

IN THIS ISSUE:

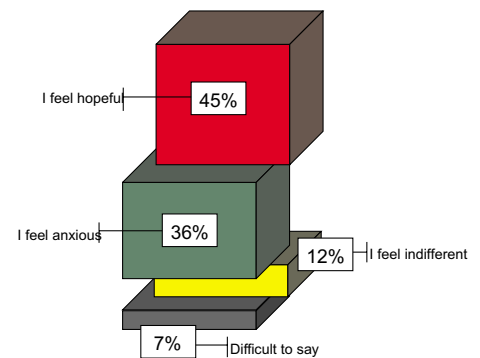
- ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
- POLES ON THE PRIME MINISTER JERZY BUZEK
- OPINIONS ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM OF THE STATE
- HOW DO YOU FEEL THIS SPRING?

ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

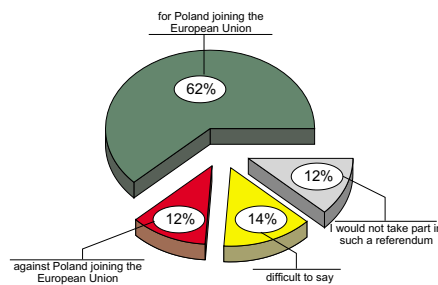
In most Poles' opinion the economic, as well as cultural, distance separating us from the states of the European Union is still great. In the respondents' opinion, the biggest differences are found in agriculture and the general standard of living. We are still far behind with regard to the quality of health care, social services and the condition of the environment. It can be said that in the respondents' opinion in all these areas we are not even half-way to the European Union.

At the end of March the official negotiations in respect of Poland's entry into the European Union started. A large number of Poles have welcomed them with hope, these were mostly young persons - up to 24 years of age (61% of indications), especially students (67%). The higher the material and social status of respondents (higher education and income), the more

NEGOTIATIONS OF POLAND'S ENTRY INTO THE EUROPEAN UNION HAVE STARTED RECENTLY. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS?



IF A REFERENDUM WERE HELD IN POLAND ON THE ISSUE OF POLAND'S ENTRY INTO THE EUROPEAN UNION, WOULD YOU VOTE:

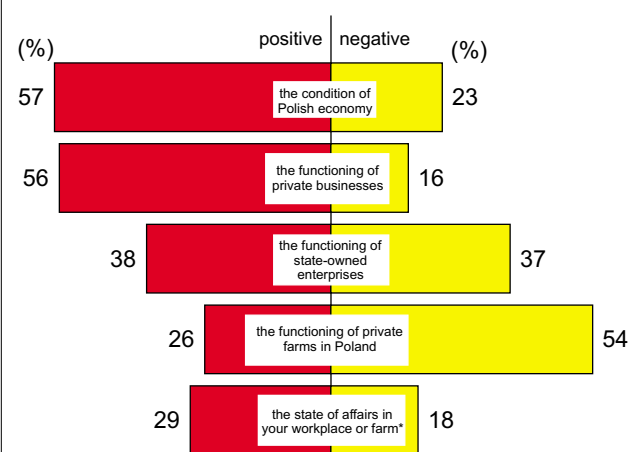


frequent is a positive response to the fact of starting negotiations. However, a considerable percentage of respondents feel rather anxious about the future membership of Poland in the European Union. They are first of all farmers - as many as 74% of this group are concerned about their future after our entry into the Union. If a referendum on the issue of Poland's entry into the EU were held now, a considerable majority (62%) would vote for integration with 12% voting against it. 14% of respondents declare a lack of a specific opinion on this issue and 12% would not take part in such a referendum.

