

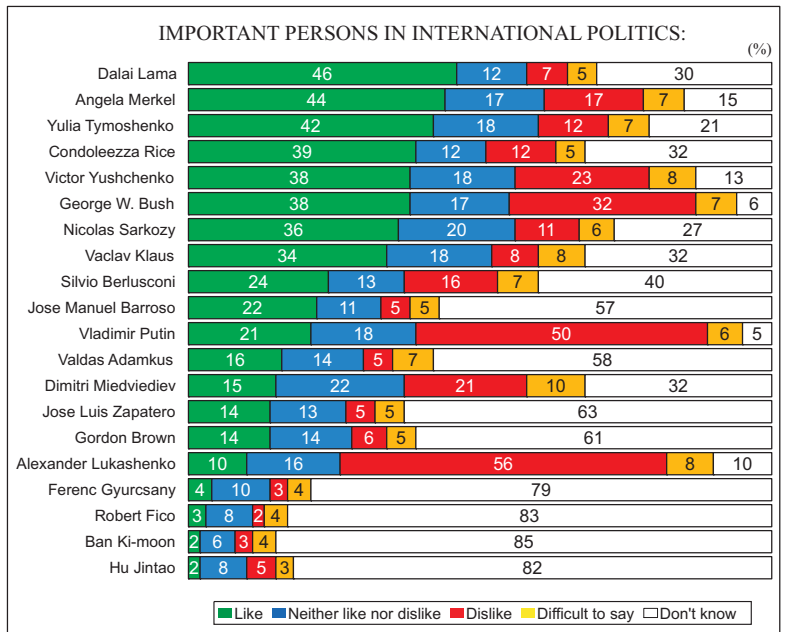
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## THE ATTITUDE OF THE POLES TO IMPORTANT PERSONS ON THE GLOBAL POLITICAL SCENE

In all surveys examining the perception of foreign politicians in Poland conducted to date, the US and Russian leaders were the most recognizable, irrespective of how long they had been in office. Also today almost all respondents recognize the former Russian President (and the current Prime Minister) Vladimir Putin and the US President George W. Bush. The current Russian President Dimitri Miedviediev is recognized by more than two-thirds of the respondents (68%), even though he has been in office for just a few months.

Vladimir Putin and George W. Bush are followed closely by the leaders of three of Poland's neighbours Alexander Lukashenko, Victor Yushchenko and Angela Merkel, as well as the Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. The French President, Nicolas Sarkozy, is also widely known in Poland. He is presently recognized by almost three quarters of respondents. In this



context, relatively low recognizability of the British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who came to office at more or less the same time as President Sarkozy, could come as a surprise. Other well-known personalities include: Dalai Lama, Vaclav Klaus and Condoleezza Rice.

Among the foreign politicians mentioned in our survey, no one is clearly liked by most Poles. Positive feelings for Dalai Lama prevail. More than two-fifths of respondents declare positive feelings for Angela Merkel and Yulia Tymoshenko. More than a third like the following politicians: Condoleezza Rice, Victor Yushchenko, George W. Bush, Nicolas Sarkozy, and Vaclav Klaus. It should also be noted that, in addition to quite a large group of supporters, the current US President also has quite many opponents. George Bush is the third most disliked politician, after Alexander Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): The attitude of the Poles to important persons on the global political scene, August 2008. Survey executed in August 2008. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 1076.

## POLISH PREFERENCES IN THE US ELECTION

In the November election, two candidates will fight for the office of US President: Barack Obama from the Democratic Party and John McCain from the Republican Party. Due to the global role of the United States, as well as the importance attached by Polish politicians to the relations with USA, Polish media publish extensive reports on the US election

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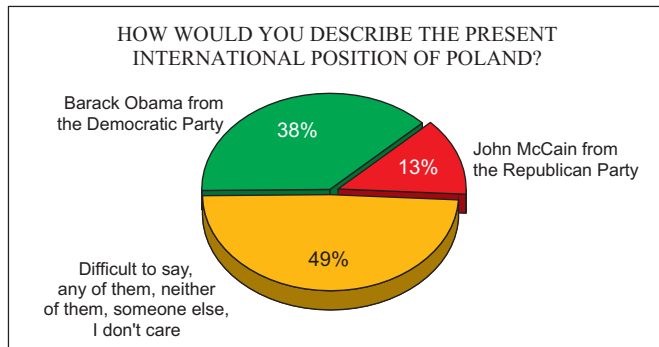
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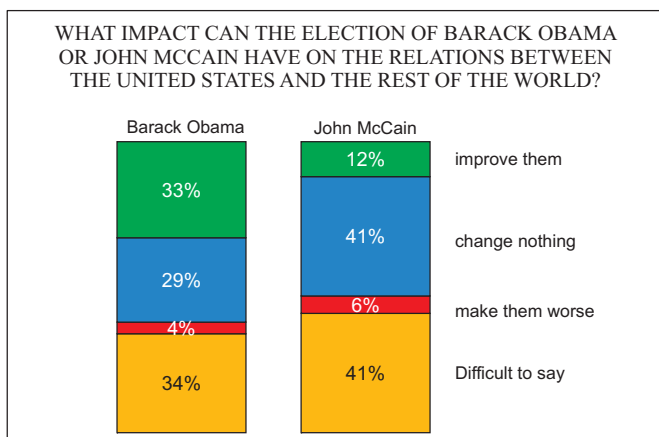
campaign. Half of the Poles have their preferences, i.e. would prefer one or the other candidate to become the next US President. They choose Barack Obama almost three times as frequently as John McCain.



