

Merkel SINKS: Chancellor gets lowest poll ratings in 6 YEARS amid Jamaica alliance crisis

ANGELA Merkel's CDU is facing its lowest poll ratings in six years as she continues her struggle to negotiate a coalition agreement.



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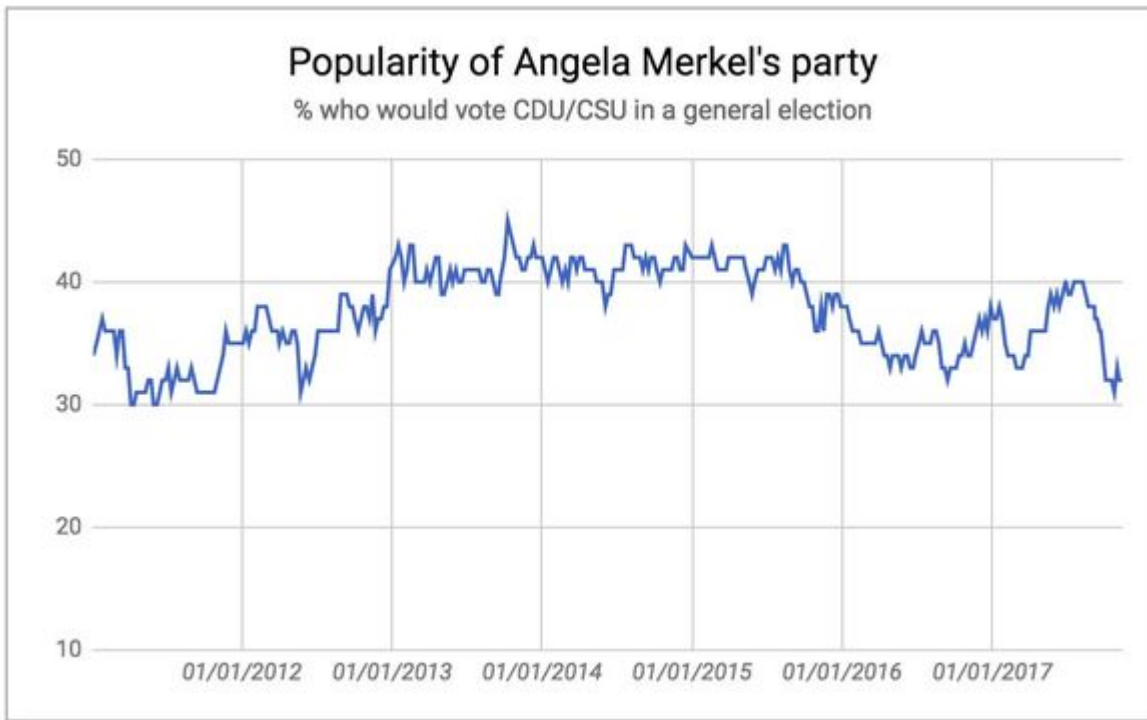
Angela Merkel is currently faced with her lowest poll ratings in six years

Support for the Chancellor's CDU and its Bavarian sister party, the CSU, has dwindled to 32 percent.

In late October, it hit a six-year low, with support at a mere 31 per cent for the first time since 2011.

In 2013 and 2014 the Union parties were experiencing highs of almost 45 per cent approval, but support for beleaguered Chancellor Mrs Merkel has tanked due to her relaxed stance on open-door immigration.

The poor poll performance comes amid uncertainty at the end of protracted and complicated coalition talks, which may not even return a working government for Mrs Merkel and her allies.



Express

Chart: Angela Merkel's popularity has dropped to a six-year low in recent weeks

Over 2,000 German voters were polled in the weekly "Sunday question", which takes stock of support for political parties.

Those surveyed are asked: "If there were a general election this Sunday, who would you vote for?"

The current polls show Mrs Merkel's support is mainly steady following the general election at the end of September.

But another poll has revealed that most Germans do not want her three-party "Jamaica" coalition with the liberal FDP and the Green party running the country.

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Fifty-two per cent of Germans believe the coalition would be bad for the country, according to a poll published by the country's public broadcaster ARD. Just 45 per cent thought the coalition would be a good thing for Germany, a 12 per cent fall in support from a previous survey last month. Three per cent were unsure.

Detailed data from the same poll showed Green voters are growing more and more opposed to the partnership, the polls shows, with just 55 per cent now backing it - down from 76 per cent during a similar survey last month.



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Angela Merkel arrives for the latest round of coalition talks



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Mrs Merkel with her prospective coalition partners

Mrs Merkel is facing uphill talks to put together the coalition, sparking complaints at home that it is taking far too long and drawing too much of her focus.

Compromises in recent weeks have moved talks forward as the Greens have backed down on set dates for banning cars with combustion engines and coal power stations.

While the FDP have given ground by abandoning their campaign pledge of 40 billion euros in tax relief, instead accepting more modest tax cuts.

However when exploratory talks end on November 16 there will still be weeks of formal negotiations to come - and during that time the uncertainty could have an even bigger impact on Mrs Merkel's party.

Source: <http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/879170/Angela-Merkel-Jamaica-alliance-polls-popularity-ratings-lowest-six-years>

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