

## 30. ELECTIONS

On 25 and 26 October 2013, due to dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies, the **early election to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the CR** was held. The Chamber of Deputies was dissolved on 28 August 2013 pursuant to the Article 35(2) of the Constitution upon a proposal of the Chamber of Deputies by the Decision of the President of the CR No. 265/2013 Sb., on Dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. On the same day, the election was announced by the President of the Czech Republic's Decision No. 266/2013 Sb., on Announcement of Election to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic.

The way of determining the election results and the procedure of their further processing up to the distribution of seats is laid down by the Act No. 247/1995 Sb., on elections to the Parliament of the Czech Republic, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "the Act"). The data presented are based on the results processed for the State Electoral Committee.

The election to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic was held on the basis of universal, equal, and direct suffrage by secret ballot, following the principle of proportional representation in the electoral regions. It is laid down in the Constitution that the number of deputies elected (seats) shall be 200. An annex to the Act defines 14 electoral regions, which are identical with the administrative regions of the Czech Republic. It was possible for Czech citizens to vote also abroad, in polling stations installed in embassies and consulates-general or consular agencies of the Czech Republic; these results were added to the results of the Středočeský electoral region (as decided by a lot drawn by the State Electoral Committee).

The voters were citizens of the Czech Republic who had attained the age of 18 years on the second day of the election at the latest provided that no legal impediment to the exercise of their right to vote occurred. Voters could exercise their right to vote in some of the permanent electoral wards on the territory of the Czech Republic or in a special electoral ward abroad, in which they were included in the electoral roll.

The seats were contested by a total of 23 political parties and political movements (hereinafter referred to as the "political party"), which had submitted their individual lists of candidates at least in one of the electoral regions. The list of candidates of the Czechoslovak Socialist Party was refused by the registration office. The lists contained the names of candidates in the descending order preferred by the political party for the allocation of seats. The maximum number of candidates is limited by the Act, differentially for each electoral region.

To cast the vote, the voter inserted the ballot paper of the selected political party into an official envelope and put it into a ballot box. The voter was allowed to show preference for the candidates by marking with a circle up to four ordinal numbers on the ballot paper. Such ballot paper represented one valid vote for the political party, provided that the voting procedure complied with the Act.

Valid votes won by individual political parties decided on which of them will share the 200 seats. Only those political parties, which reached the stipulated percentage of the total number of returned valid votes in all electoral regions, qualified for the scrutiny. The percentage is stipulated by the Act depending on the type of the list of candidates – 5% for a single political party or political movement.

Seats falling to the electoral regions were allocated to the political parties gradually within the electoral region with regard to the shares of votes calculated using the d'Hondt method (i.e. valid votes received by a party are gradually divided by 1, 2, 3, etc.). The seats won by the political party were obtained by its candidates in the order, in which they were listed on the ballot paper; provided that a candidate gained preferential votes making up at least 5% of the vote for the party in the region, jumped to the top for seat allocation or to the top of the list of substitutes.

**Elections to the European Parliament** took place on 23 and 24 May 2014 on the territory of the Czech Republic for the third time already. After an increase of the number of Member States of the EU to 28 and after a change in the total number of Members of the European Parliament, the total of 21 Members were elected from the Czech Republic this time. The entire Czech Republic was the election territory within which the seats were distributed.

Elections to the European Parliament took place pursuant to the Act No. 62/2003 Sb., on Elections to the European Parliament and on Amendments to Certain Acts. The election date was declared based upon a Decision of the President of the Czech Republic No. 24/2014 Sb., on Announcement of Election to the European Parliament. The European Parliament elections were held on the basis of universal, equal, and direct suffrage by secret ballot according to the proportional representation principle.

Any citizen of the Czech Republic or any citizen of another Member State of the European Union can be elected a Member of the European Parliament if on the second day of the election at the latest he/she had attained the age of at least 21 years, had not been deprived of his/her legal capacity, who had been for a minimum period of 45 days before the second day of elections registered in the population register under a special regulation. Members of the European Parliament are elected for a five-year term.

The voters were citizens of the Czech Republic who had attained the age of 18 years on the second day of the election at the latest. They were entitled to vote provided that no legal impediment to the exercise of their

right to vote occurred. Every voter could be registered only in one election roll and could cast his/her vote in any of about 14 700 polling stations. As a rule, voters cast their votes in such polling station established for electoral ward by the voter's domicile. If voters applied for the elector's certificate they were entitled to vote anywhere in the Czech Republic.

The ballots were received and assessed and the votes counted first at permanent and separate electoral wards (see the Act No. 491/2001 Sb., on Local Elections, as amended). The application of the one voter – one vote principle was ensured by the procedure in which the voter received one official envelope from the ward election commission for the voter to insert in it one ballot of the party in favour of which he/she wished to cast the vote. On the ballot the voter could mark not more than 2 candidates whom he/she preferred to give vote to. The total of 21 seats in the European Parliament could be allocated only to those political parties, political movements and coalitions, which won at least 5% of all valid notes.

The table 30-6 gives the list of elected Members of the European Parliament. Percentage of preferential votes is calculated from the number of valid votes received by a political party, political movement or coalition.

The sums of relative values do not have to equal 100 due to rounding off.

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Further data can be found on the website of the Czech Statistical Office at:

– [www.volby.cz/index\\_en.htm](http://www.volby.cz/index_en.htm)