

# Political Uncertainty Lingers in Europe

German Chancellor Angela Merkel won the national election for the fourth time in September. However, she is yet to form a stable government in Berlin. Many people in Germany and other European countries feel that Germany is heading towards a snap poll.

As her party failed to get absolute majority, the chancellor had no other option, but to depend on other parties in order to form a 'strong' coalition government. Germans initially thought that 'friendly' parties, like Free Democrats and Green Party, would join hands with Merkel's centre-right Christian Democratic Union and help the latter form the government. However, the three parties failed to reach an agreement even after holding several rounds of talks and hinted in the last week of November that it might not be possible for them to form an alliance.

But, the scenario has changed again. Bavaria-based conservative party - Social Democrats (SPD) - has extended support to Merkel. With its help, Merkel can form a government now in two possible ways. Firstly, the chancellor can form a minority government (as the SPD managed to win very few seats in September elections despite being a partner of the ruling coalition for the last four years). Secondly, the chancellor can form a Grand Alliance with the SPD and other two parties, which have shown interest in forming an alliance with the Christian Democratic Union. So, there is a strong possibility that Merkel could serve as chancellor for another four years.

It's important for Germany (and also for Europe in a larger context) to form a stable and progressive government as soon as possible and to resolve the crisis. In recent times, Europe has faced various crisis, such as the banking crisis, refugee crisis, Brexit and Catalonia crisis. And people across the continent feel that it is possible to overcome the crises, if there is unity and understanding between the EU member states.

Interestingly, the nature of the ongoing political crisis in Germany is completely different. The rise of conservative forces triggers the anti-Merkel wave in Germany. Experts believe that the rise of conservatives will definitely have an

impact on other European countries, especially France. That's why French President Emmanuel Macron is worried. Macron recently said that he could think about 'European Renaissance', if Merkel was with him, or else it would be difficult to prevent the rise of conservative politics in Europe.

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Source: <https://inserbia.info/today/2017/12/political-uncertainty-lingers-europe/>

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