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CONTENTS:

➢ POLITICAL AGGRESSION

➢ FOREIGN EMPLOYEES

IN POLAND

IN POLAND

POLITICAL AGGRESSION IN POLAND

For some time now, Polish political life has seen the growth of verbal aggression. The language used by politicians in public debates and discussions involving representatives of major political parties is becoming ever more offensive.

Recently in Poland, Marek Rosiak (Law and Justice party, PiS) was shot in his Parliamentary Office in Lodz, Poland. Mr Rosiak was an assistant of Janusz Wojciechowski - a member of the European Parliament. Many people see this tragedy as the result of the

growing aggression in politics. Others however, downplay the incident, emphasizing the fact that the person who committed the crime was, most probably, mentally unstable.

According to over half of respondents (58%), political aggression is more common in

DO YOU THINK THAT THE LEVEL OF AGGRESSION AMONG POLITICIANS AND POLITICAL PARTIES IN POLAND IS HIGHER OR LOWER THAN IN OTHER COUNTRIES WITH WELL ESTABLISHED DEMOCRACY?

Lower	The same	Higher Do	Don't know	
12%	21%	58%	9%	

aggression is more common in Poland than in other countries with well established democracy.



A vast majority of Poles notice the growth of aggression in political life that has taken place in recent years. As many as three quarters of respondents (76%) believe that it is higher now than in the past, for instance before 2005 elections.

The parties mostly responsible for the growing atmosphere of aggression are, according to the respondents, Law and Justice (PiS) and the Civic Platform (PO). However, the prevailing opinion is that Law and Justice is far more to blame. Only a small percentage of people claim that Democratic Left Alliance



 (\mbox{SLD}) and Polish People's Party (PSL) create this atmosphere. One in six respondents blame all the parties equally.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "*Political aggression in Poland*", November 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: November 2010, N=999. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

FOREIGN EMPLOYEES IN POLAND

According to the data from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, 29,340 work permits for foreigners were issued in 2009. However, the real number of foreigners working in Poland is much higher as some people are allowed to work temporarily without such permits and others might work illegally. The statistics from the Ministry say that the majority of foreign workers come from the former USSR republics, mainly Ukraine, and Far Eastern countries, prevailingly China.

➢ DIETARY HABITS

DOING BUSINESS

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ALL SOURCES MUST BE CREDITED WHEN ANY PART OF THIS PUBLICATION IS REPRODUCED Slightly over a quarter of the surveyed people (26%) personally know a foreigner living in Poland. Only a few Poles (3%) say they paid for the help of a foreigner in performing housework, refurbishing, babysitting, construction or field work in agriculture. Inhabitants of the largest cities were more likely to use this type of help - 7% paid for the work of a foreigner. About one in seven (14%) declare they know people employing foreigners.

A vast majority of respondents (81%) do not object to foreigners working in Poland. Among them half (50%) do not mind any type of job being taken by foreigners and about a third (31%) do not object only if some types of jobs are occupied by them. An opposite view is held by every seventh respondent (14%). This group has increased by 4 percentage points since 2008 (when the last survey was conducted), but generally speaking, no major changes in the attitude towards employing foreigners have occurred since that time. The shift in attitude is visible when compared to earlier research. Poles used to be either generally more unwilling towards employing foreign workers (1992) or accepted employing them only in some types of jobs more widely.



A considerable number of foreign workers come from the former USSR republics, mainly Ukraine. The employment of workers from neighbouring countries to the east of Poland was made easier some time ago. An entrepreneur or an individual who wants to employ a foreigner needs to register the declaration of his/her willingness at District Employment Agency. Such declaration allows a person to work for six months within a year. In 2009, there were 189,000 declarations submitted. The simplified procedure expires at the end of 2010. However, to meet the expectations of employers, the Government plans to prolong existing regulations.

Nearly every second respondent (47%) cannot decide whether he/she considers the work of Ukrainians, Russians and Belarusians in Poland beneficial for him/her personally. Among those who gave a definite answer, more than twice as many people said it has a detrimental effect rather than beneficial (37% and 17% respectively). When asked about the influence of employing Ukrainians, Russians and Belarusians on the situation of other workers, the percentage of negative views was even greater. Almost two thirds of respondents (64%) are convinced that employing them is detrimental for the remainder of employees and only every fifth (17%) holds an opposite view. Opinions about the effect of employing Ukrainians, Russians and Belarusians on Polish economy are divided. Slightly more people believe that the impact is positive (39%) rather than negative (36%). What is, however, seen in a prevailingly positive light (73%), is the influence foreigners from these countries have on the situation of people and companies employing them.

