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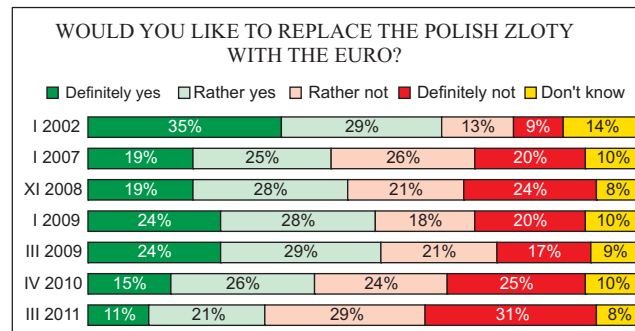
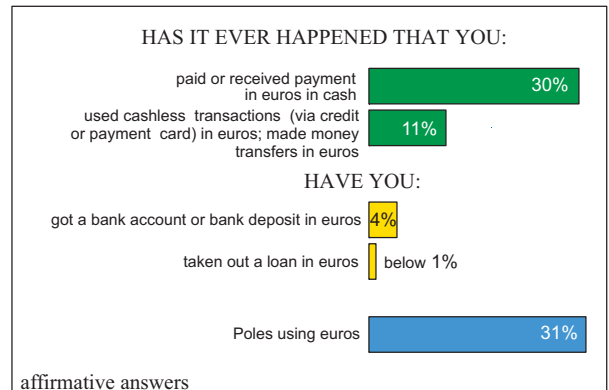
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## THE INTRODUCTION OF THE EURO IN POLAND

The prospect of joining the eurozone has become rather more distant over the last two years. The date of introducing the euro in Poland is not only remote but also not precise. According to the Ministry of Finance, it is expected that the euro will be introduced between 2020 and 2021. On joining the European Union, Poland agreed to ultimately introduce a common currency and this goal is still high on the Government's agenda. In order to achieve it, the Government

wants to limit public debt and reduce budget deficit. Moreover, Poland has joined the Euro Plus Pact with the aim of strengthening the country's position and credibility in the European Union. Countries that signed the Pact are to cooperate more closely with each other in terms of economic policy in order to raise the competitiveness of their respective economies.

All in all, a third of adult Poles (31%) have used the euro. Most of them (30%) declare they paid or received payment in this currency in cash. One in nine (11%) say they used cashless transactions in euros and 4% claim they have a bank account or deposit in this currency. Only a few respondents declare (less than 1%) they took out a loan in euros.



The euro is used prevalently by the young: 46% of people aged 18 to 24 and 50% of people between 25 and 34 years of age use this currency. Euro users come from cities with more than half a million inhabitants (46%) and they are mainly well educated and well earning people (57% of respondents with higher education and 54% of people with a monthly

income of over 1500 zloty per head). In terms of social and professional groups, euro users belong to the management and intelligentsia (55%) and entrepreneurs (60% use the euro).

In 2002, nearly two thirds of Poles (64%) said that they supported substituting the Polish zloty with the euro. At that time, Poland was not yet a member of the European Union and most of the countries of the first fifteen member states of the European Union had already introduced the euro. However, after the accession to the EU, the support for joining the eurozone visibly fell. Between 2007 and 2008 the percentage of supporters and opponents was comparable. In the first quarter of 2009, after Slovakia joined the eurozone and when Poland was debating whether it was possible and sensible to introduce this currency, the support for substituting the Polish zloty with the euro increased up to 52% - 53%. As the economic crisis was growing in the world, the euro could have been perceived at that time as a more stable currency than the zloty, providing greater economic and financial security. In the last two years, the support for introducing the euro in Poland has been falling. Presently, only a third of Poles would like to join the eurozone (32% - a 9 point fall in

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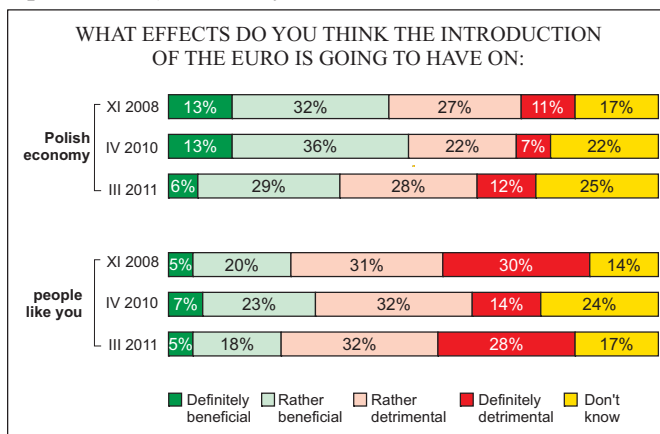
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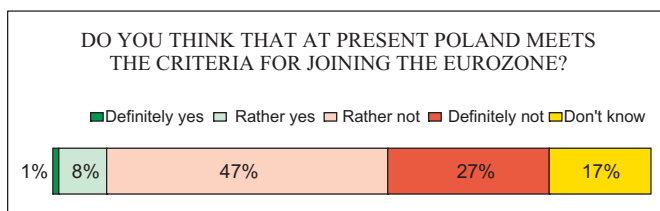
comparison to April 2010 and a 21 point fall in comparison to March 2009) and 60% are against it (an 11 point rise in comparison to a year ago and 22 point increase in comparison to 2009).

