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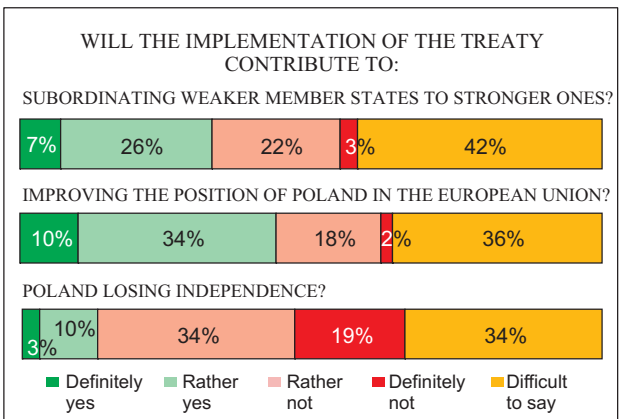
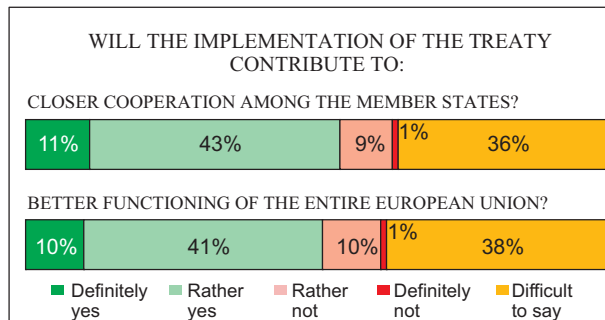
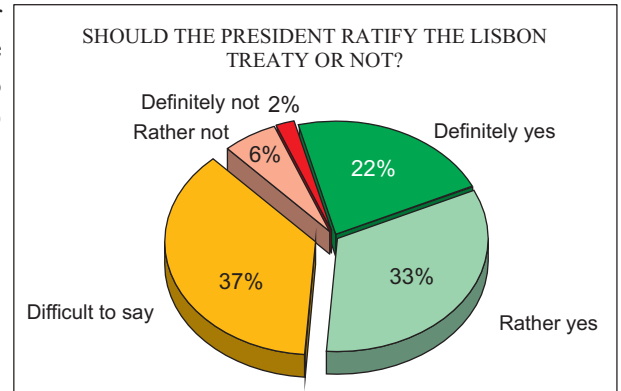
## OPINIONS ABOUT THE LISBON TREATY

Most Poles (55%) are in favour of the Lisbon Treaty ratification by the President Lech Kaczyński, while 8% are against this decision. A large group (37%) have no definite opinion in this matter.

Due to the process of extending the Community and the related need for reforming its institutions, it was necessary to adopt a new document defining the functioning of the European Union. The main objectives of the new Treaty are to strengthen the political role of the European Union and enable it to meet the challenges of globalization.

The Poles expect that adopting the Treaty should have a positive effect on development of European integration. In the opinion of more than half of the respondents, this document will contribute to closer cooperation among the Member States (54%) and better functioning of the entire Community (51%).

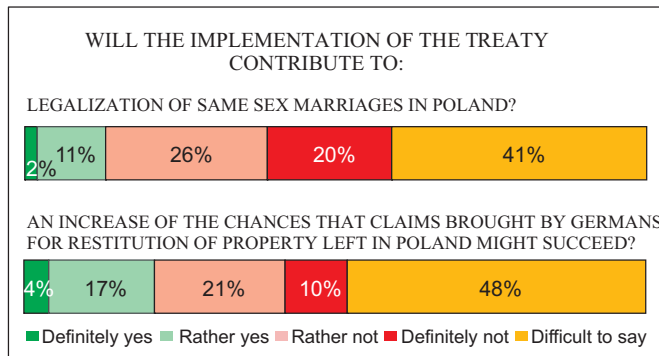
The anticipated changes in the voting system in the Council of the European Union (gradual departure from the Nice system, based on the so-called weighted votes, and introduction of the double majority principle), accompanied by an increase in the number of issues in which decisions are to be made by a qualified majority (rather than unanimously, as it is the case now) have caused fears in Poland that the European Union could be dominated by the largest Member States and the position of Poland would suffer as a result. The Polish public opinion shares such fears to some extent only. Although the opinion that the solutions proposed in the Treaty would result in weaker Member States being subordinated to stronger ones prevails (33% agree, and 25% disagree with it), such fears are not usually associated with Poland. A majority of respondents (44%) expect the position of Poland in the European Union to improve when the Treaty enters into force. In this context, the fears that adopting the Treaty would contribute to the loss of Polish independence seem particularly groundless. In the opinion of more than half of the respondents (53%), the independence of Poland is not jeopardized.