The last survey on this subject was conducted in April 2008 and in the time dividing that research from 2010 survey the world experienced economic crisis. Even though in Poland the crisis was relatively mild, still it must have influenced to some degree the way Poles assess the job market and stability of employment. This in turn translates, to some extent, into the way Poles perceive the employment of foreigners. Since 2008, the benefits of employing workers from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus are noticed definitely less frequently particularly with regard to the situation of other workers and the effect on the Polish economy. Moreover, negative attitude to immigration has increased.



Nearly three quarters of respondents (73%) think that access to employment in Poland should be made easier for Ukrainians, Russians and Belarusians, if there are no Poles willing to take advertised position. Opinions have not changed in the last two years.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Foreign employees in Poland"*, November 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: October 2010, N=1035. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

DOING BUSINESS

Opinions about the environment for entrepreneurship in Poland are divided, although slightly more people believe that it is good (44%) rather than bad (37%). Among business owners themselves, positive assessment of the conditions for running a business is more popular (56%) than among other respondents.



In the public opinion, the most frequent obstacles facing entrepreneurs are excessive labour costs, income taxes for companies and bureaucracy (e.g. obtaining licenses and permits).



Poles assess their aptitude for running a business rather positively. Nearly half of the respondents think that they are experienced enough and they have sufficient knowledge and skills to run their own company.



Presently, 7% of adult Poles declare they own or co-own a company. A fifth (20%) declare they consider setting up their own business in the future. Most interest in running their own business can be noted among people under 45 years of age, especially the youngest respondents - 24 years old or younger (56%). Also, a considerable number of people between 25 and 34 years of age and between 35 and 44 years declare their willingness to set up a business (38% and 28% respectively).

Poles believe that the crucial thing in running a successful business is first and foremost "a vision". It is also essential to have enough money as well as be endowed with such personal characteristics as being hard-working and efficient. Knowing people in the business world, determination and consistency in working toward your goal are said to be important factors too. Such elements as luck, good education, knowledge and honesty were mentioned less frequently. Knowing people in political circles was believed to be of relatively smaller significance. Only one in twenty mentioned that economic and financial policy of the government may play a meaningful role in running a successful business.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Doing business", November 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: October 2010, N=1035. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

DIETARY HABITS

A vast majority of Poles say that they eat healthily or even very healthily.



A vast majority of Poles (77%) eat bread, different types of groats and various cereals on a daily

basis. Half (50%) drink bottled mineral water every day. Only less than two fifths declare they eat vegetables (37%) and fruit (38%) each day. However, slightly more respondents (44%) admit they consume dairy products on a daily basis. Nearly two thirds of respondents (63%) consume meat and meat products a couple of times a week. More than a quarter (29%) do it everyday. Fish are the least frequently consumed product - less than a quarter (23%) eat it more than once a week.

The results of the research should be interpreted in the light of recommended daily intake of particular food products. Then, it becomes apparent that contrary to dietary suggestions, nearly two thirds of Poles do not eat fruit and vegetables on a daily basis (62% and 63% respectively). Most probably, the diet of over a half of respondents (56%) is not sufficiently rich in dairy products since they are not consumed frequently enough. In addition, the consumption of fish among over three quarters of respondents (77%) is definitely too low. Poles' intake of sweets also differs considerably from the recommended level - over half (55%) consume them too often. Although soft drinks such as coke, fanta and mirinda are not drank everyday by most of the respondents, still a fifth (20%) consume them more frequently than it is recommended.



Respondents' self-assessment of the amount of consumed food in the previous month may also be

treated as an indicator of a proper diet. Their declarations suggest that Poles do not suffer from overeating. Respondents eat too much typically if they fancy something or find a particular food tasty. In the month preceding the poll, nearly half of respondents (48%) happened to overeat because they enjoyed their meal so much that they continued eating despite being full. Nearly two fifths of the surveyed people (38%) felt at least once in the month preceding the poll that they should limit their food consumption and a third (33%) regretted having eaten too much.



More than half of respondents do not, generally speaking, limit themselves in the consumption of food and they eat as much as they want. Over two fifths of the surveyed people try to control the amount of food they eat. Only one respondent in three admits he/she is on a slimming diet.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Dietary habits", November 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: October 2010, N=1035. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

 In addition to the reports referred to above, the following have been published recently (in Polish): Poles on Local Elections More than a Month Before Vote School Students Vacation – Holiday Trips and Paid Work Parents' Spending on Education of Children Party Preferences in November Electoral Alternatives and Negative Electorate Public Opinion on Local Elections Social Moods in November Opinions About Parliament and President Attitude to Government Trust in Politicians in November Participation of Polish Soldiers in NATO Operation in Afghanistan 	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: 70 copies
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