Hopes connected with the integration are focused on issues related to the improvement of the Polish economy. According to over half of Poles,

the condition of the Polish economy will improve as a result of integration. A similar percentage expect that private businesses will function better. A considerable majority believe that in the long run our entry into the European Union will have a positive effect on other social aspects of life as well, e.g. the condition of the natural environment in Poland (71%), the level of education of Poles (58%) and their attitude towards work (58%). The majority also expect that the law will be better observed (59%) and that the political system in our country will function better (51%). On the other hand, the opinions on the effects of our integration with the European Union on the functioning of private farms are mostly pessimistic: 54% of

IN YOUR OPINION, WILL THE INTEGRATION OF POLAND WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION HAVE A RATHER POSITIVE OR RATHER NEGATIVE EFFECT ON:



*opinions of working persons

PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH CENTER - CBOS -

4a Żurawia
00-503 Warszawa
POLAND

Ph: (48 22) 629 35 69
(48 22) 628 37 04
(48 22) 693 58 94

Fax: (48 22) 629 40 89

E-mail: cbos@pol.pl

<http://www.cbos.pl>

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respondents believe that the integration will have a negative effect on this sector of our economy. Generally, a growing pessimism as far as the results of the integration are concerned can be observed - compared to the results of surveys conducted between 1994 and 1996, the percentage of positive opinions is falling slightly and the percentage of negative opinions is rising.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Opinions on the negotiations between Poland and the European Union and support for the integration", May'98.

POLES ON THE PRIME MINISTER JERZY BUZEK

When he took office, Jerzy Buzek was not a well-known person. He was one of the few Prime Ministers of post-communist Poland for whom becoming the head of the government was the first opportunity to create their public and political image. Like most Prime Ministers to date, Jerzy Buzek is evaluated a little better than his government. Now, i.e. six months after he became the head of the government, slightly less than half of respondents declare their satisfaction with the Prime Minister (47%), while almost one third (31%) declare their dissatisfaction.

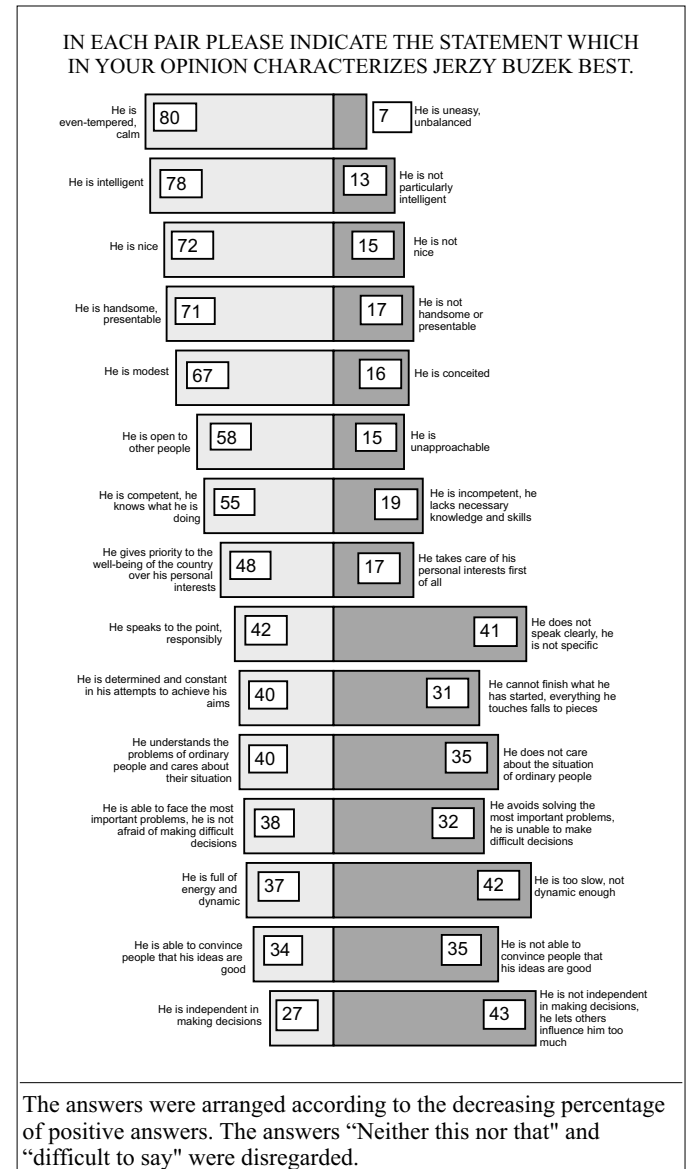
The characteristics most frequently attributed to the Prime Minister are calmness, emotional balance and intelligence. Most respondents agree that the Prime Minister is presentable and he is generally liked. In the respondents' opinion, he is also characterized by personal modesty and openness to other people. Respondents claim that the Prime Minister is competent a little less frequently, but positive evaluations prevail over negative ones in this respect as well. The evaluation of the Prime Minister's political intentions and personal unselfishness is definitely positive - almost half of respondents believe that Jerzy Buzek gives priority to the well-being of the country over his personal interest and benefits and only one in six believes that this is not the case.

