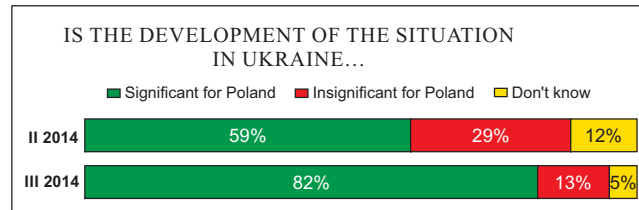
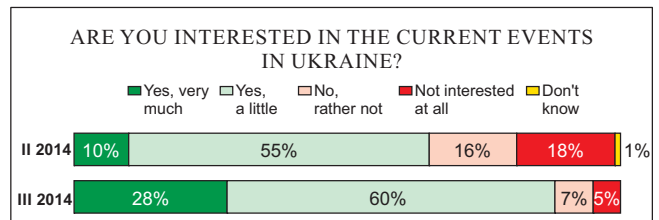


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OPINIONS ABOUT THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE AND THE CRISIS IN CRIMEA

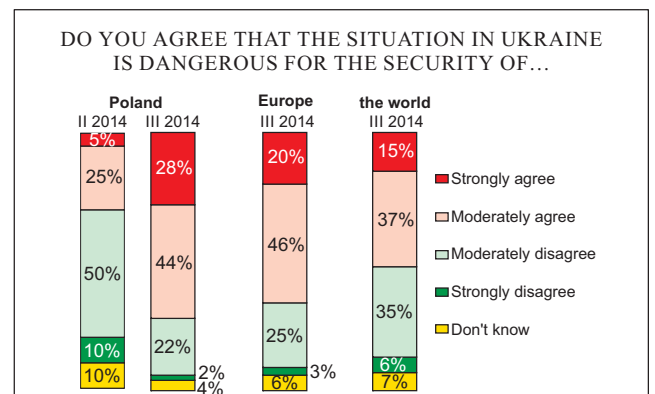
Poles pay ever more attention to the events in Ukraine. The interest in the situation in this country is almost universal (88%). The takeover of Crimea by Russian troops and actions by Russia aimed at sanctioning the



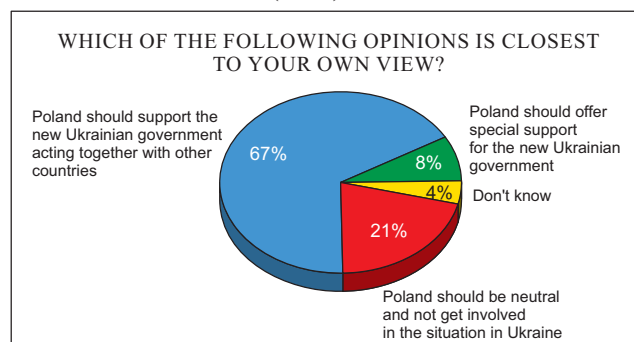
separation of the peninsula from Ukraine caused concern in Poland. In February, the majority of Poles (59%) considered the course of events in Ukraine to be important for Poland. In March, the conviction that the

developments in Ukraine impact Poland became nearly universal (82%).

Increasingly, the society is concerned about the security of Poland. In February, less than one-third of respondents (30%) believed that events beyond the eastern border are a threat to Poland. At present, almost three-quarters (72%) are concerned. The majority of Poles think that the conflict in Ukraine is dangerous not only for Poland (72%), but for Europe in general (66%), and even for the world (52%).



The majority of respondents think that Poland should be involved in solving the conflict in Ukraine. However, the prevailing view holds that the actions of the Polish government should be conducted within the framework of an international effort (67%). Only one in twelve (8%) claims that Poland should act separately in support of the



new government. One-fifth (21%) believe that Poland should be neutral.

