Bulgaria: European Parliament Election 2007

Study Documentation

1, 2009
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Bulgaria: European Parliament Election 2007

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: 2009-04-01

Date of election: 20 May 2007

The big winner of the EP elections was the newcomer, Citizens for a European Development of Bulgaria (GERB), founded in December 2006. During 2007, GERB emerged as the main opposition to the governing coalition. Not only did it win the European elections, but it also got the most votes in the local elections in October 2007.

The other parties that gained significantly at the EP elections were the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS) and ATAKA. By contrast, the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), the National Movement Simeon the Second (NDSV) and the three centre-right parties represented in parliament gathered significantly fewer votes than in the Parliamentary elections of 2005.

The European elections were the first clear evidence of the declining support of the governing BSP-NDSV-DPS coalition and the concurrent inability of the parliamentary opposition to pose a substantial challenge to it. Instead, the challenges came from the radical right (ATAKA) and the new, populist, alternative (GERB). The election campaign was also indicative of the state of Bulgarian politics at the time. There was barely any real campaigning on issues related to the EU, EU institutions or Bulgaria's position in the EU. Instead, the electoral campaign focused on corruption scandals within the governing coalition and the ability of the parties to provide 'alternatives' to the ruling political elite.

Party abbreviations:

GERB - Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria (Grazhdani za evropeysko razvitie na Balgariya)

PES - BSP and DSH - European Socialists Platform (BSP - Bulgarian Socialist Party (Bulgarska sotsialisticheska partiya) + DSH)

DPS - Movement for Rights and Freedoms (Dvizhenie za prava i svobodi)

ATAKA - National Union Attack (Natsionalen Sayuz Ataka)

NDSV - National Movement for Stability and Progress (Nacionalno dviženie za stabilnost i vazhod)

SDS - Union of Democratic Forces (Sayuz na demokratichnite sili)

DSB - Democrats for a Strong Bulgaria

PBSD+PDS - Coalition of Bulgarian Social Democrats (Party of Bulgarian Social Democrats (Partija Balgarski

Socialdemokrati) + Political Movement "Social Democrats" (Politicesko Dviženie "Socialdemokrati")

ZNS - Agrarian People's Union (Zemedelski Naroden Sajuz)

Other:

KPB - Communist Party of Bulgaria (Komunisticeska Partija na Balgarija)

SSD - Alliance/Union of Free Democrats (Sajuz na svobodnite demokrati)

ZP - Green Party of Bulgaria (Zelena Partija)

GSNB - Civil Union for New Bulgaria (Grazdanski saiuz za nova Balgaria)

RZS - Order, Law and Justice (Red, zakonnost i spravedlivost)

Serkedzhieva - Mariya Stoyanova Serkedzhieva (independent)

Ivanov - Nikola Petkov Ivanov (independent)

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Aggregate data		
Statistical/administrative unit		

Bulgaria (NUTS 1, NUT	Bulgaria (NUTS 1, NUTS 2, NUTS 3)			

National statistics

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