

IN THIS ISSUE:

- POLITICIANS OF THE YEAR, 2003
- SUPPORT FOR THE EU MEMBERSHIP AND OPINIONS ABOUT THE EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION
- PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND EVALUATION OF GLOBALISATION
- CORRUPTION, NEPOTISM, UNFAIR LOBBYING

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 46 91

Fax: (48 22) 629 40 89

E-mail: sekretariat@cbos.pl
<http://www.cbos.pl>

Editors:
Krzysztof Zagórski
and Beata Roguska

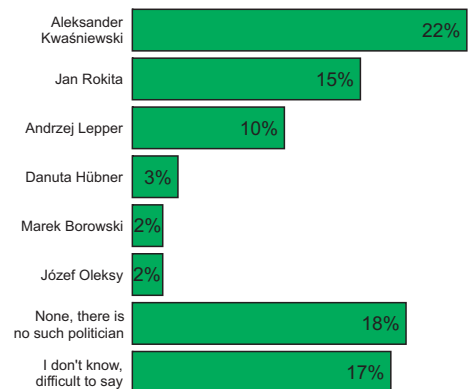
Translated by
Kinga Pawłowska

© COPYRIGHT BY CBOS 2004
ALL SOURCES MUST BE CREDITED
WHEN ANY PART OF THIS
PUBLICATION IS REPRODUCED

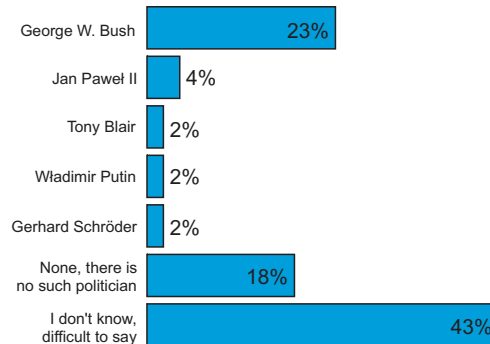
POLITICIANS OF THE YEAR, 2003

For the eighth time in a row, President Aleksander Kwaśniewski was named the Polish Politician of the Year 2003. According to the public opinion, he is the man who did the most for the country and for the society. The second place was taken by Jan Rokita from the Civil Platform (15%), who is regarded as the most active member of the parliamentary investigation commission examining the so-called Rywingate. The third was Andrzej Lepper (10%), the leader of the Self-Defence, a party often described as populist. 3% of the Poles voted for Minister Danuta Hübner, appreciating her contribution to the negotiations between Poland and the EU.

IN YOUR OPINION, WHICH OF THE POLISH POLITICIANS DESERVES THE TITLE OF THE POLITICIAN OF THE YEAR 2003



WHICH OF THE FOREIGN POLITICIANS ACTING ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE DESERVES THE TITLE OF THE POLITICIAN OF THE YEAR 2003?

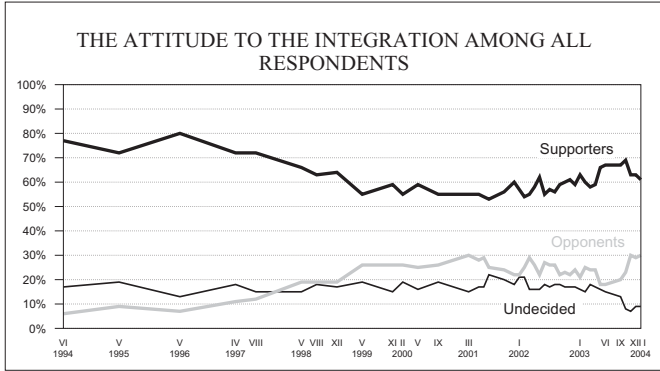


As a year ago, the President of the United States George W. Bush was named the Politician of the Year in the world (23%). The Pope John Paul II took the second place with a much smaller number of votes (4%), followed by the British Prime Minister Tony Blair, the President of Russia Vladimir Putin and the German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder (2% each). It should be noted that the respondents mentioned the names of the politicians spontaneously instead of selecting them from a list. Therefore, a significant proportion of the respondents probably did not consider the Pope a politician.

