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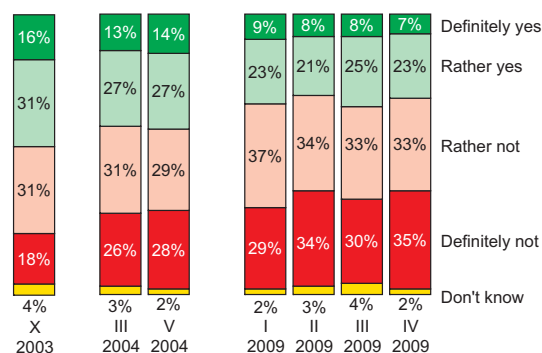
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## ELECTIONS TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

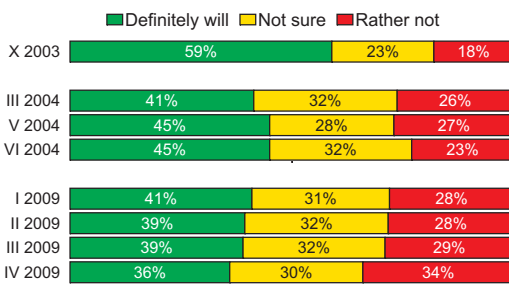
In spite of the advanced state of preparation for the elections to the European Parliament, and their near date, very few Polish people seriously consider voting. Moreover, contrary to the typical pre-election dynamics, their number is falling rather than rising. Only one-third of respondents are interested in the elections to the European Parliament. The declared interest in the elections to EP is lower than in 2004.

The falling interest in these elections is associated with weakened

IN JUNE, POLES WILL ELECT MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. ARE YOU PERSONALLY INTERESTED



DO YOU INTEND TO VOTE IN ELECTIONS TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT?



motivation to vote. In April, the number of people certain to vote in the elections to the EP has fallen. According to declarations, 36% of Polish people eligible to vote will go to the polls on June 7.

Declared participation this year is lower than it was noted before the 2004 elections to EP. Then, only 21% of eligible voters went to the polls, with declared participation at 45%. If the difference between declarations and

actual participation stays on the level recorded 5 years ago, the turnout will be in the less than one-fifth.

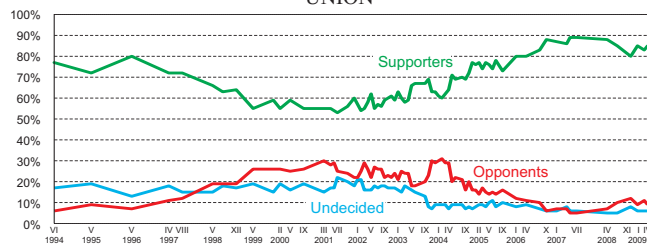
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish *Elections to European Parliament*, April 2009. Fieldwork: April 2009, N=1094. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

