

Snap election in Greece sparks crisis fears

Concerns are mounting that Greece is heading for a political crisis that could jeopardise its financial rescue plan after the conservative-led government brought forward the date of a presidential vote



GOVERNMENT GAMBLE

■ Prime Minister **Antonis Samaras** (above) bringing forward date of presidential election in bid to end weeks of political uncertainty which has damaged confidence in Greek economic recovery

■ **Vote:** Conducted over three rounds from Dec 17-29. Government has nominated **Stavros Dimas** as its candidate for President – role is mainly ceremonial but victory would give Samaras more time to seal new deal with lenders



DEBT SITUATION

■ Bulk of Greece's **240bn euros** (\$294bn) in loans from EU run out this year. Eurozone finance ministers have granted two-month extension on bailout to discuss whether Athens should impose more austerity cuts to qualify for final instalment of aid



OPPOSITION



■ **Syriza:** Leftist main opposition party led by **Alexis Tsipras** is ahead in polls. Party seeking substantial cut to what Greece owes in rescue loans

■ **General election:** Must be called by early February if presidential vote proves inconclusive. Election victory for Syriza could result in loan default, lightening Greece's debt burden but spooking international investors away from lending money to country for years. Some suggest it could cause Greece to fall out of euro union

PARLIAMENT: Government needs support of 180 MPs to win presidential vote

