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**WOMEN IN POLITICS
IN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
MEMBER STATES**

May 2002

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Information document

**prepared by the
Directorate General of Human Rights**

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The Council of Europe

The Council of Europe is a political organisation which was founded on 5 May 1949 by ten European countries in order to promote greater unity between its members. It now numbers 44 European states.¹

The main aims of the Organisation are to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and to develop common responses to political, social, cultural and legal challenges in its member states. Since 1989 it has integrated most of the countries of central and eastern Europe and supported them in their efforts to implement and consolidate their political, legal and administrative reforms.

The Council of Europe has its permanent headquarters in Strasbourg (France). By Statute, it has two constituent organs: the Committee of Ministers, composed of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the 44 member states, and the Parliamentary Assembly, comprising delegations from the 44 national parliaments. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe represents the entities of local and regional self-government within the member states.

The European Court of Human Rights is the judicial body competent to adjudicate complaints brought against a state by individuals, associations or other contracting states on grounds of violation of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Council of Europe and equality between women and men

The consideration of equality between women and men, seen as a fundamental human right, is the responsibility of the Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men (CDEG). The experts who form the Committee (one from each member State) are entrusted with the task of stimulating action at the national level, as well as within the Council of Europe, to achieve effective equality between women and men. To this end, the CDEG carries out analyses, studies and evaluations, defines strategies and political measures, and, where necessary, frames the appropriate legal instruments.

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¹ 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, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

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INTRODUCTION

This document contains information concerning the Council of Europe member States in the following areas:

- number of women holding government posts
- percentage of women in elected positions at national, regional and local level
- measures designed to facilitate women's participation in political life
- type of electoral system.

Information and data have been provided by the authorities of the different member States as at 10 May 2002 and selected from relevant documents of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

It has not been possible to include information concerning Bosnia and Herzegovina, which became a member of the Council of Europe on 24 April 2002.

Comparative tables can be found at the end of the document.

ALBANIA

Women in government

There are 3 women ministers out of a total of 18, which represents nearly 17%. One of the Vice Prime Ministers is a woman.

Percentage of women in elected positions

There are 8 women represented in the People's Assembly out of a total of 140 (6%). No woman has yet held the office of President of Parliament, though there is a woman Vice-President.

Two out of the 36 regional councils are led by a woman (6%) and 94 (= 22%) of the 430 members of the regional councils are women.

At the local level there are 2 women mayors out of a total of 65, which represents 3%, and two of the 310 communities are led by a woman, which represents 0.7%. The number of women represented in the local councils is as follows: 98 women are members of the local councils of a municipality (out of 920 members; that is 11%) and 95 women are members of the local councils of a community (out of 3,490 members; which represents 3%).

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

At present the political parties are a long way from adopting special measures to favour women's participation in political life.

Type of electoral system

The electoral system in use is a mixed one: 115 of the 155 seats in the Parliament were elected in single-seat constituencies by absolute majority while the remaining 40 were allocated by the system of proportional representation to those parties which received more than 2% of the votes. A second round is held in those constituencies where the two leading candidates have not received over 50% of the votes in the first round.

ANDORRA

Women in government

There are 3 women ministers out of a total of 10, which represents 30%.

Percentage of women in elected positions

There are 4 women members in the General Council, which numbers 28 seats (14%). (7% in 2000.) No woman has yet held the office of President of Parliament.

ARMENIA

Women in government

Currently there is no woman minister in the Republic of Armenia. No woman has yet held the office of the Prime Minister or Vice Prime Minister. About 40% of the employees working in ministries are women, most often holding middle-level positions, such as heads of departments.

Percentage of women in elected positions

In the 1995 Parliamentary elections, out of 75 women running in 150 uni-mandate precincts only 4 were elected.

The 1999 Parliamentary elections resulted in only 4 women members of the National Assembly out of 131 (about 3%). In the elections there were no women candidates in more than 50% of the single mandate election districts. Women lead only four out of 72 political parties.

According to a 1999 survey, 33.1% of surveyed women compared to 32.7% surveyed men voted in the 1999 local government elections. In Armenia, heads of local government units (LGU) are elected positions and there are only 10 women among more than 940 LGU leaders. However, nearly half of their staff is comprised of women.

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

The new Electoral Code adopted in 1999 (two months before the Parliamentary elections) states that the voting lists of the parties involved in the proportional parliamentary electoral system should contain not less than 5% female candidates (Chapter 2).

Type of electoral system

Elections to the National Assembly are held by proportional and majority systems.

56 members are elected by proportional system from among the number of candidates nominated for member by lists from one multi-mandate constituency, covering the entire territory of the Republic.

75 members are elected by majority system – one member from one constituency.

AUSTRIA

Women in government

There are 4 women (2 ministers, 1 vice-chancellor, 2 state secretary) out of a total of 16, which represents 25%.

Percentage of women in elected positions

At the national level, there are 52 women members of Parliament, representing 28% of the total number (183). In 1995, this figure was 23%. No woman has yet held the office of President of Parliament, but from 1990 to 1994 a woman was 3rd President of Parliament. There are 16 women members of the *Bundesrat*, representing 25% of the total (64). In 1994, this figure was 22%. Since 1927, 7 women have held the office of President of the *Bundesrat* or of one of its Chambers.

At local level, there are 41 women mayors out of a total of 2,342, i.e. just 1.75%.

Type of electoral system

Election at local and regional level is based on proportional representation, with the requirement of a minimum percentage of votes. In some *Länder* the mayor is elected by the members of the council, in others by the inhabitants of the municipality directly. The term of office is six years.

AZERBAIJAN

Women in government

There are two women ministers out of a total of 32, which represents 6% (3% in 2000).
Regional level: two out of the 85 regional executive powers are led by women (2%).
In the office of the President, one of the 7 heads of department is a woman (14%).
Two women out of five are heads of court power bodies (40%).

Percentage of women in elected positions

There are 13 women in the National Assembly, which numbers 125 seats (10%). No woman has yet held the office of President of Parliament. One of the three Vice-Presidents of Parliament is a woman.

There are 27 women mayors out of a total of 2,220 municipalities (1%).

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

There are two Decrees of the President of the Republic on the empowerment of women. The National Plan of Action includes the involvement of women in political life as one of its priorities.

Type of electoral system

Presidential elections are based on the system of 2/3 of the votes.
Parliamentary elections are conducted on the basis of proportional representation, with the requirement of 6% of votes (100 seats) and majority (25 seats) representation.
Municipal elections are held on the principle of absolute majority.

BELGIUM

At federal level

Legislative power is divided between two assemblies: the House of Representatives (Lower House) and the Senate (Upper House). The 150 members of the House of Representatives are elected by direct universal suffrage and according to a proportional system, in theory for 5 years. The Senate is composed of 71 senators, 40 of whom are directly elected, 21 “community” senators (i.e. elected deputies in the different assemblies of the federal entities) and 10 senators co-opted by their peers.

Women in government

There are 4 women members of government, which totals 15 ministers and 2 secretaries of state. Two are deputy prime ministers (respectively Minister for Employment and Minister for Mobility and Transport); the third is Minister for Consumer Protection, Public Health and Environment and the fourth is Deputy to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, responsible for agriculture. Women therefore represent 23.5% of the members of the federal government. For the first time in history, two women (i.e. 40%) form part of the “Kern” (restricted Council of Ministers).

Women in the federal parliament

In the Belgian Senate, there are 21 women out of a total of 71 members (29.6%). In the House of Representatives, 34 of the 150 members are women (22.7%). Following the last elections, the increase in the percentage of women in the House of Representatives is particularly important, since the number of women representatives doubled in one election.

No woman has yet held the office of President of the federal parliament.

At the level of the federal entities

The federal entities dispose of their own Parliament (the Council) and their own government. The different federal assemblies are elected according to the proportional system of direct universal suffrage for a period of 5 years. There are two exceptions to the rule of direct election: the members of the Council of the French community are chosen from among the elected representatives of the Walloon regional council and the French-speaking elected representatives of the Council of Brussels-Capital Region, and 6 of the 124 members of the Flemish Council are chosen from among the Dutch-speaking elected representatives of the Brussels Assembly.

Governments and regional and community assemblies

Flemish community:	3 women out of 10 in the Executive (30%); 24 women out of 124 in the Council (19.3%)
French community:	3 women out of 7 in the Executive (42.9%); 19 women out of 94 in the Council (20.2%)
German community:	no women are represented in the Executive (3 members); 8 women out of 25 in the Council (32%)
Walloon Region:	1 woman out of 9 in the Executive (11%); 10 women out of 75 in the Council (13.3%)
Brussels-Capital Region:	no women are represented in the Executive (8 members); 27 women out of 75 in the Council (36%)

A woman is President of the Brussels-Capital regional council.

At local level (provinces and municipalities)

At local level, elections by direct universal suffrage and according to the system of proportional representation are organised every 6 years to elect the representatives to the local assemblies, i.e. the municipal and provincial councils.

