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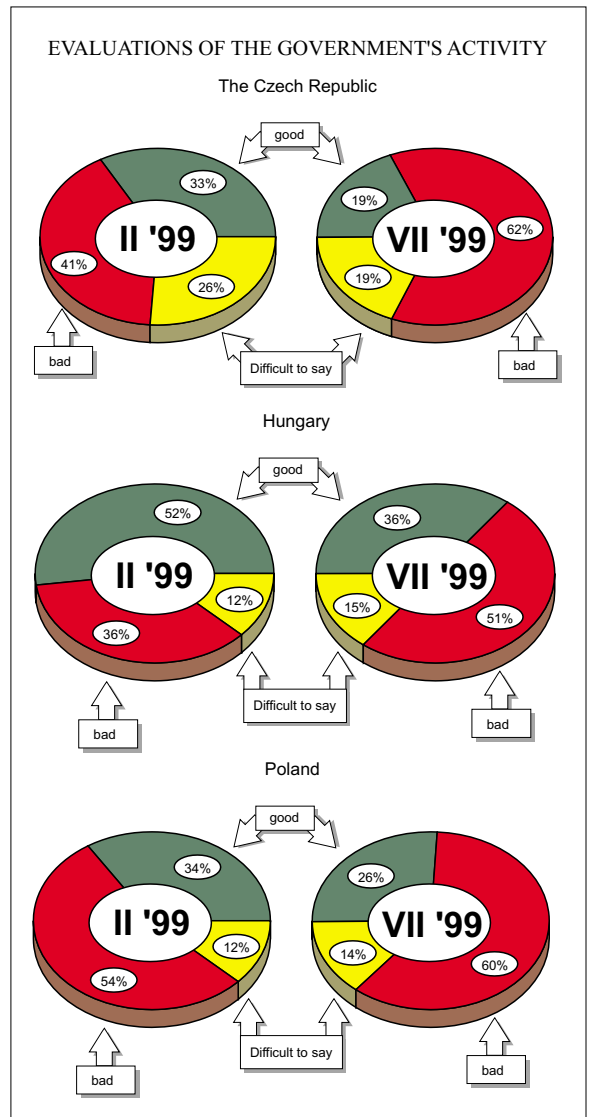
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THE CZECH, HUNGARIANS AND POLES ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THEIR COUNTRIES AND THE ACTIVITY OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS

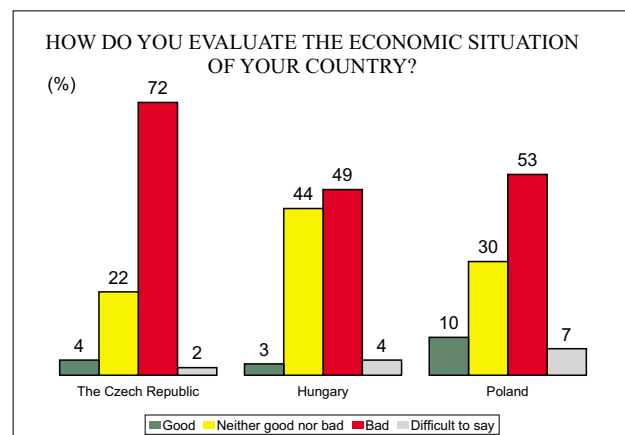
In the first six months of 1999, social opinions on the political and economic situation in Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary have become significantly worse. The societies of all these countries generally evaluate the condition of their economies negatively. The worst opinion on the economic situation of their country is expressed by the Czech. The Czech are also the greatest pessimists as far as the prospects for economic development of their country in the nearest future are concerned. At the same time, they evaluate their living conditions relatively the highest - higher than Poles or Hungarians. In view of the above it seems that social moods reflect the objective economic ratios, according to which the current rate of development of the Czech Republic is slower than that of Poland or Hungary, but the national income per capita in this country is relatively high as compared with Poland and Hungary.

