## Spain's PM faces no-confidence vote

Mariano Rajoy's tenure as one of Europe's longest-serving prime ministers is hanging in the balance, with the opposition Socialists close to winning enough support to push through a no-confidence vote

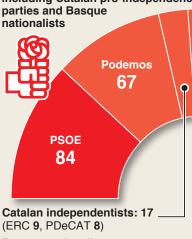


■ Pedro Sánchez:
Leader of centre-left
Socialist party (PSOE),
brought no-confidence
motion after High
Court handed long
jail terms to dozens
of people linked to
ruling People's Party
(PP) in long-running
corruption trial



PSOE, with just 84 seats in 350-seat parliament, needs backing of leftist *Podemos* party and smaller groups, including Catalan pro-independence parties and Basque

Rajoy's minority government has struggled after inconclusive elections in 2015 and 2016, and is under fire for perceived inability to solve secession crisis in Catalonia



Absolute majority: 176

Partido Popular (PP) 134

Basque nationalists: 7

(PNV 5, Bildu 2)

Others: 5 (Compromis 4, Nueva Canarias 1)

for immediate elections

AGAINST MOTION: 170

Centre-right party, riding high in

Catalan separatism, is pushing

many polls thanks to hard line on

**POSSIBLE SUPPORT: 180** 

Sources: Congreso de los Diputados, Reuters, FT

Pictures: Getty Images

Ciudadanos

"Citizens": 32

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Others: 4