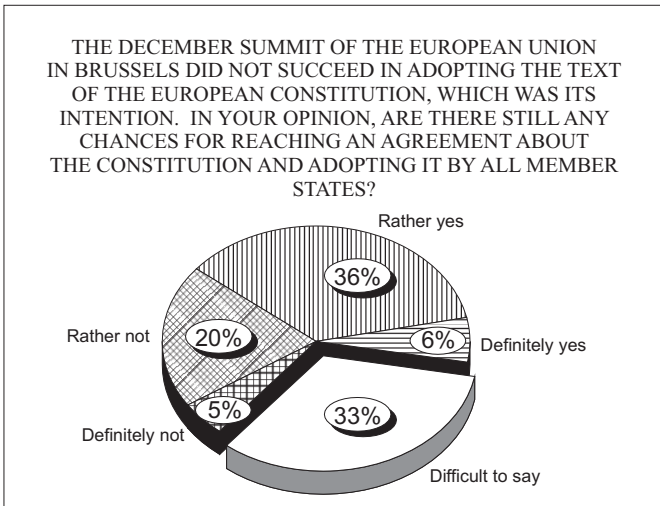
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish) „Politician of the Year 2003 in Poland and in the world”, January 2004. Survey executed in January 2004. A representative random sample of the adult population of Poland. N = 1057

SUPPORT FOR THE EU MEMBERSHIP AND OPINIONS ABOUT THE EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION

The support of the Poles for the membership of Poland in the European Union decreased slightly in January. At present, 61% of the respondents are the supporters of the integration and 30% are the opponents. Although the declarations concerning this issue have changed only slightly since last December, looking from a few months' perspective one can notice a decrease of support for the Accession of Poland to the European Union. At the same time, the number of opponents has grown.



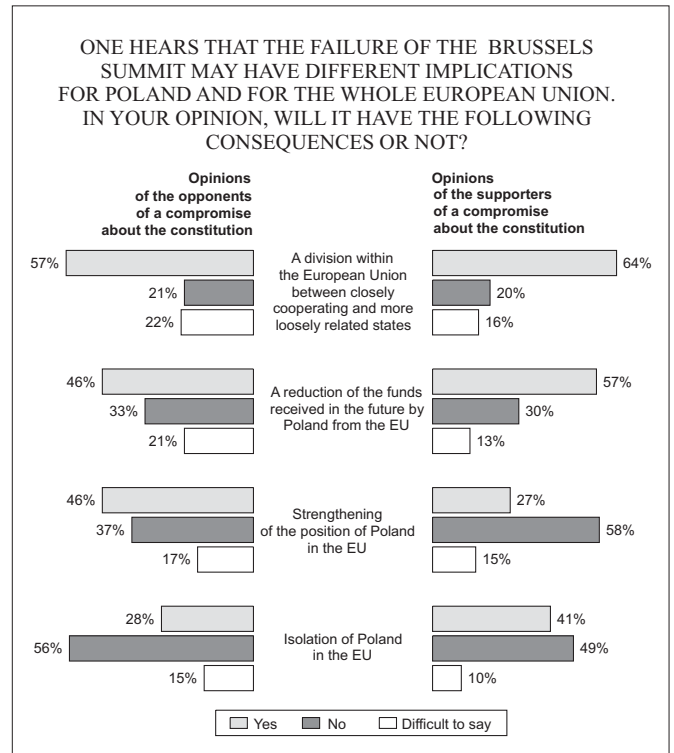
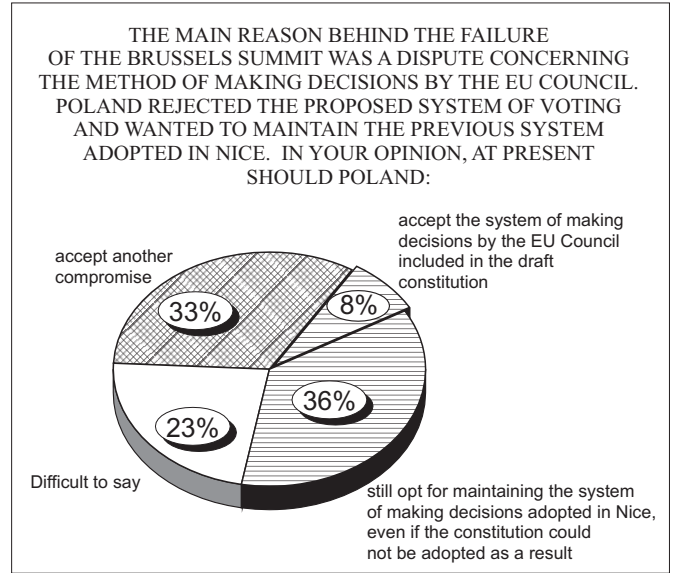
Before the EU summit in Brussels, most Poles were sceptical about the possibility of reaching an agreement about the text of the European constitution. As we now know, this scepticism was quite justified. The respondents believe now that there are still chances for reaching an agreement, although so far the talks have not been successful.



