

ROMANIA

PERMANENT ELECTORAL AUTHORITY

INFORMATION ELECTIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT OF JUNE 7TH 2009

For the seventh time in the history of European Parliament, between 4-7 June, direct elections took place in all EU member states. The Romanian citizens voted on June 7th 33 European deputies out of total number of 736. The elections took place in all 27 EU member states, offering to the 375 million EU voters the possibility to decide over European policies.

- Legislative

Mass-media and civil society in the electoral campaign

Electoral observation and monitoring has become an integral part of the democratic and electoral processes in Romania. 30 NGOs expressed their intention of accrediting their representatives in the county electoral bureaux and the electoral bureaux of Bucharest's districts.

The Pro Democracy Association deployed observers to 22 counties around the country and Bucharest municipality. Some NGOs considered the electoral campaign as poor in debates concerning current European issues.

A number of 110 Romanian media institutions as well as a number of 14 institutions of foreign mass-media accredited representatives in the county electoral bureaux and the electoral bureaux of Bucharest's districts.

The financing of the electoral campaign

The donations received by the political parties and independent candidates during the electoral campaign for the European Parliament elections of June 7th 2009 reached 6.160.958 lei (approx. 1,5 million Euro).

According to the provisions of Law no. 334/2006 concerning the financing of the political parties and the electoral campaigns, the situation of the incomes and the expenses resulted following the verifications made by Permanent Electoral Authority will be published in the Official Journal of Romania 30 days after the elections day.

The running up of elections

During the organization and the running up of the elections for the European Parliament of June 7th, a series of irregularities have been registered, especially in rural areas, that have been investigated by the police:

- multiple voting suspicions; *⇒ verif. de către PEA*
- irregularities concerning the functioning of the polling stations;
- fraud attempts;
- improper use of mobile ballot box;
- abuses made of polling stations officials;

The registered petitions have been solved according to the terms provided by the electoral law. A series of notices concerning incidents that took place during the electoral campaign are currently under investigation, some of them having a criminal character.

- *Aleg. Guscini din lista permanente; nr. bulletin de vot*

The election results

The situation of the mandates attributed to each list of candidates and each independent candidate is the following:

No.	The name of political parties, organizations of the citizens belonging to the national minorities, political alliances, electoral alliances or the surname and name of independent candidates	Number of attributed mandates
1.	ELECTORAL ALLIANCE PSD+PC	11
2.	DEMOCRATIC-LIBERAL PARTY	10
3.	LIBERAL NATIONAL PARTY	5
4.	HUNGARIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION OF ROMANIA	3
5.	GREAT ROMANIA PARTY	3
6.	BĂSESCU ELENA	1
7.	TOTAL	33

The turnout in the elections for the European Parliament of June 7th 2009 reached 27,67% of the citizens having the right to vote, that is bellow the turnout of 29,47% registered in last 2007 elections for the European Parliament.

The results were published in the Official Journal of Romania no. 402 of June 12 2009.

Conclusions

The electoral process took place in accordance with legal provisions. The irregularities registered during the electoral process did not affect the elections results.

From a statistical point of view, it should be mentioned the following:

- out of a total of 5.035.299 votes, 194.626 have been annulled i.e. a percentage of 3,87%. If we make a comparison with the last national elections, we can note that the number of these votes diminished in comparison to last European elections of 2007 when 4,59% of the cast votes have been annulled, but increased in comparison to 2008 parliamentary elections when only 2,51 of the cast votes have been annulled;
- the number of voters that voted on supplementary lists was of 668.217. This represents 13,27% out of total cast votes. As far as the 2007 European elections, 604.706 voters voted on supplementary lists, representing 11,26% of the total cast votes.

Among the relevant aspects concerning the legal framework for organising the European Parliament elections was the modification of it just before the start of the electoral period, with the risk for the voters of not being enough familiarised with the new rules.

However, as the modification of the electoral law was made on a base of the recommendations made by the Permanent Electoral Authority following the 2007 elections for the European Parliament, the administrative formalities imposed to UE citizens have been much reduced as well as the organisational structure of elections much improved. An indication in this sense is the reduced number of problems that had to be solved through resolutions and decisions of the Central Electoral Bureau related to previous elections.

**Exerting the right to elect and to be elected by “the community electors”
and “the eligible persons” at the elections for the European Parliament,
4-7 June 2009**

Compliant to the provisions of the Directive 93/ 109/ CE the citizens of the EU member states having their residence/ domicile in other member states than the ones they were born in, have the right to vote for the representatives in the European Parliament of the State of residence or to run for the deputy mandate in the European forum, representing the State of residence, according to the provisions of the electoral laws of the State of residence.

1. In Romania, the mayors have communicated to the Permanent Electoral Authority 28 “community electors” that had registered on the special electoral lists to vote Romania’s representatives in the European Parliament. The number of voters registered on the special lists was 18.
2. A big number of Romanian citizens having the domicile/ residence in other member states had registered on the electoral lists of their residence states, so that until the 5th of June 2009 the Permanent Electoral Authority had notified 89.589 persons. Most of them were registered on the electoral lists in Spain (49.317), Italy (28.467), Great Britain (3.614), Hungary (2.423), and Germany (1.557).

No solicitations from Slovakia were registered.

The Permanent Electoral Authority received the notifications on lists (most of them, before May, 10) except for the ones received from the Great Britain and Germany that were transmitted through the local electoral authorities registered by the Permanent Electoral Authority before June 5, 2009.

As for the notifications received after May 15 (4293 persons), these could not be totally radiated from the permanent electoral lists because, starting with May 15, the competent electoral bodies had began finalizing the permanent lists that were to be sent to the voting sections.

2732 persons out of the 85296 that had been notified by the electoral bodies of the member states were not identified among the Romanian citizens’ records (1437, 1.68%) or were identified several times (1295, 1.52 %), which allowed their radiation from the permanent electoral lists. The cause of this situation was incomplete personal data that were sent to the Permanent Electoral Authority (lack of birth date or place, lack of maiden name for women) especially by the British authorities. More than 93% of the total amount of notifications received from the Great Britain only had incomplete data, generally, the name and the surname and the home address of the state of residence.

There are some conclusions that we can pull from the experience of these elections for the European Parliament:

1. The exchange of information was centralized with the help of the electoral bodies of the member states, notified by the European Union. The exception was the Great Britain and Germany, where the notifications were sent by the local electoral bodies. The exchange of information with the two states involves more correspondence and sometimes does not respect the rules established by the majority of the member states such as using the electronic communication.
2. The lack of personal data, essential in the process of identification of the persons, makes the exchange of information useless, in those cases.
3. Sending the personal data too late or too close to the election day also makes the exchange of information useless as, in our case, those persons can no longer be radiated from the permanent electoral lists.



The establishment of deadlines for the exchange of information as well as for the communication of all the personal data to be found in the model recommended by the European Commission and by the electoral legislations of the members states is imposed.