

# Polish PUBLIC OPINIO

Research Center

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## ATTITUDE TO OTHER NATIONALITIES

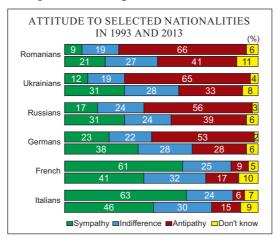
The favourite nationalities for the Poles are Czechs and Slovaks. Positive attitude to them is expressed by about half of respondents. The other well-liked groups are the English, Italians and Spaniards. At least two-fifths of respondents are friendly to the Swiss, Irish, Norwegians, Americans, Hungarians, Swedes, the Dutch, the French and Austrians. Among them, the most controversial are Americans, as they attract more negative feelings than the others.

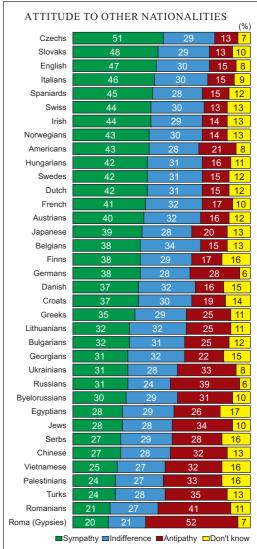
Almost two-fifths of respondents have sympathy for the Japanese, Belgians, Finns, Germans, the Danish and Croats. Among these nationalities. Germans attract more negative feelings than the others.

The attitude to Greeks, Lithuanians, Bulgarians and Georgians is more frequently positive than negative. However, in case of Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Egyptians and Serbs sympathy and antipathy are equally common.

Negative attitudes prevail towards the Chinese, Vietnamese, Palestinians, Jews, Turks and Russians. The least liked nationalities are Romanians and Roma. They attract negative feelings much more often than positive.

The attitude to other nationalities depends on many factors. In general, Poles have positive feelings for nationalities that are





a positive reference group, i.e. those who represent their goals and ambitions, those who constitute the world they themselves want to belong to, and partially already do. Therefore, sympathy predominates for nationalities living in countries with higher socio-economic status than in Poland. This general rule is supplemented by other influences, such as cultural similarity, historical legacies, current socio-economic events and personal experience related, for instance, to foreign travel for tourism or work

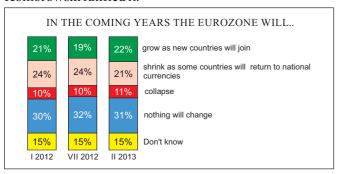
In the last 20 years, positive changes occurred in the attitude of Poles to other nationalities. From a long-term perspective it is clear that, overall, the perception of others has changed for the better. On the one hand, the attitude to the nationalities which enjoyed the highest sympathy in the early years of the transformation is slightly less positive, but, more importantly, the antipathy to the least liked has decreased. The improvement in the attitude to other nationalities is probably related to the increase in education and the improvement of the material standard of living in Poland, as education and income have a significant impact on this attitude.

It seems that the feelings about others are increasingly shaped less by the stereotypical images, and more by personal experience. Poles travel abroad in ever larger numbers: in1993, less than half of CBOS respondents declared having been abroad; in 2012 the figure was 69%. They are more self-confident and comfortable about their place in Europe. With less insecurity, they feel less need to distance themselves from poorer or culturally distant nationalities.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Attitude to other nationalities", February 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: January 2013, N=1227. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

# SUPPORT FOR RATIFICATION OF FISCAL COMPACT

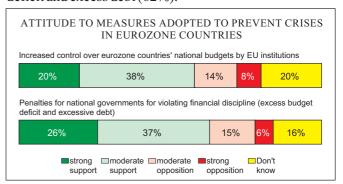
In January 2013, the "Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union" came into force. The fiscal compact should prevent financial crises in the eurozone. Poland, among other EU countries (with the exception of Czech Republic and Great Britain) decided to join the compact. In March 2012, Donald Tusk, the Prime Minister, signed the agreement, and in February 2013 President Komorowski ratified it.



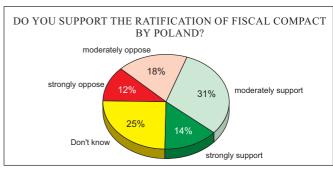
The situation in the eurozone is a cause for concern among Poles. In their opinion, there are different possible scenarios in the countries using the common currency. Almost one-third of respondents (32%) think that in the coming years the eurozone will shrink or collapse. About the same number of people (31%) believe

that the status quo will be maintained, i.e. no country will join the eurozone and none will exit. A little over one-fifth (22%) expect further countries to join the eurozone.

Poles note the necessity to strengthen financial discipline in the countries using the euro. The majority support increased oversight of EU institutions over national budgets of eurozone countries (58%) and agree that the EU should be able to impose penalties for violation of the financial discipline: excessive budget deficit and excess debt (62%).



Overall, 45% support the ratification of the fiscal compact, while 30% are opposed to this decision.



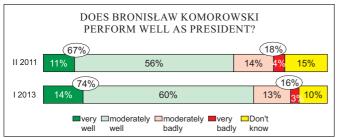
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Support for ratification of fiscal compact", February 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: February 2013, N=1111. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

# OPINIONS ABOUT PRESIDENT BRONISŁAW KOMOROWSKI

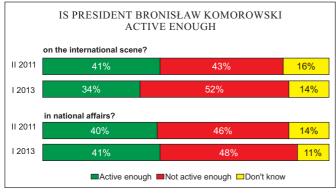
February 2013 marks the middle of the presidential term of Bronisław Komorowski. Since he entered his office, he has enjoyed considerable, stable trust. For many months now, he has been the best-evaluated politician in Poland and is far ahead of any other personality on the political scene.

