THE RESTRICTIONS ON TRADE WITH POLAND FIRST. DID POLAND MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION? Definitely not Definitely yes 10% Rather not 1% 30% 9% 65% 25% 35% Difficult to say Rather yes

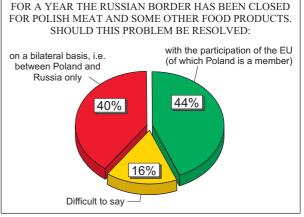


The opinion prevailis that, the resolute policy in this respect will strengthen rather than weaken Poland's position in the EU. However, a significant proportion of people are either unable to evaluate the impact of the Polish veto on the position of Poland in the EU or believe that it will not have a material effect.

The opinion on whether the problem of the Russian embargo on import of meat from Poland should be resolved with the participation of the European Union or on a bilateral basis

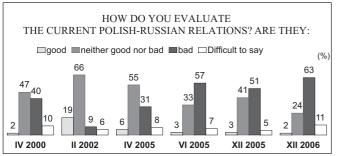
between Poland and Russia, is divided. The first option is slightly more preferred.

The public believes that the recent developments caused a deterioration of the already bad relations between Poland and Russia. In December 2005, every other respondent expressed a negative opinion on the relations between the two countries. Now this proportion has grown to almost two-thirds. The perceived deterioration of Polish-Russian relations is particularly



apparent in a longer perspective. In 2002-2005, a majority of the Poles still defined the relations between these two countries as "neither good nor bad". The crisis began in June 2005. One of the reasons behind it was the much-publicised controversy around the

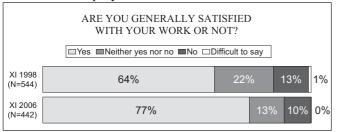
celebration of the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II in Moscow, during which the Polish contribution to the victory was downplayed and president Kwaśniewski was treated with little courtesy. Recently, the controversy over Polish food export to Russia is reinforced by the controversy over import of gas and oil from Russia to Poland and other EU countries.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Opinions on the Polish veto against EU-Russia talks*, December 2006. Survey executed in December 2006. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1015.

THE POLES ABOUT THEIR WORK

General job satisfaction increased in Poland considerably during the last eight years. More than three quarters of the working Poles declare their satisfaction with current employment.

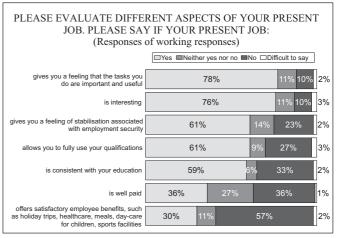


Satisfaction with work is more common among women than among men (81% and 74% respectively). It grows with the level of education and occupational position, being relatively the highest among private entrepreneurs, managers and the intelligentsia, as well as among persons with the highest incomes per household member. Dissatisfaction is more common among persons with elementary education and lowt-paid workers.

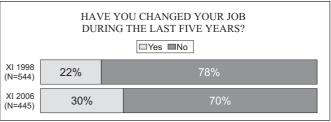
Working Poles appreciate self-fulfilment in work the most. More than three quarters of them believe that the tasks they do are important and useful and describe their work as interesting. More or less three-fifths believe that their work allows then to fully use their qualifications and is consistent with their education.

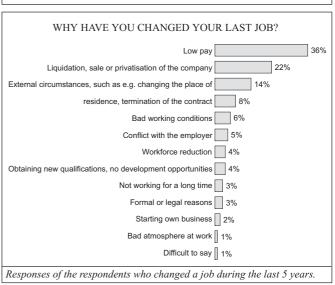
The feeling of job security is also quite strong. More than three-fifths declare that their employment is secure. Below a quarter of the respondents consider the possibility of losing their job.

The assessments of the material aspects of jobs are much less positive. The employees are clearly divided as far as the evaluation of their pay is concerned. Just over a third (36%) believe that their work is well paid. The same proportion (36%) express the opposite opinion. Employee fringe benefits offered by employers, such as healthcare, holiday trips, meals, are criticized even more. More than half of the employed respondents (57%) claim that their current job does not give them satisfactory fringe benefits. Below a third (30%) are satisfied with this aspect of their job.



Occupational mobility of the Poles increased in the last years. Compared with the year 1998, the percentage of the persons who changed their job during the five years preceding the survey grew by more than a third (from 22% to 30%).



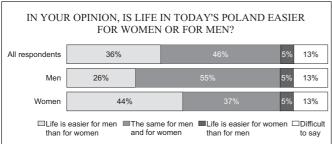


Low pay was the most frequently mentioned reason for changing a job. In such cases, employment is presumably terminated by the employee. Other main reasons for changing a job included factors independent on the employees, such as bankruptcy, sale or privatisation of the company, or personal reasons not directly related to work, such as change of the place of residence, starting studies, losing a driving licence, going abroad, retirement etc.

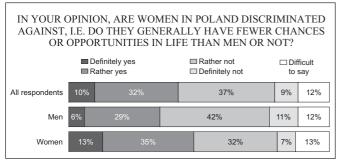
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *The Poles about their work*, December 2006. Survey executed in November 2006. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=979.