The most commonly supported action is diplomatic pressure on Russia to avoid violence (78%). Over two-thirds (70%) advocate financial help for the new Ukrainian government. Less frequently, respondents advocate economic sanctions against Russia (60%). Two-fifths (40%) think that the new Ukrainian government should receive military

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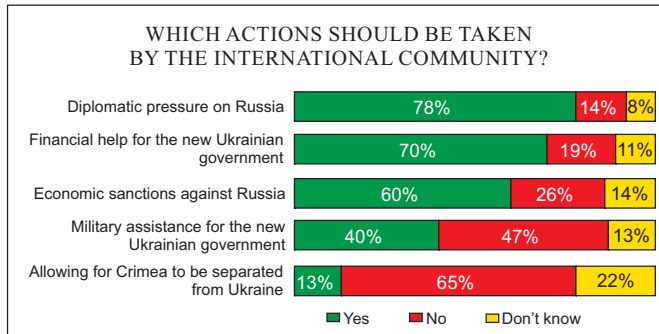
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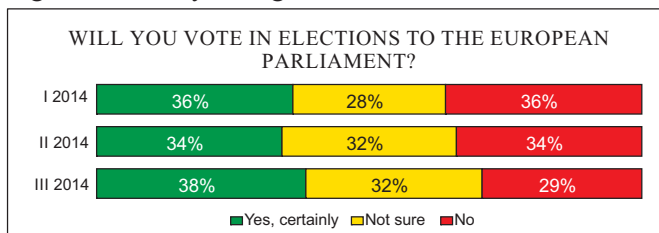
assistance; however, the prevailing opinion is against military help. Only one-seventh (13%) think that the international community should allow Crimea to be separated from Ukraine (which has, in fact, occurred).



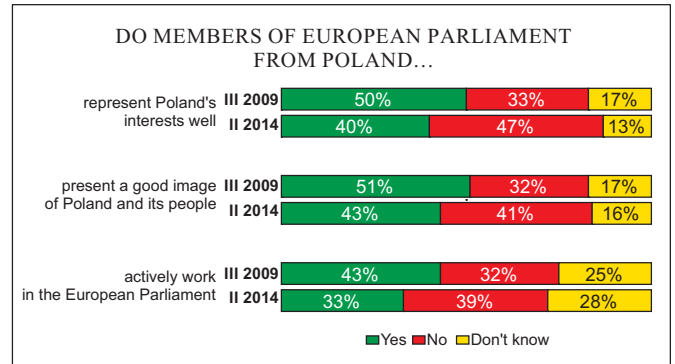
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Opinions about the situation in Ukraine and the crisis in Crimea"*, March 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2014, N=1098. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

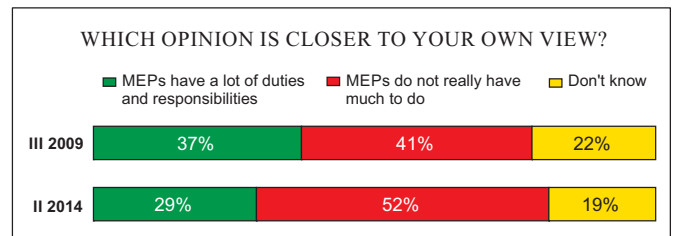
The upcoming elections to the European Parliament are not very interesting for the Polish society. In spite of a slight increase in the level of interest in participating in the vote, the proportion of respondents who say they will go to vote is low (38%). Considering that the actual participation is lower than declared, it seems probable that the turnout this year will not be higher than five years ago.



One of the reasons for low interest in voting in the EP elections is the persistent rejection of politics and critical evaluation of the Polish political elite. Opinions about the activity of Polish Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) are divided and rather critical. Almost half of respondents (47%) think that they do not sufficiently defend Poland's interests, while two-fifths (40%) express a positive opinion. Over two-fifths (43%) are satisfied with how they represent Poland, whereas a similar group (41%) express the opposite view. Almost four-tenths (39%) do not think that that Polish MEPs are active in the EP, while one-third (33%) evaluate them positively in this respect. At the end of the previous term of the EP the attitude to MEPs from Poland was more favourable, and their work was generally approved of.