The high level of trust in the president is related to the conviction that Bronisław Komorowski performs his duties well. Over three-quarters (74%) share the opinion that he is a good president, while less than one-fifth (16%) think he underperforms. In the last 2 years, the opinions about the president have improved. It seems that

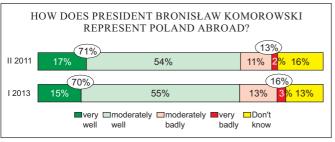
Bronisław Komorowski has managed to convince the undecided citizens about his actions; however, the proportion of negative evaluations has decreased only negligibly since February 2011.



Over half of respondents (52%) think that President Bronisław Komorowski should be more active on the international scene, while only about one-third (34%) are satisfied with his international activity. The evaluations of performance on the national scene are less critical. Nevertheless, the plurality (48%) believe that President Komorowski is not sufficiently active in country affairs, while two-fifths (41%) are satisfied. Compared with the survey conducted two years ago, criticism of international activities of the president markedly increased. However, the opinions about national-level activities deteriorated only slightly.

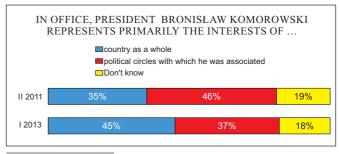


Criticism of foreign policy concerns the level of activity of the president. On the whole, however, it is evaluated positively. A vast majority of respondents (70%) think that President Komorowski well represents Poland abroad. The opposite opinion is expressed by 16%. In the last two years, opinions in this respect have changed only slightly.



Over two-fifths of Poles (45%) are of the opinion that President Komorowski makes decisions taking into consideration the interests of the country as a whole, not

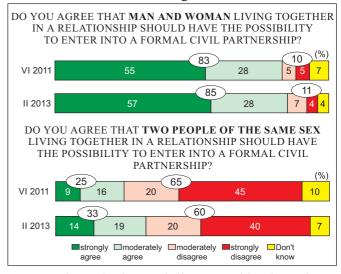
the political community from which he comes. Over one-third think that he has not managed to free himself of the political ties and represents primarily the interests of the political circles with which he was lately associated. Compared with 2011, the image of President Komorowski as an impartial and non-partisan politician has improved.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Opinions about President Bronisław Komorowski in midterm", February 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: January 2013, N=1227. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

# ATTITUDE TO LEGALISATION OF CIVIL PARTNERSHIP AND SUPPORT FOR GAY AND LESBIAN RIGHTS

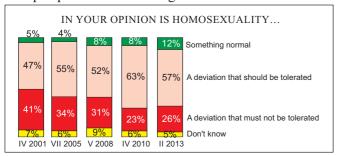
Recently, the Sejm has been concerned with draft legislation enabling legal civil partnership. All proposals were rejected. The decision of the Sejm does not mean that the debate about legalisation of civil partnership is finished, as Donald Tusk, the Prime Minister, has announced further efforts to regulate this issue.



The attitude to civil partnership depends on whether it concerns people of the same sex or different. Although the proposed legislation does not differentiate

the sex of partners, social norms about homo- and heterosexual relations are markedly different. A vast majority of respondents (85%) approve of legalisation of civil partnership between a man and a woman, while one in nine (11%) is against. In case of people of the same sex, one-third (33%) accept the possibility to formalise their relationship, while three-fifths (60%) are against. Since 2011, the support for legalisation of heterosexual partnership has not changed, but the approval for homosexual civil partnership rose and its rejection has decreased.

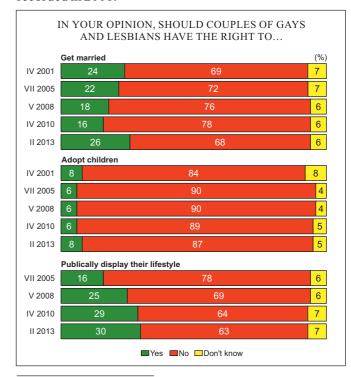
Relatively few Poles (12%) are of the opinion that homosexuality is something normal. The majority (83%) consider it to be a deviation from the norm. In that group, more than half (57%) think it should be tolerated, while a quarter (26%) believe there should be no tolerance. In the last three years, the number of people accepting homosexuality as normal has risen, but at the same time there has been an increase in the popularity of the idea that it is an unacceptable deviation. From a long-term perspective there is a slight decrease in intolerance.



Considering the socio-demographic categories, the conception of homosexuality as unacceptable deviation is relatively widespread among oldest, least educated respondents who practice religion several times a week. It is rare among the best-educated, who relatively often consider homosexuality to be something normal. The latter view is quite widespread among respondents who do not practice religion.

The majority of Poles have a negative attitude to potential rights for homosexual couples. Almost two-thirds (63%) think they should not be allowed to publically display their lifestyle, over two-thirds (68%) disapprove of homosexual marriage, and close to ninetenths (87%) do not approve of giving them the right to adopt children.

In the last three years, the acceptance of marriage for homosexual couples has increased. A similar level of acceptance for marriage for gays and lesbians was last recorded in 2001.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Attitude to gay and lesbian rights and civil partnership", February 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: February 2013, N=1111. 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):

- Activities and Experiences in 2012
- Holiday Trips in 2012
- Party Preferences in February
- Opinions About Public Institutions
- · Social Moods in February
- ◆ Valentine's Day 2013
- Attitude to Government in February
- Trust in Politicians in February
- Interest in Winter Sports Before the Nordic World Ski Championship

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