

## GREECE

**Date of Elections:** 2 June 1985

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament following premature dissolution of this body on 7 May 1985. Previous general elections had been held in October 1981.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Greece, the Chamber of Deputies, comprises no fewer than 200 and no more than 300 Deputies, all elected for 4 years. The present number of members is 300; of these, 288 are directly elected and 12, called "honorary" or "State" Deputies, are nominated by the most successful political parties from among the "most prominent personalities" in their ranks.

### **Electoral System**

All Greek citizens at least 18 years of age and in full possession of their civil rights are entitled to vote. Barred from voting are persons disfranchised pursuant to legal prohibition or criminal conviction for an offence defined in the common penal or military code.

Electoral registers are compiled at the local level and revised annually. Voting is compulsory, failure to participate resulting in a term of imprisonment ranging from one month to one year.

All qualified electors at least 25 years of age may be elected to Parliament. If they are candidates, members of the armed and police forces, certain public officials or holders of public office, notaries, registrars of mortgages, and employees or directors of semi-governmental agencies or organizations must resign from their posts at least 18 days before announcing their candidature. Candidates to Parliament may stand as individuals or as members of a political party; all candidates must be supported by a minimum of 12 electors and make a deposit of 8000 *drachmae*.

Deputies are elected in 56 different constituencies in accordance with a system of reinforced proportional representation. Under this system, seats are allocated to the different parties presenting lists of candidates on the basis of proportional representation (calculated by dividing the total number of votes cast in each electoral region by the number of seats for that region, plus one), with those remaining to be allotted after this first allocation being distributed among those parties which have received more than a required minimum proportion of the vote (17% of the national vote for a single party, 25% for a two-party coalition, 30% for a coalition of three or more parties).

By-elections are normally held to fill parliamentary seats which become vacant between general elections. A vacancy that arises during the last year of a parliamentary term is not filled by election as long as the number of vacant seats does not exceed one-fifth of the total number of members.

#### General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

General elections had previously taken place in October 1981. In April 1985, Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou (Panhellenic Socialist Movement - PASOK) decided to seek an early election several months before the expiration of his Socialist Government's four-year term. The polling date was ultimately set on 22 April, and Parliament was prematurely dissolved on 7 May by President of the Republic Christos Sartzetakis.

Observers cited the stalemated Cyprus issue and the controversy surrounding the method of electing and powers of the President as major reasons for an early election. During the three-week campaign, the main opposition New Democracy Party (ND), headed by Mr. Constantine Mitsotakis, criticized the Government for its economic policies, advocating more liberalism. Mr. Papandreou, on the other hand, defended his record on health, welfare and public works and promised "even better times".

On polling day, the centre-right ND gained 10 additional seats but PASOK retained its absolute parliamentary majority. On 5 June, Prime Minister Papandreou announced his new Cabinet, which was considerably reduced in number.

#### Statistics

##### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the Chamber of Deputies

Number of registered electors. . . . .	8,008,647	
Voters. . . . .	6,422,466	(80.2%)
Blank or void ballot papers. . . . .	57,372	
Valid votes. . . . .	6,365,094	

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained		Number of Seats	Number of Seats held at Dissolution	Number of Seats won at Previous Elections
Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) . . . . .	314	2,916,735	45.82	161	164	172
New Democracy Party (ND). . . . .	<b>314</b>	2,599,681	40.84	126	112	115
Communist Party of Greece	<b>314</b>	629,525	9.89	12	12	13
Greek Communist Party . . . . .	<b>310</b>	117,135	<b>1.84</b>	1	—	—
Independents . . . . .	—	—	—	—	12	—
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				300	300	300

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

Lawyers. . . . .	139
Engineers. . . . .	30
Doctors. . . . .	28
Teachers. . . . .	22
Former military. . . . .	18
Economists. . . . .	12
Civil servants. . . . .	5
Journalists. . . . .	4
Others. . . . .	<u>42</u>
	300

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

Men. . . . .	289
Women. . . . .	11
	300

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

Under 50 years. . . . .	138
50-60 » . . . . .	74
Over 60 years. . . . .	<u>88</u>
	300