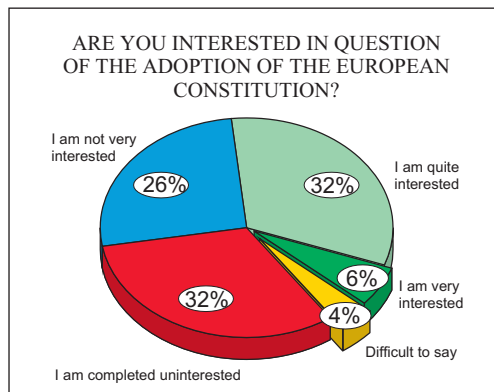
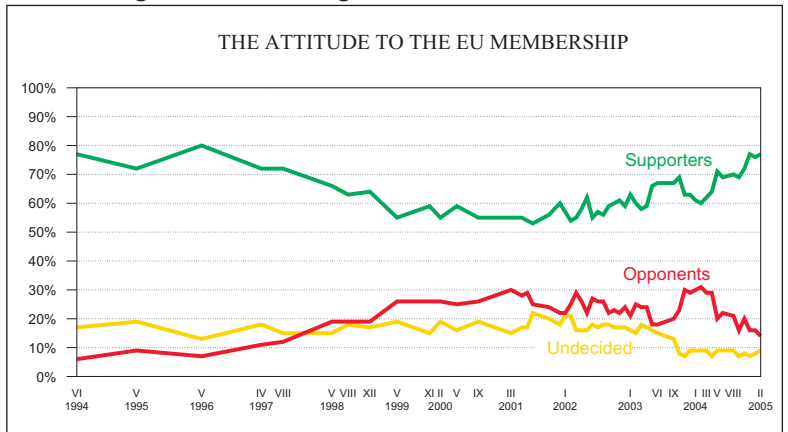


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- FOREIGN CAPITAL IN THE POLISH ECONOMY
- VIOLENCE AND CONFLICTS AT HOME

## THE REFERENDUM ON THE EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION

The accession of Poland to the European Union has strengthened the support for Poland's membership in this organization among the Poles. Nine months after the accession, a definite majority of the Poles (77%) were supporters the EU membership. Currently only 14% of the respondents (a drop of 2 percentage points compared with the last months of 2004) oppose the membership of Poland in the European Union.



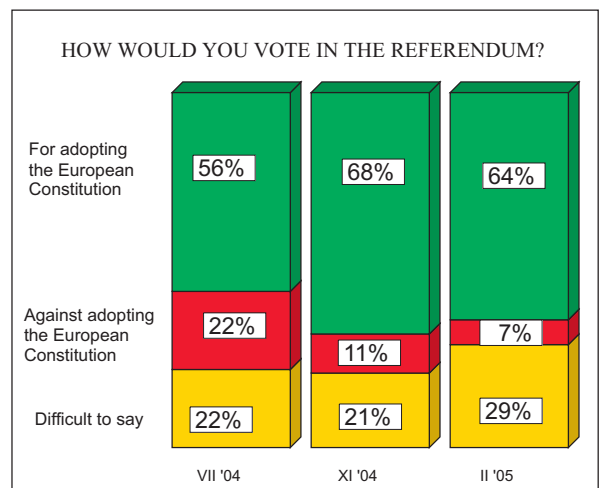
This is the lowest figure since August 1997, when only 12% of the Poles rejected the idea of the accession. The support for Poland's membership in the European Union clearly prevails in all social groups. Among the farmers, it has reached the highest level since the accession (72%).

The Members States must ratify the Constitution Treaty for Europe by the end of October 2006. The Poles will probably vote on the European Constitution in the nationwide referendum. One of the basic factors affecting the level of participation in the European

Constitution referendum is the interest in its outcome. For the time being, the level of such interest is quite low - below two-fifths of the Poles (38%) declare some interest, including 6% describing their interest as big.

At present, slightly more respondents than in November 2004 declare participation in the referendum on the adoption of the Constitution Treaty for Europe. Two-thirds of the Poles (66%) are going to vote, however, only just over two-fifths (the same proportion as three months ago) are sure that they will vote.

