

# French Socialists' presidential contenders

Current and former Socialist Party leaders Martine Aubry and François Hollande are the front-runners to lead the campaign for the presidency in 2012, but one-time favourite Dominique Strauss-Kahn cannot be ruled out as a last-minute entrant. The U.S.-style primaries will be held in October



**Martine Aubry, 60**

- Daughter of former European Commission president **Jacques Delors**, credited with rebuilding party after disastrous 2007 election defeat

- Employment minister from 1997-2000, implemented 35-hour working week and championed better healthcare for poor and unemployed

- Elected mayor of Lille in 2001, narrowly defeated **Ségolène Royal** for Socialist Party leadership in 2007

- Seen as genuine and authentic, but critics say she lacks personal ambition to be president

**François Hollande, 56**

- MP and head of general council in rural Correze in central France

- Party leader from 1997 to 2008, stood down soon after splitting from defeated presidential candidate Royal – mother of his four children

- Politics are broadly centre left, supports French youth, fairer taxes and reducing deficit

- Has never held any government position but claims his “ordinary guy” image and inclusiveness is better antidote to **Nicolas Sarkozy** than more experienced candidates

**Ségolène Royal, 57**

- Government minister from 1992-2002, head of regional government in Poitou-Charentes since 2004. Criticised for lacklustre 2007

presidential campaign, which she lost to Sarkozy by six percentage points

**D. Strauss-Kahn, 62**

- Could make late entry if sexual assault charges in U.S. are dropped. **Rating sharply down from pre-arrest position,**

**but could yet benefit from “anyone but Sarko” feeling among electorate**