Preference for Barack Obama could be explained in two ways: First, the Poles are disappointed with the foreign and defence policy of the current American administration. They think that McCain, if elected, would not change this policy significantly. Secondly, the election campaign in the Democratic Party (the first woman with viable chance for nomination of major party vs. the first African American) probably attracted more attention than the Republican Party campaign.

During the two terms of George W. Bush the image of the United States in the world visibly deteriorated. The new President will have to carry out international policy in the atmosphere of growing scepticism as to the role of America in shaping the global order. If the United States want to regain the stature they used to enjoy, the new President must improve the relations between America and the rest of the world.

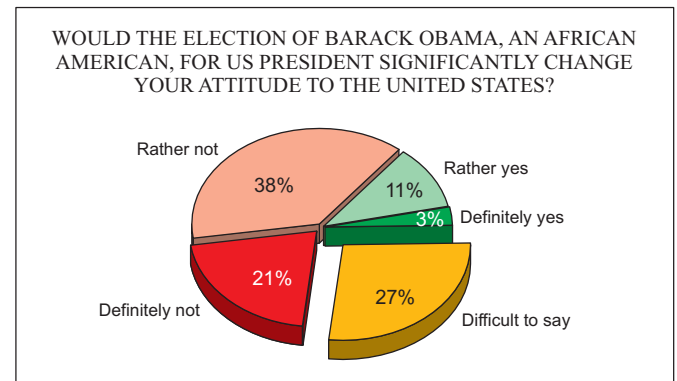
The forecasts concerning the anticipated impact of Barack Obama's election on the relations of USA with the rest of the world are rather optimistic: a third of adults expect these relations to improve if Obama becomes President. A slightly smaller proportion expect no changes, and few respondents anticipate a deterioration.



In the event of John McCain being elected, the situation will not change much, as most of the persons who

have an opinion in this matter (i.e. 41% of all respondents) believe. More or less one in eight respondents expect an improvement, and few expect a deterioration.

Obama is the first black major party candidate for US President. If he won the election, he would be the first African American in this office. This fact can play a role in the evaluation of his candidacy due to a complex history of racial relations in America. A majority of respondents claim that the election of a black politician would not affect their attitude to the United States. Those who say that Obama's election would change their attitude usually believe that this change would be for the better.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): The Poles' preferences in the US election, August 2008. Survey executed in August 2008. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 1076.