In the last year, people have started to perceive the potential consequences of joining the eurozone definitely less positively. Poles are increasingly anxious about the effects that the introduction of this currency might have on the economy. Presently, only slightly more than a third of adult Poles believe (35% - a 14 point fall since last year) that our country will benefit from joining the eurozone. The prevailing opinion is that the introduction of the euro will have detrimental effects (40% - an 11 point increase in comparison to April 2010).

Since last year, fears about the negative effects of introducing the euro for an average Pole have grown. The majority of respondents believe (60% - a 14 point increase in comparison to last year) that they will lose after introducing the euro and only 23% of respondents (a 7 percent fall) think they will benefit from it.



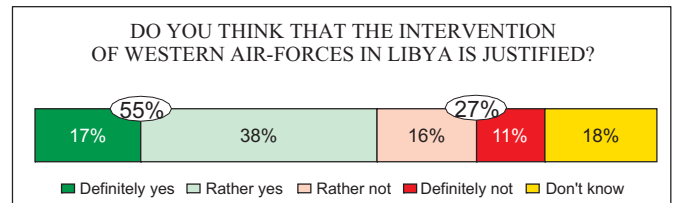
At present, Poland does not meet the criteria specified in the Maastricht Treaty for joining the eurozone. The most serious problem at the moment is the lack of stability in public finances which resulted in triggering the excessive deficit procedure with regard to Poland. According to the EU recommendations, Poland should limit its excessive deficit in public finances by the end of 2012 to 3% of GDP. The majority of Poles (74%) are aware that Poland does not meet the criteria for joining the eurozone. Only 9% think that the country is ready for introducing the euro.



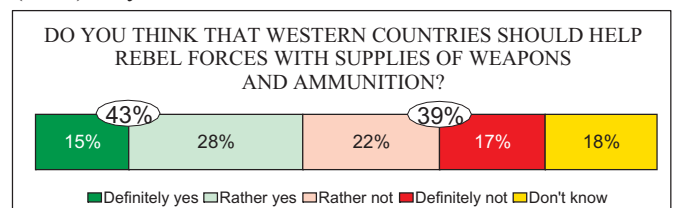
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: „*The introduction of the euro in Poland*”, April 2011. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2011, N=950. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

## OPINIONS ABOUT THE SITUATION IN LIBYA

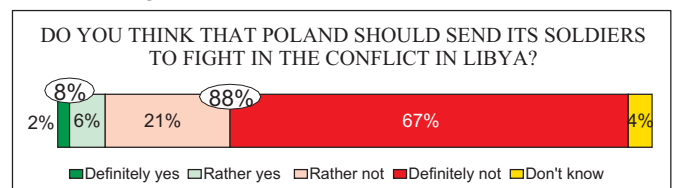
Over half of respondents (55%) believe that the intervention of western air-forces in Libya was justified and helped to stop the bloodshed of civilians committed by Libya's army. More than a quarter say (27%) that the intervention in Libya was not necessary.



Poles are divided as to whether western countries should become more involved in the conflict, e.g. by providing the rebel forces with weapons and ammunition. Slightly more than two fifths of respondents (43%) believe that western countries should provide weapons and ammunition to the rebels fighting Muammar Gaddafi's regime and somewhat fewer people think (39%) they should not do it.



The vast majority of respondents (88%) are against sending Polish troops to Libya. Only a few think (8%) that if it were necessary, Poland should send its soldier to fight in the conflict.