The decline of opinions on the national economy is the most visible in Hungary, where the percentage of critical opinions grew by 10% in the period from February to July. It was accompanied by a very significant change for worse in the respondents' projections concerning the future of the Hungarian economy. The opinions on these matters deteriorated less among the Czech and relatively the least among Poles (the percentage of critical evaluations grew by 4% in the period from February to July).

During the first six months of 1999 government popularity also decreased rapidly in all the three countries under



discussion. During the five months from February to July the support for Milos Zeman's government in the Czech Republic decreased relatively the most. The opinions on Victor Orban's government in Hungary declined a little less, but now (unlike five months ago) the cabinet is evaluated negatively more frequently than positively. However, as compared with the governments of Poland and especially the Czech Republic, it still obtains relatively the highest evaluations.



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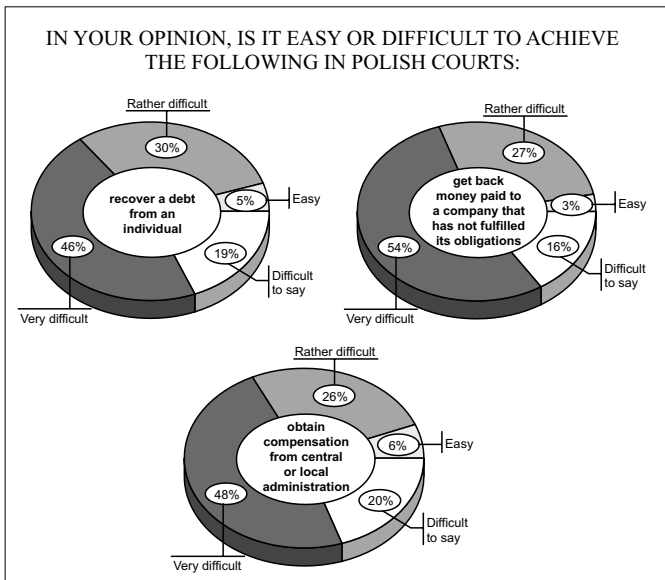
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In Poland the support for the government began to decrease a little earlier than in the Czech Republic or Hungary and it was connected with the introduction of systemic reforms and escalation of social protests based on economic grounds. The support for Jerzy Buzek's government has been falling continuously since January 1999. In August the opinions on the government have decreased considerably again. At the moment as many as 60% of Poles evaluate the work of the present government negatively, and only one in four has a positive opinion in this respect. The current evaluations of Jerzy Buzek's cabinet are very low comparing to the previous governments. No government has been evaluated so badly since 1993.

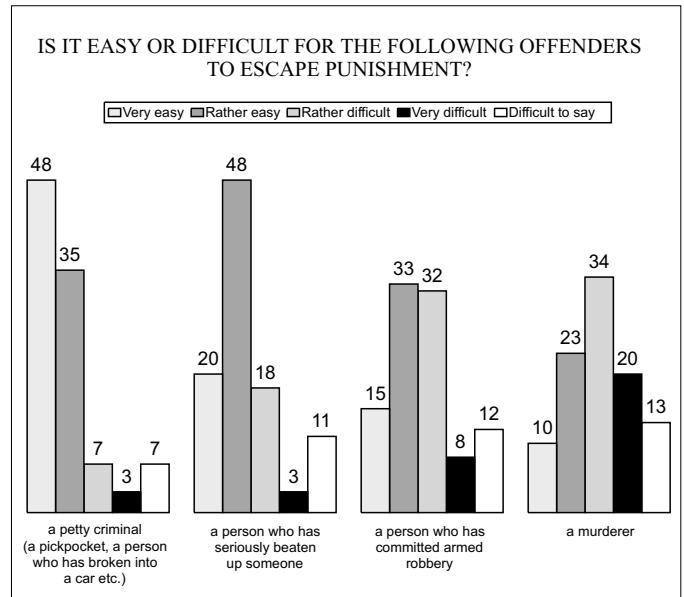
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Opinions on the economic situation, the living conditions and the activity of the government in Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary", August 1999. IVVM data for the Czech Republic and TARKI data for Hungary are disused.

