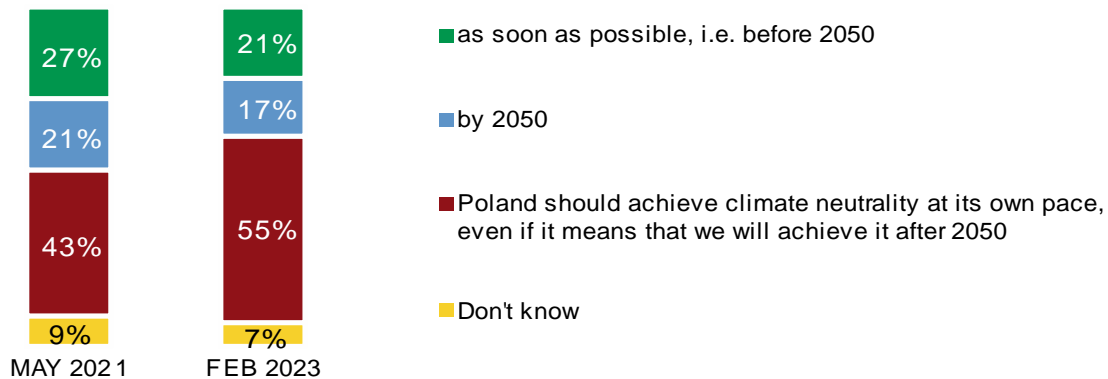


## **Attitudes towards the energy transformation**

The war in Ukraine and restrictions on trade with Russia had a significant impact on the functioning of the energy sector. Shortages in the fossil fuel market have led to an increase in their prices to levels not recorded for decades. Despite the turmoil in the fuel market, limited supplies of Russian gas, the objectives of the EU climate policy remain valid. According to the assumptions of the European Green Deal, the European Union is to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. In 2021, the implementation of this goal in relation to Poland was supported by nearly half of the respondents (48%, including 27% of the total who declared that it should take place before the set date). Currently, achieving climate neutrality by 2050 is supported by a much smaller percentage of respondents (38%, including 21% would like to achieve this goal earlier). More than half (55%, 12 points more than almost two years ago) are of the opinion that Poland should reach climate neutrality at its own pace, even if it means that the assumed goal will be achieved after 2050.

**By 2050, European Union countries are to achieve climate neutrality: reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming, including carbon dioxide. Should Poland try to achieve this goal:**



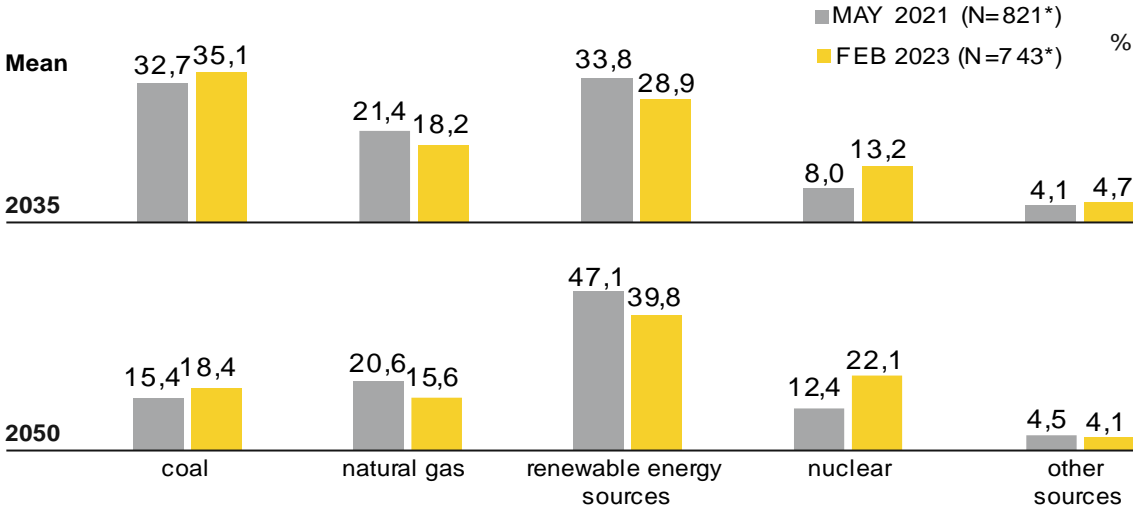
The energy transformation in Poland has been slow so far. The share of coal in the energy mix in Poland is still very high: according to the data of the Energy Market Agency, in 2021 a total of 72% of electricity came from coal, and in 2022 it was 69%. The war in Ukraine and the reduction of gas supplies from Russia caused the share of gas in the power sector to fall from 8% in 2021 to 3% in 2022. On the other hand, the share of renewable energy sources in electricity production increased, exceeding 20% in 2022.

Research carried out in 2021 and - again - in 2023, shows that Poles expect a significant decrease in energy production from coal in the next years, although they assume that also in 2050 some of the electricity generated will come from coal. The responses also show that energy sources should be diversified. In the public opinion, renewables should be developed first of all, and in 2050 they are to have the largest share in the energy mix. Poles also see room for other energy sources – gas (especially in the short term) and nuclear (especially in the longer term).

The unstable situation on the fuel market has had a significant impact on the thinking about the development of the energy sector in Poland. Compared to 2021, the postulated share of electricity from coal has increased slightly, while the expected share of energy generated from gas has decreased. Declarations from 2021 indicated a certain scepticism in the approach to the development of nuclear energy in Poland. Currently, this ambivalence has significantly decreased. The expected level of the use of nuclear energy has clearly increased, especially in the longer term. Declarations show that in 2050 it should be the

second most important source of electricity. Along with the increase in the expected share of nuclear energy in the energy mix, the pressure on the development of renewable energy has decreased. However, as mentioned, it is still the preferred source of electricity in 2050.

