Economy tops voter concern in Greece

Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis faces a tough fight to win a third term in office, with voters widely expected to reject his New Democracy party in favour of George Papandreou's opposition Socialist PASOK



Costas Karamanlis, 53: Nephew of late conservative Prime Minister Constantine Karamanlis. Popularity has been severely eroded by series of government scandals George Papandreou, 57: Former foreign minister whose father and grandfather were both prime ministers

Election result 2007

(152 out of 300 seats)





Latest

42.3%

Karamanlis: Promise of "two difficult years" of austerity. Has supported banks with □28 billion liquidity package and has borrowed □50 billion so far this year

Crack down on tax evasion

- Slash public sector overtime pay and travel expenses by 30%, cut salaries of lawmakers and mayors
- Freeze pensions and public sector hiring. Cut unemployment benefit to those who turn down two consecutive job offers
- Continue with privatisations
- **Immigration:** Stiffer penalties for traffickers, longer detention periods and more camps for illegal immigrants

stimulus package within first 100 days. Increase infrastructure investment and give public sector employees above-inflation pay rises Tax reforms to redistribute income

Papandreou: Plans □3 billion

- towards middle and low-income earners. Grant to low-income earners
- Temporary freeze on bank debt owed by crisis-stricken companies. Close corporate tax loopholes
- One-vear freeze on prices charged by state-controlled utilities. Past privatisation deals to be renegotiated. plans for more to be dropped
- Immigration: Citizenship to all immigrant children born in Greece