

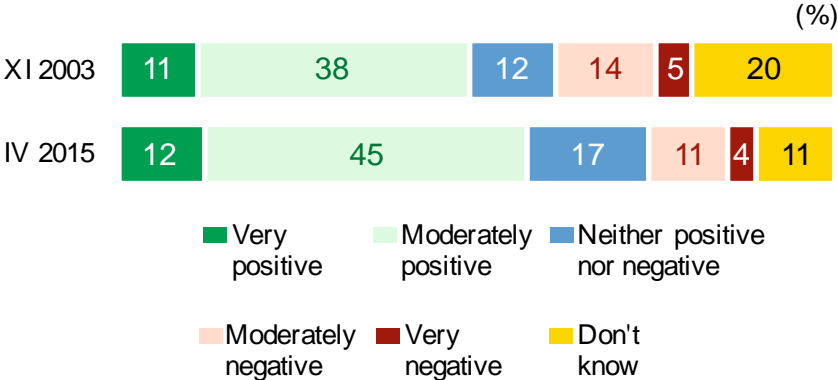
Opinions about TTIP

Since 2013, the government of the United States and the European Commission have negotiated the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). It is meant to create a free trade zone between the USA and EU. It is based on the assumption that strengthening transatlantic economic ties will stimulate economic growth and create new workplaces. Supporters of TTIP claim that this agreement will benefit both the United States and the European Union member states. The consequences of this agreement for particular EU states will depend on the structure of their economies, the size and structure of their exports and, generally, on the economic ties to the USA. Opponents of TTIP are afraid that it will reinforce negative consequences of globalisation and believe that multinational corporations will be the main beneficiaries of this agreement. In this context, there is concern about including in TTIP issues related to investment protection and the investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanism.

TTIP is a cause of social protests in many countries. The anxiety about it may have been initially caused by insufficient transparency of the negotiations and lack of knowledge about specific proposals. Nevertheless, according to the Eurobarometer conducted in autumn 2014, the majority of EU citizens (58%) support signing TTIP.

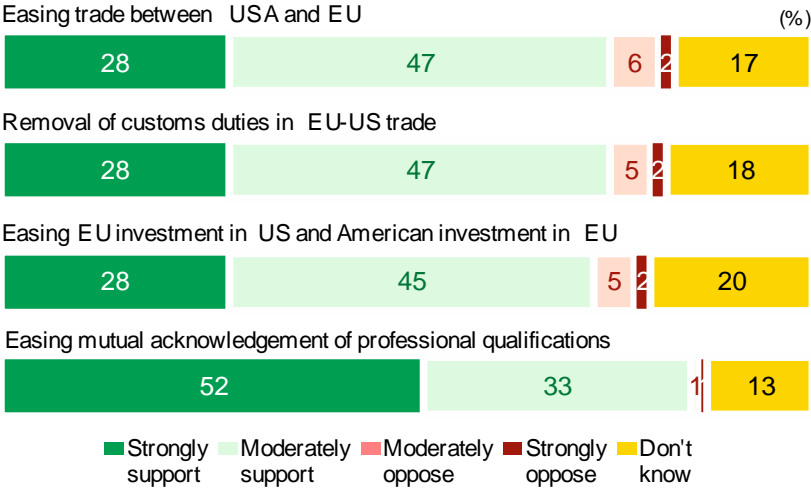
The draft TTIP agreement is an element of the globalising economy. The majority of Poles (57%) think that ever-closer economic ties and relations are a positive phenomenon, while 15% are critical towards globalization, and one-sixth (17%) refrain from evaluation and view it as neither positive nor negative. In recent years, the attitude to globalization has improved, which is reflected in increasing support and in declining opposition.

Economies of different countries are increasingly tied and interdependent; there are many multinational companies active in several countries and the economy grows beyond national borders. How would you evaluate this phenomenon?



