

CYPRUS

Date of Elections: 8 December 1985

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for the 56 members of Parliament representing the country's Greek community* following premature dissolution of the House of Representatives. General elections were not normally due until August 1986.

Characteristics of Parliament

The Constitution of Cyprus provides for a system of government in which power is to be shared by the island's Greek and Turkish communities in proportion to their numbers. The 80-seat* national House of Representatives accordingly has 70% (56) of its members elected by the Greek community and 30% (24) by the Turkish community. All Representatives have 5-year terms of office.

Electoral System

All citizens have the right to vote in general elections if they are at least 21 years of age and have resided in Cyprus for a minimum of six months prior to the qualifying date (as elector). Disqualified, however, are the insane, persons who have been legally detained or imprisoned during the entire period they have qualified as electors, and persons convicted of electoral fraud.

A permanent Central Electoral Service in the Ministry of the Interior is responsible for the compilation and revision of the electoral register; this register is revised and supplemented every three months. Voting is compulsory, unjustified failure to do so resulting in a fine and/or imprisonment.

Qualified electors who are at least 25 years old on the date of their nomination are eligible for election as Representatives. Ineligible are persons convicted of an offence including dishonesty or moral turpitude or those under any disqualification imposed by a competent court for any electoral offence. The office of parliamentarian is incompatible with that of a Minister or a member of any municipal council, membership of the armed forces or public office (including the civil service, public corporations or public utility bodies).

Every candidate must be supported by at least four registered electors and his nomination must be accompanied by a deposit of 100 Cyprus pounds, which is forfeited if the candidate does not obtain votes equalling at least one-third of the electoral quota.

* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 8.

For the purpose of electing representatives of the Greek Cypriot community, six constituencies are delineated; each is entitled to a different number of Representatives varying according to population. All parliamentarians are chosen according to a system of proportional representation whereby party lists or individual candidates may be presented. Voters first single out the list of candidates of their choice and then, within the list, mark one preference for every four seats to be filled in their district. In districts returning less than four members, only one preference may be indicated on the ballot paper; where only one list of candidates is put forward, no voting takes place.

Seats are distributed among lists within each district by dividing the total number of votes cast for each list by an electoral quota (obtained by dividing the total number of votes cast in the district by the number of seats to be filled). Individual independent candidates who have obtained at least as many votes as the electoral quota are considered elected. After this operation, the remaining seats are distributed among parties or coalitions of parties which have gained at least one seat in any constituency pursuant to the first distribution plus at least 8% of all valid votes cast throughout the island or, alternatively, at least 10% of all such valid votes without having gained a seat (for coalitions of two or more parties, the applicable figures are 20% and 25%, respectively). Within a list, the choice of candidates declared elected is based on the number of votes cast for each of them and, where the votes are equally divided, the seat is awarded to the candidate whose name appears first on the list.

A House seat which falls vacant between general elections is filled by the unsuccessful candidate of the same party in the constituency concerned who received the highest number of preferential votes after the last successful candidate.

General Consideration **and** Conduct of the Elections

On 1 November 1985, Parliament unanimously decided on its premature dissolution and set the election date for the enlarged House for 8 December. The polling was precipitated by the conservative Democratic Rally (DISY) and the communist AK.EL Party, which opposed President of the Republic Spyros Kyprianou's stand in negotiations relating to the Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus. DISY and AKEL were the two largest parties in the outgoing House.

The campaign in which 226 candidates vied for the 56 seats at stake (there are 24 others set aside for the island's Turkish Cypriot community, but they have boycotted Parliament since 1963) was predictably dominated by the "national question". On polling day, the minority Government of President Kyprianou (member of centrist DIK.O) reinforced its parliamentary position as the opposition, though gaining House seats, fell short of the two-third majority needed to amend the Constitution (and thus possibly reduce the five-year presidential term).

Statistics

*1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats
in the House of Representatives*

Number of registered electors.	346,454	
Voters.	327,821	(94.6%)
Blank or void ballot papers.	8,354	
Valid votes.	319,467	

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	Percentage of Total Valid Votes	Number of Seats	Number of Seats held at Dissolution	Number of Seats won at Previous Elections
Democratic Rally (DISY).	56	107,223	33.56	19	II	12
Democratic Party (DIKO).	56	88,322	27.65	16	9	8
Progressive Party of the Working People (AKEL - Left)	56	87,628	27.43	15	12	12
EDEK. Socialist Party	56	35,371	11.07	6	3	3
Independents.	2	923	0.29			
				"56*	~35~	IT

*2I seats added since last elections.

*2. Distribution of Representatives according to
Professional Category*

Lawyers.	20	
Businessmen.	8	
Doctors.	6	
Managerial posts.	3	
Economists.	2	
Trade unionists.	2	
Officials of farmers' associations.	2	
Others.	13	
	56	

*3. Distribution of Representatives
according to Sex*

Men55
Women1
	~56~

*4. Distribution of Representatives
according to Age Group*

30-40 years.10
41-50 »15
51-60 »15
61-70 »13
Over 70 years.	<u>.3</u>
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