

MONACO

Dates of Elections: February 4 and 11, 1973

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held to renew all the members of Parliament on the normal

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Monaco, the National Council, consists of 18 members elected for 5 years.

Electoral System

All citizens of either sex who are at least 21 years old, have held Monegasque nationality for a minimum of 5 years and are enrolled on the electoral list are entitled to vote. Undischarged bankrupts, the insane, persons twice convicted for drunkenness by a court of summary jurisdiction, the second sentence resulting in imprisonment, and those deprived of the right to vote by court decree may not vote.

Depending on the severity of the offense, persons under an unsuspended sentence of imprisonment exceeding 5 days or 3 months, or persons under a suspended sentence of imprisonment exceeding 3 or 6 months furthermore cannot vote. The rights of prisoners and those convicted *in absentia* are suspended.

The electoral list is revised annually. Voting is not compulsory.

All voters at least 25 years of age on election day are eligible for the National Council, except members of the Council of State, the Council of the Crown, the Supreme Tribunal, and persons who — having a dual citizenship — hold a public or elective office in a foreign country. While the office of national councillor is incompatible with a certain number of public offices, it is not with that of communal councillor.

Candidatures must be presented 8 to 15 days before election day. For the second ballot, candidatures may be presented up to the Tuesday following the first ballot.

Given its small size, Monaco comprises a single electoral constituency. Members of Parliament are elected on the basis of a party-list majority system

in the course of 2 ballots, with a possibility of vote-splitting but not preferential voting. Candidates who obtain an absolute majority of the votes cast are elected on the first ballot provided the total number of these votes is equal to a quarter of the number of registered voters. For the second ballot, a simple majority suffices, regardless of the numbers of voters.

Once there are 3 vacancies in the National Council, by-elections are held within 3 months after the last of the seats fell vacant. No by-elections are scheduled, however, within 6 months of general elections, unless the number of vacancies exceeds half of the parliamentary seats.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The election was once again marked by the resounding victory of the liberal National and Democratic Union, 12 of whose candidates won an absolute majority of the valid votes on the first ballot.

Among the newly-elected parliamentarians was Mr. J.-E. Lorenzi, leader of the two-year old *Action monégasque*, a political party of conservative and nationalist orientation which presented 18 candidates, including a fist of 5 for the second ballot. Mr. C. Socal, a progressive candidate from the Movement for Democratic Union and the second minority member elected, had previously been a member of the National Council from 1963 to 1968. Mr. A. Medecin of the National and Democratic Union was proclaimed President of the Assembly.

The high rate of abstaining voters (23 % and 27.7 % in the 2 ballots, respectively), as in previous elections, may be partly explained by the fact that, in Monaco, voting by correspondence or proxy is not allowed. This rule affects the relatively large number of citizens living abroad.

Statistics

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

	1st ballot	2nd ballot
Number of registered voters.	3,400	3,400
Voters	2,619 (77%)	2,457 (72.3%);
Blank or void ballot papers .	72	72
Valid votes	2,547	2,385

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Number of Seats in the National Council
National and Democratic Union.	18	16 (-2)
<i>Action monégasque.</i>	18	M+i)
Movement for Democratic Union.	1	M+i)
Independent.	1	
		18

2. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Sex*

Men	17
Women	1
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