OPINIONS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND FIGHTING CRIME

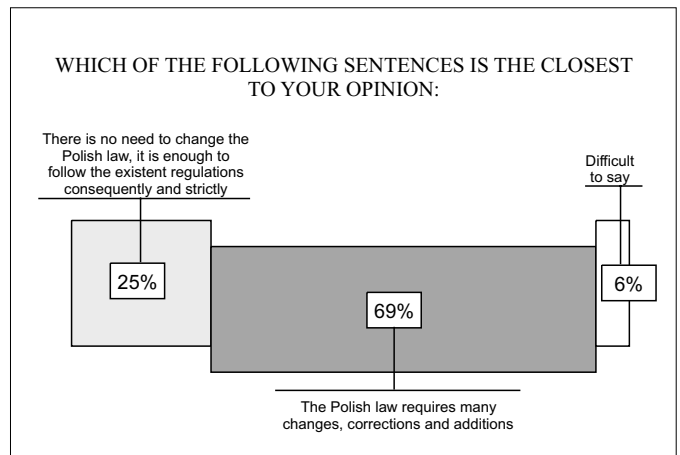
In a report prepared by experts from the European Union, which was published a few months ago, the condition of the Polish judicial system was evaluated rather negatively. The report highlighted e.g. the insufficiency of resources allocated to financing the operations of the police and the administration of justice as well as prolonged procedures before Polish courts.



For a long time almost half of our respondents have evaluated the performance of Polish courts negatively, compared to slightly less than one third of those whose opinions are positive. The conviction that it is difficult or indeed very difficult to obtain justice before a civil court is almost universal. A vast majority of respondents believe that in Poland it is difficult to recover a debt in court. In fact almost half of respondents, and in the case of dishonest companies over 50%, believe that it is very difficult.



Critical opinions prevail also with respect to criminal cases. According to respondents, the basic principle of effective administration of justice, i.e. inevitability of punishment, is not followed in Poland. Almost all respondents believe that petty criminals virtually do not fear punishment at all. (According to respondents' declarations, during the last five years over one fifth of Poles 22% - were victims of theft). On the other hand, the more serious the crime, the higher the percentage of respondents who believe that it is hard for the offender to escape justice. However, one third of respondents believe that even murderers can escape punishment rather easily.



The existing legal system and improper functioning of the administration of justice are blamed for this situation. The police and the penal prosecution system are much less blamed. In the respondents' opinion, even if they are responsible, it is a result of the insufficiency of their powers and too many limits imposed on their activity by law. The opinion that the Polish law requires many changes, corrections and additions is more popular than the view that it is enough to follow the currently valid regulations strictly and consequently. Changes in the law proposed by respondents are primarily aimed at making the regulations more rigorous, adapting then to new social and economic conditions and eliminating numerous

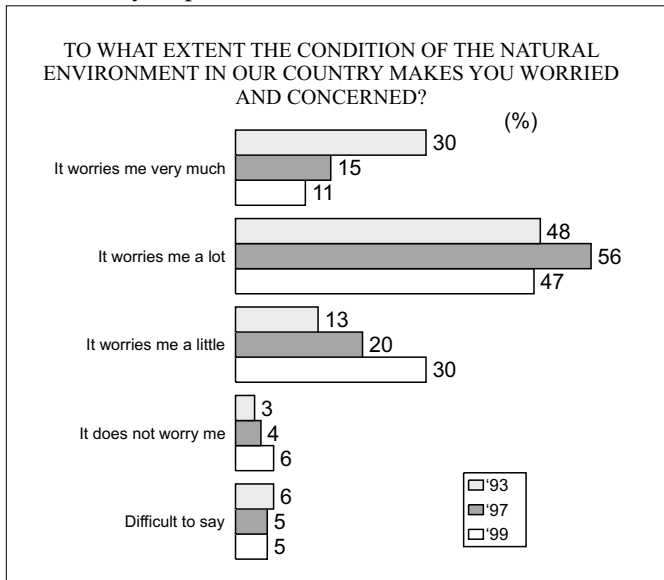
gaps in the law. As far as penal prosecution is concerned, the need for more severe sentences is stressed more frequently than the need for more efficient operation of its institutions.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Opinions on the functioning of the administration of justice and fighting crime.", August 1999.