At the provincial level, the executive body is made up of the Permanent Delegation and the provincial governor. At the municipal level, the executive body is made up of the Corporation of Mayor and Aldermen. The mayor is normally appointed by the Crown from among the elected councillors. The aldermen are elected by the municipal councillors.

Following the provincial elections of 8 October 2000, there are 2 woman governors out of a total of 11 (18%). One is governor of the province of Limburg and the other governor of Brussels-Capital. 31% of the provincial councillors and 15% of the permanent deputies are women.

At local level, after the municipal elections of 8 October 2000, 27% women municipal councillors were elected (out of total 13,077). 45 women mayors were appointed (7.6%) and 556 alderwomen were elected (20%).

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

The law of 24 May 1994, which aims to promote a balanced participation of women and men on electoral lists, stipulates that, for all political elections, a maximum of two-thirds of candidates shall be of the same sex. In the event that this instruction is not respected, the places that should have been filled by women can be left vacant; if not, the list can be turned down. In practice, this means imposing a quota of one-third of female candidates on each party list.

This law was applied for the first time during the elections of 13 June 1999. Taking all the assemblies together, a 4.8% increase in the number of women representatives could be observed (the number of women deputies increased from 18.5% to 23.3%).

A revision of Chapter II of the Belgian Constitution was adopted by the Senate on 8 March 2000 and by the Chamber of Representatives on 24 January 2002. Equality between women

and men is formally guaranteed by the Constitution. The Constitution also stipulates that “the law, decree or rule (...) guarantees to women and men the equal exercise of their rights and liberty, and promotes in particular their equal access to elective and public office”. Finally, the Constitution foresees a mixed representation in governments by stipulating that “the Council of Ministers and the governments of communities and regions comprise members of both sexes”.

Three draft bills of 19 May 2000 aim at introducing parity on electoral lists at all levels of decision-making. It foresees that on each list “the difference between the number of candidates of each sex cannot be more than one”, which implies an equivalent number (with a difference of one) of candidates of both sexes. It also stipulates that “the two candidates at the top of each list must be of different sex”. This government draft is at present being examined by the Federal Parliament.

BULGARIA

Women in government

There are 3 women ministers out of a total of 16, which represents 19%.

Percentage of women in elected positions

There are 63 women deputies out of a total of 240 Members of Parliament (26%) (11% in 2000). No woman has yet held the office of President of Parliament, but several have held the post of Vice-President.

At local level, 8% of mayors of municipal communities are women and 15% of mayors of small-inhabited districts. A total of 20% of municipal councillors are women. Representatives are elected directly by the voters, with a proportional political party system. The term of office is four years.

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

The practice of quotas in Parliament and the bodies of local self-government was in force until 1990. This practice is not implemented at present as a means to ensure equal gender representation. However, the promotion of equal access of women to decision-making positions is among the priorities of the National Plan for Action elaborated and adopted after the 4th World Conference on Women.

CROATIA

Women in government

There are 2 women ministers out of a total of 24, which represents 8%.

Percentage of women in elected positions

At Parliament level, there are 4 women out of a total of 68 in the House of Zupanije (Upper House) (6%) and 31 women out of 151 in the House of Representatives (21%). This last figure has increased by 11%. A woman has held the office of President of the House of Zupanije since 1993.

At local level, there are 4% of women representatives and in the Zagreb Assembly 14%.

Women in government

There are no women ministers out of a total of 11.

Percentage of women in elected positions

Parliamentary elections 2001

There are 6 women members of the National Parliament out of a total of 56 (11%), compared to 3 women in the previous elections in 1996. No woman has yet held the office of President of Parliament.

Local elections 2001

At the local level there are 79 women municipal councillors out of a total of 398 (20%) compared to 65 women out of 384 (17%) in the previous local elections in 1996. There is one woman mayor out of a total of 33 (3%), compared to 4 in 1996.

Measures to increase women's participation in political and public life

a) by Government/National Machinery for Women's Rights

Besides the various specialised training programmes to encourage women to become more involved in politics which took place since 1998, the National Machinery for Women's Rights (NMWR), in view of the May 2001 Parliamentary elections, launched a public campaign to support women candidates. The campaign included:

1. Strong political statements by the Minister of Justice and Public Order, (President of the NMWR), during various public events to support women's elections.
2. Contacts with the Leaders of political parties requesting their full and practical support to increase the number of women in the candidate lists and also for their election.
3. Contacts with mass media to give equal opportunities to women candidates during the pre-election period.
4. Posters and advertisements with the slogan "Give Voice and Power to Women".
5. A broad circulation of a booklet presenting all women candidates (their CVs and political aspirations).
6. Organisation of a special event under the auspices of the Minister of Justice and Public Order to honour all women candidates in the presence of mass media representatives, during the course of which a special film was shown.
7. Preparation and wide distribution of the lists with names, addresses and other details on all candidates aiming to facilitate contacts and networking.
8. Collaboration with the radio station of pan Cyprian coverage (Radio Athina) through a daily programme "Women in Political Life", where all women candidates had an opportunity to present themselves to the public.

The fact that all political parties have increased the number of women candidates, which reached 86 (compared to 32 in 1991 and 55 in 1996), as well as the fact that the 27th of May 2001 elections resulted in 100% increase (from 3 to 6) in Women MPs elected, have justified the efforts of the National Machinery of Women's Rights.

b) by political parties

Two of the major political parties have introduced a quota system in order to promote the participation of women in parties' decision-making bodies and candidate lists. More specifically, in the 1999 Statutes of the Democratic Rally Party, the following provision was introduced:

“In all collective bodies of the Party that are elected by a single vote, women participate in numbers proportionate to the number of women members of the party, both on regional and national level, provided that this number is not less than 20% of the total number of the members of the respective body.

The minimum participation percentage also applies to the participation of women candidates on all party ballot papers for local, regional and national elections, provided there are interested candidates. The Council of the Party will revise the minimum representation percentage from time to time, to reach 30% by 2005.”

A similar provision exists in the Statutes of the Social Democrats Movement, where the quota system of a minimum participation rate of 25% for women, in all its decision-making bodies, has been introduced.

Type of electoral system

Elections are conducted on the basis of a system of proportional representation.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Women in government

There is no woman minister out of a total of 19.

Percentage of women in elected positions

There are 30 women Members of Parliament out of a total of 200 (15%) and 10 women Members of Senate out of a total of 81 (12%). No woman has yet held the office of President of Parliament. The President of Senate is at present a woman, and the Vice-Presidency of the House of Representatives is held by a woman.

DENMARK

Women in government

There are 5 women ministers out of a total of 18, which represents 28% (45% in 2000).

Percentage of women in elected positions

There are 68 women Members of Parliament out of a total of 179 (38%).

The number of women elected at regional (county) and local (municipal) level represents 26% and 27% respectively.

Type of electoral system

The elections on all three levels are conducted on a system of proportional representation. The most common is election by party lists, but individuals can also stand, with the result that individuals with many personal votes may be elected before other individuals higher on the party lists but with fewer personal votes. Furthermore, election alliances can be established between two or more parties. The mayors at regional or municipality level are elected by the county/municipal council from amongst its members for a period of four years.

ESTONIA

Women in government

There are 2 women ministers, out of a total of 15, which represents 13%.

Percentage of women in elected positions

There are 18 women members of the State Assembly out of a total of 101 (18%). No woman has yet held the office of President of Parliament, but one of the Vice-Presidents is a woman.

FINLAND

Women in government

The Government consists of the Prime Minister and 17 ministers. In February 2002 there were 7 female ministers (38.9%) but in April 2002 the number of female ministers will rise to 44.4%. The women ministers are responsible for the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of Environment.

Percentage of women in elected positions

The Parliament of Finland

In the general elections of March 1999, 74 women and 126 men were elected to Parliament (37% women). After some changes, the percentage has now risen to 37.5% (75 women Members of Parliament).

The percentage of women elected in the parliamentary elections was 33.5% in 1995 and 38.5% in 1991.

A woman has held the office of President of Parliament since 1994. A woman was elected President of Finland in March 2000.

The municipal level

In the last municipal elections in 2000 the number of women elected was 34%. In the previous elections the number of women was 31.4% in 1996 and 30.6% in 1992.

Measures to increase women's participation in political and public life

The 1995 quota law includes the duty of authorities to promote equality. According to this law, authorities shall promote equality between women and men purposefully and systematically, especially by changing circumstances that prevent the achievement of equality. The provisions of the quota law, however, do not concern Parliament and municipal councils, as these bodies are chosen by direct and universal ballot.

Type of electoral system

It is a system of direct proportional voting.

FRANCE

Women in government

Following the presidential elections of 5 May 2002, there are 3 women ministers and 3 women secretaries of state out of a total of 28, which represents 21.4%.