No significant changes in the declarations concerning the voting decisions in the European Constitution referendum were recorded during the last three months. A slight decrease in the support for the Constitution is



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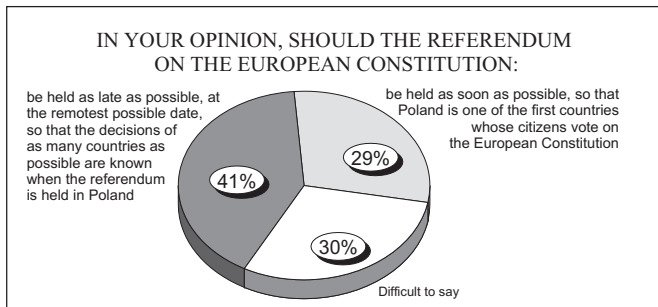
Translated by  
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accompanied by a decrease in the percentage of the respondents who are going to vote against it and a rise of undecided. Almost two-thirds of the potential voters (64%) are going to vote for the Constitution and only 7% are going to vote against it.

The date of the Polish referendum on the European Constitution has not been set yet. Some politicians suggest that it should be held this year and combined with the presidential or parliamentary election, or both. Others opt for a later date of the referendum and are against combining it with another voting. The Poles' express quite ambiguous opinions on the best date of the referendum. Many people like the idea of combining the referendum with another voting (ideally, with both the parliamentary and the presidential elections). Its supporters (41%) slightly outnumber those who prefer the referendum to be held separately (37%). On the other hand, for tactical reasons, the Poles would like to know the decisions of the other states before voting. From this point of view, the more distant the day of the referendum the better.



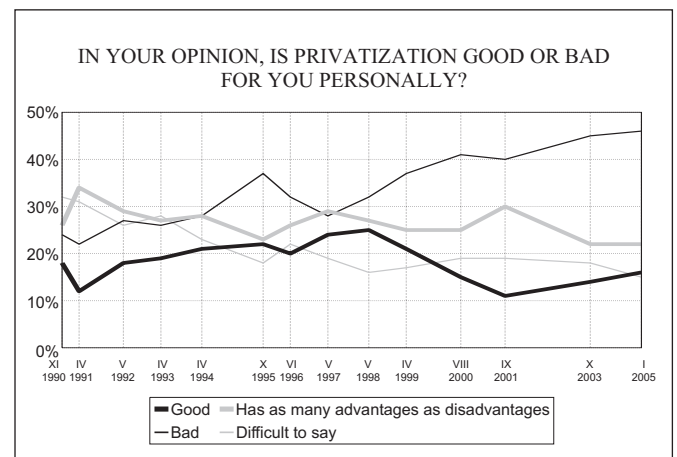
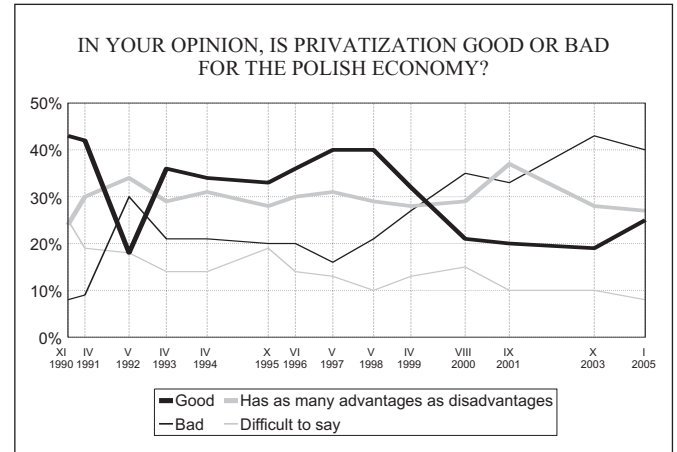
More information about this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *About the referendum on the European Constitution*, February 2005. Survey executed in February 2005. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1070.