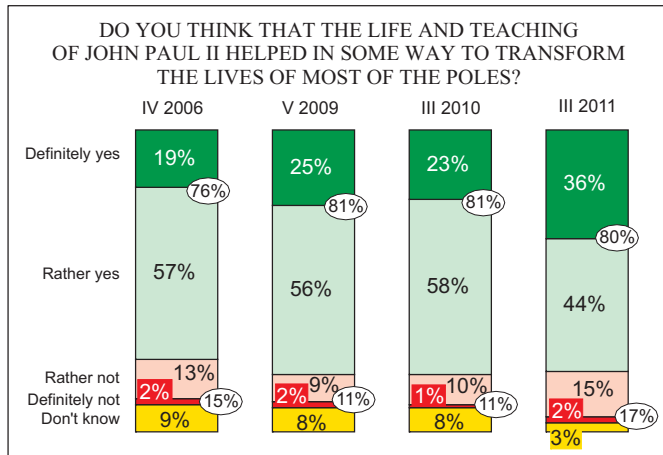
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: „*Opinions about the situation in Libya*”, April 2011. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2011, N=1192. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

## THE BEATIFICATION OF JOHN PAUL II

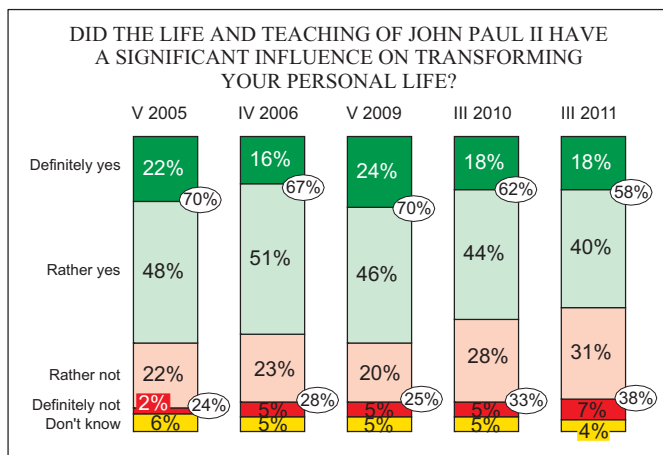
Six years passed this April since the death of John Paul II and on 1 May 2011 the Catholic Church beatified the late Pope.

Despite the passing years, opinions about the Pope's influence on the events in Poland have not

changed much. Four out of five respondents (80%) believe that John Paul II helped to transform the lives of most of the Poles. This view is as frequent among respondents today as over the last two years and slightly more frequent (a 4 point increase) than in 2006 - a year after the death of the Pope. At the same time, the percentage of people who do not connect changes in the lives of Poles with the teaching of John Paul II has increased recently (17% - a 6 point increase since last year).



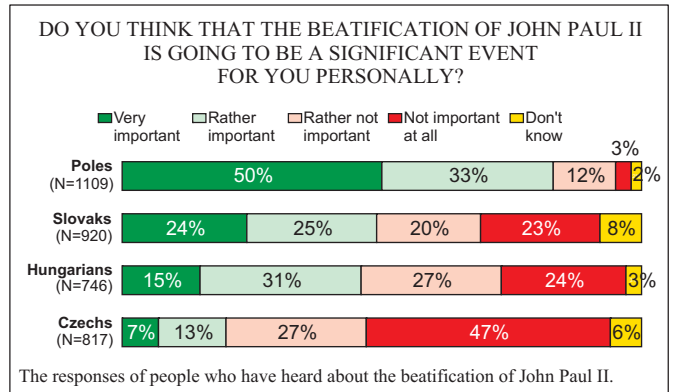
The conviction expressed by the respondents that the Pope's teaching had an impact on most people's lives and the belief that this teaching influenced their own lives are connected. However, the latter opinion is less frequent and more likely to change as time passes. The conviction that the example of life and the teaching of John Paul II had a significant influence on respondents' personal lives is shared by nearly three out of five Poles (58%). This is 4 points less than a year ago and 12 points less than two years ago when this figure first started to fall.



It is treated as an evidence of somebody's sanctity if people pray to this person, e.g. to ask for intercession with God. Over half of respondents (55%) turned to John Paul II in their prayers to ask the Pope's intercession without waiting for him to be beatified.



The beatification of John Paul II has been perceived by a definite majority of Poles (83%) as personally important. This event is visibly less meaningful for inhabitants of other Central and Eastern European countries. Less than half of Slovaks (49%) and Hungarians (46%) and a fifth of the Czechs (20%) see the beatification of John Paul II as significant for them personally.



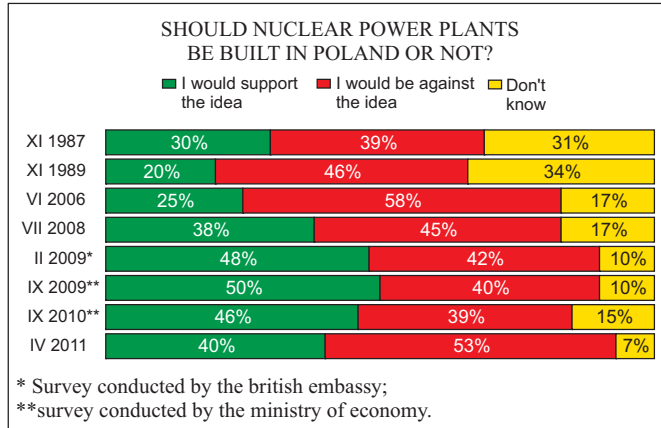
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: „Waiting for the beatification of John Paul II” and „The Poles, Slovaks, Czechs and Hungarians about the beatification of John Paul II”, April 2011. Fieldwork for national sample in Poland (by CBOS): March 2011, N=1109, in the Czech Republic (by CVVM Sociological Institute): April 2011, N=929, in Slovakia (by FOCUS): April 2011, N=1017 and in Hungary (by TARKI): March 2011, N=1012.

