

LUXEMBOURG

Date of Elections: 17 June 1984

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 Luxembourg, the Chamber of Deputies, consists of 64 members elected for 5 years*.

Electoral System

All citizens of Luxembourg who are at least 18 years of age, in full possession of their civil and political rights and domiciled in the country are entitled to vote. Persons convicted of crime, the insane, those sentenced to imprisonment for theft, swindling or abuse of confidence, bankrupts, and persons under guardianship or incapable of managing their own affairs cannot exercise this right.

Electoral registers are compiled on the local level and revised annually in April. Voting is compulsory, failure to do so being punishable by a fine.

Qualified voters at least 21 years of age are eligible for election to the Chamber of Deputies. The office of Deputy is incompatible with membership of the Government, Council of State or Audit Office, as well as with the offices of judge, district commissioner, receiver or accountant of the State, minister of religion, teacher of primary education, civil servant or employee of the State, and career soldier on active duty.

For election purposes, Luxembourg is divided into four districts - South, Centre, North and East. In each, one Deputy represents no less than 4,000 citizens and no more than 5,500.

Candidates figure on party lists, which are allotted seats according to proportional representation. In conformity with this system, political groups submit lists of candidates, whose number may not exceed the number of seats to be filled in the district. Each candidate of a list must be supported by 25 electors of his district. Any isolated candidature is considered as forming a list by itself.

An elector may cast a preferential vote or split his vote between different lists. Accordingly, he can either vote for a list (in which case the latter is deemed to have received a number of votes equal to the number the elector was entitled to cast) or for a particular name on

* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 16.

any list (in which case his votes may not exceed the number of Deputies to be elected in the district concerned).

Each list obtains as many seats as its total number of individual and list votes encompasses the electoral quota (valid votes divided by the number of seats to be filled, plus one). Any seats still to be filled after this first calculation are allotted by dividing each list's total votes by the number of seats it has already received, plus one. The remaining seat is allotted to that list having the highest quotient.

The "next-in-line" candidates - those of the same party list who received the highest number of votes short of being elected - fill a parliamentary vacancy which arises between general elections.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The 1984 general elections - held simultaneously with voting for Luxembourg representatives to the European Parliament - resulted in a strong rise in the standing of the opposition Socialist Party (*Parti ouvrier socialiste luxembourgeois*). Its gain of seven seats (from 14 to 21) was attributed in part to the increase in the country's unemployment (to about 2%) coupled, among other things, with a decline in the steel industry. The Christian Social Party nevertheless remained the largest single group in the enlarged Chamber of Deputies, capturing 25 seats. With two successful candidates, the Ecologist Party gained parliamentary representation for the first time.

On 20 July, a new coalition Government between the Christian Socials and the Socialists was formed, headed by Mr. Jacques Santer (Christian Social) as Prime Minister. The Socialists replaced the Democratic (Liberal) Party as coalition partner.

Statistics

1. *Distribution of Seats in the Chamber of Deputies*

Political Group	% of Votes obtained	Number of Seats
Christian Social Party . . .	36.6	25 (+1)
Socialist Party	31.8	21 (+ 7)
Democratic (Liberal) Party	20.4	14 (-1)
Communist Party		2 (=)
Ecologists		2 (+ 2)
		64*

*Five seats added since last elections.