THE CONDITION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

According to the latest data, the condition of the natural environment in Poland is to a certain extent improving, or at least its degradation is slower. It does not change the fact that the condition of the environment in our country is still alarming.

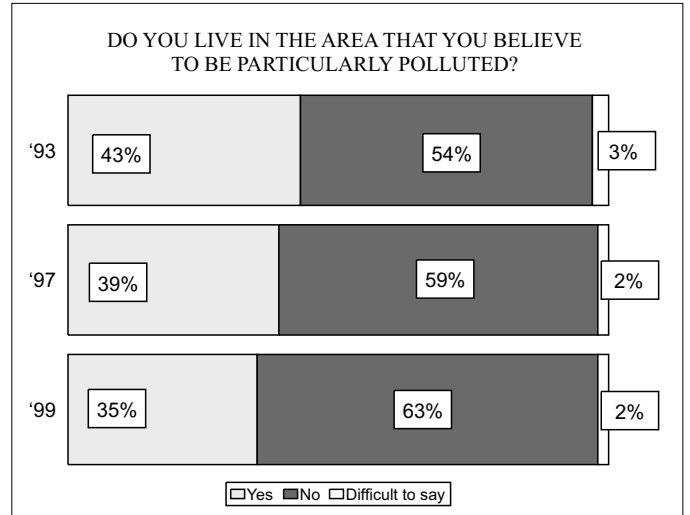
Most Poles (58%) feel anxiety connected with the condition of the environment in Poland. The number of those who do not share such concerns is relatively small (6%). As compared with the previous years, Poles are less worried about the environment, which is probably connected with an improvement in this respect observed by respondents.



The biggest source of fears is the pollution of water in rivers, lakes and other water reservoirs. Two thirds of respondents are worried about the condition of Polish waters (66%). Almost half of respondents (48%) are afraid of negative results of the destruction of forests, meadows and other green areas. Over two fifths are afraid of air pollution (43%), contamination of drinking water (42%) and heavy noise (41%). The following are also causes for concern: food contamination (46% of respondents are afraid of it) and negative effects of using cleansing agents in households (41%).

Over one third of Poles live in the environment that in their opinion is particularly polluted. Evaluations of the local environment degradation are very different, depending primarily on the size of the place and its geographical location. Almost three fifths of residents of south-western voivodships: Śląskie, Opolskie and

Dolnośląskie regard their local environment as particularly polluted. Residents of central voivodships (Mazowieckie, Łódzkie and Kujawsko-Pomorskie) evaluate the condition of the environment in the places where they live only slightly better. The same is true about the residents of Małopolskie voivodship, which is located in the South of Poland.



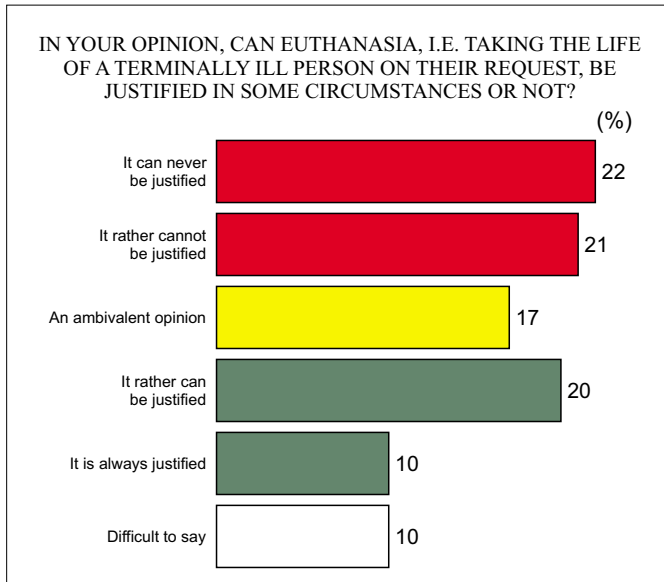
There is a strong correlation between the evaluation of environmental degradation in the area where respondents live and the extent to which they feel threatened as a result of air and drinking water pollution in their local area. It is also connected with the degree of degradation of rivers, lakes and other water reservoirs, as well as heavy noise.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Poles on threats connected with the degradation of the environment.", August 1999.