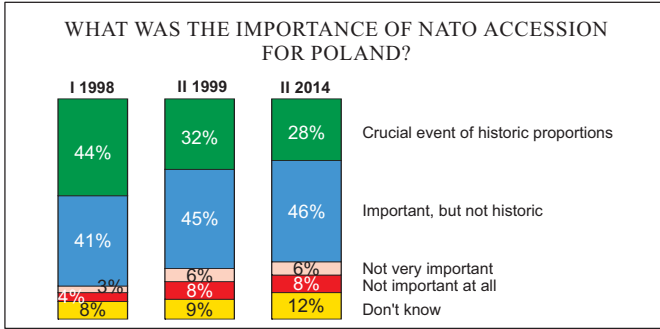
Poles have relatively negative image of MEPs in general (not necessarily elected from Poland), and during the last 5 years this criticism has strengthened. Over half of respondents (52%, an 11-point increase from 2009) think that MEPs have little work to do. Over a quarter (29%, an 8-point drop) express the opposite opinion, thinking that this position involves a lot of duties.



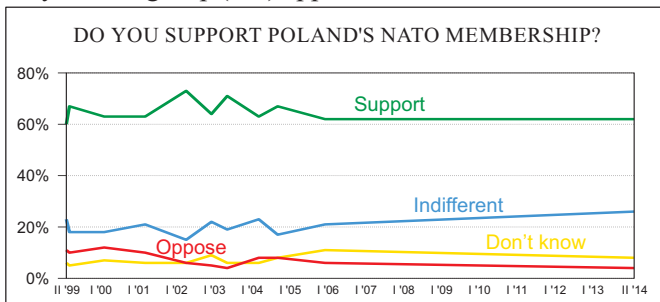
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS reports in Polish: *"Elections to the European Parliament"* and *"Polish MEPs and elections to the European Parliament"*, March 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: February (N=1020) and March 2014 (N=1098). The random address samples are representative for adult population of Poland.

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATO ACCESSION

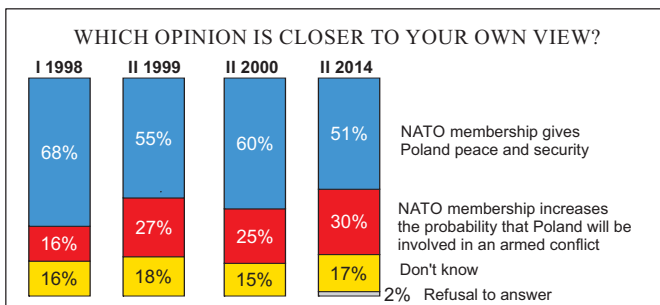
On 16th Dec. 1997 in Brussels, foreign ministers of NATO member states signed accession treaties with Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary. In January 1998, over a year before official NATO accession, a vast majority considered it to be an important event, and 44% believed it was a crucial historic moment. A survey conducted in February 1999, immediately before accession, showed that this event lost a little of its uniqueness in public consciousness, as lesser importance was attributed to it than a year before. After 15 years of NATO membership, it is clear that the opinions about its importance are relatively constant compared with the results recorded in the pre-accession period. At present, similarly to 1999, the largest group (46%) consider joining NATO to be an important event, but not extremely. The group of people who think that it was a crucial event of historic proportions slightly decreased (28%). Similar groups as 15 years ago think it was not very important (6%) or not important at all (8%).



The support for NATO membership is now similar to the level recorded immediately before accession. The majority of Poles (62%) support NATO membership, while a quarter (26%) are indifferent and only a small group (4%) oppose it.



A year before accession, the dominant view was that it would bring Poland peace and security (68%). Only a sixth of respondents (16%) were afraid that it would increase the chances of Poland becoming involved in an armed conflict. Immediately before accession, the worries about possible involvement in a conflict increased, but they fell in the first year of membership. Presently, most Poles (51%) think that NATO gives peace and security, while one-third (30%) consider it as a factor increasing the possibility of involvement in an armed conflict.