## BALANCE OF COSTS AND BENEFITS OF POLISH MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

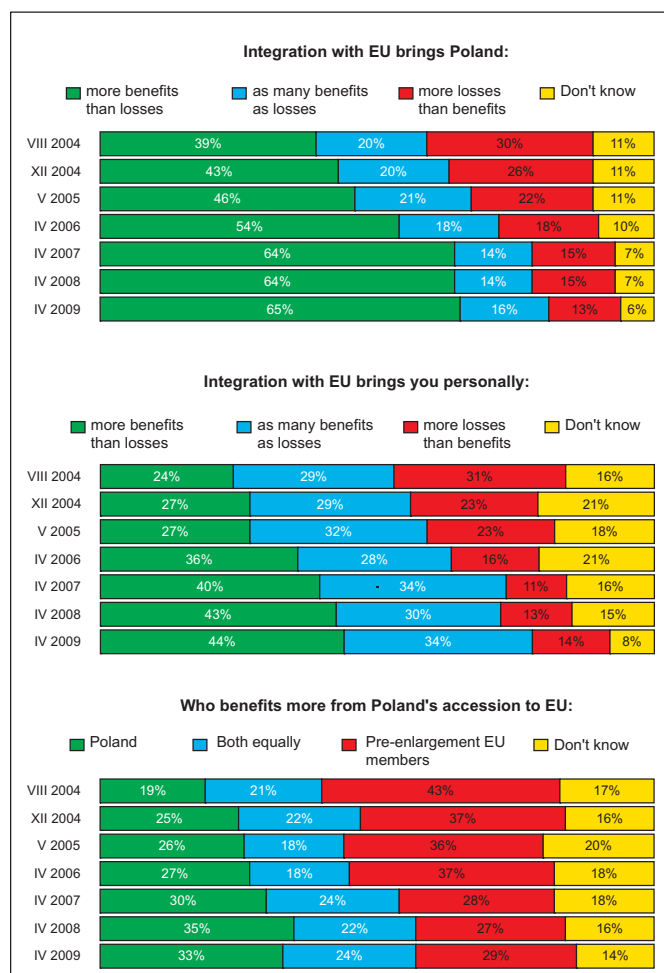
The support for Poland's membership in the European Union remains very high. At present, 85% of Poles support EU membership, while only 9% oppose it.

During the first three years of membership, the societal evaluation of the

ATTITUDE TO POLAND'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



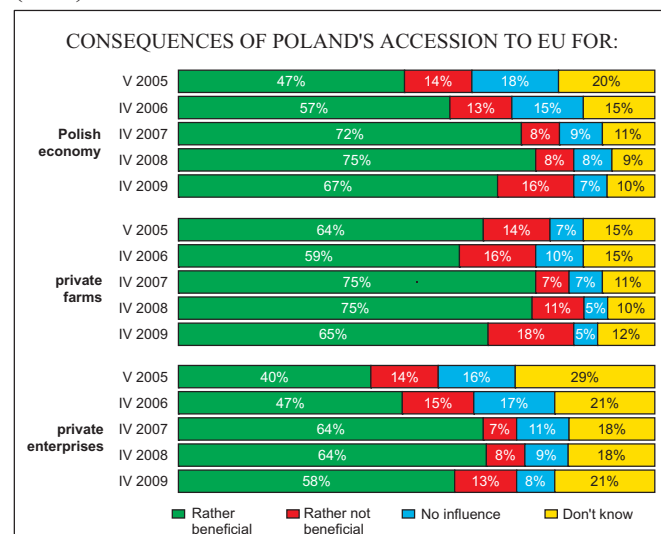
consequences of Poland's integration in EU gradually improved. Last year, the trend markedly weakened. Presently, 5 years after accession, the general evaluation of consequences of membership is almost the same as last year. The level of satisfaction with membership has been stable for the last two years. The perceived results for Poland are definitely positive. Almost two-thirds (65%) believe that integration brought more benefits than costs, while 13% think the balance is negative. As in previous years, perceived personal benefits from EU membership are less frequent than the conviction that integration has been positive for Poland, because there is a relatively numerous group of people who cannot evaluate if they won or lost as a result of accession. Those who can evaluate the consequences tend to consider themselves as winners (44%), rather than losers (14%). The opinions about who was the principal benefactor of the 2004 EU enlargement, Poland or the countries which had belonged to EU previously, are almost evenly divided: 33% believe it was Poland, while 29% think it was the members of pre-enlargement EU.