## EVALUATION OF PRIVATIZATION

During almost the whole decade of the nineties (except in 1992), the positive evaluations of the process of privatization of the Polish economy almost invariably outnumbered negative ones. At the beginning of the present decade, this trend reversed and critical evaluations of the ownership transformation started to prevail. After a few years of deteriorating opinions about privatization in Poland, its evaluations improved somewhat in 2005. However, the opinion that privatization is bad for the country's economy still prevails (40%) and only one in four respondents (25%) notice any economic advantages of the ownership transformation process.

During the last year (from October 2003 to January 2005) the Poles' opinions about the effect of privatization on their personal situation did not change significantly. Almost half of the respondents (46%) believe that privatization has had a negative effect on

their personal situation, whereas approximately one in six (16%) express the opposite opinion. In the period of fast economic growth and good social moods (the years 1995-1999), sometimes as many as a quarter of all respondents believed that privatization had a positive effect on their personal situation.



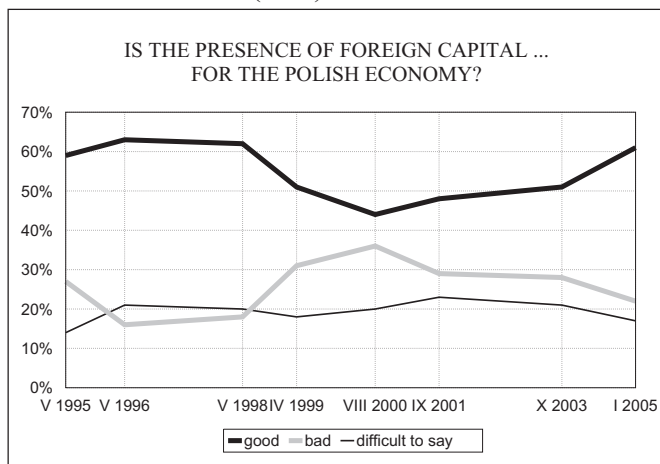
The opinions about which social groups gain and which lose as a result of privatization have not changed in time. The survey suggests that privatization is seen as a process which benefits few privileged social groups only. According to the respondents, privatization benefits in the first place dishonest people, fraudsters (44%), government officials participating in the privatization process (42%) and foreign capital (40%). The managers of the privatized enterprises are also quite frequently seen as beneficiaries of the ownership transformation process (32%).

Public opinion sees the citizens as the main losers in the process of privatization (71%). The opinion that privatization has negative implications for most Poles has recently gained support. Privatization is also seen as harmful for the Polish economy (45%) and for the employees of the privatized enterprises (44%).

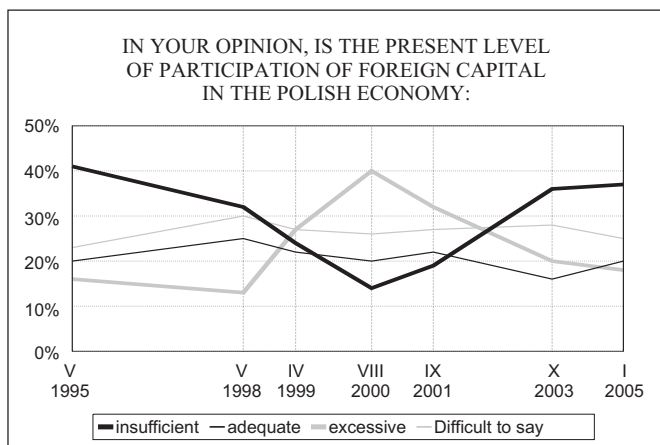
More information about this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Opinions about privatization*, February 2005. Survey executed in January 2005. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1089.

## FOREIGN CAPITAL IN THE POLISH ECONOMY

After quite a significant decrease in the level of acceptance of the presence of foreign capital in the Polish economy in the late 1990s and at the beginning of the present decade, the climate for foreign investment has recently started to improve quite significantly. In recent years, the proportion of the Poles who can see the advantages of the presence of foreign capital in Poland has been growing considerably. Today 66% of the respondents believe that it is good for the Polish economy (10 percentage points more than in October 2003 and 17 percentage points more than in August 2000). Slightly more than one in five (22%) believe otherwise.