The opinion is divided as to how Poland should act after the failure of the Brussels summit. Now the climate is more favourable towards reaching a compromise concerning the method of voting in the EU Council of Ministers than before the Brussels conference. However, the largest proportion of the respondents (36%) still support the view that the Nice system of voting should be maintained. Every third respondent (33%) is for a compromise, whereas one in thirteen (8%) opt for adopting the system of voting as defined in the draft constitution.

After the end of the Brussels summit, there were numerous commentaries and analyses concerning the expected implications of a lack of understanding with regard to the European constitution for Poland and for the whole European Union. According to the public opinion, the most probable result of a lack of understanding about The European constitution could be a division of the European Union into states that closely cooperate with each other and others, more loosely related (half of the

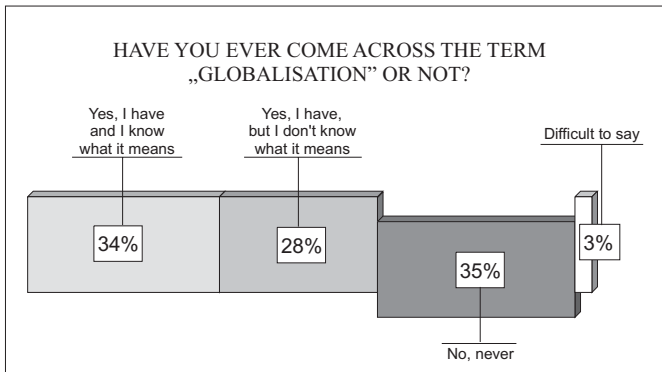
Poles expect so). A large proportion of the respondents (43%) believe that, as a consequence of the Brussels summit failure, Poland will receive less money from the EU in the future. As for as the firm position of Poland with regard to the system of voting in the EU Council, the respondents believe that it will neither strengthen the position of Poland in the EU nor cause isolation of our country in Europe.



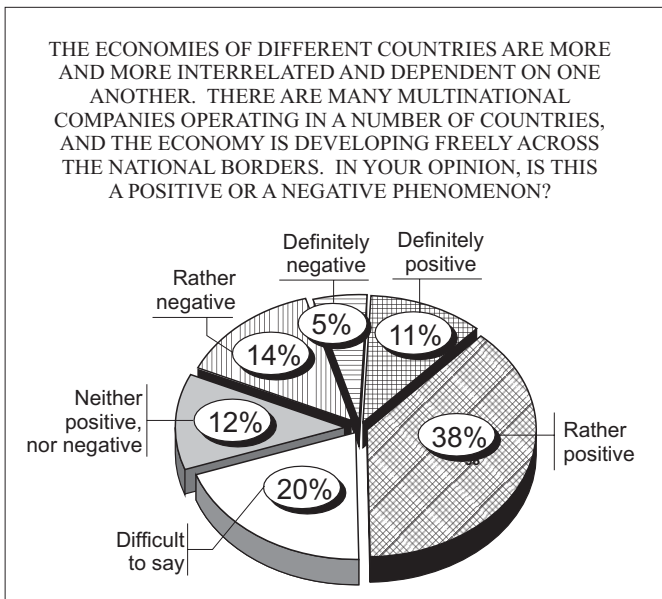
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish) „Support for the membership in the EU, opinions about the European constitution and the consequences of the Brussels summit failure”, January 2004. Survey executed in January 2004. A representative random sample of the adult population of Poland. N=1057

PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND EVALUATION OF GLOBALISATION

The issue of globalisation has been widely discussed over the last years. It interests not only the economists and sociologists, but also journalists. The concept of globalisation has made quite a career in the media, becoming one of the key categories used to describe and explain the processes taking place in the contemporary world. Most Poles (62%) declare that they have come across this term, although only a third (34%) admit that they know what it means.



