

# Legal Bulletin

## **CBOS: notaries best assessed, Polish citizens feel safe**

Poles highly value notaries, legal counsellors and judges. Poles do not hold bailiffs, prosecutors and penitentiary service in high esteem. 85 pct of Poles feel safe in their place of residence. Theft is most frequent crime, indicates a CBOS poll on contacts with the law, the evaluation of legal institutions and Poles' sense of security. The poll was run on November 2007 in a representative randomly selected sample of 38,000 adult Poles.

According to the poll, 21.9 pct of Poles had contacts with notary offices in the past five years, 21.5 pct with courts and 18.4 pct with police. 7.9 pct had contacts with prosecutor's offices, 7.6 pct with legal counsellors, 7.4 pct with barristers, 6.8 pct with bailiffs and 3.2 pct with penitentiary services.

According to CBOS frequent contacts with notary offices stem from the need to receive or deliver different type of certificates. The survey indicates that the more frequent contacts the higher level of satisfaction. Satisfaction was expressed by 83 pct of all who had contacts with notary offices, 62.7 pct of those who had contacts with legal counsellors, 57 pct of those appearing in courts. 52.7 pct were satisfied with contacts with barristers and 50 pct with police. 37.2 pct praised municipal guards, 35 pct bailiffs, 34.2 pct prosecutors and 18.7 pct penitentiary services. 85.4 pct said their sites of residence were safe, the opposite opinion was voiced by 14.6 pct.

According to the pollees theft accounted for 50 pct of all crimes with 16.4 pct of pollees falling its victim. 7.2 pct reported break-ins, 4.6 pct swindling, 2.5 pct battery, 2.4 pct assault or robber. 2.5 pct reported other type of crimes.

## **Government plans to cut red tape by 2010**

By the end of 2010 the government plans a 25 pct cut of administrative burdens under a resolution adopted by the government.

## **Sejm committee to change regulations hampering police work**

By the end of March the interior and administration ministry is to send to the Sejm friendly state special commission proposals of changes to regulations putting on policemen additional tasks not related to their call of duty. Already in January the ministry ordered all units subject to it to revise legal regulations and provisions from this angle. So far the ministry received 500 proposals of changes.

## **Doctor's turn of duty can not be treated as extra hours**

Doctor's turn of duty can not be treated as extra hours so it should not be paid additionally as extra hours, decided the Supreme Court. At the same time the court ruled that the state treasury should pay compensation for violating a EU directive on doctor's working hours. Poland has recently been flooded with doctor's complaints in which physicians demand that their turns be perceived as extra working hours for this would entitle them to higher remunerations, e.g. up to 130, 160, or 200 pct of the pay per hour. The verdict passed by seven Supreme Court judges may become a legal principles



zloty fine for failing to adjust their premises to new regulations.

### **Draft law on declaring holiday on January 6**

Sejm Speaker Bronisław Komorowski has received a citizen's draft law declaring the Epiphany, or January 6 the national holiday. The speaker has also been notified that a related citizens initiative committee has been set up. The draft law prime movers handed to Komorowski a related note signed by 3,000 people.

If the notification is accepted by the Sejm speaker the committee will have three months for collecting 100,000 signatures of people supporting the draft law, a pre-condition for it to be discussed by the parliament.