POLES ON EUTHANASIA

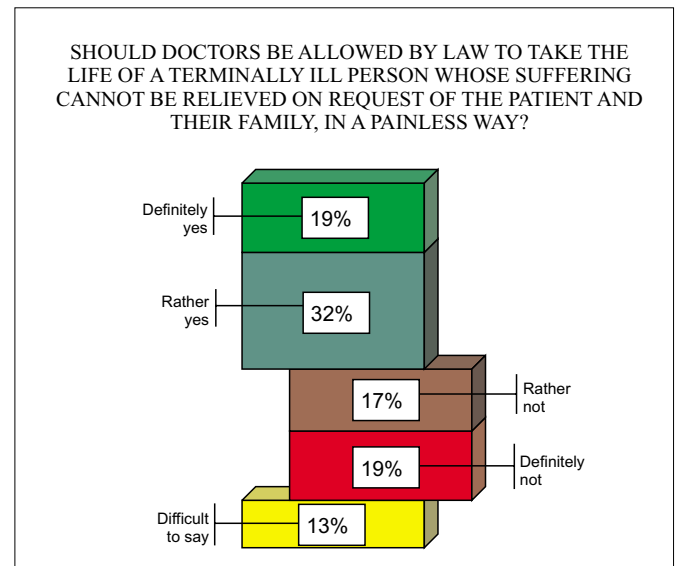
In Poland opinions on different acts that can be described as euthanasia are divided. Some of these acts raise less objections and meet with greater acceptance or understanding, while others most frequently cause disapproval and reproof. A lot depends on the way a situation is described or question asked, as the term "euthanasia" itself brings negative associations.



Half of respondents (51%) believe that doctors should be allowed by law to take the life of a terminally ill person whose suffering cannot be relieved, in a painless way and on the request of the patient or his/her family. If this question is put in this way, over one third of respondents oppose legalisation. If, however, this act is described as euthanasia, the number of persons who consider it unacceptable is bigger (43%) than the number of those who express the opposite opinion. (30%).

Asked to evaluate the behaviour of a doctor who helps terminally ill people put an end to their life (on their request), 42% of respondents expressed their approval and 40% - disapproval. The number of respondents who are

against doctors giving drugs to cause death of suffering and terminally ill patients on their request is a little bigger than the number of those who believe that doctors should do it if their patients wish so. At the same time, according to the prevalent opinion (37%), doctors should not be punished for helping their patients die. 24% of respondents share the opinion that such acts should be punished only in specific circumstances and almost the same percentage believe that doctors should be punished for such acts regardless of the circumstances.



In terminal situations most respondents approve disconnection of life-supporting equipment maintaining bodily functions in a patient with damaged brain if this person has expressed such a wish before (55%). A smaller percentage of respondents approve it when a terminally ill patient's family ask for it (49%) or if an ill person, conscious but unable to do it himself/herself, asks for it (45%). The smallest number of respondents (41%) accept leaving at a terminally ill patient's disposal drugs enabling him/her to take his/her life at any time in a painless way.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Attitudes to euthanasia.", August 1999.

In addition to the bulletins referred to above, the following have been published recently (in Polish):

- The feeling of influence on public affairs
- Workers' feelings about strike
- Relationships in the ruling coalition and demands addressed to the government
- Tax reform in the public opinion
- Perception of political parties
- Young people and adults on abortion
- Political party preferences in August
- Social moods in August
- Education reform in the public opinion
- Opinions on the performance of the police and using direct force

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