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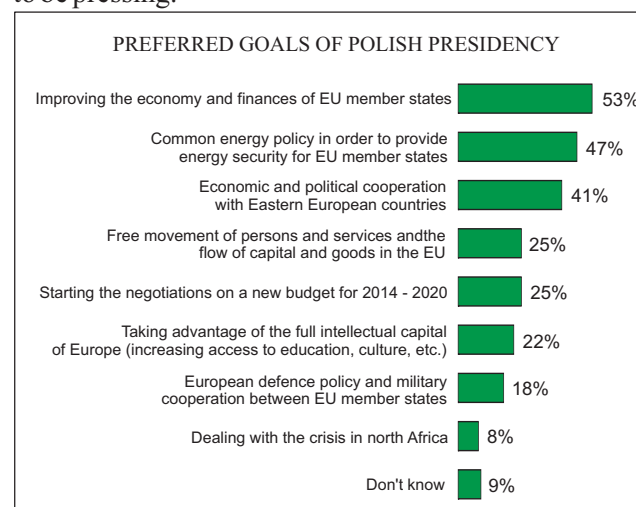
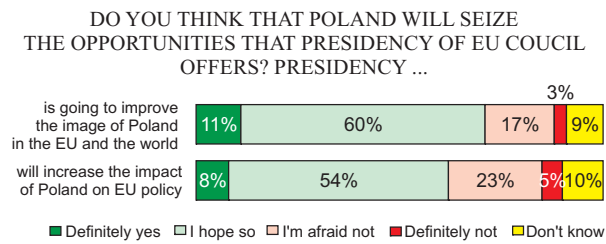
POLISH PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

On 1 July 2011, Poland for the first time in history has held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Poles believe that the country is likely to seize the opportunities that this Presidency offers. Nearly three quarters of respondents (71%) think that it is going to improve the image of Poland in the EU and the world. Almost two thirds believe (62%) that Poland will increase its impact on EU policy.

Among Poland's priorities for its Presidency are issues concerning the budget for 2014 - 2020, development of the EU internal market, energy policy, developing Eastern Partnership and strengthening European defence policy. There are also other challenges that Poland is faced with, such as supporting democratic transformations in North Africa and solving the problem of refugees coming from this region.

Respondents were presented a list of Polish targets for the Presidency. In public opinion, the most vital issues on the list are economic ones. The majority of people (53%) mentioned the need to boost EU economy and finance as the most crucial targets and a quarter said that it is essential to enhance free movement of persons and services as well as the flow of capital and goods in order to make EU market more competitive. Respondents also believe that one of the most important tasks is to develop a common energy policy to provide energy security for EU member states as well as to tighten economic and political cooperation with Eastern European countries.

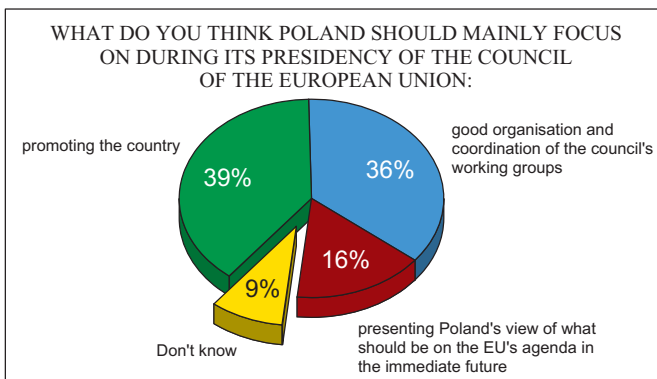
Fewer people stated that among the key targets of Polish Presidency should be: starting the negotiations on the budget for 2014 - 2020, taking advantage of the intellectual capital of Europe, developing European defence policy and tightening military cooperation between EU member states. It appears that Poles rely most on NATO in terms of their security, and when it comes to defence regulations within the EU, the issue does not appear to be pressing.



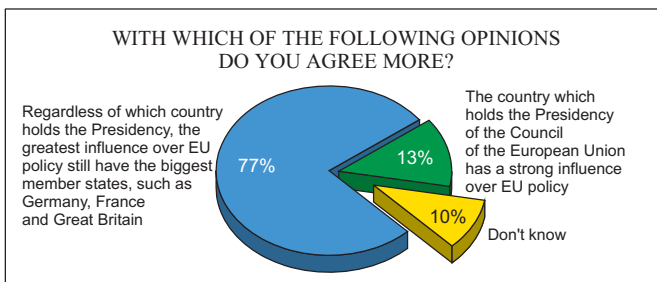
What may seem surprising is that dealing with the crisis in North Africa, and with the so called Arab revolution, was mentioned least frequently as the most significant task of our Presidency. The fact that Poland is not involved in that region in any significant way as well as the large distance separating our country from North Africa is probably the reason why Poles are not vitally interested in how the situation develops in the countries of that region.