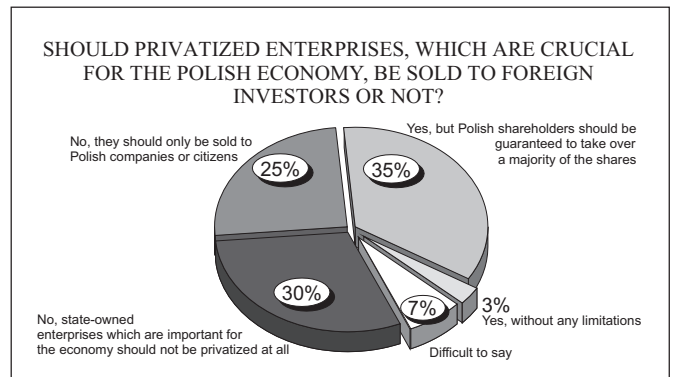


In recent years, more and more people believe that the participation of foreign capital in the Polish economy is insufficient. In September 2001, those who described the participation of foreign capital in the Polish economy as too big (32%) outnumbered those who expressed the opposite opinion (19%), whereas today the proportions have reversed. Almost two-fifths of the respondents (37%) believe that foreign investment is insufficient, compared to below one-fifth (18%) of those who believe otherwise.



Although the Poles see the demand for foreign capital, they are at the same time afraid that it might take

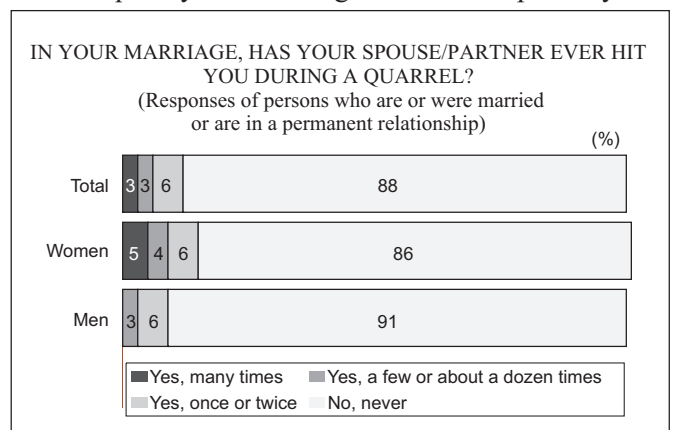
over control over the enterprises crucial for the Polish economy. Very few respondents believe that foreign investors should be allowed to buy such enterprises without any limitations. Such enterprises can be sold, but Polish shareholders should have a guaranteed majority. Some respondents believe that only Polish investors should be allowed to buy enterprises which are crucial for the country's economy. Nearly a third of the respondents are totally against privatization of such enterprises.



More information about this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *About foreign capital in the Polish economy*, February 2005. Survey executed in January 2005. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1089.

## VIOLENCE AND CONFLICTS AT HOME

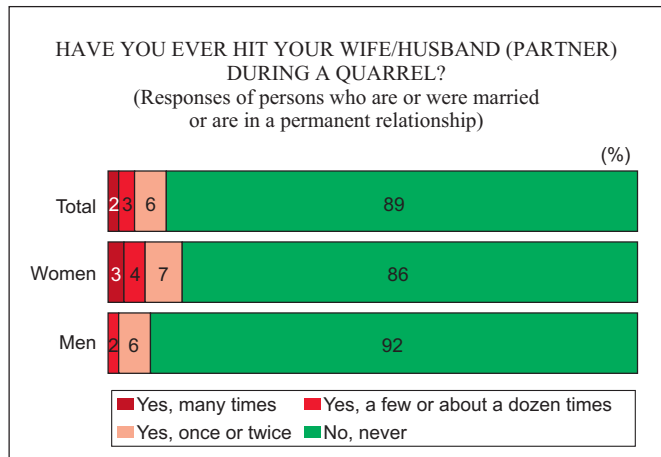
Over a third of the respondents (37%) know at least one woman who is a victim of her partner's violence. Over two-fifths of women (41%) and almost a third of men (31%) declare knowing such a woman. Personal experience of violence in the family is much more difficult to trace. Some of such cases may be concealed by the respondents who find them embarrassing. More or less one in eight Poles (12%) claim that they have been hit by their spouse (partner) during a quarrel at least once. Half of this group were victims of aggression at least a few times. Women declare being victims of their spouses' (partners') violence more frequently than men. They also more frequently claim having been beaten repeatedly.



