

Trust in foreign politicians

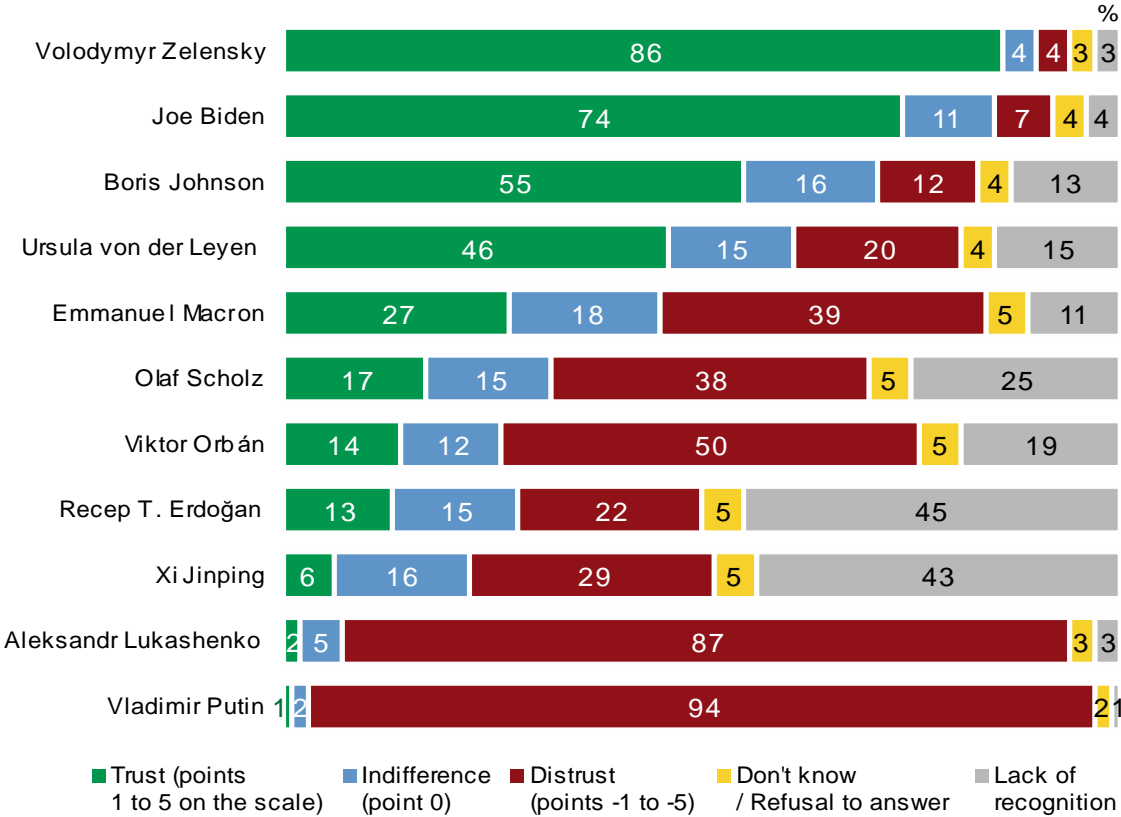
The war in Ukraine focused Poles' attention on events outside our country. The actions taken in connection with the Russian aggression against Ukraine are probably one of the most important, though obviously not the only, criterion for assessing the leaders of states and other internationally active politicians.

The public attitude to the foreign politicians included in the survey is very diverse. The differences in assessments exceed those obtained in polls concerning attitudes towards Polish politicians.

Poles almost universally declare their trust in the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky (86% of all respondents). The second place in the ranking of foreign politicians is occupied by the President of the United States, Joe Biden, who is trusted by nearly three-quarters of adults (74%). The Prime Minister of Great Britain, Boris Johnson, has the confidence of over half of respondents (55%). The UK politician, who remains as prime minister until the election of a new leader of the Conservative Party, announced his resignation on July 7, i.e. on the last day of the fieldwork, so this event did not have a significant impact on the results. Trust was expressed much more often than distrust towards the head of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen (46% trust vs. 20% distrust). Other politicians included in

the survey are more likely to arouse negative than positive reactions. Vladimir Putin (94% of declarations of distrust) and Aleksandr Lukashenko (87%) are definitely the worst evaluated. Viktor Orbán is clearly perceived negatively, as half declare distrust of him. Nearly two-fifths of respondents do not trust the leaders of France and Germany, Emmanuel Macron and Olaf Scholz (39% and 38% of declarations of distrust, respectively). Despite a similar percentage of negative opinions, the president of France attracts trust more often (27%) than the chancellor of Germany (17%).

Attitude towards foreign politicians



The least known of the politicians included in the survey, and at the same time perceived as untrustworthy, are Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and the Chinese leader Xi Jinping. The percentage of people who do not recognize these politicians is 45% and 43% respectively, while among respondents who recognize them, the declared distrust outweighs trust (29% distrust vs. 6% trust in case of the Chinese leader, 22% distrust vs. 13% trust in case of the President of Turkey).

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Trust in Foreign Politicians", August 2022. Fieldwork for national sample: July 2022, N=1084. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.