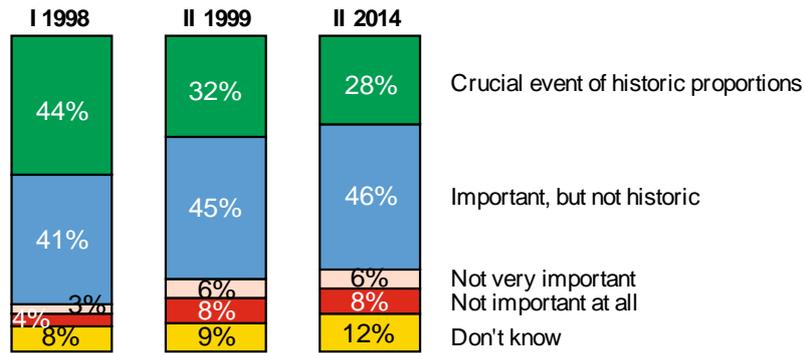


## **15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF NATO ACCESSION**

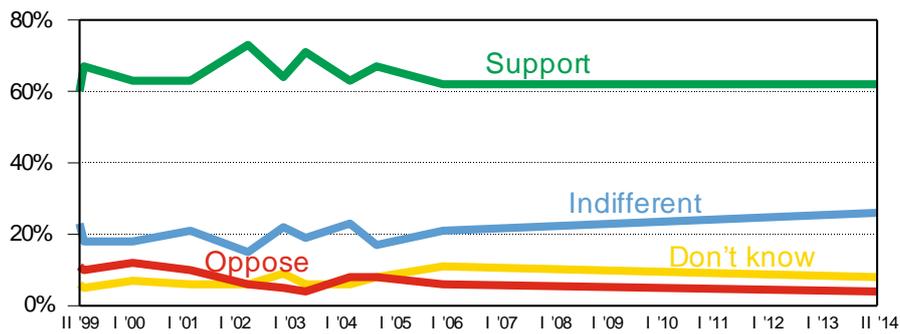
On 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1997 in Brussels, foreign ministers of NATO member states signed accession treaties with Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary. In January 1998, over a year before official NATO accession, a vast majority considered it to be an important event, and 44% believed it was a crucial historic 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%).

### WHAT WAS THE IMPORTANCE OF NATO ACCESSION FOR POLAND?



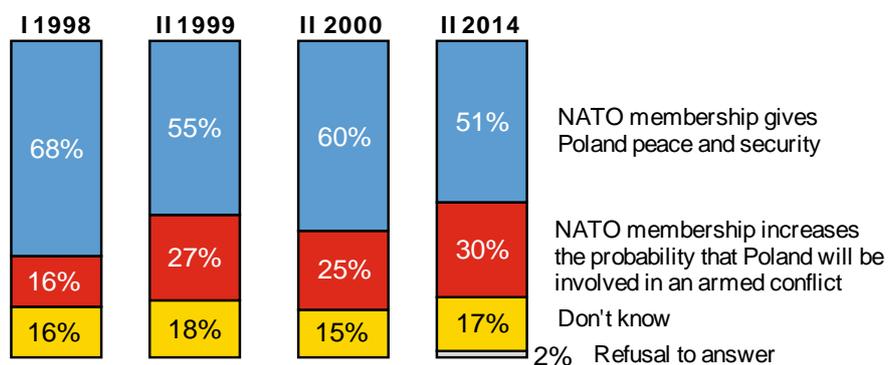
The support for NATO membership is now similar to the level recorded immediately before accession. The majority of Poles (62%) support NATO membership, while a quarter (26%) are indifferent and only a small group (4%) oppose it.

### DO YOU SUPPORT POLAND'S NATO MEMBERSHIP?



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.

### WHICH OPINION IS CLOSER TO YOUR OWN VIEW?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"15<sup>th</sup> 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.