There are striking differences between divorced persons and others. Most divorced respondents (61%) declare that they were beaten by their partners.

Married people (9%) declare that they have been victims of violence less frequently than those living in informal relationships (16%) or widows and widowers (15%).

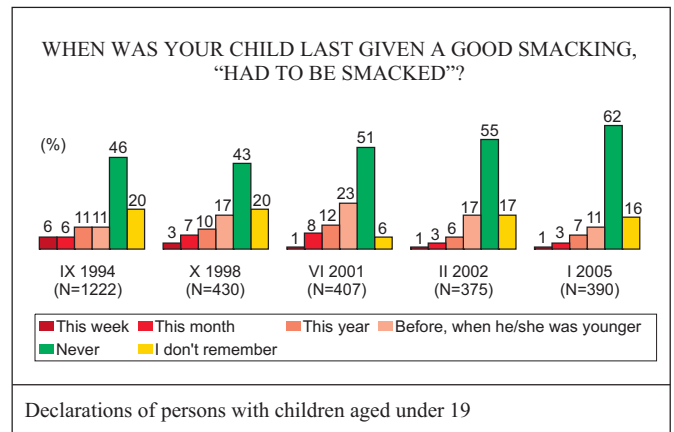
More or less one in nine Poles (11%) who have ever been in a permanent relationship admit that they have hit their wife, husband or partner at least once. Women declare having hit their partner slightly more frequently than men.



Violence between partners is usually mutual, i.e. those who admit to having hit their partner have usually also been victims, and most victims of violence have used violence themselves, too. More than half of the respondents who have been victims (59%) admit to their own acts of aggression.

Generally, slightly more than a fifth of parents with children under the age of 19 (22%) admit that they hit or used to hit them sometimes. It usually took place a long time ago. Almost two-thirds of the parents (62%)

claim that their children have never been beaten. It should be noted that a large group of the respondents do not remember such situations (16%). At least some of them might be unwilling to admit to using such punishment. The proportion of parents who admit to beating their children from time to time decreased significantly during the last five years (from 37% in 1998 to 22% now). It is impossible to estimate on the basis of the available data, to what extent this change is due to the changing methods of childcare and to what extent it is due to growing prudence in declarations. Nevertheless, the social climate around using corporal punishment seems to be changing nowadays in Poland. The Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Status of Women and Men has prepared a draft law on preventing violence in the family, which bans punishments violating a child's dignity. All those changes in the law and custom must have had an effect at least on the social awareness, and probably on behavior as well.



More information about this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Violence and conflicts at home*, February 2005. Survey executed in January 2005. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1089.

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

- ◆ Snapshots from the lives of the Poles in the last year
- ◆ Opinions about the work of the Sejm committee investigating the Orlen affair
- ◆ Resolutions and plans for the year 2005
- ◆ Support for different political parties - reliability of voters' decisions, voting alternatives and negative electorates
- ◆ Political party preferences in February
- ◆ Love actually is all around... Will the Poles celebrate St Valentine's Day?
- ◆ The year 2005 - hopes and fears
- ◆ Social moods in February
- ◆ The Poles about the Institute of National Remembrance, Wildstein's list and the files of the communist security forces
- ◆ The attitude to the government in February
- ◆ Opinions about the work of public institutions
- ◆ Opinions about the job market and the threat of unemployment in February
- ◆ Abortion, sexual education, in vitro fertilisation
- ◆ The attitude to the politicians in February

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