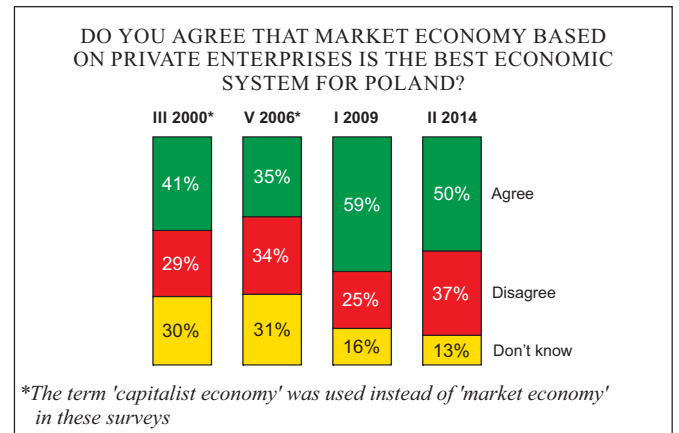
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "15th anniversary of NATO accession", March 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2014, N=1098. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

OPINIONS ABOUT MARKET ECONOMY

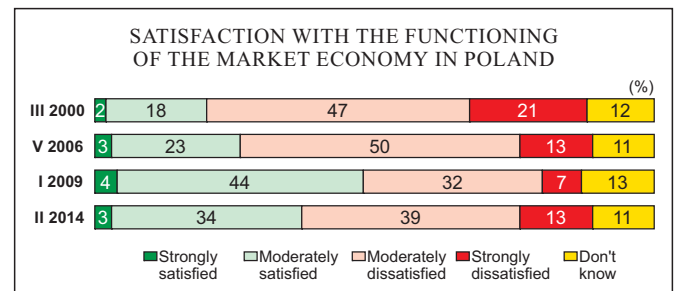
Twenty-five years ago, Leszek Balcerowicz presented a plan of systemic economic reforms, enabling

the transition from centrally planned to market economy based on private enterprises. In January 1991, at the beginning of transition, three-quarters of respondents (73%) supported the effort to create in Poland a market economy based on the Western model. High social costs of reform, such as bankruptcy of many enterprises and rapid rise of unemployment (unknown in state socialism) caused the support to diminish. Consolidation of the new socio-economic order and the improving economy contributed to the increase in acceptance for reforms, including economic change. Vice-versa, social acceptance of the market economy became a factor consolidating the economic reform.

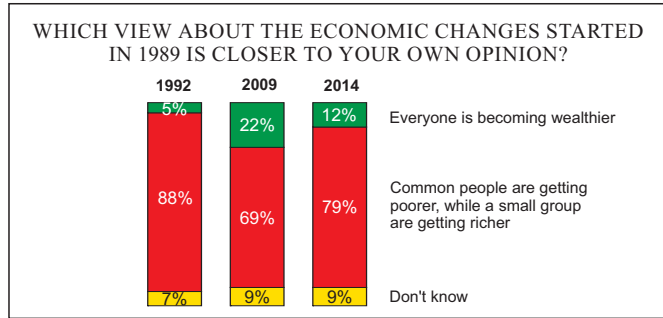
In 2000, two fifths of Poles (41%) thought that capitalist economy is the best system for this country. The support was even lower in 2006. However, in 2009 there was a marked increase in the number of supporters of market economy: 59% of respondents agreed that it is the best economic system. At present, Poles are more sceptical in the evaluation of the free market. Half (50%) agree that market economy based on private enterprises is the best economic system for Poland, while almost two-fifths (37%) disagree with this opinion.