What the Presidency of the Council of the European Union mostly involves is chairing and coordinating EU working groups and, only to a small extent, defining the goals for the EU. It also offers an opportunity to promote the country and improve its image. It seems that Poles understand it well and, therefore, expect that during the country's Presidency it will prove itself to be a skilful coordinator rather than the leader of the EU.

In public opinion, the main focus during Poland's Presidency should be on promoting the country in the EU (39%) and on successful management of the Council's works (36%). Fewer people believe that the country ought to present its view of what should be on the EU's agenda. (16%).



Poles are realists and do not expect that the Presidency of the Council of the European Union will allow Poland to influence EU policy to a great extent. The majority (77%) think that regardless of which country holds the Presidency, the greatest influence over EU policy still have the biggest member states, such as Germany, France and Great Britain.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Ahead of Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union"*, June 2011. Fieldwork for national sample: May 2011, N=1189. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

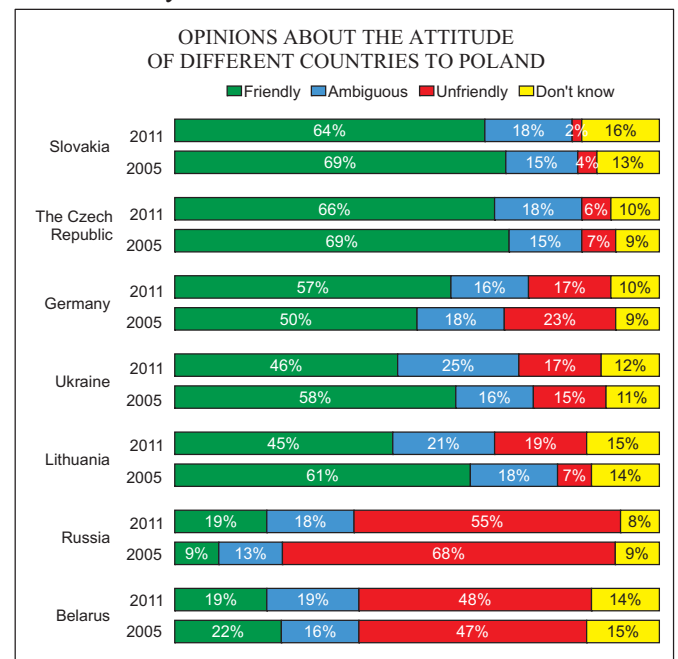
NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES' ATTITUDE TO POLAND

Poles believe that the attitude of most of the neighbouring countries towards Poland is positive. Slovakia and the Czech Republic, Polish Southern

neighbours, are in public opinion most friendly towards Poles. About two thirds say that their attitude is positive (64% and 66% respectively). Other CBOS surveys reveal that, compared to other nations, it is the Slovaks and the Czechs that Poles like most. Over half of respondents (57%) think that the attitude of Germany to Poland is good.

The number of people who see the attitude of Lithuania and Ukraine as positive is nearly the same. Almost half of respondents claim that these countries' approach is friendly (45% and 46% respectively). More than half of respondents (55%) claim that Russia's attitude to Poland is negative. Belarus is also thought to be ill disposed towards Poland (48%).

The comparison of present attitudes to Poland with opinions from 2005 reveals that opinions about Slovakia and the Czech Republic are stable, the attitude of Germany has improved and opinions about the approach of Lithuania and Ukraine have deteriorated. In case of Lithuania, considerably more people speak now of negative feelings towards our country than in 2005. What might have contributed to this state are conflicts over Polish minority rights in Lithuania (e.g. the fact that Polish diacritics cannot be used in documents) and a general deterioration in Polish-Lithuanian relations. The attitude of Ukraine to Poland is now less frequently assessed as positive and more frequently as ambiguous - neither good nor bad. It is connected with a shift of power that has taken place over that time in Ukraine. The previous survey was conducted shortly after the success of Orange Revolution, which was supported by Poles, and after pro-Western candidate Viktor Jushchenko was chosen the President of Ukraine. Conversely, the last research was done when Victor Janukovych was the head of this country.

