

## LUXEMBOURG

**Date of Elections:** December 15, 1968

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The Luxembourg Parliament consists of a single House: the Chamber of Deputies. Its 56 members are elected for 5 years in a ratio of 1 deputy per 5,500 inhabitants and per additional fraction of at least 4,000 inhabitants.

The December 1968 élections were rendered necessary as a result of the prématûré dissolution of the Chamber, a year before the normal expiry of its mandate, which automatically followed an announcement that the Constitution was to be amended.

### **Electoral System**

AU Luxembourg citizens of both sexes, at least 21 years of âge, who are in possession of their civil and political rights, résident in the Grand Duchy, registered on the électoral rolls — revised in April each year — and who hâve not been convicted in a criminal court or declared bankrupt, are entitled to vote.

Voting is obligatory, non-compliance being punishable by a fine.

Registered voters at least 25 years of âge are eligible for élection to the Chamber of Deputies.

However, Article 54 of the Constitution stipulâtes that the mandate of deputy is incompatible with the functions of member of the Government, member of the Council of State, magistrate of the judicial order, member of the Chamber of Accounts, district commissioner, receiver or accountant of the State, career soldier on active service, assistant councillor to the Government, religious

minister remunerated by the State, civil servant and primary school teacher.

The country is divided into 4 constituencies — North, Centre, East and South. The number of électoral seats in each constituency is determined by ministerial decree on the basis of a 5-yearly population census.

In each constituency, deputies are elected under the party-list System, with preferential vote and vote-splitting, as follows:

Political groups submit lists of candidates whose number must not exceed the number of seats to be filled in the constituency. Any isolated candidature is considered as forming a list by itself.

Each elector has as many votes as there are seats to be filled in his constituency. Thèse he casts :

— either by voting for a list, in which case he fills in a square corresponding to the list of his choice ; the list is then deemed to hâve received a number of votes equal to the number the elector was entitled to cast;

— or by voting by name, in which case he marks one or more crosses in the squares corresponding to the candidates of his choice who may belong to différent lists. The number of crosses must not exceed the number of deputies to be elected in the constituency.

Seats are distributed in each constituency according to proportional représentation and the électoral quota method.

The total number of valid votes cast is divided by the number of seats to be filled plus 1. The smallest whole number that exceeds the figure obtained is the électoral quota.

Each list receives a seat each time this quota is contained in the number of nominal and list votes it has obtained.

If seats remain to be filled, then the number of votes obtained by each list is divided by the number of seats it received in the first distribution plus 1. The next seat is attributed to the list which obtains the highest quota, the same procédure being repeated until ail the seats are filled.

The seats obtained by each list are then attributed to the candidates who won most votes; those who fail to receive a seat are considered as substitutes in the event of subsequent vacancies arising.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

In October 1968, a financial crisis resulted in the resignation of Mr. Pierre Werner as President of a coalition Government comprising his own Christian Social Party and the Socialist Worker Party. A declaration which was then adopted regarding an amendment of the Constitution led automatically to the holding of prématu  re g  n  ral elections on December 15, 1968.

Five political groups took part in the electoral campaign: the Christian Social Party, to which every Prime Minister had belonged since 1918; the Socialist Workers' Party, frequently associated with the Government alternately, or occasionally together, with the D  mocratie Party ; the Communist Party ; and the Party of National Solidarity.

The first 4 of these submitted candidatures for every seat, while the Party of National Solidarity, a newcomer to the Luxembourg political scene, put up only 5 candidates, but covering all 4 constituencies. One of these candidates was one of the 2 deputies who had represented the People's Independent Movement in the previous legislature, a group which merged with the D  mocratie Party prior to the elections.

The results of the poll show that, whereas the Christian Socials maintained their group, the same cannot be said of the Socialist Workers' Party, the other "great national party" in Luxembourg terminology. The Socialists lost 3 seats, probably as a result of the split which had been taking place for some time between the moderate "intellectual" wing, which retained a majority in the party, and the extreme left-wing trade unionists.

The D  mocratie Party, united again, won 11 seats as against 6 in the 1964 elections, benefiting from the votes of the moderate

electorate, alarraed by the demanda of the trade unions which, on the day before the poil, had *inter alia* proposed the introduction of a tax on direct inheritance.

Finally, the Coramunists obtained 15.6 per cent of the votes, thereby earning an extra seat.

## Statistics

### 1. *Resvts of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the Chamber of Dejmties*

Number of registered voters . . . . .	192,601
Voters . . . . .	170,569 (88.6%)
Void or blank ballot-papera . . . . .	5,320
Valid votes . . . . .	2,596,726

Political Group	Votes obtained	Number of Seats in the Chamber of Deputies *
Christian Social Party . . . . .	915,944	21 (-1)
Socialist Workers' Party . . . . .	837,555	18 (-3)
Démocratie Party . . . . .	430,262	11 (+5)
Communist Party . . . . .	402,610	6 (+1)
Party of National Solidarity	10,355	— (did not exist)
		56

\* As regards gains and losses, the merger with the Démocratie Party of the Popular Independent Movement, which had had 2 représentatives in the previous législature, should be noted; one of the 2 représentatives, however, stood as a candidate of the Party of National Solidarity on December 15.

2. *Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category*

Agricultural and wine-growing professions . . . . .	4
Handicraft, commercial and industrial professions	7
Légal and libéral professions. . . . .	7
Médical professions . . . . .	5
Wage-earners	
retired civil servants . . . . .	31
public and private employées . . . . .	20
workers . . . . .	6
Others. . . . .	4
	56

3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	54
Women . . . . .	2
	56

4. *Average Age of Deputies : 52*