

Press Release

Parliamentary Assembly Communication Unit

Ref: 078a08

Tel: +33 3 88 41 31 93

Fax :+33 3 90 21 41 34

pace.com@coe.int

internet: www.coe.int/press



47 members

Albania
Andorra
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Moldova
Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
San Marino
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
"the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom

Monaco elections were free and fair, say PACE observers

Strasbourg, 04.02.2008 – The 3 February 2008 parliamentary elections in Monaco were free and fair. They were well organised and their result is a true expression of the will of the electorate, concluded a five-member, cross-party delegation of observers from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

The delegation was impressed with the high voter turnout of 77 per cent, which testifies to the confidence of Monegasques that every vote counts. This public mood bodes well for the future of representative democracy in this particular constitutional monarchy.

The elections were competitive: the electorate was able to choose from three lists reflecting various shades and colours of the political spectrum. The elections set a good example for the Council of Europe in terms of holding free, fair and well administered elections.

The Office of the Mayor of Monaco, in its capacity of election administrator, has done a commendable job in awareness-raising in the run-up to the elections. The vote-count was an exercise in efficiency and unprecedented openness for all.

Naturally, even in good elections there is always scope for improvement. The early publication of political programmes would have ensured timely and full information for voters with regard to the political plans of the contestants. Public debates would have helped the electorate to acquire a better understanding of the three platforms.

On the whole, these elections marked a step forward towards Monaco's full compliance with its obligations and commitments as a Council of Europe member state.

The delegation,¹ led by Jaakko Laakso (Finland, UEL), was in Monaco at the invitation of Jean-Paul Proust, Minister of State of Monaco. It held discussions, among others, with the Minister of State, the Mayor of Monaco, representatives of the three lists of candidates, Monaco's PACE delegation, and a cross-section of the media.

The delegation wishes to thank the offices of the Minister of State and the Mayor of Monaco, as well as the National Council, for their excellent co-operation in the organisation of the visit.

Contact:

Monaco: Vladimir Dronov, Interparliamentary Co-operation and Election Observation Service, mobile +33(0)6 63 49 37 92.

Strasbourg: PACE Communication Unit, tel. +33 (0)3 88 41 31 93.

¹ The members of the delegation were Jaakko Laakso (Finland, UEL), head of delegation, Leonid Slutsky (Russian Federation, SOC), Egidijus Vareikis (Lithuania, EPP/CD), Maximilian Reimann (Switzerland, ALDE) and Baroness Gloria Hooper (United Kingdom, EDG).