Percentage of women in elected positions

The percentage of women senators doubled following the parliamentary elections of September 2001. There are 35 women senators out of a total of 321, representing 10.9%. The implementation of the law on equal access by women and men to electoral office and elective positions (6 June 2000) and the increase in a certain number of *départements* where a system of proportional representation is applied for senatorial elections explain this progression.

At "*département*" level, it has still not been possible to overcome the 10% barrier after the cantonal elections of March 2001. 9.8% of women were elected as general councillors, compared to 6.3% in 1998.

The law of 6 June 2000 was applied for the first time at the local elections of 11 and 18 March 2001. Parity was nearly reached in municipalities with more than 3,500 inhabitants (which were the only ones concerned by the law), with 47.5% of women municipal councillors elected, compared to 25.7% previously. Women now represent 33% of all municipal councillors, against 21.9% in 1995. The proportion of women mayors reached 10.9% in 2001, compared to 7.5% in 1995.

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

Only two political parties - the Socialists and the Greens - have introduced positive measures within their parties. The procedure adopted by the Socialists consists of reserving constituencies for women candidatures. It was applied during the 1997 elections. The Greens have introduced positive measures in their party statute (parity for positions with responsibility by way of appropriate election modalities to establish this parity).

The constitutional revision voted by Parliament on 28 June 1999 confirmed the principle of access by women and men to electoral office and elective positions. Article 3 of the Constitution confers on the law the responsibility of promoting this equal access, whereas Article 4 provides that political parties "shall contribute to implementation of the principle". In December 1999, the Government presented a bill to the National Assembly in favour of equal access by women and men, as well as a draft institutional Act for the overseas territories. The texts were adopted on 3 May 2000.

The Government chose, on the one hand, balanced representation (50% of candidates of both sexes) and, on the other hand, not to modify the voting system. The law will apply as from March 2001 in municipalities of more than 3,500 inhabitants, as from September 2001 for the senatorial elections (for those *départements* where senators are elected by proportional representation) and as from 2004 for the regional and European elections.

In all these voting systems, the law provides for each list that “the difference between the number of female candidates and the number of male candidates on each list must be no more than one” and, for local and regional elections, that “each group of six candidates in order of presentation on the list shall contain an equal number of candidates of each sex”.

Moreover, the law provides that “when for a political party or group the difference between the number of candidates of both sexes having declared their link to this party or group, at the time of the last general renewal of the National Assembly, ... exceeds 2% of the total number of candidates, the amount of the first instalment ... which is attributed to it is decreased by a percentage equal to one half of this difference added to the total number of candidates”. Therefore, according to the law, a party is not penalised if it presents 49% of women and 51% of men. On the other hand, the decrease in the first instalment of public funding will be 5% for a difference of 10%, 30% for a difference of 60% and a maximum of 50% for a difference of 100%. This mechanism of financial penalisation will avoid a threshold effect. It also guarantees the receipt of at least 50% public funding.

Type of electoral system

- for presidential elections: double ballot majority system
- for legislative elections: double ballot majority system in one-member constituencies
- for senatorial elections: indirect double ballot majority system or indirect highest majority proportional system according to the number of seats to be filled in a "*département*" (College of electors constituted by elected representatives)
- for regional elections: direct universal suffrage; the regional councillors are elected by party list voting by highest average proportional representation; the term of office is six years
- for cantonal elections: double ballot majority system in one-member constituencies
- for municipal elections: the term of office is six years and the method of election varies according to the population of the commune
 - * fewer than 3,500 inhabitants: the municipal council is elected from a multi-member list by a double ballot majority system in multi-member constituencies
 - * 3,500 inhabitants and over: the municipal councillors are elected by indirect double ballot highest average proportional party list system; the mayor is elected by the municipal council by secret ballot and by absolute majority

GEORGIA

Women in government

There are 2 women ministers out of a total of 21 (9.5%) and 7 women deputy ministers out of a total of 89 (8%).

Percentage of women in elected positions

There are 10 women out of a total of 233 members of Parliament (4%). In 1999, this figure was 7%.

1,343 women have been elected at local authority level (11%).

GERMANY

Women in government (Federal Government)

The Federal Government is made up of a Cabinet of 14 ministers under the leadership of the Federal Chancellor. The current Cabinet contains six female ministers (43%). In total, there are four Ministers of State (all four of whom are men), 22 Parliamentary State Secretaries (11 women and 11 men) and 26 State Secretaries (25 men and 1 woman) at the Federal Chancellery and the Ministries.

Percentage of women in elected positions

***Bundestag* (Federal Parliament)**

There are 209 women members out of a total of 669 (31.2%).

The Presidium of the *Bundestag* is led by the *Bundestag*'s President and his five Vice-Presidents. Three of these Vice-Presidents are women. Since 1948, two women have held the office of President of the *Bundestag*, one of them from 1972 to 1976 and the other from 1989 to 1998.

The German *Bundestag* has set up a total of 23 Committees, five of which are chaired by women, which amounts to 21.7%.

The Committee on Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth has the highest percentage of female members: 61.3% of its members are women.

One important parliamentary authority for matters regarding the Federal Armed Forces is the institution of Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces, who is appointed by Parliament for a period of five years. From 1995 to 2000, a woman held this office.

***Bundesrat* (Federal Council)**

Only State Premiers and Ministers of the Federal *Länder* can be members of the *Bundesrat*. Of the 16 Federal *Länder*, only one is headed by a woman.

The distribution of voting rights among the 16 Federal *Länder* is based on each *Land*'s population. The *Bundesrat* has a total number of 69 votes; 12 of its members are women.

Type of electoral system (Election to the *Bundestag*)

The right to vote for members of the German *Bundestag* is based on Article 38 of the Basic Law. Each voter has two votes: a first and a second vote. With the first vote, the voter can elect a candidate from the parties' nominated constituency candidates. This electoral act represents an electoral system in which votes are cast for a candidate and not a party list. The elected candidate is the one who manages to obtain the most votes. Half of the members of the *Bundestag* were directly elected in the constituencies.

With the second vote, the voter chooses among the different (*Land*) lists of party candidates which are drawn up by the *Land* association of the political parties.

The distribution of parliamentary seats takes place on the basis of the proportion of second votes which a party obtains; a party's direct mandates are offset against this proportion. Federal electoral law in Germany is known as a system of proportional representation (based on the second votes cast for party lists) coupled with the direct election of candidates in constituencies.

GREECE

Women in government

There are 10 women ministers out of a total of 83, which represents 12%.

Percentage of women in elected positions

There are 26 women representatives in the Chamber of Deputies out of a total of 300, which represents 9%. There were 19 women representatives in 1999. No woman has yet held the office of President of Parliament.

HUNGARY

Women in government

There is one women minister (Minister of Justice) out of 16 posts (6%). In addition, the following women state secretaries are in office: 4 Political State Secretaries, 2 State Secretaries and 9 Deputy State Secretaries.

Percentage of women in elected positions

Parliament

There are 33 women representatives in the National Assembly out of a total of 386, which represents 8.5%. Voters' increasing confidence in women MPs is shown by the fact that in the 1990 elections hardly one-fifth (18.5%), in 1994 one-third (34.9%), in 1998 already more than one-third (37.5%) of the MPs got into Parliament from constituencies, that is not through party lists or national lists.

There is one woman Vice-President of Parliament. No woman has yet held the office of President of Parliament.

Women's representation in parliamentary committees is 7.3%, i.e. lower than the percentage of women members of Parliament. They chair one and are vice-chair of four of 22 committees. Six of 63 sub-committees are presided by women, which is slightly higher than average (9,5%).

Local governments

Women's participation increased between 1990 and 1998 both among candidates and elected members of the councils of representatives. In smaller communities, women's representation in local governments is higher than in large cities. Women are mayors of 3 of the 23 districts of the capital (13%). In the cities with a population of over 10,000, 5.1% of mayors are women, while in the communities under 10,000 this rate is higher: 12.8% on average. Women's participation among members of the capital and county assemblies is 9.1%, though the dispersion is considerable - between 2.5 and 17.5%.

ICELAND

Women in government

Following the elections of May 1999, three women were appointed ministers out of a total of 12, which represents 25%. A fourth woman was appointed minister in December 1999 to replace a man. Women's representation in government is therefore now 33%. This figure was 10% in 1997.

Percentage of women in elected positions

Following the elections of May 1999, there are 22 women Members of Parliament out of a total of 63, which represents 35%. This figure was 27% in 1997. Two women have held the office of President of Parliament.

Women make up 29% of the local representatives, and there is one woman elected city mayor (in Reykjavik) out of the 33 bigger communities.

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

Two out of four major political parties have rules on equal participation and gender equality in appointments to all party organs. One political party has adopted an Equality Action Programme.

