

COMMUNIQUE OF THE HUNGARIAN NATIONAL ELECTION COMMITTEE. THE RESULT OF THE REFERENDUM HELD ON NOVEMBER 16, 1997

Under Article 24, Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Act XVII of 1989, the National Election Committee releases the following figures on the official result of the referendum held on November 16, 1997:

1.) In the referendum in 3.152 towns and villages of the country, in 10.823 electoral districts eligible voters cast a vote for the following question:

Do you agree that the Republic of Hungary should provide for the protection of the country by joining NATO?

2.) The nationally totalled figures of the electoral districts:

The number of eligible voters registered till 16.00 on the day before the referendum (A): 8.037.252

The number of voters registered on the day of the referendum on the basis of their ID cards (B): 4.376

certificates (C): 18.281

The number of voters deleted from the register of eligible voters on the day of the referendum (D): 870

The number of registered eligible voters at the end of the voting (E): 8.059.039

The number of eligible voters who turned out (F): 3.968.668

The number of ballot sheets found in the boxes (G): 3.964.075

The number of ballot sheets missing from the boxes (H): 4.597

The number of valid votes (I): 3.919.114

The number of invalid votes (J): 44.961

The number of YES votes (K): 3.344.131

The number of NO votes (L): 574.983

The number of voters who turned out (F) is lower by four than the total of ballot sheets found in the boxes (G) and the number of ballot sheets missing from the boxes (H).

The difference is accounted for by the fact that in electoral district 17 in the town of Érd (Pest County) four extra ballot sheets were issued to the voters by mistake.

The National Election Committee has not detected any signs of cheating during the referendum.

3.) The percentages of the totalled figures:

- the percentage of the eligible voters who turned out: 49,24
- the percentage of the eligible voters who failed to turn out: 50,76
- the percentage of the voters who turned out and cast a valid vote for the question: 98,75
- the percentage of the voters who turned out and cast an invalid vote for the question: 1,13
- the percentage of the YES answer among voters who cast a valid vote: 85,33
- the percentage of the NO answer among voters who cast a valid vote: 14,67

4.) The National Election Committee states that under Paragraph 6 of Article 28/c of the Constitution the referendum is valid because 41,50 per cent of the eligible voters have cast a vote for the majority answer.

5.) The National Election Committee states that the majority of voters casting a valid vote has given a YES answer to the question.

Budapest, November 20, 1997

Dr. István Kukorelli
Chairman of the National Election Committee
Members of the National Election Committee

[Quelle: Joó, Rudolf (Hrs.): Hungary: A Member of NATO, Budapest 1999, S.144-145.]