

Letters

Much too optimistic about Merkel

From Dr Ingo Bobel.

Sir, Your editorial "Merkel emerges as Germany's anchor"(June 11) draws a (much too) optimistic picture of Ms Merkel's standing within the current political and economic landscape in Germany.

The prevailing state of the chancellor's position is characterised by an extremely high degree of uncertainty as she is facing a high-risk scenario: mounting inflationary pressures (rising food prices, rising prices for oil and gas, negative expectations in the private sector of the economy) have already

created a climate of disappointment and distress among a vast proportion of the lower-income population. As a consequence Ms Merkel is already under increasing pressure not only from Social Democrat members of the partner in the "grand coalition" but (increasingly) also from members of her own Christian Social sister party in Bavaria, where the next elections will take place in September 2008.

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Chancellor faces a high-risk scenario