In June 1998, the Althingi (Icelandic Parliament) approved a proposal for a parliamentary resolution on measures to increase the share of women in politics. The Minister for Social Affairs appointed a committee to increase the share of women in politics, which began operating in October 1998. The committee organised an information/advertising campaign and the objectives of the project included: furthering women in political work against their attrition in politics; educating people and provoking thought about increasing women's share in politics; getting the attention of people of authority in political parties and the general public concerning the arrangement of lists of candidates; obtaining positive discussion in the mass media. Main projects: a newspaper and TV advertising campaign, where the leaders of political organisations participated in showing that women and men are in many respects dissimilar and cannot completely place themselves in the other's shoes; consultative meetings with the women's groups in political parties on collaboration and co-operation; organised open meetings in all election districts with women politicians and other interested people about an increased share for women in politics.

The next steps: educational and communications network. Local government elections will be held in Iceland in 2002 and parliamentary elections in 2003. To work toward increasing the number of women in politics, the committee has invited over 2,000 women politicians to join an educational and communications network. These women are local government officials and their alternates as well as women working on committees and councils under the auspices of local government.

IRELAND

Women in government

There are 2 women ministers out of a total of 15, which represents 13%, and 4 ministers of state out of a total of 17, which represents 24%.

Percentage of women in elected positions

In the Senate there are 60 members, and 9 women senators constitute 15% of the total. Twenty women (12%) were elected to the House of Representatives out of a total of 166. The number of women senators has increased since the last election (1997) from 8 (13%) to 9 (15%), whereas the percentage dropped from 14% to 12% in the new House of Representatives.

At local level, 15% of elected members are women.

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

Three out of the six major political parties operate a system of quotas (ranging from 20% to 40% of women candidates). Out of the remaining three, one party has adopted a Positive Action Programme to increase the participation of women, and another party has set a target of 40% to be reached by the year 2000.

ITALY

Women in government

In the new government of June 2001, there are 2 women ministers out of a total of 24, which represents 8% (23% in 2000) and 6 under-secretaries out of a total of 53, which represents 11% (18.5% in 2000).

Percentage of women in elected positions

Parliament

There are 25 women Senators out of a total of 321 (8%). In the Chamber of Deputies, there are 62 women representatives out of 630 (10%). This figure was 11% in 2000. There is one woman Vice-President of the Senate.

Regions

There are 2 women Presidents of Region out of a total of 20 (10%) (5% in 2000), 22 regional assessors out of 203 (11%) (6.5% in 2000), 89 regional councillors out of a total of 1,067 (8%) (12% in 2000) and 3 Presidents of Regional Councils out of 20 (15%).

Provinces

There are 6 women Presidents of provinces out of 106 (6%), 92 assessors out of 771 (12%), 276 provincial councillors out of 2,781 (9%) and 373 administrators out of 129,014 (less than 1%).

Municipalities

There are 519 women mayors out of a total of 7,844 (7%), 4,209 deputy mayors out of 26,869 (16%), 15,756 women municipal councillors out of 94,156 (17%) and 22,345 administrators out of a total of 128,869 (17%).

Measures to increase women's participation in political and public life

In Italy, a quota system was introduced in the legislation governing municipal and provincial elections between 1993 and 1995. However, the Italian Constitutional Tribunal repealed these regulations in 1995, considering that they were contrary to the principle of equality.

LATVIA

Women in government

There is one woman minister out of a total of 19 (5%).

Percentage of women in elected positions

There are 17 women Members of Parliament out of a total of 100 (17%). In 1997, this figure was 9% (9 women). No woman has yet held the office of President of Parliament.

No statistical data is available concerning the percentage of women in elected positions at local and regional level.

LIECHTENSTEIN

Women in government

There is one woman minister out of a total of 5, which represents 20%.

Percentage of women in elected positions

There are 3 women Members of Parliament out of a total of 24 (12.5%). In 1997 this figure was 4%. No woman has yet held the office of President of Parliament.

At local level (there is no regional level), there are no women mayors. There are 27 women municipal councillors out of a total of 106 (25%). This is 7% more than the 1995 figure.

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

There are no compulsory quota regulations in Liechtenstein.

The Government resolved to seek to achieve equitable representation of women in appointments to public bodies that fall within its area of responsibility, such as commissions, working groups and delegations. If possible, neither sex should be assigned more than two-thirds of the seats in any public body.

Type of electoral system

The elections are held every four years on the basis of direct and secret voting. Members of Parliament are elected by a system of proportional representation and each party must have at least 8% of the votes to be represented in Parliament.

LITHUANIA

Women in government

There are 3 women ministers (Social Security and Labour, Finance, Culture) out of a total of 13, which represents 23%. Two of the Prime Minister's advisers out of 8 are women (25%).

Percentage of women in elected positions

There are 15 women Members of Parliament (Seimas) out of a total of 141 (11%) since the elections of 2000. This figure was 18% in 1999. No women at present head any of the 14 Seimas Committees, and there are 6 women out of 14 chairpersons on the Seimas Commissions (43%).

21.4% of women were elected at the local elections of 19 March 2000. There are 3 women mayors of municipalities out of total 60 (5%). There is one women county governor out of total 10 (10%).

Type of electoral system

Members of the Seimas are elected for a four-year term in single-member constituencies and the multi-member constituency on the basis of universal and equal suffrage, by secret ballot in direct, mixed-system elections.

Members of local government councils are elected for a term of three years in multi-member electoral areas on the basis of universal and equal suffrage by secret ballot by direct voting according to the electoral system of proportional representation. Elections of members to all councils are held concurrently.

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

In order to promote women's participation in politics, a two-year project "More women in politics", supported by SIDA, started in March 2002. This project was initiated during the Reykjavik follow-up conference "WoMen and democracy" held in Vilnius on 15-17 June 2001.

LUXEMBOURG

Women in government

There are 4 women ministers out of a total of 14 members of government, which represents 28.5%.

Percentage of women in elected positions

There are 10 women representatives in the Chamber of Deputies out of a total of 60 (17%). This figure was 8% in 1989. A woman held the office of President of the Chamber from 1989 to 1995.

At local level, 176 women out of a total of 1,140 members of municipal councils were elected in 1999, ie 15.4%, compared to 114 out of a total of 1,105 in 1994 (10.3%). In the 118 municipalities as of 5 June 2000, there are 10.2% of women mayors, 13.7% of women aldermen and 16.7% of women municipal councillors.

The municipalities set up two kinds of advisory committee (institutional mechanism to associate citizens in the elaboration and follow-up of local authority decisions): obligatory committees governed by specific legislation (for schools, rents and foreigners, the latter committee follows the percentage of foreigners living in a municipality) and optional committees. The municipality is free to decide on the number of the latter committees, which are composed by a pro rata of political party members and, where appropriate, by independent experts.

In 2001, there were 999 advisory committees, including 34 equal opportunity committees and 7 joint committees. In 1998 there were 13 equal opportunity committees out of a total of 970 advisory committees. These committees are optional.

In 2001, there were 28% of women in these committees out of a total of 8,432 members, compared to 21% of women out of a total 7,731 members in 1998.

In 2001, there were 16% of women chairs of committees out of a total of 989, compared to 11% of women chairs out of a total of 966 in 1998.

On 8 March 1995, under the auspices of the Ministry for the Advancement of Women, the Ministry of Labour and Employment and the Ministry of the Interior, with the support of SYVICOL, the National Council of Women of Luxembourg launched a project entitled "Promotion of a municipal policy for equal opportunities between women and men". This invites all municipalities to include in their structure bodies to promote, *inter alia*, at local level, equal opportunities for women and men and balanced participation of women and men in decision-making, combat all forms of violence against women and children, promote women's health, etc.

In 2001, 70 municipalities nominated a delegate for equality, 41 set up an advisory committee for equal opportunities between women and men, 2 a service for equal opportunities/women's issues. In all, 87 municipalities out of 118 have set up at least one of the equal opportunities bodies mentioned above.

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

Three of the most important political parties represented in the Chamber have introduced internal positive measures.

The Social-Christian Party “CSV” decided at the extraordinary assembly of the party’s national council on 17 March 2002 to adopt a new statute and to include equality of opportunity.

Article 82 of the statute provides for measures with a view to achieving equality between women and men.

The party, its committees and bodies as well as its sub-organisations, are obliged to reach equality between women and men within the party. The party’s objective is to reach parity in all internal posts and to draw up gender-balanced lists of candidates for elections. While waiting for parity to be reached, one-third of committee members are to be designated from the opposite sex and, when drawing up lists of candidates for the different elections, one-third of the members from the opposite sex must be taken into account.

The Socialist Party “LSAP” unanimously adopted in 1998 a resolution aiming to improve parity within the party organs. The party modified its statute on 17 March 2002 to fix a minimum number of women on its governing board (10 out of 29 members) and executive board (3 out of 9).

The Green Party “Déi Greng” has introduced a 50/50 quota for each party organ. The Women’s Council of the party organises targeted training for women wishing to become candidates. The statute stipulates that one of the vice-presidents must be a woman.