Some of the issues raised in the discussion about the Lisbon Treaty ratification concern the possible effects of adopting the Charter of Fundamental Rights. Although the application of this document is limited to the issues regulated by the Community laws, some political groups believe that its adoption could lead to legalization of homosexual marriages in Poland and property restitution claims being brought by Germans. In connection with such doubts, Poland decided to join the British Protocol, which limits the Charter's applicability. Poland may opt out of the protocol in the future.

The Poles do not share the opinion that adopting the Lisbon Treaty could lead to future legalization of same sex marriages in Poland. Almost half of respondents (46%) believe that the ratification of this document will not contribute to the recognition of such marriages in Poland.

At the same time, the impact of adopting the Treaty on the chances that the potential claims brought by Germans for restitution of property left in Poland might succeed is unknown. Almost half of the respondents (48%) have no definite opinion in this matter. 21% expect such claims to be more successful, whereas close to a third (31%) do not believe so.

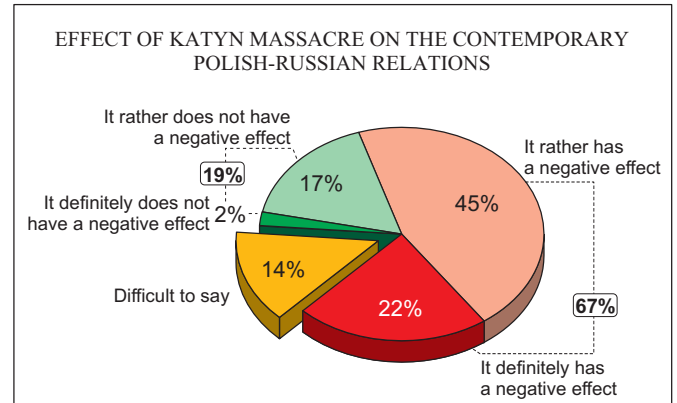


More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Opinions about the Lisbon Treaty*, May 2008. Survey executed in April 2008. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1101

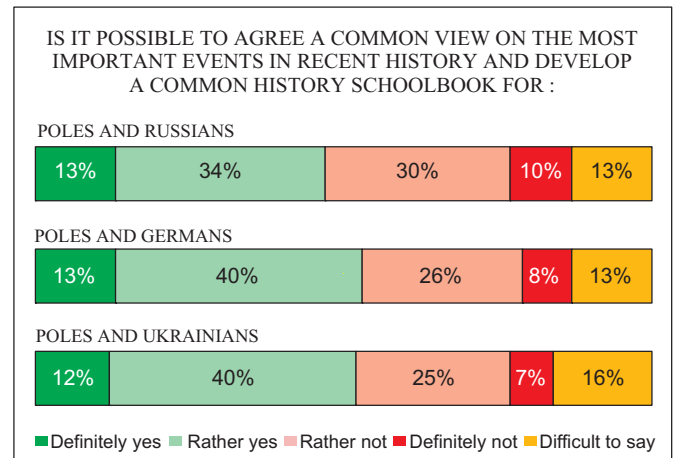
## THE KATYN MASSACRE AND THE POLISH – RUSSIAN RELATIONS

The Katyn Massacre Victims Memorial Day was celebrated in Poland for the first time on 13 April 2008. The special resolution adopted by the Sejm says that the aim of the Memorial Day is to *commemorate the Victims of the Katyn Massacre and all persons murdered by the NKVD based on the decisions of the Soviet authorities*. A vast majority of the respondents believe that the contemporary relations between Poland and Russia.

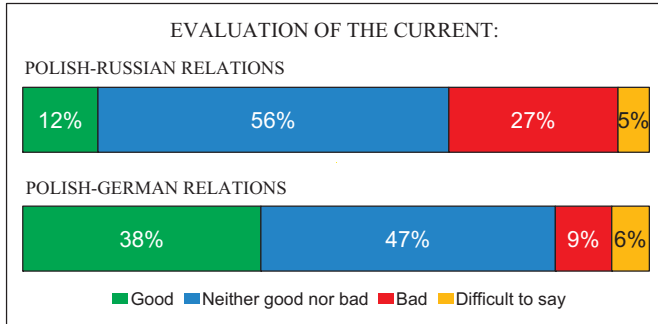
murder of Polish officers in Katyn and in other places in the Soviet Union still puts a shadow on the contemporary Polish-Russian relations. Less than a fifth of the respondents are of the opinion that these events are of historical importance only and do not affect the



Less than half of the Poles believe that, despite the historical bias, the Poles and Russians can find a common interpretation of the most important events in their recent history and, say, develop a common history schoolbook for both countries (47%). More people see the chances for developing common historical memory of the Poles and Ukrainians.