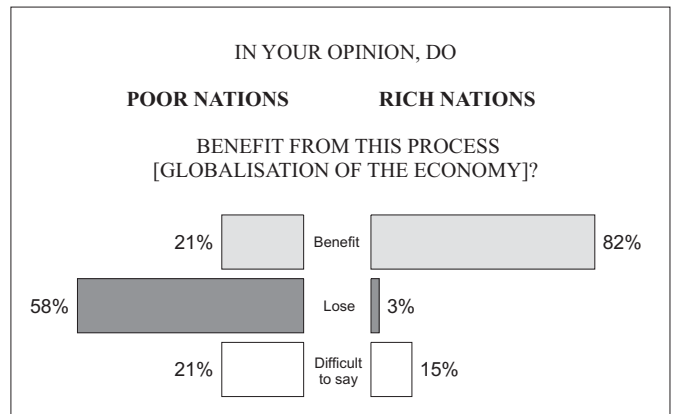
The persons who declare that they understand the term „globalisation” usually associate it with the processes taking place in the economy in general (53%): mainly with the formation of the global economic community (29%), the process of capital concentration, i.e. mergers of companies and operation of multinational companies (13%), and economic freedom and the free market (9%).



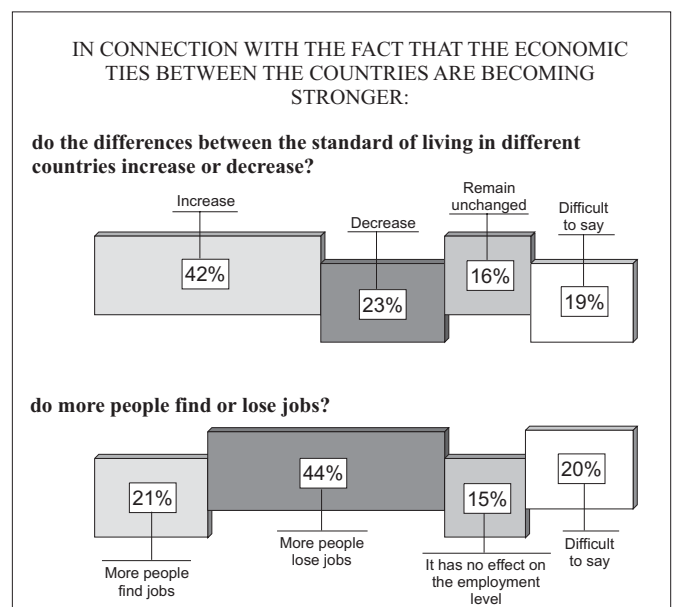
The attitude of almost half of the respondents (49%) to growing ties and economic dependencies

between the countries as well as to the development of multinational companies is positive. Less than one-fifth of the respondents (19%) expressed a negative opinion about this process. At the same time, some respondents (12%) said that globalisation of the economy cannot be evaluated this way.

Although, according to the public opinion, globalisation of the economy is a positive rather than a negative phenomenon, the opinions about the perceived consequences of this process are divided. Most respondents believe that the rich nations benefit from growing economic dependencies between the countries, whereas the poor nations lose.



