

Majorca Daily Bulletin

Friday, June 10 2016

1.10€ · Founded 1962 · N.15991 · Passeig de Mallorca 9 A, Palma 07011

Holiday rentals legislation set to be introduced next year: Page 3

Radical Left wing gaining support before Spanish election, says poll



Podemos leader Pablo Iglesias.

A leftist alliance led by anti-austerity force Podemos will make big gains in Spain's national election on June 26, according to a closely-watched opinion poll yesterday that cast new doubt over the complexion of the country's next government. The survey, based on 17,600 interviews and deemed the most reliable to predict election results, showed the vote would be split between four main parties and four smaller ones, confirming a new era of political fragmentation and uncertainty in Spain after four decades of a

stable two-party system. In line with the previous election in December which failed to produce a government, the ruling conservative People's Party (PP) would again win most votes but remain far from a majority, forcing it to strike a 'grand coalition' deal with the Socialists and liberal Ciudadanos to remain in power.

A left-wing coalition agreement between the Unidos Podemos ("Together We Can") alliance and the Socialists would also fall short of a majority, though it could be made possible by the abstention of regional parties.

The survey, conducted on May 4-22, showed the Unidos Podemos alliance would grab 25.6 percent of the vote and 88 to 92 parliamentary seats in the 350-strong Spanish lower house, up from the 71 seats won by its members in December. The PP would get 29.2 percent of the vote and 118 to 121 seats, down from 123 seats, while the Socialists would fall to third place with 21.2 percent and 78 to 80 seats compared to 90 seats previously. The liberal Ciudadanos would remain fourth with 14.6 percent and 38 to 39 seats, down from 40 seats.

Analysts say such an outcome would put the Socialists in a difficult position, at risk of suffering the same fate as the once powerful Greek centre-left Pasok party, which was eclipsed by the leftist Syriza party amid Greece's financial crisis. If the Socialists backed a PP-led 'grand coalition,' they would probably alienate left-wing voters who oppose austerity measures.

If they became a junior partner to Podemos in a leftist coalition government, they would stop being the dominant Spanish left-wing force and pave the way for a further rise of Podemos.



INSIDE TODAY: OUR BIRTHDAY SPECIAL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY YOUR MAJESTY

Includes full coverage of the Queen's only visit to Majorca in 1988



Former PMs Blair and Major warn Brexit would threaten UK unity: See Full Report Inside Today