

## **Surveillance on the internet**

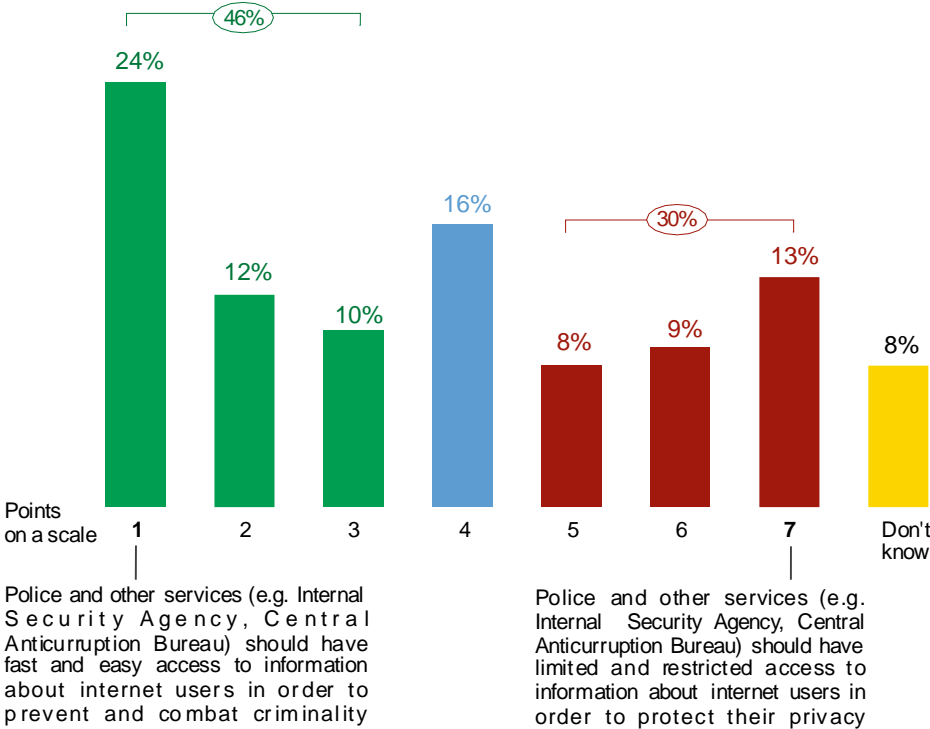
In February, laws on police and other services (such as Internal Security Agency, Central Anticorruption Bureau, tax services control, Customs Service) have been amended in what is commonly called surveillance bill. The most controversial changes concern access to data on the internet use. Previously the police and other services could access them by issuing a written request to internet providers. Now they have easy and fast access by means of a special internet connection without any need to contact internet providers. Court control of validity of sourcing and using data will occur ex post.

When faced with a choice between, on the one hand, increased possibilities for internet surveillance for the police and other services in order to combat crime and, on the other hand, decreased control of online communication to protect users' privacy, Poles usually choose the first option (46% v. 30%).

Views on that issue are differentiated by age to the largest extent. Limiting the possibility for surveillance by the police and other services is advocated most by the young respondents, in particular by the 18-24 age group, which is one of the few segments of the population in which this attitude prevails. This is probably related to the fact that they have an almost universal presence online, spend more time on the internet than older users and use more functionalities and services offered online. Thus, stricter control of the internet may seem more intrusive for them than for older and less active users. It is worth noting

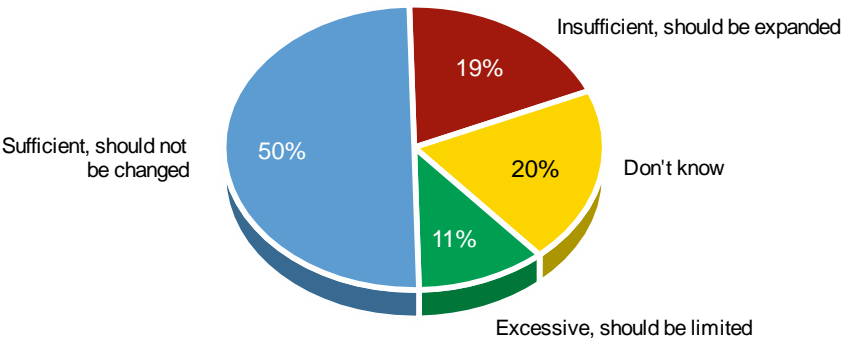
that, while internet users are slightly more sceptical of surveillance than non-users, they nevertheless predominantly support easier access for the police and other services to internet data in order to combat criminality (42% for, 35% against).

**Which view is closer to your own opinion?**



Regardless of whether they have heard about the new regulations, half of respondents think that current possibilities for the police and other services to gather information about internet use are sufficient. The others believe slightly more often that they are too limited and should be expanded (19%) rather than considering them as excessive and in need of limiting (11%).

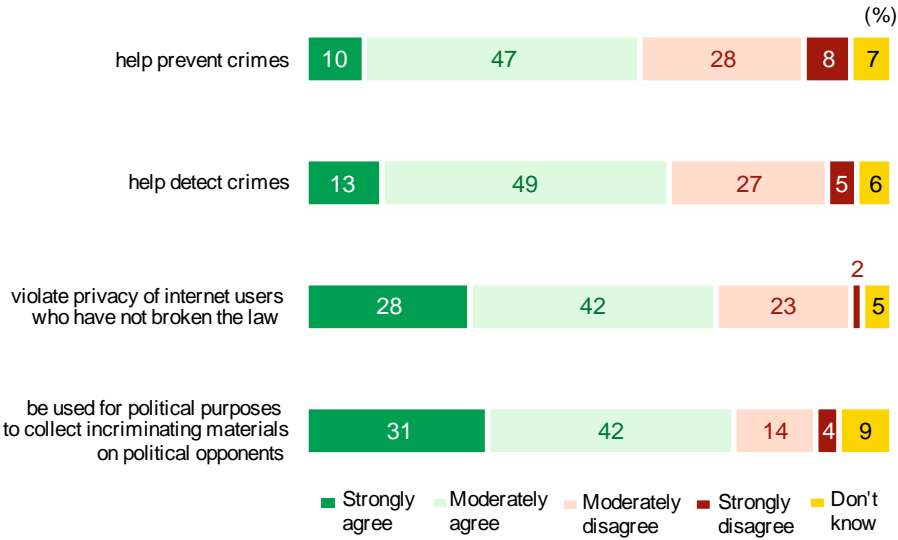
**Are possibilities for the police and other services (e.g. Internal Security Agency, Central Anticorruption Bureau) to gather information about internet users...**



Over half of Poles (54%) have never heard about the amendment to laws regulating the access of the police and other services to the internet data. A quarter (27%) have heard something but are not sure about the substance of the changes, while one-fifth (19%) have some knowledge about this issue.

Respondents familiar with the changes in access of the police and other services to the online data expect them to have both positive and negative consequences. The opinions about the latter category are more uniform. Over half of respondents in this group (57%) expect the new regulations to facilitate crime prevention, while 62% hope for better crime detection. Seven-tenths of this group of respondents (70%) are afraid that easier access to internet data for the police and other services will violate the privacy of internet users who have not broken the law while three-quarters (73%) think that the new law will be abused for political purposes, i.e. will be used to gather incriminating material on political opponents.

**Do you agree that the new possibilities for the police and other services (e.g. Internal Security Agency, Central Anticorruption Bureau) to gather information about internet users will...**



*Responses of people who have heard about the amendment and are familiar with it (N=204)*

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Internet Surveillance", May 2016. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2016, N=1104. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.