The differences seem to be associated with the evaluation of the current relations between the countries. Indeed, despite the fact that the memory of World War II and the German crimes against the Poles has long been established in the public opinion, today more respondents believe that the Polish – German relations are good than express the opposite opinion. The largest proportion of the respondents describe them as “neither good nor bad”. On the other hand, the opinions about the relations with Russia are different. The proportion who believe that the present Polish-Russian relations are bad is twice as big as the proportion of those who describe them as good, although also in this case the most respondents have no definite opinion.

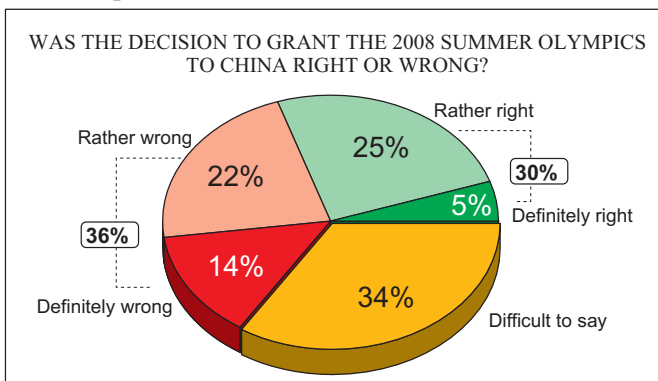


More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS reports (in Polish): *The Memory of the Katyn Massacre and opinions about its impact on the Polish-Russian relations and The Polish-German relations in the public opinion*, May 2008. Survey executed in April 2008. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1101

## THE POLES ABOUT THE OLYMPICS IN CHINA

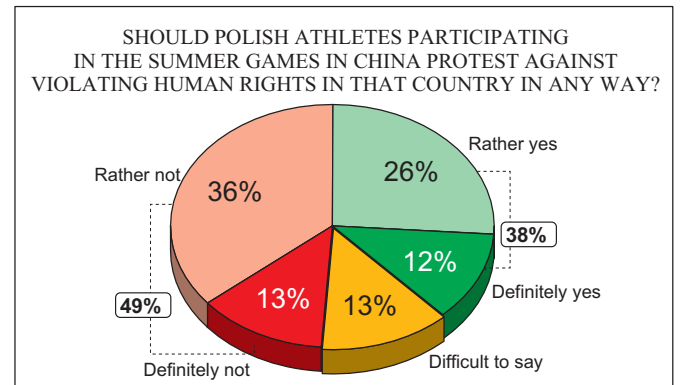
Despite numerous protests of human rights activists, in July 2001 the International Olympic Committee granted the organization of the 2008 summer Olympics to Beijing. This has been a highly controversial decision from the very beginning, mainly due to notorious human rights violations in China, which, as it is pointed out, is contrary to the idea of the Olympic movement. It was explained then that one of the objectives of granting the organization of the Olympics to China was to extend the civil liberties and improve compliance with the standards of human rights in that country. However, the controversy seems to grow as the beginning of the Games draws closer, particularly since the March riots in Tibet, in which many people who protested against the situation in the region were killed.

The Poles' opinions about granting the organization of the 2008 summer Games to China are quite ambivalent. Almost a third (30%) support this decision, slightly more (36%) criticize it and 34% have no definite opinion in this matter.



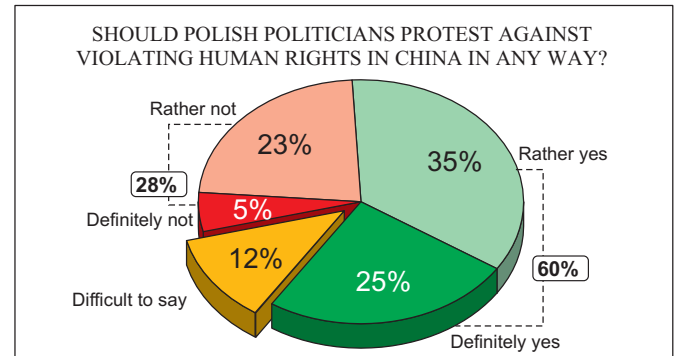
Less than two-fifths of the respondents (38%) believe that the Polish athletes participating in the summer Games should protest against violating human

rights in China in any way. A majority (49%) are against such an idea.



Those who believe that the Polish athletes should protest against Chinese repression in some form mention boycotting the opening ceremony as the best form of such a protest (29%). One in six (16%) say that the winners should return medals won during the Olympics, and only one in nine (11%) would like the Polish team to boycott the whole Games and not go to China at all.

According to the Poles, protesting against violations of human rights in China is a task for politicians rather than athletes. As many as 60% of the respondents believe that the Polish politicians should take a stand. Only slightly more than a quarter (28%) believe that they should not get involved in any way in this situation.



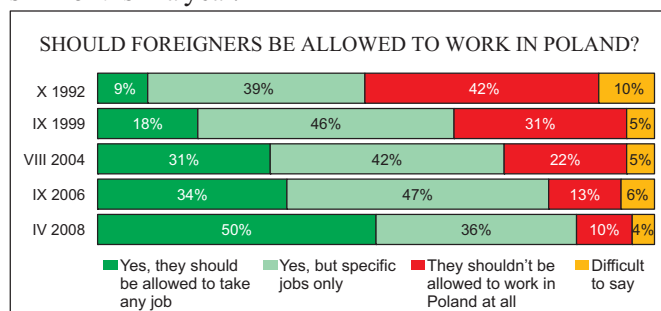
The Poles expect their politicians primarily to take diplomatic action, e.g. appeal to the Chinese authorities for changing the situation in their country (86% of those who believe that the Polish politicians should react to the situation in China), or persuade other European countries to take actions which could make China more democratic (69%). The ideas that politicians should not participate in the opening ceremony (34%) or in the entire Games (20%) or that they should suspend trade and economic cooperation with China (12%) are significantly less popular.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *The Poles about the situation in Tibet and the Olympics in China*, May 2008. Survey executed in April 2008. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1101

## FOREIGNERS WORKING IN POLAND

To date, public opinion polls have demonstrated that the attitude to foreigners staying in Poland mainly depends on the economic factors, and particularly on their perceived impact on the job market. Some recent processes contributed to a change in the attitude to foreigners are mass emigration, decrease of unemployment leading to workforce shortages in many industries, and changes of legal regulations making it easier to employ foreigners. On the other hand, people from non-EU countries must apply for visas, which is a major barrier due to high costs and formal requirements. As a result, demand for workers has grown and their supply has decreased.

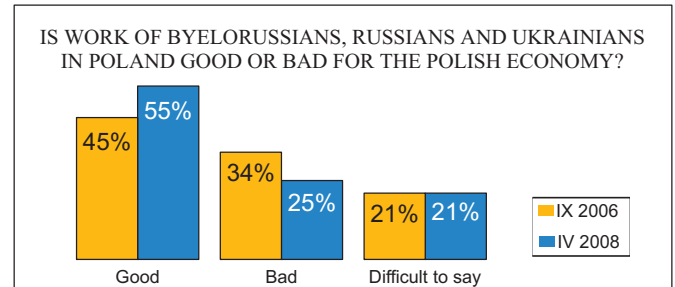
As far as the legal requirements are concerned, foreign workers in Poland are not a homogeneous group. The citizens of some countries must obtain a permit to work in Poland legally. Byelorussians, Russians and Ukrainians are a special group. Since 1 February 2008, they can be employed in Poland without a work permit for six months in a year.



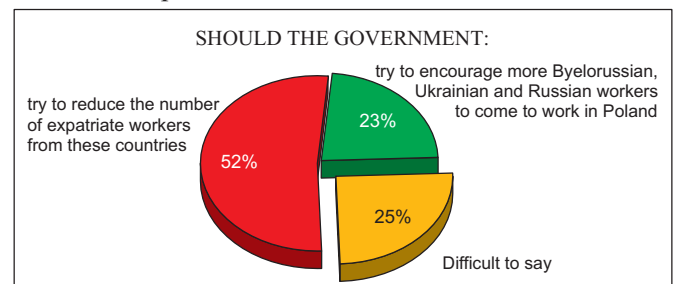
The acceptance for foreigners working in Poland is almost universal and growing. A vast majority of respondents (86%) think that foreigners should be

allowed to work in Poland. Half of this group believe that they should be allowed to take any job. One in ten respondents is against employing foreigners.

Growing acceptance for foreigners working in Poland is associated with a growing belief that inflow of workers from the East is good for the Polish economy.



Although they notice the positive effect of the work of Byelorussians, Russians and Ukrainians on the Polish economy, more than half of the respondents believe that the government should try to reduce the number of expatriate workers from these countries. This means that the acceptance for employing foreigners in Poland is limited and conditional. It will last as long as their work is perceived as useful.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Foreigners working in Poland*, May 2008. Survey executed in April 2008. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1101

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

- ◆ The situation on the job market and a threat of unemployment. Opinions from the years 2001-2008
- ◆ The Public opinion about the anti-missile shield in Poland
- ◆ Financing of science and higher education in Poland
- ◆ The Polish-German relations in the public opinion
- ◆ Political party preferences in May
- ◆ Foreign military missions in the opinion of the Poles
- ◆ Stabilization of the government's ratings
- ◆ Does the public approve the purchase of new government planes?
- ◆ Social moods in May
- ◆ Trust in politicians in May
- ◆ Decrease in unemployment in the context of public opinion polls
- ◆ Opinions about the work of public institutions
- ◆ Euro 2008
- ◆ Attitude to smoking in Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary

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