Type of electoral system

At national level, elections operate on the basis of a proportional system of lists, whereas at local level, elections operate in principle on the basis of an absolute majority. However, in municipalities with at least 3,500 inhabitants, or whose only division or one of the divisions numbers at least 3,000 inhabitants, elections operate on the basis of a proportional system of lists.

Women in government

Following the elections of September 1998, there is one woman minister out of a total of 14, which represents 7%.

Percentage of women in elected positions

There are 6 women parliamentarians in the House of Representatives out of a total of 65 (9%). Before the 1998 elections, there were 4 women parliamentarians. One woman held the office of President of Parliament between October 1996 and August 1998. One woman held the office of President of the Republic from 1982 to 1987.

Since 1999, a women parliamentarian has been chairing the Committee on Social Policy, whilst another has been chairing the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Both structures are Standing Committees of the House of Representatives.

Following local council elections in March 2002, there are 87 women councillors out of a total of 431 (20.2%). As a result of these elections, 2 women were elected mayors (8.7%) and 6 were elected deputy mayors (26.1%). Thus overall, there are 5 women mayors (7.6%) and 15 women deputy mayors (22.7%) on Malta's local councils.

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

In order to increase the number of women in political life, central Government organises:

- media campaigns to raise awareness among the electorate regarding the need for a balanced gender representation and to encourage more women to stand for local and national elections
- training courses for women candidates.

The Malta Labour Party has adopted:

- a quota system in favour of women in the number of delegates participating in the General Conference:
1999: 25% quota; 2000: 30% quota; 2001: 35% quota; 2002: 40% quota;
- a quota system in favour of women in the number of members on the National Executive of the Party – 20% of official and ordinary members appointed annually by the General Conference is in force.

Within the Nationalist Party:

- at local committee level, women occupy 30% of the seats and 19% female counsellors represent the Nationalist Party in local councils;
- female membership as a proportion of total party membership stands at 47%;
- the autonomous Women's Movement with the party, MNPN, that was set up in 1975 and is open to all female members of the party and is represented at all party levels, has the objective to help women achieve their rights democratically in every sphere of society, and to encourage women to take a more active part in public life.

Type of electoral system

It is a system of proportional representation.

MOLDOVA

Women in government

There are no women ministers (out of 20 posts).

Percentage of women in elected positions

There are 9 women Members of Parliament out of a total of 101 (9%). No woman has yet held the office of President of Parliament.

NETHERLANDS

Women in government

There are 9 women ministers out of a total of 29 (31%).

Percentage of women in elected positions

There are 20 women represented in the First Chamber of Parliament out of a total of 75 (27%) and 54 out of 150 in the Second Chamber (36%). In 1991, the figure was 19% in the First Chamber and in 1989 in the Second Chamber it was 25%. No woman has yet held the office of President of Parliament.

NORWAY

Women in government

There are 8 women ministers out of a total of 19, which represents 42%.

Percentage of women in elected positions

There are 61 women Members of Parliament out of a total of 165 (37%).

A woman held the office of President of Parliament from 1993 to 2001.

The proportion of female political representation at national and regional level is higher than at local level. The percentage of women holding political and public appointments at municipal and county level is the following:

* Municipal councils:	34%	* Mayors in municipalities:	15%
* County councils:	42%	* Mayors at county level:	21%

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

Quotas and affirmative actions are used to increase female participation in political life. The gender equality act prescribes that at least 40% of either sex must be represented on all publicly appointed boards, councils and committees. This provision also applies to deputy members. But there are exemptions. For example, committees that by law only consist of members from directly elected bodies have no regulations on gender representation. An example of a directly elected body is the Norwegian Parliament.

Most of the political parties have established a custom or unofficial rule and methods of selecting candidates that is almost identical to applying quotas.

Type of electoral system

The electoral system is based on proportional representation, though proportional representation for Parliament is limited, as elections are carried out in the municipalities and the distribution of seats takes place on this level. The party lists for the elections to the Parliament are closed lists; this does not give the voters any choice of the candidates within a list. At the local level the system is based on preferential vote elections; candidates can be ranked in a different order as determined by a party.

POLAND

Women in government

There are 15 women ministers out of a total of 70, which represents 21%.

Percentage of women in elected positions

93 women are represented in the *Sejm* (Parliament), out of a total of 460 (20%). There are 23 women Senators out of a total of 100 (23%). In 2000, these figures were 13% and 11% respectively. Since 1997, a woman has occupied the function of President of the Senate.

At local level, there are 6.846 women councillors out of a total of 51.919, which represents 13% and 132 women mayors/president of towns and heads of communities (*gmina*) out of 2.465, which represents 5%.

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

The major political parties recognise the necessity of greater participation of women in political life, however there are no specific measures used by them in this respect.

Type of electoral system

The elections to the *Sejm* are universal, direct, equal and proportional, those to the Senate are based on majority vote in the constituencies and municipal councillors are elected by universal suffrage with a system of proportional representation.

PORTUGAL

Women in government

Following the elections of 17 March 2002, the Portuguese government numbers 2 women ministers (Minister of State and Finance and Minister of Justice) and 5 Secretaries of State (Public Administration; Deputy to the Minister of Economy; Commerce, Industry and Services; Education; Social Security) out of a total of 52 members of government, which represents 13.5%.

Percentage of women in elected positions

In the March 2002 elections, 45 women Members of Parliament were elected out of a total of 230, which represents 19.6%. This figure was 17.4% in 1999. No woman has yet held the office of President of Parliament. There is one women Vice-President out of four.

Parties	Total	Women	%
Social Democrat Party (PPD/PSD)	105	18	17.1
Socialist Party (PS)	96	22	22.9
Centre Social Democrat Party (CDS/PP)	14	1	0.07
Portuguese Communist Party (PCP)	10	2	20.0
Left Bloc (BE)	3	0	0
Ecologist Party. The Greens (PEV)	2	2	100
Total	230	45	19.6

At the **regional level** (concerning the two existing autonomous regions of Azores and Madeira), there are 14 women deputies out of a total of 113 (12%) following the October 2000 elections. The regional government of Madeira comprises one woman out of a total of 9 (11%) and the regional government of Azores one woman out of 10 (10%).

At **local level**, following the elections of 16 December 2001, there are 15 women mayors out of a total of 308, representing 4.9%, compared to 3.9% in 1997. Statistics concerning other municipal organs are not yet available.

In the preceding elections of 1997, the representation of women in the different municipal organs was as follows:

Municipal organs	Women	%
Municipalities	196	10.7
Mayors	11	4
Vereadores	185	11.7
Municipal Assemblies	839	13.8
Presidents	20	7.5
Members	819	14.1
Freguesia Juntas	846	7.1
Presidents	146	4.0
Members	700	8.5
Freguesia Assemblies	3,205	11.1

Presidents	341	9.6
Members	2864	11.3
Total	5,086	10.4
Presidents	518	6.7
Members	4,568	11.1

European Parliament

In the 1999 elections to the European Parliament, the following table gives the number of candidates according to political party:

Parties	Total candidates	Women	Eligible women following 1994 results	Number of seats at 1994 elections	
				Total	Women
PS – Socialist Party	25	7	2	10	1
PSD – Social Democrat Party	25	9	1	9	1
PP/CDS – Popular Party	25	3	0	3	0
CDU - Democratic Unified Coalition (Communist Party et Green Party)	25	11	1	3	0

Out of 25 deputies elected to the European Parliament in June 1999, 6 are women (**24%**): 3 (PS), 1 (PPD/PSD), 1 (PCP) and 1 (CDU).

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

The only party that has adopted in its statute a 25% quota system applicable for both sexes (at its Congress of 1987) is the Socialist Party. This quota is applicable to elected or designated structures, as well as to lists of candidates. It has been maintained even though the rules necessary for its general implementation have not been approved, and was nearly respected in relation to the internal organs of the party and the parliamentary elections.

The Constitution

The revision of the Constitution, dated 20 September 1997, reinforces the principle of equality between women and men by considering in its Article 9-h that the promotion of equality between women and men is one of the basic tasks of the State.

The Constitution also considers, in its Article 109, that the direct and active participation of women and men in political life constitutes a *sine qua non* for the consolidation of the democratic system and, consequently, that the law must promote equality in the exercise of civil and political rights and the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds of sex in access to political posts.

Type of electoral system

Presidential elections: majority system.

Legislative and municipal elections: proportional system.

ROMANIA

Women in government

There are 5 women among the 25 ministers (20%); out of 100 deputies having the rank of secretary of state there are 7 women (7%). There were no women ministers in 2000.

Percentage of women in elected positions

There are 10 women Senators out of a total of 140 (7%) and 40 Members of Parliament out of a total of 345 (12%). In 1999, these figures were 1% and 7% respectively. No woman has yet held either the office as President of the Senate or of the Parliament.

