

LUXEMBOURGISH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

JUNCKER'S PARTY IS CLEAR WINNER DESPITE DROP IN SUPPORT

OCTOBER 2013

The Christian Social People's Party of the Luxembourgish Prime Minister, Jean-Claude Juncker (pictured right), has won the parliamentary elections.

The centre-right party, known as the CSV, took more than a third of the vote in the early elections, which were called after a spying and wire-tapping scandal forced the resignation of the previous government.

However, the big winners of the election were the Democratic Party (DP), a Liberal party that saw its share of the vote rise by more than a fifth, to 18.3%.

The centre-left Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party (LSAP) - which was in a coalition with the CSV in the previous parliament, saw its support drop, as did the Greens and the conservative Alternative Democratic Reform Party. Support for The Left rose slightly.

Coalition talks will now begin with Mr Juncker likely to extend his 18-year period in office still further. However, there is a strong possibility that he will seek to work with the DP rather than the LSAP, with whom he has governed since 2004.



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BACKGROUND TO THE ELECTIONS

Early elections were called in July following the withdrawal of support for the coalition from the junior partner, the Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party (LSAP).

The LSAP reacted to the publication of a report into allegations of spying and wire-tapping, including allegations that the former head of the State Intelligence Service (SREL) had used a wristwatch to record a confidential conversation with the Prime Minister, Jean-Claude Juncker, in 2008.

The subsequent report concluded that Mr Juncker had to bear political responsibility for SREL's activities, although he denied any wrongdoing.

CAMPAIGN AND RESULTS

Despite the outcome of the report, Mr Juncker, who has been Prime Minister since 1995, led the Christian Social People's Party (CSV) into the polls.

The campaign focused on issues including voting rights for foreigners (who account for more than two-fifths of the population), pensions, the financial system, and gay marriage.

Mr Juncker had been criticised for failing to focus on domestic issues, instead concentrating on EU issues such as the euro crisis - particularly as President of the Eurogroup, a post he held until 2012.

Nevertheless, the CSV - which has governed Luxembourg almost

continuously since the Second World War (with the exception of a five-year period in the 1970s) - again took top spot in the polls and Mr Juncker won the highest number of personal votes.

The LSAP won 13 seats - the same level as in the previous parliament - and may still be a possible partner.

However, the big winner was the Democratic Party (DP), which also won 13 seats (an increase of four seats).

Given that it was the only major party to gain seats, a CSV-DP coalition will be the first option for coalition talks, and seems to be the preference of Mr Juncker - although the Liberals have demanded a 'new politics' if they are to join the government.

The Pirate Party, a new formation, scored nearly three per cent, while The Left scored nearly five per cent and doubled its representation to two seats. The Greens and the conservative Alternative Democratic Reform Party each lost a seat.

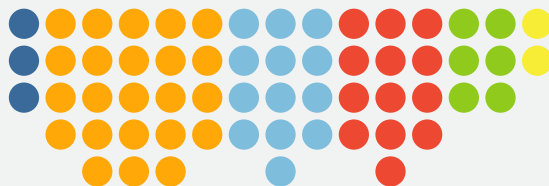
NEXT STEPS

The Prime Minister will present his government's resignation to the Grand Duke, who will consult the President of the Parliament before naming a *formateur* to create a government.

Mr Juncker is likely to remain as PM, but despite his protestations, his European profile will possibly see his name in the frame for the presidency of the European Commission or the European Council in 2014.

ELECTION RESULTS

SEATS IN PARLIAMENT 60 SEATS



PARTY	SEATS (+/-)	SHARE
 Christian Social People's Party (CSV)	23 (-3)	33.7%
 Socialist Workers' Party (LSAP)	13 (-)	20.3%
 Democratic Party (DP)	13 (+4)	18.3%
 The Greens	6 (-1)	10.1%
 Alternative Democratic Reform Party	3 (-1)	6.7%
 The Left	2 (+1)	4.9%
 Others	0 (-)	6.1%

The European People's Party, to which the CSV is affiliated, will choose its candidate for the Commission presidency in March and the new European Council president will take office in December 2014.

However, Mr Juncker's reputation for straight-talking and his strongly pro-European approach may be a barrier to him picking up one of these roles.

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