

## MONACO

**Date of Elections:** February 15, 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 Monaco, the National Council, consists of 18 members elected for 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens of Monaco who are at least 21 years old, have held Monegasque nationality for a minimum of five 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 offence, persons under an unsuspended sentence of imprisonment exceeding five days or three months, or persons under a suspended sentence of imprisonment exceeding three or six 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 qualified electors 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 submitted eight 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 two 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 one-quarter of the number of registered voters. For the second ballot, a simple majority suffices, regardless of the number of voters.

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

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

The 1977 elections resulted in a complete victory for the National Democratic Union Party, which supports the policies of Prince Rainier III. It won all 18 parliamentary seats outright in the first round of voting, thus regaining the two seats lost to opposition candidates in the previous (February 1973) poll.

Besides the victors, two candidates each had been fielded by the Monegasque Socialist Party and the Democratic Union Movement; one independent also ran.

Mr. Jean-Charles Rey was proclaimed President of the National Council.

Statistics

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

Number of registered electors. . . . .	3,647
Voters. . . . .	2,719 (74.55 %)
Blank or void ballot papers. . . . .	.149
Valid votes. . . . .	2,590
Absolute majority required for election . . . .	1,296

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Political Group	Number of Candidates	Number of Seats
National Democratic Union . . .	18	18
Monegasque Socialist Party . . .	2	—
Movement for Democratic Union	2	
Independent . . . . .	1	
		18

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2. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Professional Category*

Liberal professions. . . . .	9
Civil servants. . . . .	3
Senior officials of public or semi-public services	2
Pensioners. . . . .	2
Senior official of private firm. . . . .	1
Unemployed. . . . .	1
	18

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

Men. . . . .	16
Women. . . . .	2
	18

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

Under 30 years. . . . .	1
30-40. . . . .	5
41-50. . . . .	1
51-60. . . . .	6
Over 60. . . . .	5
	18