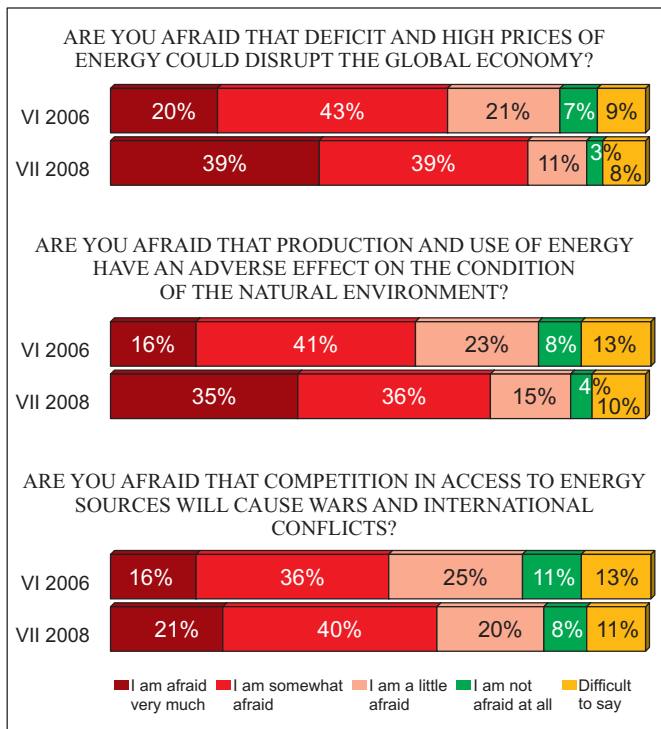
## PROBLEMS OF THE ENERGY SECTOR

A debate about the energy security in Poland and in the world has been going on for several years. The last year brought a significant increase in oil prices on global markets. More and more frequently, we come across the opinions that in several years Poland can face a major power crisis caused by growing demand of the more and more prosperous society for energy on the one hand, and by insufficient number of power plants on the other. Introduction of carbon limits raises concern, particularly in Poland, where almost all energy is generated from coal or lignite, often with the use of outdated technologies, which are harmful to the environment. Some people are concerned that potential problems with providing energy would affect economic development of the country.

In these circumstances, the need to build new power plants is mentioned more and more often. At the same time, the question about the sources of energy which should be promoted in the future remains open. Environmentalists opt for the fastest possible

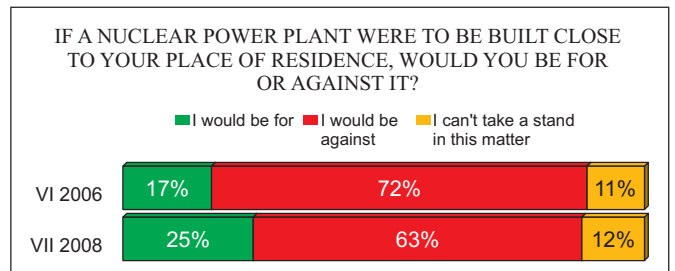
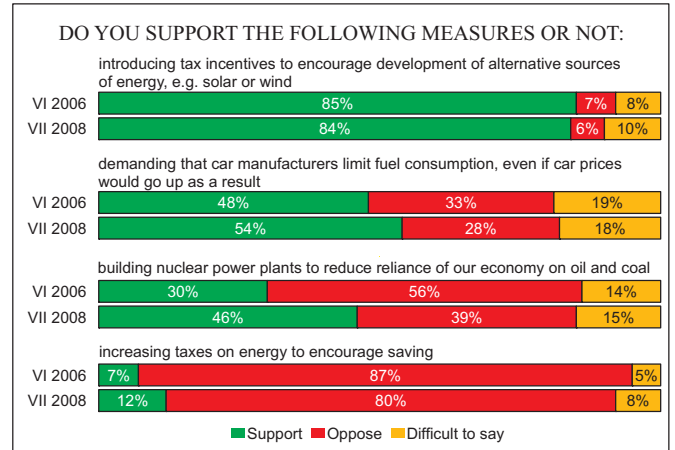
development of renewable energy in Poland. However, numerous sceptics point to a relatively low efficiency of this solution. Recently, more and more persons speak about the need to build a nuclear power plant in Poland.

Potential global effects of the economic crisis, international conflicts and environmental pollution, cause significantly more concern now than two years ago. In particular, fears about the balance of global economy and climate changes have increased. The percentages of those who are seriously concerned about adverse developments in these areas are now approximately twice as high as in June 2006.



Growing concern about the global energy crisis results in a slightly bigger acceptance of solutions which could bring it to an end. The idea of creating incentives for development of alternative sources of energy, such as solar and wind energy, has the most supporters. On the other hand, most respondents are still against increasing taxes on energy to encourage saving. Only one in eight persons accept this solution. On the other hand, scepticism with respect to nuclear power decreased - at present, almost half of the respondents support its development. The number of supporters of car price increases leading to lower fuel consumption also grew slightly.

Although almost half of respondents support nuclear power development, only a quarter would accept building a nuclear power plant near their place of residence. Nevertheless, acceptance for building power plants in the neighbourhood is much higher now than two years ago.

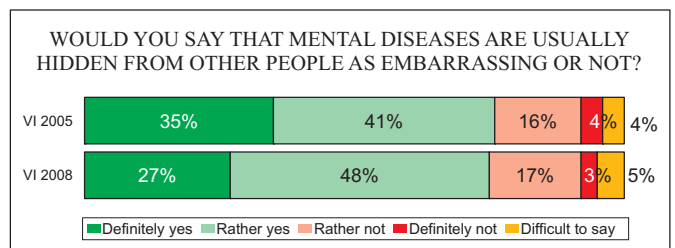


More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): About the problems of the power sector, August 2008. Survey executed in July 2008. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 1094.

