

German nightmare - how Germany faces MONTHS without government if Merkel WINS election

GERMANY could face months without a working government after the country's election because Angela Merkel's potential coalition parties are at loggerheads.

Polls show Mrs Merkel is well on course to finish top of the polls but will have to negotiate a coalition with at least one other party.

Her Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party had been in a grand coalition with the centre-left Social Democratic Party (SDP) but they are not keen on recreating the arrangement.

That could leave Mrs Merkel scratching around for support in the hope of forming a "Jamaica coalition" with the Free Democratic Party (FDP) and the Greens.

But there has been hostility between the two potential coalition partners in recent days with the Greens accusing their pro-business rivals of being an "anti-party" that stands against all they hold dear.

Chief of the Greens, Cem Özdemir said recently: "The FDP is an anti-party — they're anti-climate protection, against more tenants' rights and social housing, anti-solidarity in Europe.

"I don't see how we should come together with the FDP."

They accuse the party's leader Christian Lindner of populism, seeking the wrong solutions to environmental issues and being too hard line on refugees.

And Mr Özdemir's Green co-candidate has also ramped up doubts about the potential coalition, saying: "I cannot imagine Jamaica.

"I cannot see how it would work at the national level."

According to the latest polls, the CDU leads the race with 36 per cent, with the

FDP on 10 per cent and the Greens on eight.

Despite the turmoil, the Greens have indicated they would be willing to work with Mrs Merkel, despite rejecting forming a coalition at the last election.

They have also insisted the Greens are “willing to negotiate with all parties except the Alternative for Germany (AfD)”.

The right-wing AfD has gained a surge in support that could well put it in third place behind the CDU and the SPD.

Mrs Merkel now faces the prospect of lengthy negotiations with both parties after the election in a bid to reach a compromise and form a coalition.

However, Mr Linder has also been quoted as saying he does not believe in a Jamaica coalition anymore.

A further obstacle could be caused by the FDP’s demands to get the finance ministry in exchange for joining a coalition.

It would also rule out support if Mrs Merkel supported French plans to deepen fiscal integration in the euro zone.

Current Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble, of the CDU, has held the post since 2009 and is the most high-profile member of Mrs Merkel’s cabinet.

But Alexander Hahn, a member of the party’s executive, demanded the ministry should go to someone from his party.

He told the Bild: “The FDP should enter no government in which it cannot name a finance minister.

On Sunday, Mr Lindner said setting the agenda for Europe was the most important issue for his party in any coalition talks with the conservatives after the September 24 vote.

He told the Welt am Sonntag newspaper: “I fear that Ms Merkel has already agreed to new funding mechanisms (for the EU) with Macron.

“Everything that goes in the direction of financial transfer on the European level, be it a euro zone budget or a banking union, is a red line for us”.

Source: <http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/855585/German-election-Angela-Merkel-CDU-Cem-Ozdemir-Christian-Lindner>

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