## NUCLEAR ENERGY IN POLAND

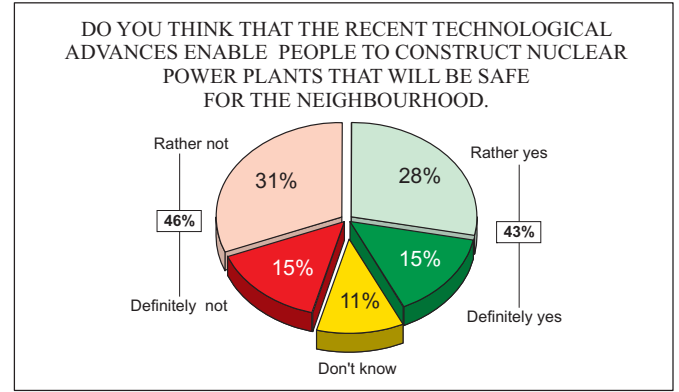
According to the Government's plan, by 2020 the construction of the first nuclear power plant in Poland will have been completed. While discussion was going on in the country as to its location, on 11 March a violent earthquake hit Japan. The quakes and the tsunami triggered by them damaged the cooling system of the reactors and caused breakdowns in Fukushima I nuclear complex. This disaster sparked off an international debate about the safety of nuclear energy.

Opinions about nuclear energy have been surveyed by CBOS for nearly 24 years and in this space of time public opinion about building nuclear power plants in Poland was undergoing changes. Shortly after the Chernobyl disaster, the supporters of building nuclear power plants constituted only less than a third of all the respondents (30%). The group of undecided Poles was similarly numerous (31%). With the approach of XXIst century the number of people who did not know what to

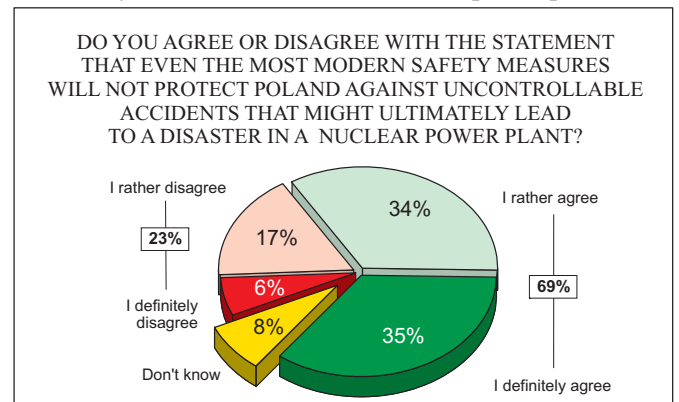
think about this issue significantly fell. The first survey in the new millennium was conducted in 2006 and it showed that the number of opponents was highest ever (58%). However, from then on, the figure started steadily to fall. It reached its peak in 2009 when, for the first time, there were more people who favoured the idea to build power plants in Poland than there were opponents of this motion. The results of the latest research disturb the trend that could have been noticed so far. Presently, the majority of the surveyed people are against building nuclear power plants in Poland (53% - a 14 point increase since 2010).



Opinions about whether it is potentially possible to build nuclear power plants that are safe for the neighbourhood are divided. There are 46% of respondents who express their scepticism on this subject and nearly as many believe (43%) that the recent technological advances have enabled people to construct safe nuclear power plants.



The majority of respondents (69%) think that even the most modern safety measures will not protect Poland against uncontrollable accidents that might ultimately lead to a disaster in a nuclear power plant.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: „Nuclear energy in Poland”, April 2011. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2011, N=1192. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

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

- ◆ Material Living Conditions of Families
- ◆ Useful but not Very Reliable - Poles About Public Opinion Polls
- ◆ Attitude to Work
- ◆ Improve in Standard of Equipment of Households
- ◆ Party Leaders and Support for Political Parties
- ◆ Party Preferences in April
- ◆ Attitude to Government in April
- ◆ Unemployment and the Unemployed in Public Opinion Research
- ◆ Social Moods in April
- ◆ Opinions About Parliament, President, ZUS and OFE
- ◆ Trust in Politicians in April

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