Good economic situation of Poland and better living conditions of households gradually improved the evaluation of consequences of Poland's accession to EU in the economic sphere in previous years. On the other

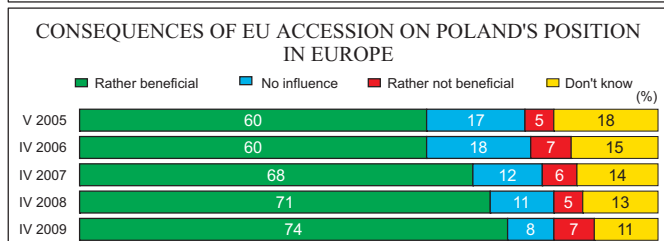
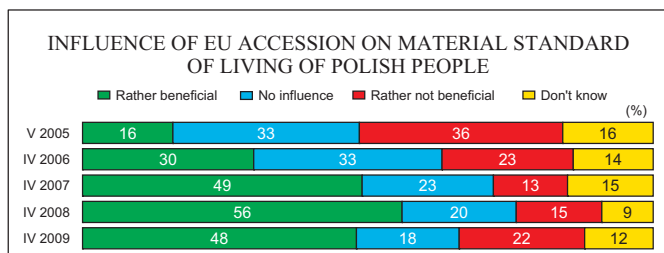
hand, the economic and financial crisis caused them to deteriorate presently. Although the consequences are still evaluated positively, the margin is not as high as in the last 2 years. In 2007 and 2008, around three-quarters of Poles considered EU membership to have positive influence on the state of Polish economy. At present, two-thirds (67%) note positive economic consequences from EU membership. Agriculture remains the sector which gained the most and fastest, in public opinion. However, the proportion of respondents convinced that membership in EU had a positive influence on agriculture fell compared with 2007 and 2008 (down 10 points from last year, from 75% to 65%). The opinion that agriculture gained from membership is relatively seldom expressed by farmers themselves (44% positive, 43% negative). The opinions about the consequences for private enterprises are also worse than in two previous years. Nevertheless, the majority (58%) believe that private firms gained as a result of EU integration.

The opinions about the consequences of accession for the situation at the workplace are similar to results noted one year ago. The employees who noticed the effects of EU accession on their enterprises tend to see positive effects (36%) more frequently than negative (11%).



The improvement in the condition of the Polish economy, noticed as early as one year after accession, started to translate into improved living standard in the second year of membership. In the following years, until 2008, the proportion of respondents convinced that the accession improved the material situation of Poles rose steadily. Presently, this conviction started to weaken, but the plurality (48%) still believe that EU membership brought improvement in this matter.

In public opinion, Poland's accession to EU had positive effects on international position of Poland. Close to three-quarters of respondents (74%) think that presence in EU improved the position of our country in Europe.



With the passage of time, the impact of EU on culture and civilization becomes ever more apparent. In general, in the first three years, the number of people judging positively the effects in this area rose. Last year, this tendency was halted. This year, there is a marked increase in criticism of perceived cultural-civilisational consequences of integration.

The most frequently noticed cultural-civilisational effects are: improved natural environment (66%), increased level of knowledge and education (56%), and improved roads and infrastructure (56%). Every year, there is an increase in the number of people noting change in spheres constituting Polish national identity: religiosity, identification with the family and the country. Although the majority of Poles (59%) are of the opinion that the integration does not influence religiosity of Polish people, there are more and more respondents noticing the symptoms of its weakening (4% in 2005, 28% at present). Every year brings an increase in the number of people who notice negative changes in the functioning of families: since 2005, the proportion of respondents who believe that the Polish family is less stable increased two-fold (from 17% to 34%). Although EU membership constitutes, for an increasing number of people, a threat to religiosity and family, it is not seen as having negative influence on Polish patriotism. More people think it increased (24%), than decreased (15%).

The conviction that EU membership had had negative effects on interpersonal relations is increasing. The opinion that people are less friendly than before (26%) prevails over the view that they are more friendly (11%).