At the level of local administration, 101 women mayors were elected out of a total of 2,954 (3%).

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

Special measures that have been adopted by the political parties to promote the access of women to decision-making levels in political life are little known. But the political will of the parties that won the necessary percentage to be represented in Parliament is obvious: 22% of PDSR parliamentarians are women, 11% of PRM, 4% of PD, 3% of UDMR and 2% of PNL (the same rank as the parties who won seats in the two chambers).

Type of electoral system

It is a system of proportional representation.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Women in government

There are 2 women ministers out of a total of 24, which represents 8%.

Percentage of women in elected positions

Following the parliamentary elections of December 1999, there are 34 women representatives in the State Duma out of a total of 449 (8%) and 6 women representatives in the Council of the Federation out of a total of 178 (3%). In 1996, these figures were 10% and 1% respectively. No woman has yet held the office of President of Parliament. A woman is a First Deputy President and one is a Deputy President of Parliament. Two women chair Parliament Committees and three are Heads of Commission.

No figures are available concerning representation at local and regional level.

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

Several measures were taken to improve the status of women; in 1996 a Presidential Decree on "Raising the role of women in the system of federal bodies of state power of subjects (regions) of the Russian Federation" was published and in 1997 the Bishkek Declaration on "Women and Politics: Achievements and Perspectives" was adopted.

SAN MARINO

Women in government

There are no women ministers (out of a total of 10).

Percentage of women in elected positions

There are 10 women Members of Parliament out of a total of 60, which represents 16.6%.

Six women have held the office of Captain-Regent (Head of State) since 1981.

The two Heads of State preside over the “Great General Council” (Parliament), of which they are members, and the “State Congress” (Government), of which they are not members.

SLOVAKIA

Women in government

Of the 20 members in the government there is one women minister and one Vice Prime Minister, which represents 10%.

Women department heads at the government ministries make up 35%, section heads 28%, chairs of regional state administration 0%, chairs of district state administration 11%, and heads of social affairs departments 66%.

Percentage of women in elected positions

Following the last elections in 1998, there are 20 women Members of Parliament out of a total of 150, which represents 13.3%. In the preparatory process to these elections, only 274 women candidates out of the national total of 1,618 (17%) found their names on their respective political party tickets. The number of female members of political parties in Parliament range between 25% (Slovak National Party – the only party with a women chair) to 56% (Christian Democrat Party).

At local level, there are 484 women mayors (17%) out of a total of 2,867 (14% in 1998). There are 6 women mayors in cities and towns (4%) and 478 women mayors in smaller communities (17.5%).

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

The next parliamentary and local elections will be held in 2002. As there are only two political parties that have special measures to support women's access to political functions (the Party of Social Democratic Left and Movement for Democratic Slovakia - 25% quota system for women in political structures), the chair of CCWI met chairs of important Slovak political parties to discuss the promotion of women in politics, the increase of women candidates in candidate lists of political parties - not only the number, but the order as well.

In March 2001 the Slovak Government approved a document "Concept of equal opportunities for women and men" which includes a measure "To support the modification of the law on political parties and the electoral law by increasing the number of women in politics and political parties, for instance by using quota systems or other short-term measures." The Ministry of the Interior, in co-operation with both parts of the Slovak National Machinery (Co-ordination Committee on Women's Issues and Department for Equal Opportunities) prepared in January 2002 the draft of new electoral law, which proposes: "The list of candidates has to be prepared by respective political parties or coalitions in such a way that every third candidate has to be of the opposite sex to the two preceding candidates". Financial penalties are proposed if this regulation is not followed. This proposal is not yet on the agenda of the Government and Parliament and has not yet been agreed. There are lively discussions on the proposal and many political parties are not willing to agree with it.

In 2000, the NGO network "Women's Forum 2000" (more than 50 NGOs, supported by the Co-ordinating Committee on Women's Issues) was created and is becoming more and more

active with the forthcoming elections in 2002. A Platform of VIP personalities was created that supports the increasing number of women entering the politics. It also supports the new proposal to modify the electoral law (see above).

At regional level, “regional platforms” are under preparation to support women who decide to enter active politics. They will also work with the women’s electorate, to be more active and forward-looking.

Type of electoral system

The seats are distributed on the basis of proportionate voting, with a minimum requirement of 5% of votes per party to be represented in parliament. Elections of the mayor and local councillors are held on the basis of general, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot on the majority principle. The term of office is four years.

SLOVENIA

Women in government

There are 3 women ministers out of a total of 15 ministers (20%).

Percentage of women in elected positions

There are 12 women Members of the National Assembly out of a total of 90 (elections in November 2000), which represents 13%. This figure was 8% in 1999. One woman holds the office of Vice-President of Parliament.

At local level, there are 8 women mayors out of a total of 192 (4%). There are 302 local councillors out of a total of 2.484 (12%) (last local elections in 1998).

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

A 10-year history of struggle for increased participation of women in political decision-making in Slovenia is a history of defeat. All activities and initiatives in the National Assembly to increase women's participation have been rejected. In view of this fact, a Coalition for balanced participation of women and men in public decision-making was founded in February 2001. The main aim of the Coalition is to introduce legally binding measures to get more women into decision-making.

Type of electoral system

Slovenia uses a system of proportional representation, which gives the voter the chance to vote for an individual candidate as well as for a political party. Votes cast for candidates in each electoral unit are aggregated to determine how many seats the list is entitled to receive.

SPAIN

Women in government

There are 3 women ministers out of a total of 14, which represents 21%. There is one woman State Secretary out of a total of 24, which represents 4%. There are 13 women Sub-Secretaries out of 69 (19%) and 35 women General Directors out of 214 (16%).

Percentage of women in elected positions

Following the parliamentary elections of March 2000, there are 99 women representatives out of a total of 350, representing 28% (a 6% increase compared to 1996). The President of Parliament is a woman.

A woman holds the Presidency of the Senate. Out of a total of 259 representatives, 63 seats are held by women, representing 24%.

The following information on the regional parliaments and municipalities takes into account the elections held in 1999, 2000 and 2001.

None of the Presidencies of Regional Governments is held by a woman.

There are 40 women Councillors of Regional Governments out of a total of 197 (20%).

In the Regional Parliaments, 372 of the 1,179 regional seats are held by women (31%).

Out of 8,103 municipalities, 779 are held by a woman, representing nearly 10%.

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

There is no legal basis for the use of quota systems. It is for political parties to determine how they may encourage greater numbers of women to stand as candidates.

Type of electoral system

It is a proportional system (D'hont Law).

SWEDEN

Women in government

There are 9 women ministers out of a total of 20¹, which represents 45%. There are also 10 women State Secretaries, out of a total of 25 (40%).

Percentage of women in elected positions

There are 149 women Members of Parliament out of a total of 349 (43%). This figure was 33% in 1991. Two women have held the office of President of Parliament since 1991. Five women chair Parliament Committees.

42% of local elected representatives are women. Of the 1,717 elected members of the county councils, 794 are women (46%).

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

There is no legal basis for quota systems. However, political parties have advocated a 40/60 rule for nominations, which means that neither women nor men should have more than 60% nor less than 40% of the seats, for example, in parliament. The Social Democrats have systematically alternated between women and men in their lists of constituency candidates since the 1994 elections.

Type of electoral system

There is a proportional representation system; in elections, votes shall be cast for parties, but with an option for the voter to express a preference for a particular candidate.

¹ Information from <http://www.regeringen.se>

SWITZERLAND

Women in government

Out of the 7 members of the Federal Council, 2 are women (28.5%). In 1999, the Presidency of the Confederation was for the first time held by a woman. As from 1 January 2000, a woman for the first time ran the Chancellery.

In the cantonal executive bodies, there are 31 women out of a total of 164, which represents 19%.

In the municipal executive bodies, the proportion of women is also about 20%.

Percentage of women in elected positions

In the Federal Assembly, there are 9 women represented in the Council of States out of a total of 46 (19.5%) and 47 women represented in the National Council out of a total of 200 (23.5%). In 1991, these figures were 9% and 17% respectively. Seven women have held the office of President of one of these bodies since 1971.

There are 24% of women in the cantonal parliaments and 28% in the municipal parliaments.

“THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA”

Women in government

After the last Cabinet changes on 3 December 2001, there is one woman Minister (Minister for Culture); this represents 5.8 % out of 17 members of the Cabinet (including the Prime Minister). There were two women ministers in the previous Cabinet.

Percentage of women in elected positions

At this moment, there are 7 women Members of Parliament out of a total of 120 (6%). This figure was 7.5% at the beginning of 1998 and 3% in 1997. There is a woman Secretary in the Parliament since 1998. However, prior to independence, a woman chaired the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia from 1984 to 1985. During the period of transition, the percentage of women in politics was: in the first assembly in 1990, out of 120 elected members of parliament, 5 were women (4.4%); in 1994, 4 women (3.3%) and in 1998, 9 women (7.5%) (see Figure 1). Women parliamentarians who won the last elections (1998) were from the following parties: VMRO-DMPNE: 6, SDSM: 2 and DA: 1. Most of them were on the proportional lists, in terms of the combined election model, 85 parliamentarians were elected on the majority lists and 35 on the proportional lists.

