

# Finland veto could threaten Portugal bailout

As Finland's parliamentary election winners get to work on forming a new coalition, concern is growing that the eurosceptic True Finns party – which made huge gains – may block the EU's Portugal bailout package if it forms part of the next government in Helsinki



**20.4**

% of vote

**National Coalition Party**  
Jyrki Katainen

- Wants active EU role, and opposes blocking Portugal bailout

- Supports cutting corporate tax to 22%, lowering income taxes, and hiking taxes on capital income

- Plans to keep retirement age at 63 for next four years, but does not rule out rise later



**19.1**

**Social Democratic Party**  
Jutta Urpilainen

- Objects to European competitiveness pact, wants investors and banks to shoulder more responsibility in bailout of troubled countries

- Policy mix of more spending and more taxes, wants more involvement in shaping EU policy

- Rejects pension cuts or raising retirement age



**19.0**

**True Finns**  
Timo Soini

- Opposes bailing out eurozone countries and demands changes in Portugal package

- Wants to balance public finances by cutting EU member dues and development aid

- Opposes immigration

- Does not rule out raising pension age

## STEPS TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT

**April**

**27**

Party representatives formally appoint Katainen, whose party won most votes, to lead discussions to form government

**April**

**28**

Present cabinet resigns but remains as caretaker government until next administration is in place

**May**

**9**

Talks begin on forming new cabinet and agreeing government programme

**May**

**16**

European finance ministers meet to discuss Portugal aid package. After meeting, Finnish parliament votes on euro group decision. **Vote against using stability mechanism will block entire bailout plan**

**May**

**17**

Parliament due to vote on prime minister

**May**

**20-24**

President due to introduce new government and its programme