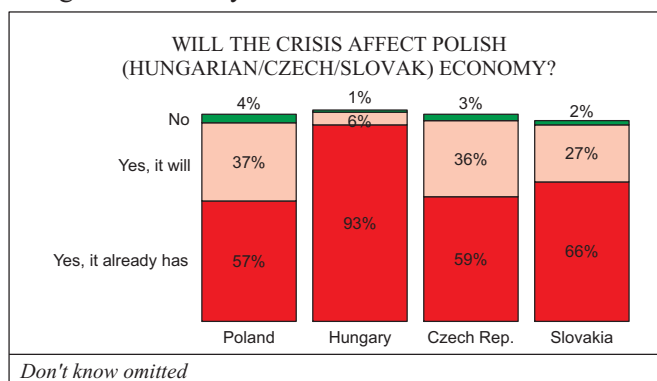
The most commonly noted negative consequence of EU membership is the growth of bureaucracy. Over half of respondents (59%, up from 46% last year) have noticed it.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in *Polish Balance of Costs and Benefits of Polish Membership In the European Union*, April 2009. Fieldwork: April 2009, N=1094. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

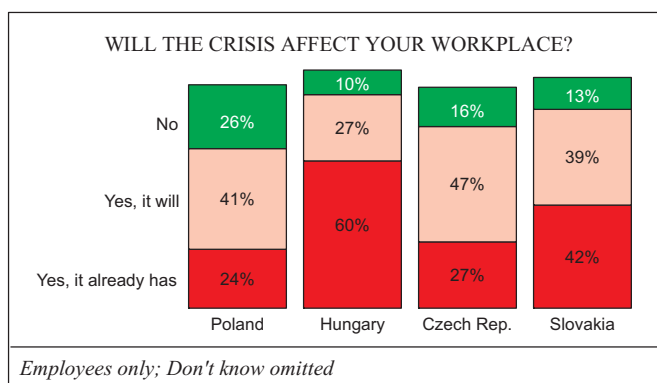
## CONSEQUENCES OF THE CRISIS: RESULTS FROM POLAND, CZECH REP., HUNGARY AND SLOVAKIA

Among the four societies, Hungarians have suffered the most from the global financial crisis and economic slowdown.

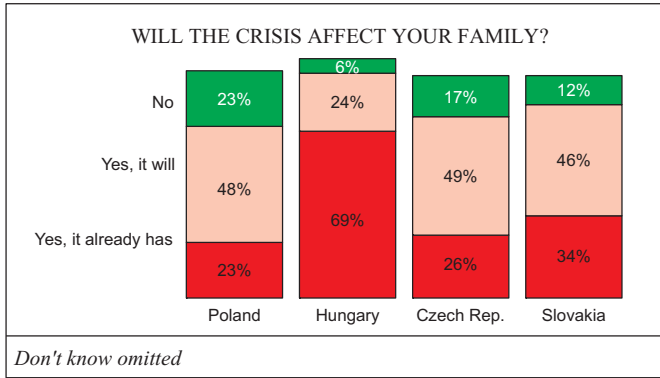
The economies of all four countries are already affected by the crisis. The majority of Poles, Czechs, Hungarians, and Slovaks believe that the consequences have already taken effect. The others usually think that they are a matter of the future, and only very few respondents count on avoiding the crisis. Hungarians notice the results of economic slowdown the most: almost all of them have already noticed its effects on the Hungarian economy.



Hungarians also notice the consequences of economic slowdown for their workplace more often than others. Poles and Czechs usually believe that the impact of the crisis will only be felt in the future.



Pluralities in Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia are of the opinion that the crisis will have negative influence on the situation of themselves and their families. A quarter of respondents in Poland and Czech Rep., and one-third of Slovaks have felt its impact. Opinions in Hungary are distributed differently: over two-thirds claim to have felt the consequences of the crisis.

