Perception of threat of terrorism

In the last months the perceived terrorist threat has diminished. At present almost half of Poles (49%) believe that there is real threat of a terrorist attack in Poland, which means that the proportion dropped by 10 percentage points relative to April 2016.

The scale of fears related to terrorism changed only slightly. However, it can be noted that, unlike in previous surveys taken in the aftermath of terrorist attacks (in April 2016 after the Brussels attack and in December 2015 after the Paris attack), currently people unafraid of terrorism prevail numerically over those worried (52% v. 46%).

After Poland organized the NATO summit and World Youth Day 2016, the perception of competence of Polish authorities and state institutions with regard to public safety changed significantly. Earlier the majority of citizens had a negative opinion about their preparedness for preventing terrorist attacks. At present over two-fifths of respondents (44%, a 24-point increase since April 2016) believe that Polish authorities and state institutions are well prepared, while a third (33%, a 30-point drop) express the opposite opinion.

In order to reduce the threat of terrorist attacks and feel safer, nine-tenths of respondents (90%) would approve of enhanced controls at the borders, airports and railway stations. Over three-quarters (78%) would accept stricter migration rules. Half of respondents (52%) declare their readiness to bear the costs related to increased expenditure on security, while two-fifths would not accept them. The majority of adults would not agree to limits on information about terrorist threat disclosed by state institutions (60% disagree, 29% agree), as well as stricter control of the internet (52% disagree, 39% agree). The highest resistance
is recorded in case of measures aimed at increased state control of mail (73% disagree, 20% agree) and monitoring of telephone conversations (70% disagree, 23% agree).

Although there have been terrorist attacks in western Europe since the previous survey (conducted in December 2015, shortly after the Paris attack), the support for measures potentially enhancing security has decreased. This concerns in particular the readiness to bear extra costs related to security (a 15-point decrease).

Opposition to receiving refugees is particularly widespread among the youngest adults (aged 18 to 34), rural residents, respondents with primary and basic vocational education, with lowest per capita household income and people evaluating their material living conditions as bad. The view that Poland should give refuge to people fleeing war zones prevails among respondents aged 45 to 64, residents of big cities, people with best education and highest income.

A vast majority of respondents (67%) oppose resettling into Poland refugees coming to Europe from Africa and the Middle East. However, the majority (57%) agree that Poland should give refuge to people affected by the armed conflict with Russia occurring in eastern Ukraine.

Do you agree that Poland should receive a part of refugees arriving in Europe from the Middle East and Africa?

Do you agree that Poland should receive Ukrainian refugees from the armed conflict areas?

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: “Terrorist Threat”, September 2016. Fieldwork for national sample: August 2016, N=1033. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

Attitude to receiving refugees

Opposition to receiving refugees in Poland has prevailed since the Paris terrorist attack in November 2015. At present a little over half of respondents (52%) share this view. Supporters of giving refuge to people fleeing war zones constitute 44% of respondents. A vast majority of them think that refugees should stay in Poland until the situation in their country of origin is normalized.

Should Poland accept refugees from countries affected by military conflict?

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: “Attitudes towards Refugees”, October 2016. Fieldwork for national sample: September 2016, N=981. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

Prohibition of trade on Sunday

Over half a million Poles signed a citizens’ proposal of a law to restrict trade on Sunday. The draft was initiated by the Banking, Trade and Insurance section of NSZZ „Solidarność” (Solidarity trade union) and received support from numerous circles. The draft envisages a ban
on trade on Sunday, with the exception of several Sundays in a year. According to the proposal, stores in which the owner sells products could be open. Exceptions would also apply, for instance, to petrol stations, bakeries, pharmacies, newsstands and florists. Initiators of this draft cite the example of many European countries where trade on Sunday is restricted. Supporters of the new law quote concerns for the welfare of trade employees. Opponents are afraid of negative socio-economic consequences, such as decrease in employment and lower turnover.

According to declarations, almost half of adult Poles (48%) do their shopping on Sunday, in which one-sixth do it often.

**Do you go shopping on Sunday?**

![Shopping Frequency Chart]

The draft proposal for banning trade on Sunday has twice as many supporters (61%) as opponents (32%). The support for banning Sunday trade prevails in most analysed socio-demographic groups. It is supported by women (65%) more often than by men (57%). Doubts are relatively strong among residents of biggest cities and small towns, the best-educated and the well-off, but even among them supporters of the ban prevail. In professional groups, the ban is most commonly supported by employees in the service sector (81%), while the opposition is most clearly seen among the self-employed (53%) and managers and professionals (48%).

The attitude to this proposal is strongly differentiated by religiosity. The more common the declared participation in religious services, the more prevalent the support for the ban on Sunday trade. It is almost universal among people who attend the church several times a week (93%). People who do not attend religious services support it to the smallest degree and among them rejection (48%) is slightly more common than acceptance (46%). The attitude to this proposal is also determined by political views of respondents. The support for the ban is strongest in the group identifying with the right wing (75%), while it is lowest among people describing their political views as left-wing, who reject this proposal (53%) more commonly than accepting it (42%).

In public opinion the primary beneficiaries of the ban on Sunday trade would be the employees in retail trade (59% share this opinion) and owners of small shops (60%), while the primary losers would be big stores (74%). The views on overall consequences for the society are divided: the opinion that they would be positive (46%) are slightly more common than the opposite opinion (41%).

The most difficult to assess are the predicted consequences of the ban for respondents and people like them. A large proportion of respondents (29%) do not think about the proposed ban of Sunday shopping in terms of personal or communal gains and losses. The others more commonly think it is beneficial (40%), rather than detrimental (31%) for people like them. The group potentially most affected, i.e. employees in service sector, in their majority (61%) express the conviction that such a ban would be beneficial for them.

Although over half of respondents are concerned about negative economic consequences of the proposed ban on trade on Sunday, the majority do not expect the turnover to decrease and believe, in line with assumption of the proponents of the law, that consumers would buy more during the rest of the week. Less than a third of respondents expect turnover to fall.
Holiday travel of schoolchildren

During the past holiday season, schoolchildren from two-thirds (66%) of households with children of school age left their place of residence for holiday at least for a week, in which over half of households (56%) sent all children on holiday and one-tenth (10%) sent only some of them. Currently the proportion of households which sent children on holiday at least for a week is highest since this question was asked by CBOS (i.e. since 1993). These holiday stays were usually inland (72%), rather than abroad (28% spent time partly or exclusively outside Poland).

Did schoolchildren from your household go this summer on holiday at least for a week?

The increase in the proportion of households from which children went on holiday and the decreasing role of financial concerns as a reason for giving up holiday plans can be partially linked to the introduction of the program Family 500+, in which a 500 PLN benefit is given to every second and subsequent child up to the age 18, and to all children in households with low per capita income.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "School Students Vacation – Holiday Trips and Paid Work", September 2016. Fieldwork for national sample: September 2016, N=981. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.