If we take into consideration other qualities connected with the function of a Prime Minister, the image of Jerzy Buzek becomes less coherent and more critical at the same time. Even though most respondents believe that the Prime Minister is determined in his attempts to achieve his aims (40%) and that he can face the most important problems and is not afraid of making difficult decisions (38%), almost one third notice the lack of such characteristics in Jerzy Buzek. Opinions on the Prime Minister's persuasive skills vary, with almost the same percentage of respondents saying that he speaks to the point and responsibly and those who accuse him of being unclear and not specific in what he says.

Respondents were the most critical about such characteristics of the Prime Minister as dynamism and independence in making decisions. The prevalent opinion is that Mr. Buzek is not independent enough as the Prime Minister, that other people have too great an influence on him, and that he also acts too slowly.

The opinions on the Prime Minister vary widely depending on the political views of respondents. It seems that they are to a large extent shaped *a priori*, by

negative or positive attitudes towards the ruling parties. The Prime Minister is perceived much better by supporters of the ruling parties (particularly the AWS - Solidarity Election Action), while supporters of the opposition (particularly the SLD - the Democratic Left Alliance) are much more critical. This strong dependence of opinions on political views seems to correspond with the generally not very sharply defined image of Jerzy Buzek - it was quite difficult for respondents to characterize him.



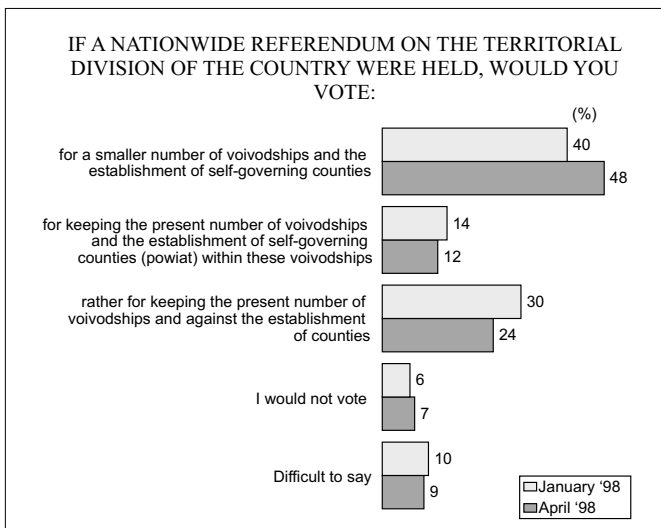
On the basis of the above we may conclude that the Prime Minister is not generally perceived as a strong personality in terms of politics. Opinions on him as a person are very positive, but the evaluations related to his performance as the Prime Minister are significantly worse. Political commentators speak of the "soft" charisma of Jerzy Buzek. So far the respondents' opinions seem to confirm the accuracy of this definition.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "The social portrait of the Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek", May'98.

OPINIONS ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM OF THE STATE

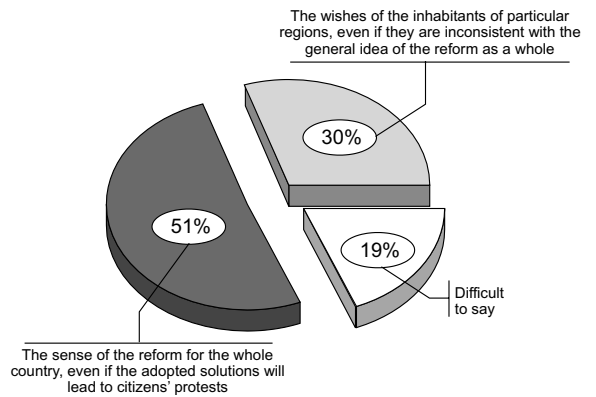
Administrative reform is the most important task of the government at the moment, as it is aimed at providing the necessary conditions to carry out other reforms: in the health care system, social insurance and education. According to respondents' declarations, over two fifths believe that they are quite well informed about the project for the territorial reform of the country, while over one third of respondents know nothing or only a little about it. Over two thirds of respondents have enough knowledge of the territorial reform project to say in which voivodship their place of residence will be in the future.

