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Observation of the Parliamentary Elections in Monaco (3 February 2008)

Report¹

Ad hoc Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly

Rapporteur: Mr Jaakko LAAKSO, Finland, Group of the Unified European Left

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I. Introduction

1. In response to an invitation from the Minister of State of Monaco, Mr Jean-Paul Proust, the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly decided, on 22 November 2007, to set up an ad hoc committee to observe the elections to the National Council (Parliament) of Monaco, which took place on 3 February 2008.

2. Based on the proposals of the Assembly's political groups, the ad hoc committee was composed as follows:

Socialist Group (SOC)

Mr Leonid Slutsky, Russian Federation

Group of the European People's Party (EPP/CD)

Mr Egidius Vareikis, Lithuania

Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE)

Mr Maximilian Reimann, Switzerland

¹ Approved by the Bureau at its meeting on 13 March 2008.

European Democrat Group (EDG)

Baroness Gloria Hooper, United Kingdom

Group of the Unified European Left (UEL)

Mr Jaakko Laakso, Finland

3. The Bureau appointed me as Head of this ad hoc committee.

4. Secretariat support was provided by Mr Vladimir DRONOV, Head of Secretariat, Interparliamentary Cooperation Department and Ms Farida JAMAL, Administrative Assistant.

5. The ad hoc committee met in Monaco from 1 to 4 February.

6. In addition to observing the actual voting and vote count, committee members met with Monegasque party leaders, the President of the National Council, the Minister of State, as well as the Mayor of Monaco, who is also Chair of the Electoral Committee. The Committee's work programme is reproduced in Appendix 1. On Election Day, the Committee observed the actual voting in Monaco's only polling station, the vote count following the closure of voting and visited the Government Election monitoring unit. The text of the press statement made following this observation exercise can be found in Appendix 2. The PACE delegation was the only international delegation to observe the 3 February elections.

7. The Election Day was characterised by a high voter turnout (76.85 % - 4854 Monegasques voted out of a total of 6316 registered voters) and was in general calm. The electoral officials displayed remarkable efficiency and professionalism. The vote count was conducted effectively and in full compliance with existing regulations. It was carried out in a unique atmosphere of transparency where every national of Monaco could observe the process.

8. The delegation wishes to thank the Parliament of Monaco (national Council) and the Office of the Minister of State for their co-operation and for the logistical support provided to the ad hoc committee.

II. The Pre-Election Period

Legal framework and electoral administration

9. Following its accession to the Council of Europe in 2004, Monaco has yet to ratify the first additional Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) that safeguards, *inter alia*, the right to free elections.

10. Under the existing legislation, the Parliament is elected for a term of five years, in a single round mixed majority/proportional election. Two-thirds (18 members) of the National Council are appointed by majority vote, and go to those who have obtained the most of votes. The remainder (8 seats) are filled by proportional vote based on the highest-average rule provided that the candidates from a list which has obtained at least 5 % of the votes.

11. According to the Election Law, the administration of the election process is organised by the Office of the Mayor of Monaco, with the Mayor acting as Chair of the Electoral Committee.

Voters and Candidates

12. All Monegasque nationals who are 18 and above are eligible to vote. Only nationals of Monaco (including naturalised Monegasques) are entitled to stand in an election. To exercise the right to vote, a person has to present himself/herself at the country's only polling station, produce an identity card and a voter's card. Existing legislation does not provide for voting by postal correspondence, mail-in voting or voting in the few Monegasque embassies abroad. People in hospitals could also be disenfranchised as the procedure does not provide for mobile ballot boxes. However, to take care of these situations, the law allows voting by proxy.

13. Candidates belonging to three lists ran in these elections: Union Pour Monaco (UPM), Rassemblement et Enjeux pour Monaco (REPM) and Monaco Ensemble (ME). In accordance with Monaco's

legislation that provides for mixing candidates during the vote, in addition to voting for the lists, voters could vote for individual candidates from different lists (see paragraph 10, above).

The run-up to the election and the election campaign

14. The election campaign was low-key. Since traditionally no opinion polls were conducted the outcome of the election was rather unclear even to the political elite.

15. In a welcome development, the Office of the Mayor conducted a voters' awareness - raising campaign, producing booklets and posters that clarified the rather complicated voting procedures in Monaco's mixed system.