**What percentage of electricity in 2035/2050 should be produced from:**

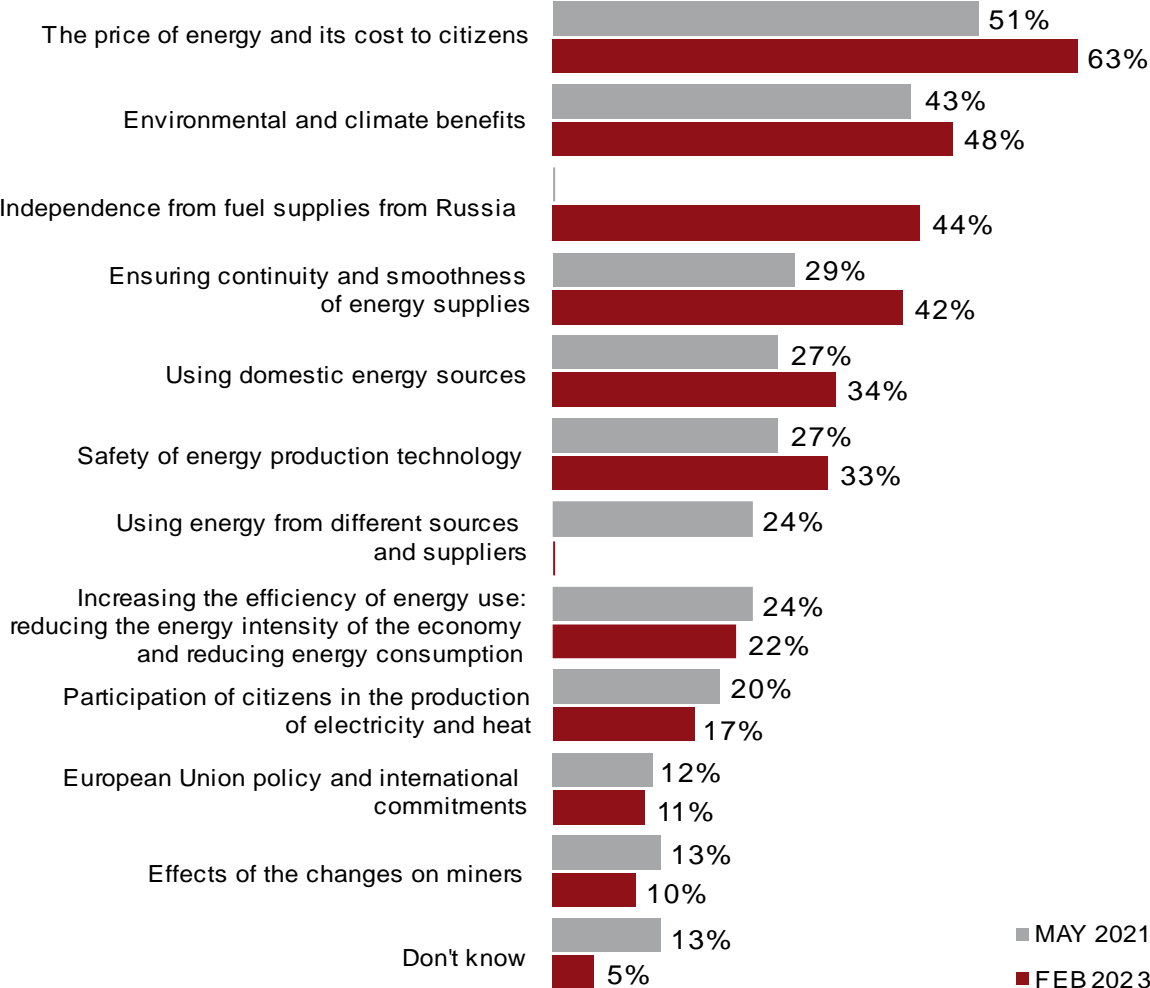


\* Respondents unable to answer this question were omitted. They constituted 29% of the total in 2021 and 24% in 2023.

The energy crisis related to the war in Ukraine made Poles pay even more attention to the price of energy and its cost to citizens than two years ago: 63% of respondents (12 points more than in 2021) listed this issue as one of the most important points to be considered in the process of energy transformation. The second most important consideration that should be taken into account, in the public opinion, are the benefits for the natural environment and climate - they were indicated by 48% of respondents (5 points more than before). The priorities also include becoming independent of fuel supplies from Russia (mentioned by 44% of respondents). In the survey carried out two years ago, general questions were asked about the diversification of fuel supplies - about the use of energy from various sources and suppliers. Then this answer was chosen by 24% of respondents. Ensuring the continuity and liquidity of energy supplies was considered almost as important as becoming independent from fuel supplies from Russia (42% of respondents indicated this, 13 points more than in 2021). Among the issues perceived as very important were also: the use of domestic energy sources (indicated by 34% of respondents, 7 points more than two years ago) and the security of energy production technologies (indicated by 33% of respondents, 6 points more than before). In view of the importance of the above-mentioned

issues, in the opinion of the public, the following are less important: improving energy efficiency, participation of citizens in energy production, European Union policy and international commitments, and the effects of transformation on miners.

**What is most important to consider when introducing changes in the production and use of energy?**



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Attitudes towards the Energy Transition", March 2023. Fieldwork for national sample: February 2023, N=982. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.