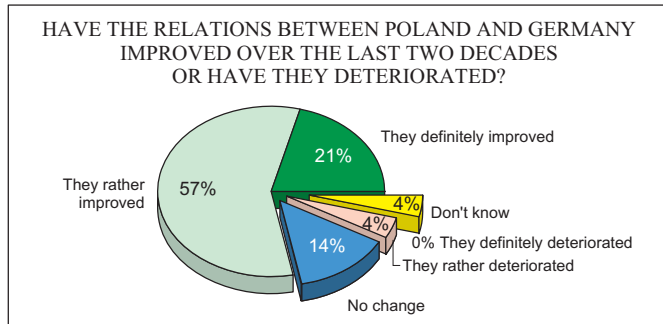


In the last six years, the perceived attitude of Belarus to Poland has not changed. However, with regard to Russia we may see improvement. There are visibly more people who now believe that this country's attitude to Poland is friendly and fewer of those who think it is not. Still, the negative view of Russia's attitude to Poland prevails.

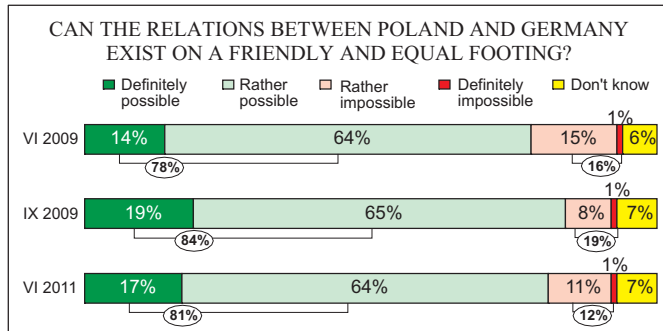
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Neighbouring countries' attitude to Poland"*, June 2011. Fieldwork for national sample: June 2011, N=1164. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

POLISH-GERMAN RELATIONS

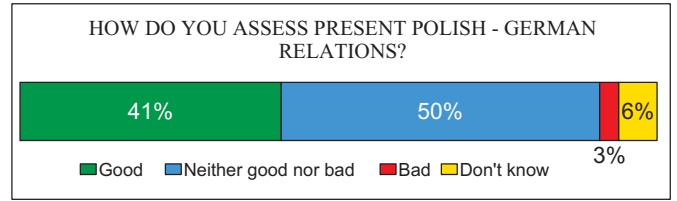
In June 2011 it was 20 years since signing the Treaty of Good Neighbourship and Friendly Cooperation between Poland and Germany. The Treaty was a supplement to the Polish - German Border Treaty signed half a year earlier, which confirmed the existing borderline between the two countries. Taking into account past historic tensions, the last twenty years have been a good period in terms of Polish-German relations. Over three quarters of respondents claim that Polish-German relations have improved over the last two decades.



More than four out of five Poles believe that the relations between Poland and Germany can exist on a friendly and equal footing. Only one in eight believe that such relations are not feasible.



Yet, Polish - German relations still need attention from both Poland and Germany as there are fewer people who claim these relations are good than those who think they are average (neither especially good nor clearly bad).



In public opinion, it is still mainly historical events, especially the Second World War, that is an incentive to conflicts between Poland and Germany. Respondents listed different issues connected with World War II as the principal difficulties in Polish - German relations. This question in the survey was an open one and thus respondents could form their thoughts on their own, without any suggestions from a pollster. Most people mentioned the issue of expelling people and these people's claims for restoration of property and compensation claims filed against Poland. They also frequently mentioned in this context the name of Erika Steinbach - the president of the Federation of Expellees in Germany. Some people spoke generally about claims filed by Germany against Poland. Their answers are in a separate category since property claims were laid not only by the expelled and their heirs but also by the so called late repatriates.

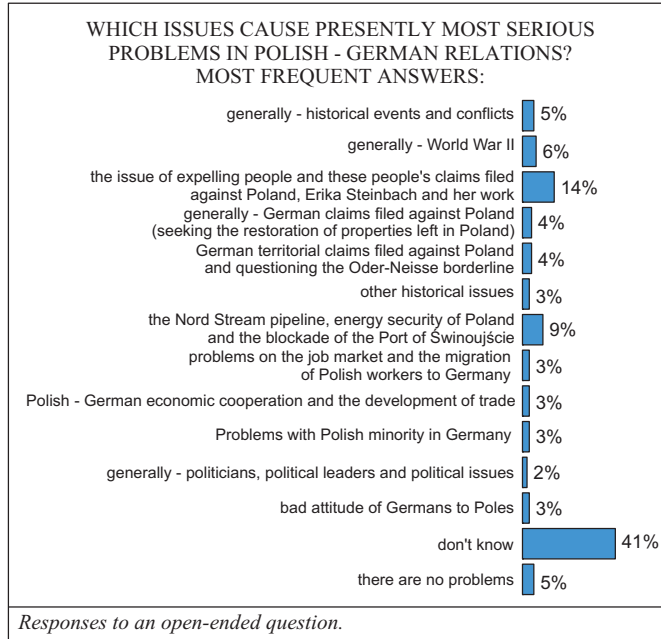
The fears as to the inviolability of the Oder-Neisse borderline between Germany and Poland and the integrity of Poland have not yet entirely subsided - they are infrequent, yet still noticeable. Other historical issues were raised sporadically. The surveyed people mentioned such problems as the lack of war reparations to Poland, faulty terminology for Nazi concentration camps in Poland and a general German tendency to weaken this country's responsibility for the war and its consequences. Some people mentioned troubles with paying compensations for Polish victims of Nazi regime.

