

# Policies of Germany's leading parties

Germany's parliamentary election could see Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union end its uneasy coalition with the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) to join forces with the pro-business Free Democrats (FDP)



**CDU**

**Angela Merkel,**  
55. Won 226  
seats in 2005



**SPD**

**Frank-Walter  
Steinmeier, 53.**  
222 seats

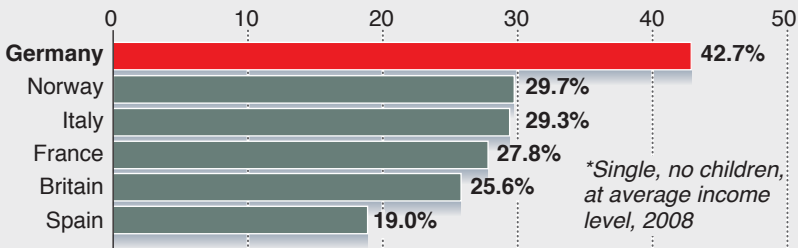


**FDP**  
Die Liberalen

**Guido  
Westerwelle, 47.**  
61 seats

## TAXES

Income tax and employee social security contributions as % of gross earnings\*



■ **CDU-CSU:** Cut lowest income tax rate from 14% to 12%. Raise threshold for highest rate of 42% from €52,552 to €60,000

■ **SDP:** Cut lowest tax rate to 10%. Impose "rich tax" of 47%. Tax stockmarket trades above €1,000 at 1.5%

■ **FDP:** Wants tax reform with three tax bands of 10%, 25% and 35%

## ECONOMY

■ **CDU-CSU:** No minimum wage but better security for workers who lose their jobs due to economic crisis

■ **SDP:** Introduce minimum wage of €7.50/hour. Create four million jobs by investment in green technology

■ **FDP:** Cut corporate tax rates for small- and mid-sized businesses from 30-33% to 10-25%. Relax rules on sacking workers, no minimum wage

## CLIMATE CHANGE

■ **CDU-CSU:** Extend lifespan of safe nuclear plants but no new plants. One million electric cars by 2020

■ **SDP:** Phase out nuclear power, get 50% of power from renewable sources by 2030

■ **FDP:** Support construction of new clean-coal power plants

## AFGHANISTAN

■ Mission has cost €1.2 billion and is highly controversial among voters. Germany has 4,200 troops in Afghanistan. **With exception of Die Linke, all parties have agreed to keep Afghanistan out of their campaigns**