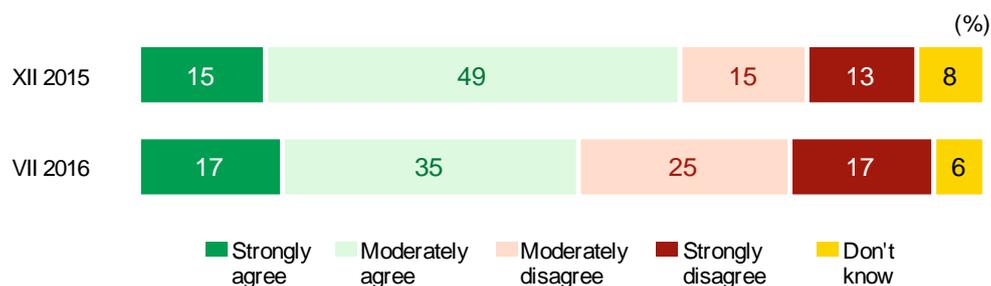


Attitude to Polish engagement in the global coalition against the so-called Islamic State

On 17 June 2016 Andrzej Duda, president of Poland, signed a provision for the use of two Polish Military Contingents in the Inherent Resolve operation, conducted within a global coalition against the so-called Islamic State (ISIS). The coalition comprises sixty countries and is led by the United States. This decision fulfils the pledge made in February 2016, when Poland officially declared participation in the coalition fighting the so-called Islamic State in the Middle East.

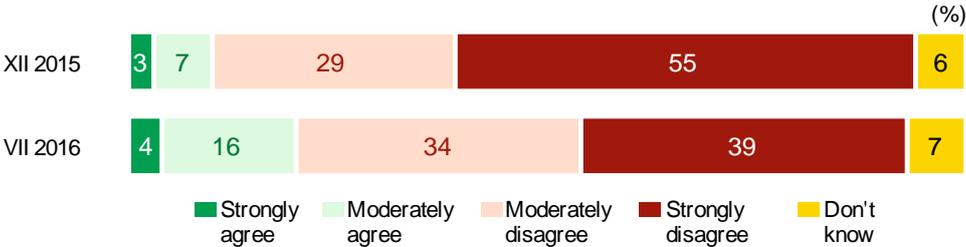
In December 2015 64% of respondents supported aiding countries fighting against ISIS, if such help did not include participation in combat. Presently, when the engagement is effective, the support markedly declined (a 12-point decrease), but the majority (52%) still think that Poland should give non-combat support to countries fighting ISIS.

Do you agree that Poland should give non-combat support to countries fighting against ISIS?



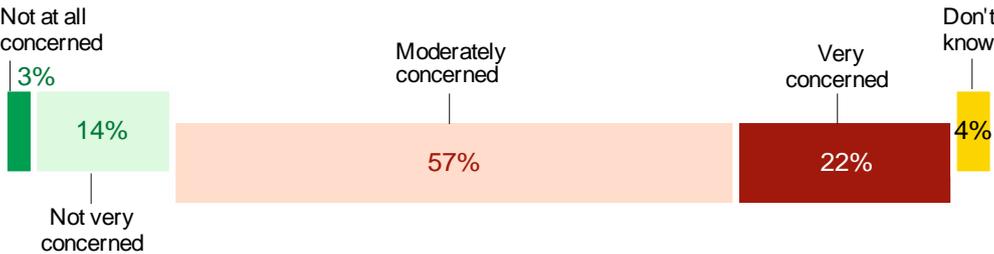
At present, as in December 2015, a vast majority of respondents (73%) think that Poland should not engage in military combat against ISIS. Compared with previous measurement the proportion of opponents of such engagement declined by 11 percentage points, while the proportion of supporters increased from 10% to 20%.

Do you agree that Poland should engage in military combat against ISIS?



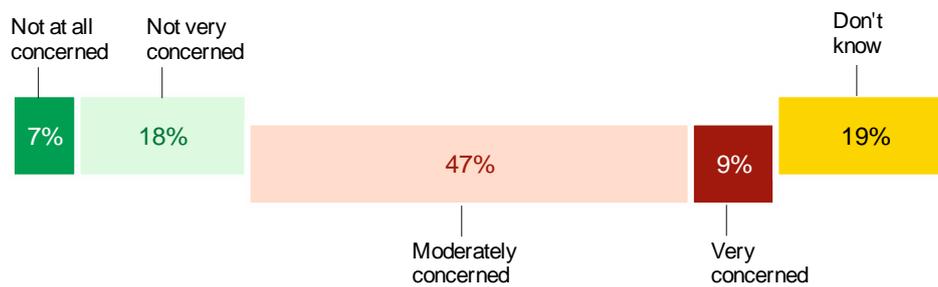
After Poland made the decision to send military contingents supporting the coalition fighting in the Middle East against the so-called Islamic State, threats against Poland appeared on internet sites linked with ISIS. Terrorist attacks taking place in countries engaged in fight against ISIS were justified as revenge for this engagement. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that a vast majority of Poles (79%) are afraid that Poland's participation in operations against ISIS may cause terrorist attacks by Islamist fundamentalists in Poland.

Are you concerned that participation in operations against ISIS may cause terrorist attacks by Islamist fundamentalists in Poland?



In addition to US-led coalition, operations against ISIS are also conducted by Russia, which supports the government of Bashar al-Assad. Uncoordinated operations by NATO members and Russia on the Syrian territory lead many observers to express concern that an incident may, as unintended consequence, cause open conflict between NATO and Russia. The majority of CBOS respondents (56%) are likewise concerned about this possibility.

Are you concerned that NATO operations in Syria may lead to a conflict with Russia?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Opinions on Poland's Engagement in the Operations of Global Coalition to Counter so-called Islamic State", July 2016. Fieldwork for national sample: July 2016, N=983. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.