

# German showdown threatens Merkel's majority

A crucial vote on reforming the €440 billion eurozone bailout fund\* could decide the fate of Chancellor Angela Merkel. As many as 19 members of her coalition could vote against or abstain on Thursday – if that number rises to 20, her CDU/CSU/FDP coalition will have lost its majority

Sep 2009: National election (% of vote)

Coalition

**48.4%**

CDU/CSU: 33.8%

FDP: 14.6%

Opposition parties

SDP: 23.0%

Greens 10.7%

Left Party 11.9%

Others 6.0%

Apr 2011 (opinion polls)

**33%**

CDU/CSU: 30%

FDP: 3%

SDP/Greens  
take 18% lead

Sep 20, 2011

**34%**

CDU/CSU: 31%

FDP: 3%

SDP/Greens  
have 14% lead

€229bn €211bn

\*European Financial Stability Facility: Germany's contribution will rise from €123bn to €211bn