Respondents' declarations show that the percentage of those who opt for a smaller number of voivodships and the introduction of counties (*powiat*) has increased a little since the beginning of the year, but still over one third of Poles support the idea of keeping the present number of voivodships unchanged.



In the last few months numerous actions, pickets, demonstrations or even events have been organized by representatives of different regions, towns or even groups of citizens dissatisfied with their placement on the new administrative map of the country as suggested by the government. These actions are very different in size, from protests organized by whole regions in defense of their voivodship to demonstrations organized by small communes which are not satisfied with being a part of one particular county rather than another one. The vast majority of respondents express understanding of local protests concerning this issue. Less than one in eight are indifferent to this issue and only one in ten does not fully understand what it is all about. Over two fifths of Poles support the protests and less than one third do not accept them. The critical attitude towards local protests against the administrative division of the country is conditioned by education - persons with higher education not only declare a lack of support for protests, but they also see them first of all as, to a large extent, inspired by the local political elites, threatened by the loss of influence.

WHAT SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDER FIRST AND FOREMOST DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM?

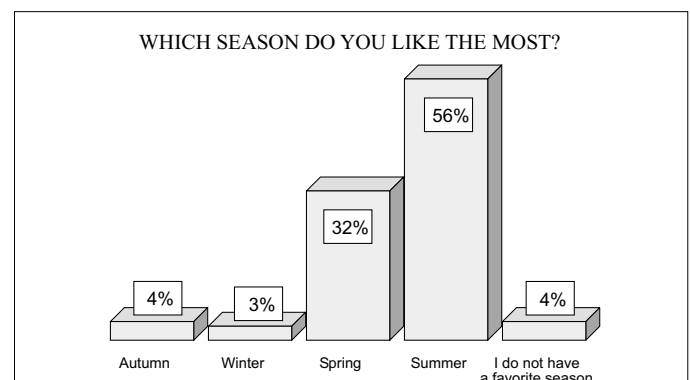


The most discussed and controversial issue is the number and territorial shape of the future voivodships. Most respondents would not object if the government considered the opinions expressed by the inhabitants of some regions and extended the number of voivodships to include more than 12. However, this view is not supported as strongly as another opinion, which could be treated as the most important guideline for the government to follow during the implementation of this and other reforms: the opinions of the inhabitants of particular regions should be taken into consideration, but only to the extent to which they do not undermine the sense of the adopted solutions for the whole country.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Knowledge about the administrative reform of the state, the social attitude towards the protests connected with the reform and the suggested referendum", May '98.

HOW DO YOU FEEL THIS SPRING?

In our climatic zone, spring is the time of adaption to the changing weather conditions. We often feel weak, lack vigor and health problems often appear at that time. The spring season is becoming particularly hard due to the gradual disappearance of "transitional" seasons in recent years.



