

BULGARIA

Date of Elections: 8 June 1986

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 Bulgaria, the National Assembly, is composed of 400 Deputies elected for 5 years.

Electoral System

All Bulgarian citizens at least 18 years of age are entitled to vote unless they are serving a sentence of imprisonment or have been declared insane.

Electoral registers are revised before each election at the level of the municipality by the executive committees of the local people's councils. Voting is not compulsory.

All qualified electors are eligible for the National Assembly. The parliamentary mandate is not deemed incompatible with any other function.

Candidates are generally members of a political party. They can in fact be nominated either by a party, a social or economic organization or directly by the electorate, in which case the support of a least 20% of the voters of the particular constituency is required.

The 400 Deputies are elected in a like number of constituencies by absolute majority vote. If no candidate obtains an absolute majority on the first ballot, or if less than an absolute majority of the total number of registered electors have voted, a second or subsequent ballots are held until these requirements are met.

By-elections are held to fill National Assembly seats which fall vacant between general elections unless the vacancy occurs within the last six months of the legislature.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Prior to the general elections, the 13th Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party (BCP) was held in Sofia from 2 to 5 April 1986. The BCP Secretary General, Mr. Todor Zhivkov, opened the Congress with a call for "profound change" in the nation's economy; he expressed the need for greater "responsibility, order and discipline" in the economy, coupled with a dramatic development of Bulgarian technology.

As in the past, candidates for the National Assembly were nominated by the Bulgarian Fatherland Front - the mass organization embracing the Bulgarian Communist Party (BCP), the Bulgarian Agrarian People's Union and social organizations. One candidate was proposed for each of the 400 constituencies; these included 276 members of the BCP, 99 members of the Bulgarian Agrarian People's Union and 25 candidates without party affiliation. All were elected on polling day, which was marked by a massive voter turnout. Female members chosen numbered 84.

On 17 June, the newly-elected National Assembly met to elect the State Council and the Council of Ministers. President Zhivkov heads the former, while Mr. Georgi Atanasov is Chairman of the latter.

Statistics

*1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats
in the National Assembly*

Number of registered electors		6,650,739
Voters		6,645,645 (99.92%)
Political Group	Number of Candidates	Number of Seats
Bulgarian Fatherland Front		
- Bulgarian Communist Party	276	276
- Bulgarian Agrarian Party .	99	99
- Non-party.	25	25
		<hr/> 400

2. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex

Men	316
Women	<u>84</u>
	400