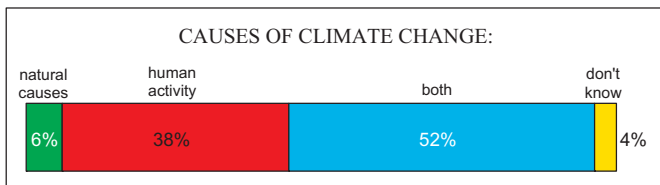


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in *Polish Consequences of the Crisis: Results from Poland, Czech Rep., Hungary and Slovakia*, April 2009. Fieldwork: March 2009. Samples are representative for adult population of Poland (N=1094), Slovakia (N=1029), Hungary (N=1010), Czech Rep. (N=1086)

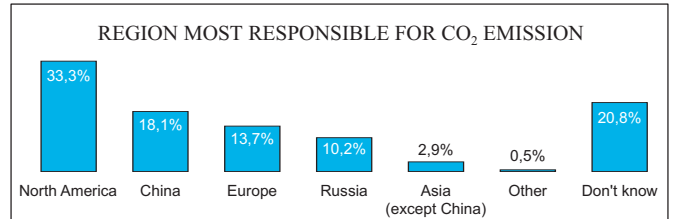
## ATTITUDE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

A vast majority of the Polish people (82%) consider climate change to be an important contemporary problem.

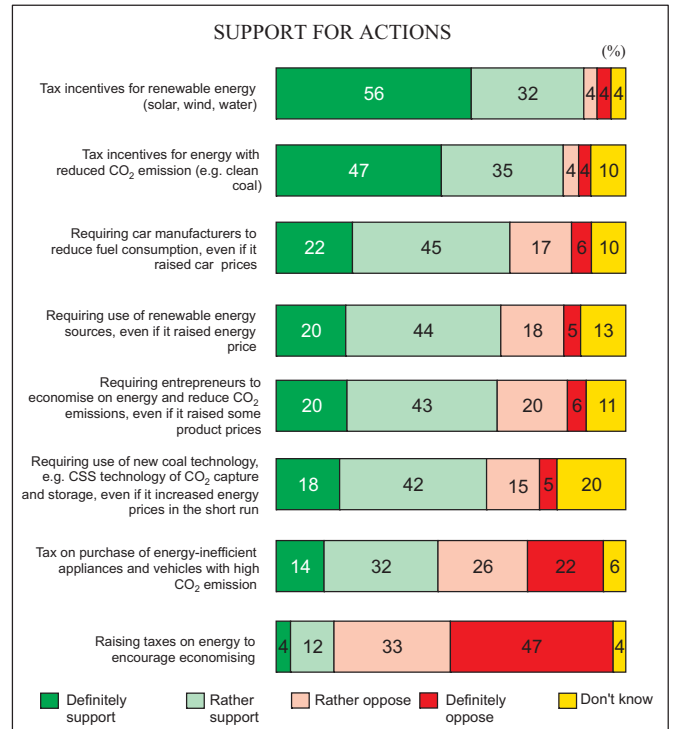
The plurality of respondents tend to attribute climate change both to natural causes, and human activity. Almost two-fifths think that climate change is caused by human activity exclusively. Those who consider climate change to be solely the result of natural causes form a small minority.



In public opinion, North America is the region most responsible for CO<sub>2</sub> emission. China is the second-ranked polluter, mentioned half as often.



Polish people strongly support promoting and rewarding actions beneficial for the climate, for instance tax incentives. The support for regulation, even if it is good for the climate, is much lower, particularly if such legislation could affect everyday life.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in *Polish Attitude to Climate Change*, April 2009. Fieldwork: March 2009, N=1008. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland. The survey was commissioned by the British Embassy in Warsaw

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

- ◆ Unemployment and the Unemployed in Public Opinion Research
- ◆ Perception of Institutions of European Union
- ◆ Opinions About Healthcare System
- ◆ Party Preferences in April
- ◆ Opinions About Parliament, President, National Bank of Poland and Institute of National Remembrance
- ◆ Social Moods in April
- ◆ Attitude to Government in April
- ◆ Material Standard of Living of Polish Families
- ◆ Public Opinion About Corruption in Poland
- ◆ Trust in Politicians in April

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