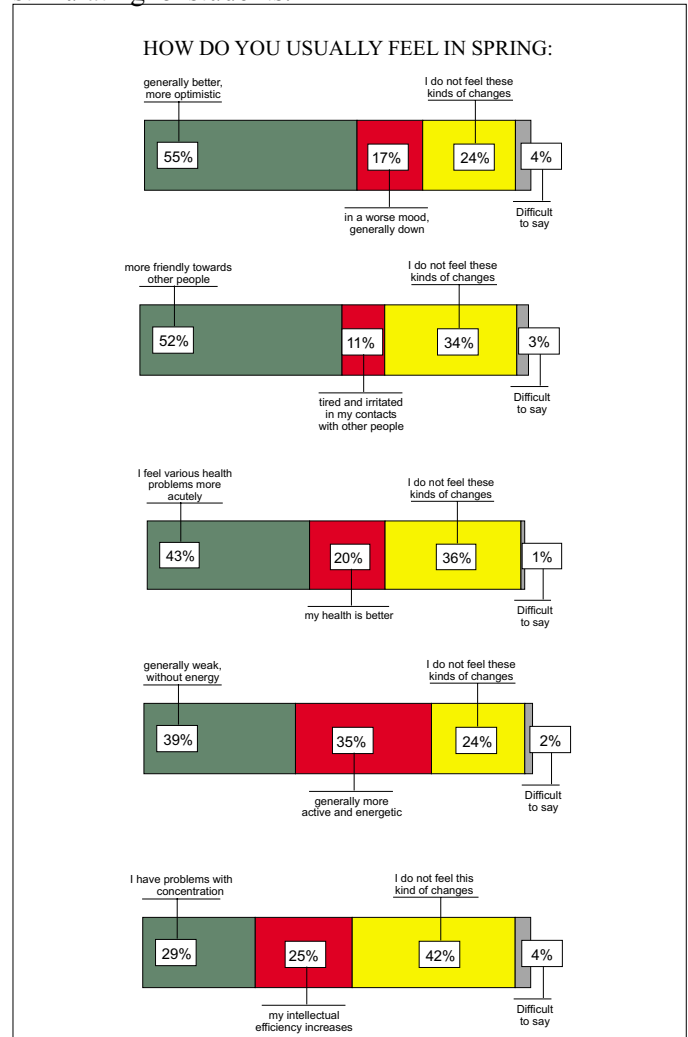
According to the respondents' declarations, spring clearly has an effect on our physical comfort and state of mind. Only 13% of respondents said that they did not feel any positive or negative effects of spring.

Spring usually makes us feel optimistic. Over half of Poles declare that their mood improves when spring comes. It also often causes a kind of pro-social stirring - we become more friendly towards other people and we have more good feelings for them. Young people are especially sensitive to this positive influence. The considerable majority of them are in a better mood and are more friendly towards other people (probably especially those of the opposite sex). However, the beneficial effect of spring on the physical and mental condition of Poles decreases with age. The older we are, the less frequently spring has a positive influence on our state of mind.

Optimism and improved feelings for other people, felt by a considerable proportion of Poles in spring, appear to be the greatest benefits of this season as far as its effect on our mood is concerned. On the other hand, for a number of Poles the beginning of spring is associated with negative feelings, such as the intensification of various health disorders and general deterioration of physical well-being. Over two fifths of respondents feel worse in spring and their health problems deteriorate, while the health of only one in four respondents improves. We, a little more frequently, feel weaker than stronger.

Women feel this kind of negative influence of spring more frequently than men. In general, however, our physical state is conditioned by the state of our health, which is directly connected with age. Spring has a very negative effect on the physical condition of older persons. The vast majority of people over 55 years of age, who often suffer from various diseases, feel a worsening of their symptoms when the weather changes, as well as generally feeling weaker at the beginning of spring. However, such changes are not rare among middle-aged persons (35-44), either. The beginning of spring makes the symptoms of various diseases (mentioned by over two fifths of respondents) worse rather than better in this age group also. Besides, almost two fifths of persons in this age group feel weaker and less energetic at the beginning of spring. Only young persons below 35 years of age, only feel the positive effects of spring. They usually do not feel worse just because of their general good health. Almost one in two persons in this group feels the influx of energy and strength at the beginning of spring.

As far as different socio-occupational groups are concerned, farmers feel the worst in spring (apart from pensioners). Half of them complain about the intensification of various health problems and the general lack of energy. On the other hand, spring is usually stimulating for students.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Hello, spring - the physical and mental condition of Poles at the beginning of spring", May'98.

In addition to the bulletins referred to above, the following have been published recently:

- "Social moods in the second half of April"
- "Political party preferences in April"
- "The attitude towards the government in April"
- "Trust in politicians in April"
- "Using medical services and informal fees"
- "Tax settlement '97"
- "The most popular women in Polish politics"
- "The evaluation of the Polish school system. Social support for the reform"
- "Opinions on the governmental project of the administrative reform"

For more information on CBOS services and publications please contact:

CBOS POLAND
4a, Żurawia, 00-503 Warsaw
Phones: (48 22) 629 35 69, 628 37 04
Fax: (48 22) 629 40 89

E-mail: sekretariat@cbos.pl

<http://www.cbos.pl>

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