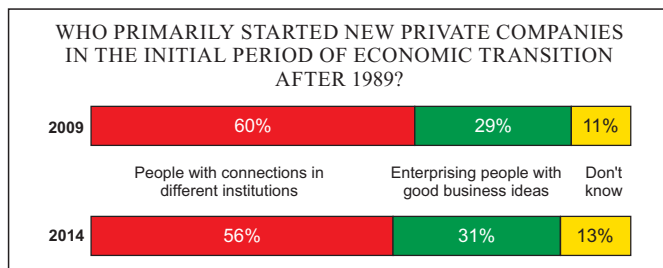
The level of acceptance of market economy in principle is higher than the evaluation of its functioning in Poland. Surveys from 2000 and 2006 documented significant dissatisfaction with the functioning of the market economy in Poland. It decreased in subsequent years. Five years ago, more people declared satisfaction (48%) than dissatisfaction (39%) in this area. At present, criticism in evaluation of the functioning of the market economy prevails again (52%).



There is a dominant view that only a few people benefit from the economic transition (79%). Only one-eighth think that living standards increase and everyone is becoming wealthier. Compared with 2009, there are more respondents convinced that inequality rises. However, at present more people than in 1992 are convinced that the introduction of the market economy increased the living standard.



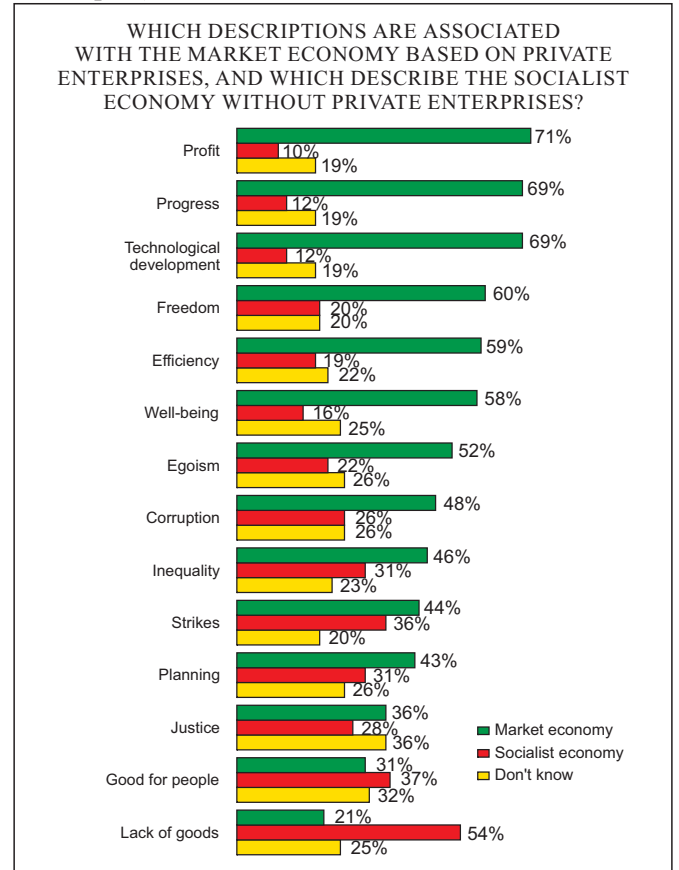
Over half of Poles (56%) think that, at the beginning of the transformation, firms were started primarily by people who had connections in public institutions. Only about a third (31%) share the view that in that period entrepreneurs with good ideas had the possibility to start a business.



Poles have the following mental associations with the economy based on private enterprises: profit (71%), progress, technological development (69% each), freedom (60%), efficiency (59%), well-being (58%), egoism (52%), corruption (48%) and inequality (46%). Moreover, strikes, planning and justice are more

commonly associated in societal consciousness with market economy than with socialist.

Socialist economy is associated most commonly with lack of goods: the majority of Poles (54%) have this image. At the same time, almost two-fifths (37%) associate socialist economy with being good for the people (31% have such opinion about market economy in this respect).



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Opinions about free market economy", March 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: February 2014, N=1020. 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):

- ◆ Party Preferences in March
- ◆ Opinions About Public Institutions
- ◆ Attitude to Government in March
- ◆ Trust in Politicians in March
- ◆ Social Moods in March

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