ARE WOMEN IN POLAND DISCRIMINATED AGAINST?

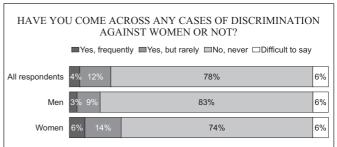
The perceived relative situation of women in Poland deteriorated in the last two years. At present, less than half of the Poles believe that women and men are treated equally in Poland. Two years ago such opinions were much more common (60%). The persons who notice the differences in the situation of both genders usually believe that life is easier for Polish men (36%, 10 percentage points more than in 2004). The opinions on this issue depend on gender. There are mostly women who think that their situation is worse, whereas men usually believe that both sexes are treated equally.



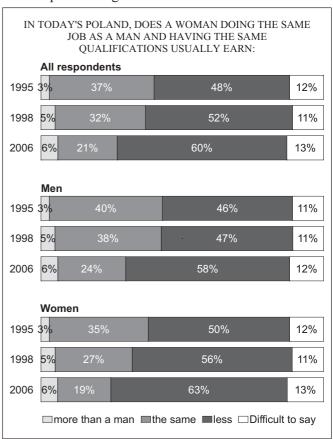
The opinions on discrimination against women in Poland are divided. According to the prevailing opinion, women in Poland are not discriminated against. However, only a slightly lower percentage of the respondents believe that women have fewer chances and opportunities in life than men. The problem of discrimination against women in Poland is noticed more frequently by women (in total, 48%) than by men (35%).

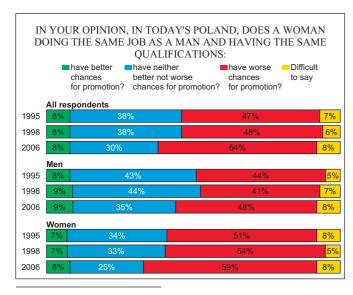


Although two-fifths of the respondents believe that Polish women are discriminated against, only one in six (16%) claim that they have witnessed specific cases of such discrimination. Women declare that they have personally come across some cases of discrimination against their gender more frequently than men. However, also most of women have not witnessed or experienced any such situations personally.



Even though relatively few respondents admit that they have personally witnessed or experienced discrimination against women, most do notice symptoms of the inferior position of women on the job market. Moreover, the belief that the position of women on the job market is inferior is more and more common. Most respondents notice a disproportion in the earnings of both genders. More than half believe that women have poorer chances for promotion than men. Such opinions are expressed mainly by women, although a large part of male respondents agree with them as well.

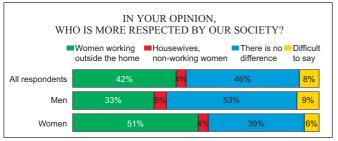




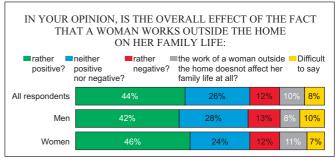
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS reports (in Polish): *Women in the society equal rights or discrimination*, *Opinions on paid work of women*, December 2006. Survey executed in August 2006. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 952.

PAID WORK OF WOMEN VS. FAMILY LIFE

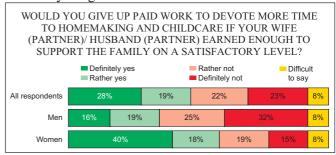
In the opinion of a significant proportion of the Poles, working women enjoy more respect in the society than housewives who devote their entire time to homemaking and childcare. The opinion that work outside the home is more prestigious than homemaking is expressed more frequently by women.



The Poles do not believe that the work of women outside the home presents a threat to the family life. Nearly half of the respondents believe that the overall effect of the work of women outside the home on the family life is positive rather than negative. Only one in eight persons believe otherwise. The differences between the opinions of women and men are negligible in this respect.



Despite a positive opinion of the effect of paid work of women on their family life, most female respondents declare that they would be prepared to give up their work and stay at home, provided that the household budget did not suffer as a result. Men would agree to give up work in such circumstances much less frequently. It may seem, therefore, that the positive effect of the work of women outside the home on the family life is mainly associated with their financial contribution to the family budget.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS reports (in Polish): *Women and men on the division of household duties, Opinions on paid work of women*, December 2006. Survey executed in August 2006. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 952.

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

- The Poles, Hungarians, Czechs and Slovaks about the situation in the Middle East
- Political party preferences in December
- Participation of women in public life
- ◆ The importance of work in the life of the Poles
- Improvement of social moods
- Trust and distrust in politicians the December ranking
- Opinions about the work of the Sejm, the Senate and the President
- The attitude to the government
- ♦ How the Poles are going to spend the Christmas Eve
- Psychological wellbeing of the Poles in the years 1988-2006
- Evaluations of the year 2006 and expectations regarding the year 2007
- ♦ New Year's Eve 2006 plans and dreams

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.