Figure 1. Women in National Parliament – FYROM

Elections	Parliamentary Elections	Parliamentary Elections	Parliamentary Elections	Next Parliamentary Elections
Year	1990	1994	1998	2002
Total Number of elected members of Parliament	120	120	120	
Women Members of Parliament	5 (4.4%)	3 (3.3%)	9 (7.5%)	

In the 2000 local elections, for the first time 3 women mayors were elected out of a total of 14 (21.4%), and 161 women councillors were elected out of a total of 1,906 (8.4%). At the local elections held in 1996, there were no women mayors elected in 124 municipalities and there were only 105 women councillors out of 1,720 (6.1%) (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. Women in Self-Local Government -FYROM

	Local Elections 1996			Local Elections 2000		
	Total	Women	%	Total	Women	%
Mayors	124	0	0	124	3	2.4%
Municipal councillors	1720	105	6.1%	1906	161	8.4%

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

On 1 March 2002, a celebration of the Macedonian Women's Lobby was held. It is a response to the Stability Pact Gender Task Force (GTF) initiative. By definition, the Macedonian Women's Lobby is a group for putting pressure on the decision-makers, public and media with two main goals:

1. Greater representation of women in politics and public life, especially in policy- and decision-making process;
2. Improving legislation and its implementation to protect women's rights.

It comprises representatives of NGOs, political parties, media, Parliament, Government, local governments and women experts in various fields.

Priorities of the MWL for 2002 aim at the political empowerment of women:

1. Lobbying for the Draft Law on the Election of Members of the Parliament, in particular the new article on quotas: "At least 30% of each sex to be represented on the candidates lists".
2. Political empowerment of women in the parliamentary political parties through the realisation of projects in the framework of the SP GTF.

Type of election system

Mixed (combined) election model with 85 parliamentarians elected on a majority model (in two electoral circles) and 35 parliamentarians on a proportional model.

The Draft Law on the Election of Members of the Parliament is pending and has to be adopted by the National Assembly.

TURKEY

Women in government

There are 2 women ministers out of a total of 39, which represents 5%.

Percentage of women in elected positions

There are 23 women Members of Parliament out of a total of 550 (4%). In 1995, this figure was 2% (13 women out of 450). No woman has yet held the office of President of Parliament.

There are 33 women members of Provincial Councils out of a total of 3,122 (0.96%). The number of women mayors is 12 out of a total of 3,215 (0.37%).

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

In 1989, one political party introduced a system whereby in the provincial and district councils and top-level administrative organs of the party, a minimum of 25% representation of either men or women would be guaranteed. Another party adopted a 10% quota system in 1996. Yet another party is currently implementing a 20% quota system.

Type of electoral system

The election system is single graded proportional representation with secret, general and equal voting all over the country at the same day under the direction and supervision of law.

UKRAINE

Women in government

There are 2 women out of total 18 ministers, which represents 11%.

Percentage of women in elected positions

In the Parliament (Verkhovna Rada) there are 35 women out of a total of 450 (8%). This figure was just over 2% in 1990. No woman has yet held the office of President of Parliament.

Four women figure among the 216 regional governors and city state administrators (2%), and there are 8 women out of the 504 governors of district administration (2%).

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

No quota system exists. The party "Women of Ukraine" has as its aim to unite women and, in so doing, to improve their situation not only on the political level but also in their everyday life.

UNITED KINGDOM

Women in government

There are 7 women in the Cabinet out of a total of 23 members, which represents 30% and 22 women Junior Ministers out of total 66 (33%) (1 March 2002).

Percentage of women in elected positions

118 women were elected to the House of Commons in the June 2001 General Election, representing 18% of the total number of 659 Members of Parliament.

The Northern Ireland Assembly, the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly

In February 2002 in the Northern Ireland Assembly, the Scottish Parliament, and the Welsh Assembly:

- 14 out of 108 members (13%) of the Northern Ireland Assembly are women
- 48 out of 129 Members of the Scottish Parliament (37%) are women, while 3 out of 11 Cabinet Ministers are women (27%)
- 25 out of 60 members of the Welsh Assembly (43%) are women and 5 of the 9 Cabinet Ministers (56%) are women.

The Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly assumed their functions on 1 July 1999 and the Northern Ireland Assembly in December 1999.

Measures to increase women's participation in political life

The Sex Discrimination (Election Candidates) Act received Royal Assent on 26 February 2002. This Act enables political parties, if they wish, to use positive measures to reduce inequality in the numbers of men and women elected. The act is permissive, and amends the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.

Type of electoral system

For electoral purposes the United Kingdom is divided into 659 constituencies, each of which returns one member to the House of Commons. To ensure equitable representation four permanent Boundary Commissions, one each for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, make periodic reviews of constituencies and recommend any redistribution of seats that may seem necessary in the light of population movements or other changes.

Elections are by secret ballot. To vote one must be aged 18 or over and registered in the annual register of electors.

Table 1
Women and men in government
in the Council of Europe member states

Country	No. of government posts	No. of men	No. of women	% of women
Sweden	20	11	9	45.00
Finland	18	10	8	44.44
Norway	19	11	8	42.11
Iceland	12	8	4	33.33
United Kingdom	89	60	29	32.58
Netherlands	29	20	9	31.03
Andorra	10	7	3	30.00
Luxembourg	14	10	4	28.57
Switzerland	7	5	2	28.57
Denmark	18	13	5	27.78
Germany	66	48	18	27.27
Austria	16	12	4	25.00
Belgium	17	13	4	23.53
Lithuania	13	10	3	23.08
France	28	22	6	21.43
Poland	70	55	15	21.43
Spain	14	11	3	21.43
Liechtenstein	5	4	1	20.00
Romania	25	20	5	20.00
Slovenia	15	12	3	20.00
Bulgaria	16	13	3	18.75
Ireland	32	26	6	18.75
Albania	18	15	3	16.67
Portugal	52	45	7	13.46
Estonia	15	13	2	13.33
Greece	83	73	10	12.05
Ukraine	18	16	2	11.11
Italy	77	69	8	10.39
Slovakia	20	18	2	10.00
Georgia	21	19	2	9.52
Croatia	24	22	2	8.33
Russian Federation	24	22	2	8.33
Malta	14	13	1	7.14
Azerbaijan	32	30	2	6.25
Hungary	16	15	1	6.25
"The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	17	16	1	5.88
Latvia	19	18	1	5.26
Turkey	39	37	2	5.13
Armenia	20	20	0	0.00
Cyprus	11	11	0	0.00
Czech Republic	19	19	0	0.00
Moldova	20	20	0	0.00
San Marino	10	10	0	0.00

Table 2
Women in parliament in the Council of Europe member states

Country	Lower or single House			Upper House or Senate		
	Seats	Women	%	Seats	Women	%
Sweden	349	149	42.69			
Denmark	179	68	37.99			
Finland	200	75	37.50			
Norway	165	61	36.97			
Netherlands (1)	150	54	36.00	75	20	26.67
Iceland	63	22	34.92			
Germany	669	209	31.24	69	12	17.39
Austria	183	52	28.42	64	16	25.00
Spain	350	99	28.29	259	63	24.32
Bulgaria (1)	240	63	26.25			
Switzerland	200	47	23.50	46	9	19.57
Belgium	150	34	22.67	71	21	29.58
Croatia	151	31	20.53	68	4	5.88
Poland	460	93	20.22	100	23	23.00
Portugal	230	45	19.57			
United Kingdom (2)	659	118	17.91	1165	103	8.84
Estonia	101	18	17.82			
Latvia (1)	100	17	17.00			
Luxembourg	60	10	16.67			
San Marino	60	10	16.67			
Czech Republic	200	30	15.00	81	10	12.35
Andorra (1)	28	4	14.29			
Slovakia	150	20	13.33			
Slovenia	90	12	13.33			
Ireland	166	20	12.05	60	9	15.00
Liechtenstein	25	3	12.00			
Romania	345	40	11.59	140	10	7.14
France	577	63	10.92	321	35	10.90
Cyprus	56	6	10.71			
Lithuania	141	15	10.64			
Azerbaijan	125	13	10.40			
Italy (1)	630	62	9.84	326	25	7.67
Malta	65	6	9.23			
Moldova (1)	101	9	8.91			
Greece	300	26	8.67			
Hungary	386	33	8.55			
Ukraine	450	35	7.78			
Russian Federation (1)	449	34	7.57	178	6	3.37
"The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	120	7	5.83			
Albania (1)	140	8	5.71			
Georgia	233	10	4.29			
Turkey	550	23	4.18			
Armenia	131	4	3.05			

