

ROMANIA

Date of Elections: 9 March 1980

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Romania, the Grand National Assembly, comprises 369 members elected for 5 years*.

Electoral System

All Romanian citizens who are at least 18 years of age are entitled to vote unless they are insane[^] mentally infirm or deprived of the right to vote for a fixed period pursuant to a court conviction.

Electoral registers are compiled by the executive committees of the people's councils** of municipalities and municipal wards of Bucharest, as well as by the executive offices of people's councils of towns and communities. Drawing up of lists is completed at the latest 30 days prior to the polling date. Special provision is made to allow persons absent from their constituency on polling day to cast ballots. Voting is not compulsory.

All qualified electors at least 23 years of age are eligible for election to Parliament. Candidates are nominated by the Front of Democracy and Socialist Unity, the political organization founded in 1968 which, under the direction of the Romanian Communist Party, unifies the country's political and social forces and its various mass organizations. Within each electoral constituency, nominations are made within the framework of voters' meeting by the above-mentioned Front. The approval or rejection of a candidate may be contested by any workers' organization and any citizen, who address themselves to the constituency's electoral commission and, if need be, the Central Electoral Commission. Several candidates may be nominated for the same seat.

Deputies are elected in 369 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.

Byelections are held within three months to fill parliamentary seats which become vacant } between general elections.

* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 25.

**JThe people's councils are local organs of State power.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The Assembly elections were held simultaneously with those for 61,772 members of the country's people's councils.

In 1980, the tendency towards more than one nomination per seat which had marked the 1975 poll was once again evident. In 41% of the constituencies, two candidates were put forward; three were proposed in 10.6%. For the first time, male and female candidates were fielded in 14 constituencies.

The issues of the electoral campaign of the Front of Democracy and Socialist Unity—which nominated all candidates—had been defined at the 12th Congress of the Romanian Communist Party, held in Bucharest from 19 to 23 November 1979. The turnout on polling day was high. The Front obtained 98.52% of the votes cast; there were 1.48% votes "against".

The newly-elected Assembly met on 28 and 29 March. It unanimously re-elected Mr. Nicolae Ceausescu as President of the Republic. It thereafter unanimously re-elected Mr. Ilie Verdet as Prime Minister and approved the composition of the Council of Ministers.

Statistics

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

Number of registered electors	15,631,351
Voters	15,629,098 (99.9%)
Blank or void ballot papers	44
Valid votes	15,629,054
<i>Votes obtained by candidates of the Front of Democracy and Socialist Unity</i>	<i>15,398,443</i>

Political Group	Number of Seats
Front of Democracy and Socialist Unity	369

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

Industry, construction and transport	154
State agricultural enterprises	95
Research officers, engineers, teachers, science Officers, lawyers, economists, doctors, clergy	54
Party and State officials, including mass and social organizations	35
	31
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3. *Distribution of Members of Parliament
according to Sex*

Men	247
Women	122
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4. *Distribution of Members of Parliament
according to Age Group*

23-35 years	44
36-45	XI
46-55	179
56-65	48
Over 65	17
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