16. The delegation was informed by some interlocutors that there was a degree of discontent in the Monegasque electorate due to the belated publication of political programmes of the stakeholders which, allegedly, did not allow the electorate to obtain a full picture of the different political platforms. There were mutual recriminations across the three lists lamenting the unwillingness of their leaders to engage in public debate. Local media published information concerning financial resources, collected by political lists, as well the use of those funds.

The media

17. Monaco has no legislation governing media behaviour in an electoral campaign. In general, in the absence of specific legislation, coverage of the electoral campaign by the media was pluralistic. The media sought to observe equal allocation of attention to the three contesting camps, even though no law in Monaco requires them to do so.

III. Election Day

18. PACE observers were able to obtain a comprehensive picture of the voting and the vote count. The elections were well organised and conducted in an orderly manner. The delegation regarded the administration of the elections as exemplary.

19. The vote count was an exercise in an extraordinary transparency, by international standards, with a significant proportion of Monegasque nationals present.

IV. Results of the ballot

20. The results of the ballot (see Appendix 3) produced a parliament composed of members of two of the three lists that ran in the elections, with UMP obtaining 21 out of the 24 seats and REPM getting 3 seats.

V. Conclusions

21. The ad hoc committee agreed that, given the particular situation of Monaco, the election was largely in line with Council of Europe electoral standards. The Electoral commission conducted its work in an impartial and professional manner, displaying great transparency and efficiency.

22. The ad hoc committee considers that the results of the elections are indicative of massive support by the Monegasques for the reforms conducted by the State. This should encourage the authorities to continue working towards full implementation of Monaco's commitments *vis-à-vis* the Council of Europe, including the ratification of the first additional Protocol to the ECHR.

23. The ad hoc committee is confident that these elections mark an important milestone along the road of Monaco's further integration into the Council of Europe.

VI. Recommendations

24. While no problems have been reported concerning media behaviour, the Monegasque authorities should consider introducing new media legislation that would, *inter alia*, specifically address media behaviour during the electoral campaign.

25. The ad hoc committee reiterates the Assembly recommendation inviting the Monegasque authorities to reflect on the need to adopt a law on political parties, not least with a view to ensuring the transparency of party funding.

APPENDIX 1

**Ad hoc Committee for the Observation of the parliamentary elections in Monaco
1 - 4 February****Programme**

Place : Columbus Hôtel Monaco

Friday 1 February 2008

09h45 Meeting of the ad hoc committee (Lobby of the Hotel)

10h00 Departure from the hotel

10h30 Meeting with Mr Georges MARSAN, Mayor of Monaco

12h30 Lunch

15h00 Meeting with Mr Jean-Paul PROUST, Minister of State

16h00 Meeting with Mr. Philippe NARMINO, Director of the Judicial Services

17h00 Meeting with the Media representatives

Saturday 2 February 2008

10h30 Departure from the Hotel

11h00 Meeting with Mr Stéphane VALERI, President of the National Council,

12h30 Working Lunch with the members of the PACE delegation

Meetings with different lists of political parties

14h30 List « Monaco Ensemble »

16h00 List « Rassemblement et Enjeux pour Monaco »

17h30 List « Union Pour Monaco »

18h30 Return to the Hotel

Sunday 3 February 2008*(Assisted by the Directorate of Diplomatic Relations)*

09h00 Observation of Voting at the Salle du Canton (Polling station)
full day

21h00 Counting of the votes at the Salle du Canton

Monday 4 February 2008

Departures

APPENDIX 2

Monaco elections were free and fair, say Assembly 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,² 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:

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². 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).

APPENDIX 3

Results - National Elections 2008

Registered	6316
Voters	4854
Turnout	76.85 %
Blank	80
Invalid	124

First-past-the-post system

Elected	Lists	Number of votes
• ROBILLON Jean-François	Union Pour Monaco	2403
• FAUTRIER Catherine	Union Pour Monaco	2383
• NOTARI Fabrice	Union Pour Monaco	2327
• BORDERO Alexandre	Union Pour Monaco	2319
• DITTLAT Michèle	Union Pour Monaco	2313
• SVARA Pierre	Union Pour Monaco	2303
• GARDETTO Jean-Charles S.	Union Pour Monaco	2300
• SPILOTIS-SAQUET Christophe	Union Pour Monaco	2279
• VALERI Stéphane	Union Pour Monaco	2274
• CLERISSI Philippe	Union Pour Monaco	2266
• LORENZI Pierre	Union Pour Monaco	2261
• POYARD-VATRICAN Anne	Union Pour Monaco	2256
• BERTRAND Gérard	Union Pour Monaco	2247
• BOCCONE-PAGES Brigitte	Union Pour Monaco	2241
• BOUHNICK-LAVAGNA Sophie	Union Pour Monaco	2237
• ROSE Guillaume	Union Pour Monaco	2221