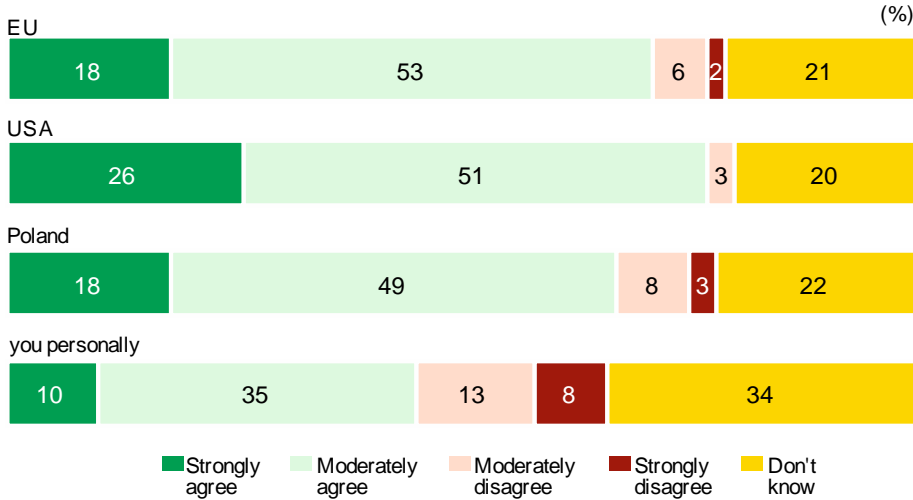
A vast majority of Poles support measures towards strengthening trade and investment relations between the European Union and the United States, such as: easing trade and gradual removal of customs duties (75% each), abolishing barriers to EU investment in the USA and American investment in the EU (73%). Easing mutual acknowledgement of professional qualifications is even more popular (85%).

Do you support the following actions aimed at strengthening trade and investment relations between EU and USA?



In public opinion, both sides will benefit from the agreement facilitating trade and mutual investment between the European Union and the United States. Over three-quarters of respondents (77%) expect TTIP to be beneficial for the US, while a slightly smaller group (71%) expect the EU as a whole to be the beneficiary. Two-thirds of respondents (67%) think that liberalization of trade and investment will have a positive effect on Poland. The benefits on the individual level are harder to imagine, as indicated by a high proportion of “don't know” responses; still, 45% of respondents expect personal benefits from a EU-US free trade zone.

Do you agree that the easing trade and mutual investment between EU and USA will be beneficial for...

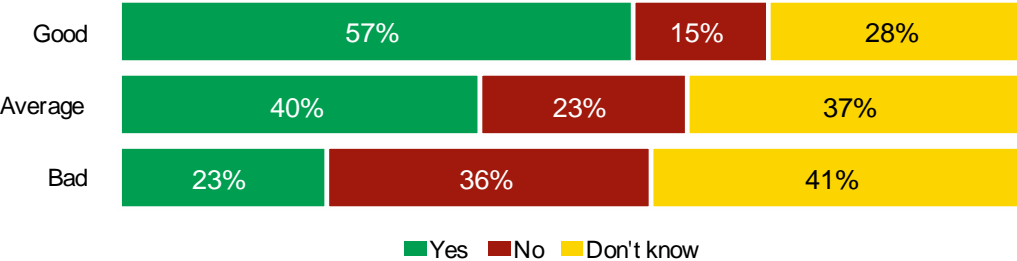


Opinions about strengthening trade and investment relations between the European Union and the United States depend on education and interest in politics, which is related. The better the education, the higher the support for easing trade, removal of customs duties, easing mutual investment between the EU and the USA and facilitating acknowledgement of professional qualifications.

Economic situation of respondents strongly influences the predictions about possible consequences of the agreement liberalising trade between the EU and the US and facilitating mutual investment. The better the evaluation of the household material standard of living, the more optimism there is in predicting the effects of the agreement.

The influence is strongest in opinions about the individual-level effects on the life of respondents.

Will the agreement easing trade and mutual investment between EU and USA be beneficial for you personally



Responses of people who describe their material living conditions as: good, average, bad

So far, little is known about the specifics of TTIP: how broad its scope will be, if and when it will be signed. At present Polish society sees the agreement between the European Union and the United States as an opportunity, rather than threat. The optimism expressed in Poland is not surprising given the experience of the last quarter of a century. Systemic change involved opening up to the world and, in consequence, acceding to the European Union. The possibility to participate in the common market has been perceived as one of the main benefits of EU membership. In spite of the recurring accusations of sell-out of national wealth and economic colonialization of Poland, the systemic change and opening to the world brought economic growth, improvement in material standard of living and increase in consumption.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Opinions about Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership ", May 2015. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2015; N=1027. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland