POLES ABOUT THE STABILISATION MISSION IN IRAQ

The support for the participation of Poland in the stabilisation mission in Iraq decreased by 9 percentage points during the last month (to 28%). The date of the survey probably mattered. It was conducted immediately after the first death of a Polish soldier in Iraq. Current level of support is the lowest since July 2003, i.e. since the first Polish military contingent left for Iraq. At present, as many as two-thirds of the Poles do not approve of Poland’s participation in the operation. It should be added that the support for the presence of the Polish soldiers in Iraq is relatively the biggest among the residents of the largest cities (45%) and among young people (37% of the 18-24 age group and 41% of the 25-34 age group).

At the same time, many Poles fear that the presence of the Polish soldiers in Iraq may result in terrorist attacks on Poland.

The respondents’ views on the further presence of the coalition troops in Iraq are ambiguous. Almost equal proportions of the respondents believe that the troops should remain in Iraq in the same force as now and opt for their withdrawal. At the same time, one in five respondents believe that the stabilisation forces should be reinforced. It should be added that under the present circumstances 12% of the opponents of the Polish presence in Iraq opt for reinforcement of the stabilisation forces and 25% would leave them as they are.

DO YOU AGREE WITH THE OPINION THAT POLAND MAY BECOME A TARGET OF TERRORIST ATTACKS BY MUSLIM FUNDAMENTALISTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRESENCE OF THE POLISH SOLDIERS IN IRAQ?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Difficult to say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VI 2003</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII 2003</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII 2003</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX 2003</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X 2003</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XI 2003</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DO YOU SUPPORT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE POLISH SOLDIERS IN THE OPERATION IN IRAQ OR NOT?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Difficult to say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VII 2003</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII 2003</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX 2003</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X 2003</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XI 2003</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RECENTLY IN IRAQ THERE ARE MORE AND MORE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE COALITION SOLDIERS AND CIVILIAN WORKERS OF PEACE MISSIONS. IN THIS SITUATION, SHOULD THE MEMBERS OF THE COALITION:

- withdraw their troops from Iraq (31%)
- neither reduce nor increase the number of the soldiers (33%)
- send more soldiers to Iraq to reinforce the stabilisation forces (19%)
- difficult to say (17%)
In May 2003, when the participation of Poland in the temporary administration of Iraq was announced, most Poles believed that the balance of gains and losses resulting from that operation will be positive. The views on this matter have change dramatically since then.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): „Poles about the stabilisation mission in Iraq” November 2003. A representative random sample of the adult population of Poland. N=1088.

**OPINIONS ON THE PREPARATION OF POLAND FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION MEMBERSHIP**

The support for the integration of Poland with the European Union decreased in November for the first time since the accession referendum. It is associated with the belief (shared by every other Pole) that Poland is badly prepared for the membership. Although the supporters of the integration evaluate the country’s preparation for the accession more optimistically than the opponents, criticism prevails in both groups.

---

**THE ATTITUDE TO THE INTEGRATION OF POLAND WITH THE EU**

Almost half of those who believe that Poland is badly prepared for the integration blame the government and nearly one-fifth blame the European Union for its high requirements with regard to Poland. One in three respondents believe that the decision about the integration with the European Union was premature and therefore it is the source of the problems. As far as the specific areas are concerned, the respondents are worried the most about the state of preparation of the Polish agriculture and public finances and the ability to utilise the aid funds. On the other hand, evaluations of the preparation of the Polish companies to operate in the European Union are relatively the most positive.
3

The negative evaluation of the state of preparation of Poland for the utilisation of EU funds causes fears that Poland will be a net payer to the EU budget in the first years of membership.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): „Preparation of Poland for the EU membership” November 2003. A representative random sample of the adult population of Poland. N=1088.

POLES ABOUT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The citizens of 10 new member states, including Poland, will take part in the election to the European Parliament for the first time in June 2004. However, for the time being quite many Poles are unaware of the existence of this institution.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, DOES THE EUROPEAN UNION PRESENTLY HAVE THE COMMON PARLIAMENT, INDEPENDENT ON THE PARLIAMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES?

Yes 50%
No 38%
Don’t know 12%

The knowledge of the method of electing representatives to the European Parliament is not very wide spread either, although a considerable improvement has been observed in the last six months. Anyway, the interest in the election is still not big.

ACCORDING TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE, HOW WILL THE REPRESENTATIVES TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BE ELECTED? WILL THEY:

- be appointed by the government 17%
- be appointed by the President 3%
- be elected by the members of the Polish Parliament from among themselves 21%
- be elected by all Poles in a general election 48%
- Difficult to say 25%

*Data of the Institute for Public Affairs
The level of interest in the election to the European Parliament is probably affected by the fact that this election is considered to be less important than the elections to the Polish authorities presidential, parliamentary or local.

The respondents declare that in the election to the European Parliament they would rather vote for candidates recommended by the so-called civil committees, i.e. groups of citizens, than for candidates of political parties. It should be seen as a reflection of the criticism of the situation on the Polish political scene accompanied by a dislike or even distrust towards political parties.