Among present-day problems, definitely the most contentious issue is the building of the Nord Stream pipeline that threatens Polish energy security. People also mentioned difficulties on the job market resulting from Polish workers' migration to Germany. Respondents also referred to the recent lifting of restrictions on the employment of Poles in Germany - on the whole it was perceived as a right step that came too late. The surveyed people also pointed to the need of economic cooperation between Poland and Germany and sometimes they drew attention to the fact that our neighbour is economically superior to Poland.

Some respondents mentioned problems of Polish community abroad (respondents most often used the term "Polish minority in Germany" although Poles are not regarded as a minority in this country).

There were also some general complaints made about the bad attitude of Germans towards Poles - according to these respondents Germans look down on Poles and perceive them as worse.

Over two fifths of respondents (41%) were not able to name any issue that might, in their opinion, cause serious problems in Polish - German relations and one in twenty (5%) claim that such problems do not exist. The fact that nearly half of respondents were not able to list any contentious issues might be treated as a positive sign which indirectly confirms that Polish - German relations are perceived as positive or, at least, correct.



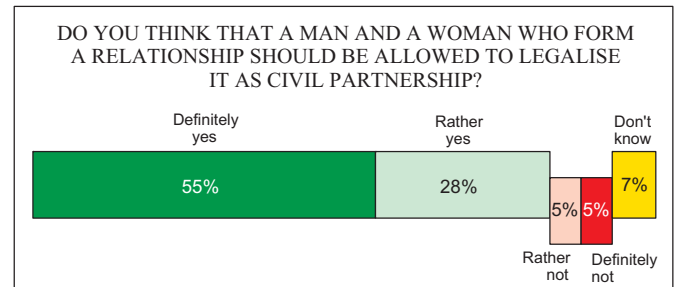
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Polish-German relations"*, June 2011. Fieldwork for national sample: June 2011, N=1164. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

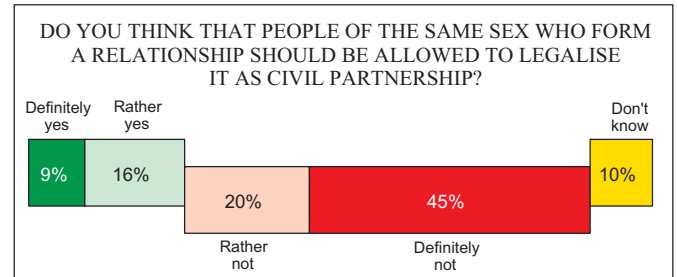
A bill regarding formal civil partnerships has been submitted to the Sejm. Formal civil partnerships are

legally recognised relationships of two adults allowing them some privileges available to married couples, e.g. the right to file a joint tax return, the right to inherit after the deceased partner, the right to be informed about the state of partner's health and the right to decide about the partner's burial place.

The legalisation of heterosexual partnerships is not perceived as particularly controversial - more than four out of five respondents (83%) would consent to allowing civil partnerships between a man and a woman.



The situation is quite different with regard to homosexual civil partnerships. Nearly two thirds of respondents (65%) are against legalising it and a quarter of respondents (25%) support it.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Employment - honesty, conscientiousness and assertiveness"*, May 2011. Fieldwork for national sample: February and March 2011, February N=1002. March N=950. 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):

- ◆ Twenty Years Later. Poles About John Paul II in Anniversary of Pilgrimage to Free Poland
- ◆ Tax Returns 2010
- ◆ Poles and Books
- ◆ Party Preferences in June
- ◆ Attitudes to Smoking
- ◆ Opinions About Parliament and President
- ◆ Social Moods in June
- ◆ Attitude to Government in June
- ◆ Trust in Politicians in June
- ◆ Parliamentary Elections 2011 – Voting Confidence, Electoral Alternatives and Dislikes
- ◆ Poles About Germans

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