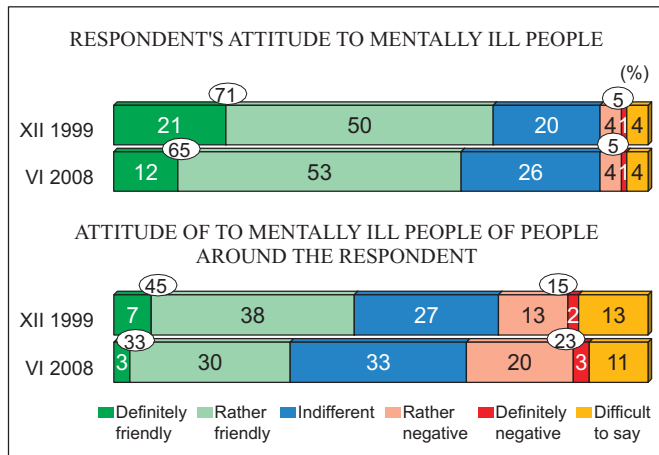
## MENTALLY ILL PEOPLE IN THE SOCIETY

In the EU countries, almost 50 million people, i.e. about 11% of the population, need psychiatric help. In Poland in 2006 about 1.5 million people, i.e. about 4% of the country's population, received psychiatric treatment. This number probably does not reflect the real demand for such treatment, especially as not only the availability of psychiatric help is limited in Poland, but the willingness to use it as well.

For many years people have believed that mental illness is embarrassing and should not be revealed to other people. The public opinion sees mental illness as a strong stigma, which leads to hiding such diseases (or denying them), which in turn complicates the fate of ill people and makes it more difficult to offer them the right kind of help at the right time.

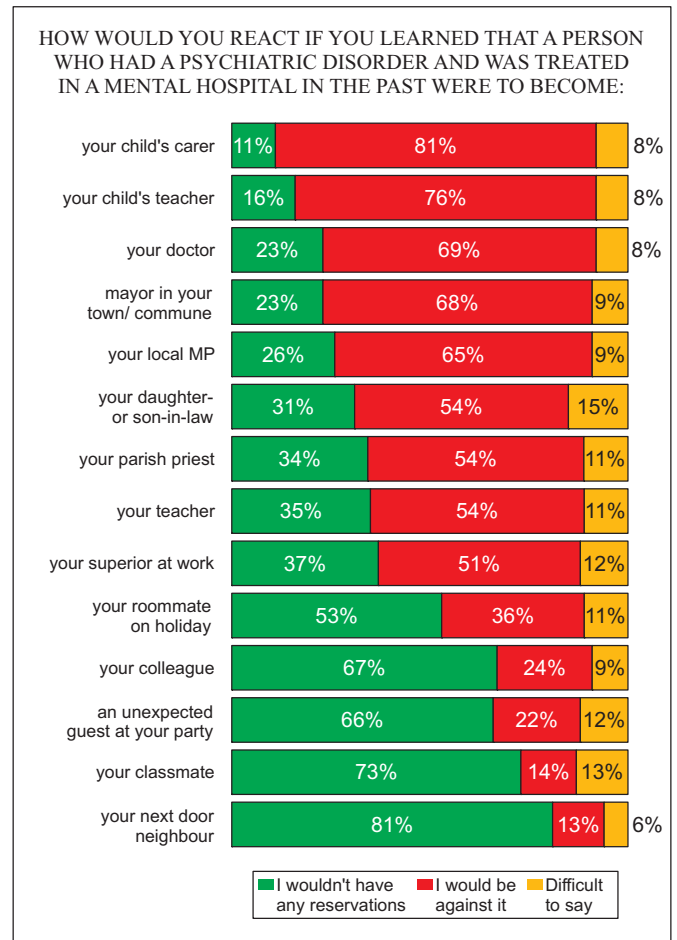


The declared attitude of the Poles to mentally ill people is ambiguous. Most respondents describe their attitude to them as positive, despite the recent growth of indifference in this respect. On the other hand, the opinions about the attitude of the respondents' environment to ill people are very critical. In this respect, the opinions have deteriorated significantly since 1999. Today the respondents see much less friendliness and more indifference and negative feelings.



A tendency to deny people who have experienced a mental illness the right to fully participate in community life is a negative consequence of the social stigma. An ex-patient caring for or teaching a respondent's child meets with the strongest opposition. Most respondents would also disagree with giving an ex-patient responsibilities in the local community as MP or mayor, or to have him or her doctor. More than half of respondents would be against an ex-patient as superior at work, teacher, parish priest, daughter- or son-in-law. At the same time, a majority of the Poles would accept

former mental patients as their next door neighbours, friends or colleagues.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): Mentally ill people in the community, August 2008. Survey executed in July 2008. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 1107.

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

- ◆ Political party preferences in August
- ◆ Opinions about the work of the Parliament and the President
- ◆ The declining optimism of the Poles
- ◆ The drop in government ratings in August
- ◆ Trust in politicians in August
- ◆ The Radio Maryja audience

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