

## MONACO

**Date of Elections:** 24 January 1988

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' 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 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 municipal 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.

**Background and Outcome of the Elections**

As at the previous general elections of 1983, all 18 National Council seats were won by candidates of the National and Democratic Union list. The Union - a political organization supporting the policies of the Head of State, Prince Rainier III - is headed by Mr. Jean-Charles Rey, the President of the Council. The Chief of the Cabinet is Mr. Charles Ballerio.

Statistics

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

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Number of registered electors . . . . .           | 4,244         |
| Voters . . . . .                                  | 2,985 (70,3%) |
| Void ballot papers . . . . .                      | .155          |
| Valid votes . . . . .                             | 2,830         |
| Absolute majority required for election . . . . . | 1,416         |

| Political Group               | Number of Candidates | Number of Seats |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| National and Democratic Union | 18                   | 18              |
|                               | 1                    | <b>Is</b>       |

*2. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Men . . . . .   | .16       |
| Women . . . . . | <u>.2</u> |
|                 | <b>18</b> |