(1) 2002 figures from the Inter-Parliamentary Union

(2) The Upper House is the House of Lords where membership is by appointment only

Table 3

Women in elected positions in the Council of Europe member States

Country	National level			Regional level			Local level		
	Level	%	Women / total	Level	%	Women / total	Level	%	Women / total
Albania (1)	Parliament	5.7	(8/140)	Prefectures	0	(0/12)	Local councillors	10.6	(98/920)
				Regional Councillors	21.8	(94/430)	Mayors	3.0	(2/65)
Andorra (1)	General Council	14.3	(4/28)						
Armenia	National Assembly	3.0	(4/131)				Head local government	10.6	(10/94)
Austria	National Council	28.4	(52/183)				Mayors	1.7	(41/2.342)
	Federal Council	25.0	(16/64)						
Azerbaijan	National Assembly	10.4	(13/125)				Mayors	1.2	(27/2.220)
Belgium	House of Representatives	22.7	(34/150)	Provincial councillors	31.0		Mayors	7.6	
	Senate	29.6	(21/71)	Provincial governors	18.2	(2/11)	Aldermen	20.0	
							Municipal councillors	27.0	
Bulgaria (1)	Parliament	26.0	(63/240)				Mayors of municipal communities	8.0	
							Mayors of small districts	15.0	
							Municipal councillors	20.0	
Croatia	Upper House	5.9	(4/68)				Local councillors	4.0	
	House of Representatives	20.5	(31/151)						
Cyprus	National Parliament	10.7	(6/56)				Municipal councillors	19.8	(79/398)
							Mayors	3.0	(1/33)
Czech Republic	Chamber of Deputies	15.0	(30/200)						
	Senate	12.4	(10/81)						

Country	National level			Regional level			Local level		
	Level	%	Women / total	Level	%	Women / total	Level	%	Women / total
Denmark	Parliament	37.9	(68/179)	Regions	26.0		Municipalities	27.0	
Estonia	State Assembly	17.8	(18/101)						
Finland	Parliament	37.5	(75/200)	District governors	60.0		Municipal councillors	34.0	
France	National Assembly	10.9	(63/577)	Regional councillors	25.0	(230/1.721)	Municipal councillors (in municipalities of more than 3.500 inhabitants)	47.5	(38.106/80.304)
	Senate	10.9	(35/321)	General councillors	9.8	(189/3.783)			
Georgia	Upper House	4.3	(10/233)				Local authorities	10.9	(1.343/12.290)
Germany	Federal Parliament	31.2	(209/669)	Minister-President of a "Land"	6.3	(1/16)			
	Federal Council	17.4	(12/69)						
Greece	Chamber of Deputies	8.7	(26/300)						
Hungary	Parliament	8.5	(33/386)				Local representatives	9.1	
Iceland	Parliament	34.9	(22/63)				Mayors	13.0	(3/23)
							Local representatives	29.0	
Ireland	House of Representatives	12.0	(20/166)				Local authorities	14.8	(241/1.627)
	Senate	15.0	(9/60)						
Italy (1)	Chamber of Deputies	9.8	(62/630)	Regional councillors	8.3	(89/1.067)	Mayors	6.6	(519/7.844)
	Senate	7.8	(25/321)	Provincial councillors	9.9	(276/2.781)	Municipal councillors	16.7	(15.756/94.156)
Latvia (1)	Parliament	17.0	(17/100)						
Liechtenstein	Parliament	12.5	(3/24)				Mayors	0.0	0
							Municipal councillors	25.4	(27/106)
Lithuania	Parliament	10.6	(15/141)	County governors	10.0	(1/10)	Mayors	5.0	(3/60)
							Municipal councillors	21.4	
Luxembourg	Chamber of Deputies	16.7	(10/60)				Mayors	10.2	
							Aldermen	13.7	
							Municipal councillors	16.7	

Country	National level			Regional level			Local level		
	Level	%	Women / total	Level	%	Women / total	Level	%	Women / total
Malta	House of Representatives	9.2	(6/65)				Mayors	7.6	(5/66)
							Councillors	20.2	(87/431)
Moldova (1)	Parliament	8.9	(9/101)						
Netherlands (1)	Second Chamber of Parliament	36.0	(54/150)						
	First Chamber of Parliament	26.7	(20/75)						
Norway	Parliament	36.9	(61/165)				Municipal/County Councils	34/42	
							Mayors: Municipalities/Counties	15/21	
Poland	Parliament	20.2	(93/460)				Mayors	5.3	(132/2.465)
	Senate	23.0	(23/100)				Councillors	13.2	(6.846/51.919)
Portugal	Parliament	19.6	(45/230)	Regional Assemblies	12.3	(14/113)	Mayors	4.9	(15/308)
Romania	House of Deputies	11.6	(40/345)				Mayors	3.4	101/2.954
	Senate	7.8	(10/140)						
Russian Federation (1)	Parliament	7.6	(34/449)						
	Council of the Federation	3.4	(6/178)						
San Marino	Parliament	16.6	(10/60)						
Slovakia	Parliament	13.3	(20/150)				Mayors	16.9	(484/2.867)
Slovenia	Parliament	13.3	(12/90)				Municipal councillors	12.2	(302/2.484)
							Mayors	4.2	(8/192)
Spain	Congress of Deputies	28.3	(99/350)	Regional government councillors	20.3	(40/197)			
	Senate	24.3	(63/259)	Regional parliamentarians	31.5	(372/1,179)	Mayors	9.6	(779/8.103)

Country	National level			Regional level			Local level		
	Level	%	Women / total	Level	%	Women / total	Level	%	Women / total
Sweden	Parliament	42.7	(149/349)				Local representatives	42.0	
							County councillors	46.3	(794/1.717)
Switzerland	National Council	23.5	(47/200)	Cantonal parliament	24.0		Municipal parliament	28.0	
	Federal Assembly	19.6	(9/46)						
"The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Assembly of the Republic	5.8	(7/120)				Mayors	21.4	(3/14)
							Municipal councillors	8.4	(161/1.906)
Turkey	Parliament	4.2	(23/550)	Provincial councils	0.9	(3/3.122)	Mayors	0.4	(12/3.215)
Ukraine	Parliament	7.8	(35/450)	Regional Governors	1.9	(4/216)	Governors of district administrations	1.6	(8/504)
United Kingdom	House of Commons	17.9	(118/659)						
	House of Lords (2)	8.8	(103/1.165)						

(1) 2002 figures from the Inter-Parliamentary Union

(2) The membership of the House of Lords is by appointment only

Table 4

Women in the European Parliament

<i>Country</i>	<i>1994/1999 (1)</i>	<i>% women 1994</i>	<i>1999/2004</i>	<i>% women new EP</i>
Austria	7	33%	8	38%
Belgium	8	32%	10	40%
Denmark	7	44%	6	38%
Finland	8	50%	7	44%
France	27	31%	36	41%
Germany	34	34%	38	38%
Greece	4	16%	4	16%
Ireland	3	20%	5	33%
Italy	10	11%	10	11%
Luxembourg	3	50%	2	33%
Netherlands	10	32%	11	35%
Portugal	3	12%	6	24%
Spain	21	33%	21	33%
Sweden	9	45%	10	45%
United Kingdom	15	17%	21	24%
Total	169	27%	195	31%

(1) Figures for 1994-99 date from 19/7/94, apart from Austria (96), Sweden (95) and Finland (figures date from the first election of the European Parliament).

Source: European Parliament (www.europarl.eu.int)

Chart 1

**Number of seats held by women and men in Parliament in
the Council of Europe member states**

(total of 10,177 seats in 43 countries)

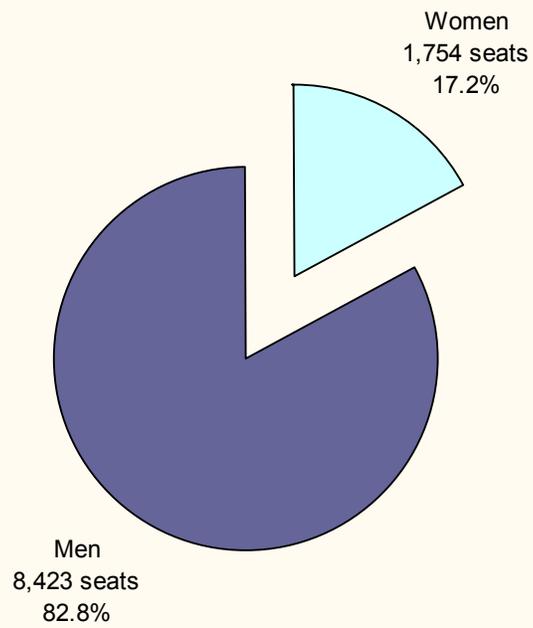


Chart 2
Women and men in government in the Council of Europe member states

