

SPAIN

Date of Elections: 28 October 1982

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the elective seats in Parliament following premature dissolution of this body on 27 August 1982. General elections had previously been held on 1 March 1979.

Characteristics of Parliament

The bicameral Parliament of Spain, the *Cortes*, consists of the Congress of Deputies and the Senate.

The Congress of Deputies comprises a minimum of 300 and a maximum of 400 members. It currently has 350 members elected for 4 years: a minimum of 2 for each of the country's 50 provinces, plus one Deputy for every 175,000 inhabitants; the African Territories of Ceuta and Melilla are each represented by one Deputy.

The Senate is composed of 208 members elected for 4 years. It is based on territorial representation. Each province elects 4 Senators. Each island or group of islands forms one constituency; Gran Canaria, Mallorca and Tenerife return 3 Senators each, the others, one each. The Autonomous Communities return, in addition, one Senator, plus one more for each 1,000,000 inhabitants, appointed by the legislative assembly of the Community. Ceuta and Melilla elect 2 Senators each. The Senate comprises, in addition, 41 members appointed by the King.

Electoral System

All Spanish citizens at least 18 years of age and in full possession of their political rights are entitled to vote for members of the *Cortes* and be elected thereto. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with a number of high-ranking Government, political and public posts, membership of the armed forces, membership of the assembly of an Autonomous Community (for Deputies) and membership of an electoral committee (*junta*).

Candidatures for the Congress of Deputies are submitted by duly registered political associations and federations, coalitions of the same, or by at least 0.1% (and no less than 500) of the constituency's registered electorate. These same candidates appear on blocked lists and are elected by the d'Hondt system of proportional representation, subject to a minimum number per province; each voter chooses one list among those presented in his constituency (province). Deputies from Ceuta and Melilla are elected by simple majority vote.

Elected Senators are chosen from among candidates nominated like those for the Congress; they appear on lists compiled at the provincial level. According to the number of Senators to be elected in each constituency, electors can cast one, two or a maximum of three votes. Candidates receiving the most votes are declared elected.

Vacancies in the Congress of Deputies are filled by the "next-in-line" candidate on the list of the same party which held the seat in question (or by substitutes in Ceuta and Melilla). By-elections are held to fill vacant elective seats in the Senate.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

On 27 August 1982, King Juan Carlos signed a decree dissolving the *Cortes*, whose four-year term was not due to expire until March 1983. Since the previous elections, the ranks of the ruling (though in the minority) Union of the Democratic Centre (UCD) had been depleted by the defection of many of its Deputies to new political parties, and the party had fared poorly in regional parliamentary elections.

The election campaign lasted three weeks. More than 8,200 candidates representing over 20 parties or groupings, including 17 legally recognized coalitions, contested the *Cortes* seats. Besides the centrist UCD, principal parties included the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE), the right-wing Popular Alliance (AP) and - on the regional level - the Catalanian Convergence and Union (CiU) and the National Basque Party (PNV). Social and economic issues (unemployment, inflation) were at the forefront of campaign debate.

On polling day, the PSOE, led by Mr. Felipe Gonzalez Marquez, won a clear-cut absolute majority in the *Cortes*, obtaining 201 Congress of Deputies seats and 134 in the Senate. The AP was also highly successful and became the main opposition as UCD incurred considerable losses. Among incumbents, only 40 Senators and 148 Deputies were re-elected; outgoing Prime Minister Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo was one of those defeated.

Mr. Gonzalez was sworn in as Prime Minister on 2 December and his Cabinet took office the following day.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution
of Seats in the Cortes

Number of registered electors.	26,517,393
Voters.	21,262,579 (80.2%)
Blank or void ballot papers.	455,398
Valid votes.	20,807,181

Political Group	Votes obtained	%	in Congress of Deputies	Seats in Senate
Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) - Catalan Socialist Party (PSC-PSOE).	10,127,392	48.67	202 (+ 81)	134 (+ 66)
Popular Alliance (AP) - Popular Democratic Party (PDP)	5,543,107	26.64	106 (+ 97)*	54 (+ 51)*
Union of the Democratic Centre (UCD).	1,425,093	6.85	12 (-156)**	4 (-116)
Convergence and Union (CiU)	772,726	3.71	12 (+4)	7 (+ 6)
National Basque Party (PNV)	395,656	1.90	8 (+1)	7 (- D)
Spanish Communist Party (PCE) - Unified Socialist Party of Catalonia (PSUC).	844,976	4.06	4 (-19)	-(=)
Democratic and Social Centre (CDS).	600,842	2.89	2 (+ 2)	— (»)
Independents and others	1,097,389	5.27	4 (<u>- 10</u>)	<u>2 (-6)</u>
			350	208

* Comparison based on seats won by the Democratic Coalition at the 1979 elections.

** UCD seats reduced to 122 prior to dissolution.