

ROMANIA

Date of Elections: March 9, 1975

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament, whose terms of office had been extended for two years. Previous general elections had been held in March 1969.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Romania, the Grand National Assembly, is composed of 349 members elected for 5 years *.

Electoral System

All Romanian citizens, of either sex, who are at least 18 years of age are entitled to vote unless they are insane or have been sentenced to more than 2 years' imprisonment.

Electoral registers are compiled at the local level before each election. Special polling stations or voting facilities are provided for persons who are absent from their constituency or abroad on election day. Voting is not compulsory.

All qualified electors at least 23 years of age are eligible for election to Parliament. Candidates for Parliament are nominated by the Front of Socialist Unity, the country's political organization embracing the Romanian Communist Party and various mass organizations. Several candidates may be selected to contest the same seat.

Deputies are elected in 349 single-member constituencies. If, within a constituency, no candidate obtains an absolute majority of the votes in the first ballot, or if less than an absolute majority of the total number of registered electors have voted, a second or subsequent ballots are held until these requirements are met.

By-elections are held within 3 months to fill parliamentary seats which become vacant between general elections.

* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 15.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The 1975 parliamentary elections were held simultaneously with those for members of the country's People's Councils.

In accordance with constitutional amendments approved in December 1974, a total of 349 Deputies were to be elected to the Grand National Assembly for 5 years; in the previous (1969) general elections 465 Deputies had been chosen for 4 years. Of these seats, a number were for the first time contested by more than one candidate; this was the case in 139 different constituencies.

All 488 candidates were nominated by the Front of Socialist Unity, the national political organization, founded in 1968, in which industrial and agricultural workers, professional bodies of all sorts and national minorities are represented along with the Romanian Communist Party.

Polling day saw a large turnout of voters in each of Romania's 40 administrative districts. Following the elections, the Assembly re-elected President Ceausescu and approved the new composition of the Council of Ministers.

Statistics

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

Number of registered voters	14,900,032
Voters	14,894,185 (99.96 %)
Blank or void ballot papers	593
Valid votes	14,893,592
<i>Votes obtained by candidates of the Front of Socialist</i>	
<i>Unity</i>	<i>14,715,539</i>

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Political Group	Seats
Front of Socialist Unity	349