

ROMANIA

Date of Elections: 17 March 1985

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 Romania, the Grand National Assembly, comprises 369 members elected for 5 years.

Electoral System

All Romania citizens who are at least 18 years of age are entitled to vote unless they are insane, mentally infirm or deprived of the right to vote for a fixed period pursuant to a court conviction.

Electoral registers are compiled by the executive committees of the people's councils of municipalities and municipal wards of Bucharest, as well as by the executive offices of people's councils of towns and communities. Drawing up of lists is completed at the latest 30 days prior to the polling date. Special provision is made to allow persons absent from their constituency on polling day to cast ballots. Voting is not compulsory.

All qualified electors at least 23 years of age are eligible for election to Parliament. Candidates are nominated by the Front of Democracy and Socialist Unity, the political organization founded in 1968 which, under the direction of the Romanian Communist Party, unifies the country's political and social forces and its various mass organizations. Within each electoral constituency, nominations are made within the framework of voters' meeting by the above-mentioned Front. The approval or rejection of a candidature may be contested by any workers' organization and any citizen, who address themselves to be constituency's electoral commission and, if need be, the Central Electoral Commission. Several candidates may be nominated for the same seat.

Deputies are elected in 369 single-member constituencies. In each, the poll is deemed valid if at least half of the registered electors have cast ballots. The candidate who has obtained an absolute majority of these votes is declared elected. In constituencies where the majority requirement is not met, a runoff election is held between the two leading candidates two weeks after the original poll.

By-elections are held within six months to fill parliamentary seats which become vacant between general elections.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

For the 1985 elections, multiple candidatures increased in comparison with the previous (1980) poll. Of the 369 single-member constituencies, 145 were contested by two candidates and 40 by three. All 594 candidates in the running (which included a record number of women) were members of the country's Front of Democracy and Socialist Unity.

The electoral period was preceded by the 13th Congress of the Romanian Communist Party in November 1984. Campaign oratory touched on economic and development problems and suggestions for improved activity in these fields. Polling day was marked by a large turnout, with the Front picking up 97.73% of the valid votes. Of those elected, 7.3% were of Hungarian origin and 1.3% of German background.

The new Assembly first met on 28 and 29 March and re-elected Mr. Nicolae Ceausescu as President of the Republic. It also chose the State Council and the Council of Ministers.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the Grand National Assembly

| | | |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| Number of registered electors. | 15,733,060 | |
| Voters. | 15,732,095 | (99.9%) |
| Blank or void ballot papers. | | |
| Valid votes. | 15,732,095 | |
| <i>Votes obtained by candidates of the Front of Democracy and Socialist Unity.</i> | <i>15,375,522</i> | <i>(97.73%)</i> |

| Political Group | Number of Seats |
|--|--------------------|
| Front of Democracy and Socialist Unity | 369 |

2. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Professional Category

| | |
|---|-----|
| Party and State officials, including mass and social organizations. | 159 |
| Industry, construction, transport, agriculture | 125 |
| Research officers, teachers, culture. | 55 |
| Officers, lawyers, economists, doctors, clergy | 30 |
| | 369 |

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

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Men. | 242 |
| Women. | <u>127</u> |
| | 369 |

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

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| 23-35 years. | 30 |
| 36-40 ». | 34 |
| 41-50 ». | 122 |
| 51-60 ». | 148 |
| 61 and over years. | 35 |
| | 369 |