Proportional representation

Elected	Lists	Number of votes
• STEINER Christophe	Rassemblement et Enjeux pour Monaco	1838
• BURINI Marc	Rassemblement et Enjeux pour Monaco	1798
• NOUVION Laurent	Rassemblement et Enjeux pour Monaco	1793
• MARQUET Bernard	Union Pour Monaco	2184
• CELLARIO Claude	Union Pour Monaco	2167
• MANZONE-SAQUET Nicole	Union Pour Monaco	2133
• GUAZZONNE Eric	Union Pour Monaco	2120
• MARQUET Roland	Union Pour Monaco	2101

Number of seats

List	Number of seats	Number of votes
Union Pour Monaco	21	53523
Rassemblement et Enjeux pour Monaco	3	41512
Monaco Ensemble	0	7491

LISTE « Union Pour Monaco »

Candidates	Number of votes	Elected
• ALESSANDRI Jessica	2 079	
• BATTAGLIA Maryse	2 067	
• BERTRAND Gérard	2 247	Elected
• BOCCONE-PAGES Brigitte	2 241	Elected
• BONNAL Isabelle	2 042	
• BORDERO Alexandre	2 319	Elected
• BOUHNICK-LAVAGNA Sophie	2 237	Elected
• CELLARIO Claude	2 167	Elected
• CLERISSI Philippe	2 266	Elected
• DITTLLOT Michèle	2 313	Elected
• FAUTRIER Catherine	2 383	Elected
• GARDETTO Jean-Charles S.	2 300	Elected
• GUAZZONNE Eric	2 120	Elected
• LORENZI Pierre	2 261	Elected
• MANZONE-SAQUET Nicole	2 133	Elected
• MARQUET Bernard	2 184	Elected
• MARQUET Roland	2 101	Elected
• NOTARI Fabrice	2 327	Elected
• POYARD-VATRICAN Anne	2 256	Elected
• ROBILLON Jean-François	2 403	Elected
• ROSE Guillaume	2 221	Elected
• SPILIOOTIS-SAQUET Christophe	2 279	Elected
• SVARA Pierre	2 303	Elected
• VALERI Stéphane	2 274	Elected

LISTE « Rassemblement et Enjeux pour Monaco »

Candidates	Number of votes	Elected
• BARIA Guy	1 709	
• BERTI Christian	1 658	
• BLANCHY Jean-Baptiste	1 764	
• BOISSON Rainier	1 757	
• BURINI Marc	1 798	Elected
• CROVETTO Bertrand	1 760	
• DICK Georges	1 673	
• ELENA Martine	1 689	
• FICINI Alain	1 722	
• FRESCO-ROLFO Béatrice	1 684	
• GRIMAUD-PALMERO Patricia	1 689	
• KERN-de MILLO TERRAZZANI Elodie	1 749	
• LIBERATORE-VITTORIOSO Anne	1 720	

• MAGNAN Guy	1 733	
• MULLOT Richard	1 790	
• NOGHES-MENIO Cristina	1 641	
• NOUVION Laurent	1 793	Elected
• POYET Thierry	1 751	
• PRAT Bernard	1 720	
• ROSTICHER Claude	1 753	
• STEINER Christophe	1 838	Elected
• TCHOBANIAN Joël	1 719	
• VACCAREZZA Claude	1 702	
• DE VEIGY-BROUSSE Géraldine	1 700	

LISTE « Monaco Ensemble »

Candidates	Number of votes	Elected
• AGLIARDI Claudine	378	
• BOERI Daniel	483	
• BOISSON Claude	654	
• DICK Pierre	398	
• FERREYROLLES Franck	429	
• FERREYROLLES Guy-Philippe	398	
• GENINAZZA-BACHÉ Martine	396	
• GIORDANO René	568	
• LE JOLIFF Audrey	437	
• L'HERBON DE LUSSATS Jean	395	
• LICARI Jean-Pierre	679	
• MARESCHI Gabrielle	392	
• NIGIONI Jean-Luc	583	
• RIT Jacques	830	
• WOOLLEY Patrice	471	