

ALBANIA

Date of Elections: 12 November 1978

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Albania, the People's Assembly, is composed of 250 members elected for 4 years.

Electoral System

All Albanian citizens who are at least 18 years of age have the right to vote, with the exception of persons deprived of this right by court decision and the insane.

Electoral registers are drawn up by the executive committees of the local people's councils and made public at least 20 days prior to the election date. Voting is not compulsory.

Every qualified elector may be a candidate for Parliament. The parliamentary mandate is considered to be compatible with other offices.

All candidates must be members of the country's Democratic Front. The right to make nominations belongs to mass organizations such as the Albanian Party of Labour, trade unions, organizations of youth and women, and others. Candidates' names must be made public at least 15 days before the election date.

Candidates to Parliament are declared elected in each of the 250 single-member constituencies if they obtain an absolute majority of the valid votes cast within their electoral constituency. A second ballot is held, within 15 days, in any constituency where no candidate has obtained the absolute majority of votes cast or when these votes amounted to less than half the number of registered voters.

By-elections are held to fill parliamentary seats which become vacant between general elections.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

As at preceding general elections, the turnout was high and the 250 Assembly candidates of the country's Democratic Front were unanimously returned; successful candidates included 81 women.

During the electoral campaign, Mr. Enver Hoxha, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Albanian Party of Labour, declared that Albania was strongly opposed to the "imperialist or revisionist" policies of certain large foreign nations, particularly those of the People's Republic of China. Relations with China, a former ally, had in fact greatly deteriorated in recent years. Conversely, Mr. Hoxha observed that his country was interested in undertaking friendly approaches and normal trade and cultural relations with a number of European States.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the People's Assembly

Number of registered electors.	1,436,289
Voters.	1,436,288(99.99%)
Blank or void ballot papers.	3
Valid votes.	1,436,285
<i>Votes for candidates of the Democratic Front . .</i>	<i>1,436,285</i>

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Number of Seats
Democratic Front	250	250

2. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Professional Category

Civil servants (including jurists, teachers, engineers, economists, doctors, military, agronomists).	109
Members of agricultural co-operatives	47
Manual workers	94
	250

3. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Sex

Men	169
Women	<u>81</u>
	250

4. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Age Group*

18-27 years.17
28-40.121
41-60.97
Over 60.15
	250