

Merkel and Cameron battle over top EU job

The fight over who will become the next president of the European Commission is intensifying, with British Prime Minister David Cameron stepping up his campaign to prevent Jean-Claude Juncker – backed by Angela Merkel – from taking the most powerful job in Brussels

■ David Cameron

Strongly opposes Juncker's belief in closer EU integration

■ Argues Juncker would damage hopes of reforming Europe ahead of 2017 referendum on Britain's EU membership

■ Says EU leaders and not European Parliament should nominate candidate for Commission president

■ If he secures backing of Swedish, Dutch, Hungarian and Italian leaders, Cameron would be within reach of blocking minority in European Council – which represents EU leaders – against Juncker

*Possible compromise candidates include prime ministers of Sweden, **Fredrik Reinfeldt (1)**, Denmark, **Helle Thorning-Schmidt (2)**, Finland, **Jyrki Katainen (3)** and Ireland, **Enda Kenny (4)***



■ Angela Merkel

German Chancellor, under political pressure at home to back Juncker, has indicated she does not want to isolate Britain and would prefer broad consensus if possible



■ Jean-Claude Juncker

Luxembourg's former prime minister claims to have democratic mandate as lead candidate of centre-right **European People's Party** – group with most MEPs in new European parliament

