

## SPAIN

**Date of Elections:** 22 June 1986

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the elective seats in Parliament following premature dissolution of this body on 23 April 1986. General elections had previously been held in October 1982.

### **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**

The election date was set on 21 April 1986, scheduled four months before the end of the legislative term; Parliament was dissolved two days later. This decision came a few weeks after the Government's victory in the nationwide referendum on Spain's continued membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and made it possible to hold the poll simultaneously with that for the Andalusian regional assembly.

During the three-week campaign, the moderate centre-left Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE), led by Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, defended the Government's centrist economic policies, which had reduced inflation and the budget deficit and strengthened business investment. The outgoing Prime Minister, embracing moderation, stressed the need for a continuing firm and stable Government in the national interest. The somewhat divided opposition was led by the conservative Popular Coalition (CP), led by Mr. Manuel Fraga. CP pointed to Spain's high (22%) unemployment rate, and promised the creation of new jobs, offering tax incentives to the middle class and further liberalization of the economy to benefit private enterprise. Centrist opposition came from the newly-founded Democratic Reform Party (PRD) and the Democratic and Social Centre (CDS) of former Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez.

Polling results left PSOE with a reduced but still absolute parliamentary majority, a success observers attributed in no small degree to the personal charisma of Mr. Gonzalez. CP lost one seat to total 105 and CDS gained 12 to arrive at 19. PSOE also succeeded in the Senate, capturing 124 seats.

On 23 July, Mr. Gonzalez was re-elected Prime Minister by the Congress of Deputies. His new Cabinet, named on 25 July and sworn in the next day, contained four new members.

## Statistics

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

Number of registered electors. . . . . 30,000,000 (approx.)  
Voters. . . . . 70.7%

Political Group	% of Votes obtained	Seats in Congress of Deputies	Seats in Senate
Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) . . . . .	44.1	184	124
Popular Coalition (CP) . . . . .	26.0	105	65
Democratic and Social Centre (CDS) . . . . .	9.2	19	3
Convergence and Union (CiU)	5.0	18	X
United Left (IU) . . . . .	4.6	7	—
National Basque Party (PNV) . . . . .	1.5	6	7
<i>Herri Batasuna</i> . . . . .	1.2	5	1
Basque Left . . . . .	0.5	2	—
Others . . . . .	7.8	4	—
		350	208