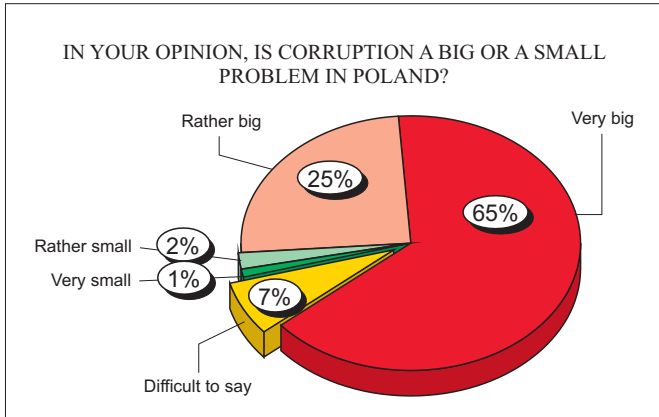
Moreover, it is quite commonly believed that globalisation of the economy enhances the inequalities in the standard of living between different countries (which is a logical consequence of the belief that only rich nations benefit from it) and contributes to the increase of unemployment.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish) „Public understanding and evaluations of globalisation”, January 2004. Survey executed in November 2003. A representative random sample of the adult population of Poland. N=1088

CORRUPTION, NEPOTISM, UNFAIR LOBBYING

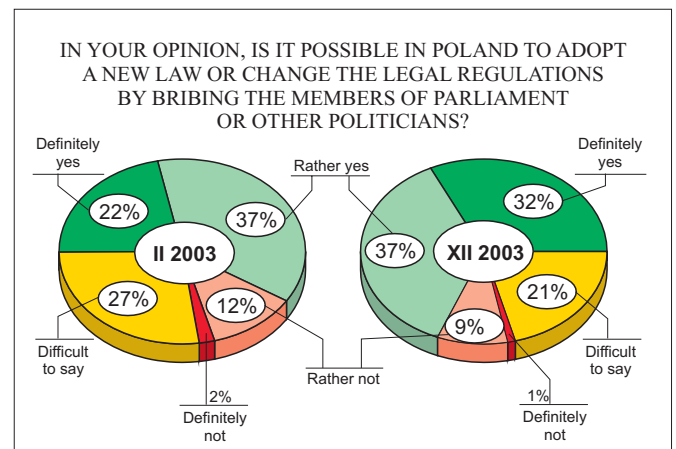
The Poles have considered corruption as an important social problem since the early 1990s, but today it seems even more important than at the early stages of the transformation. At present, about two-thirds of the respondents (65%) believe that corruption is a very big problem in Poland and a quarter describe this problem as „rather big” (25%). Few respondents (3%) do not regard this problem as important.



A definite majority of the Poles believe that high state officials and politicians often accept bribes in exchange for their help (84%), promote their family and friends, e.g. help them win contracts for the provision of goods and services to the public sector (81%) and find positions for them in public institutions, companies, banks etc. (87%). Nearly three quarters of the Poles (74%) believe that politicians and high state officials frequently use public funds for the needs of their political

parties. During ten months from February to December 2003, the percentage of the respondents suspecting the party elites of such unfair practices grew by 7 percentage points. Over three quarters of the respondents (78%) believe that the politicians and officials often give in to the pressure from business people, companies, occupational or social groups when it comes to signing contracts and selecting providers of goods and services to the public sector.

Over two-thirds of the respondents (69%) believe that it is possible to adopt a new law or change the regulations for money in Poland. Only one in ten respondents (10%) consider it impossible. The proportion of the Poles convinced that such unfair practices do occur has increased by 10 percentage points over ten months.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish) „Corruption, nepotism, unfair lobbying”, January 2004. Survey executed in December 2003. A representative random sample of the adult population of Poland. N=1000.

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

- ◆ Opinions about health care
- ◆ The Sejm, the Senate and the President in the public opinion
- ◆ In the circle of family and friends
- ◆ Decrease in perceived representativeness of political parties
- ◆ Political party preferences in January
- ◆ Social moods in January
- ◆ Situation on the job market and the perceived threat of unemployment in January
- ◆ Opinions about the conflict between physicians and the National Healthcare Fund
- ◆ The attitude to the government and the Prime Minister
- ◆ The Sejm of the 4th term two years since the beginning of its term
- ◆ The event of the year 2003 in Poland and in the world
- ◆ Financial aspects of the last Christmas - Christmas bonuses and expenses
- ◆ Psychological well-being of Poles

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

Yearly subscription rate for “Polish Public Opinion” is 80 USD

Circulation: 210 copies

CBOS expertise in providing professional, accurate and timely research studies has made us the leading authority in political, social and consumer research in Poland.