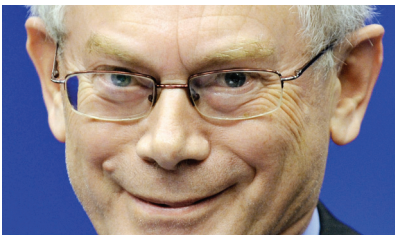# First EU President

The EU has appointed low-profile Belgian premier Herman van Rompuy as its first president, solving the perennial U.S. dilemma of "who to call when you want to speak to Europe"

■ **1947:** *Herman van Rompuy* born October 31, in Brussels, Belgium

■ **1960s:** Attends ancient *Catholic University of Leuven* studying Economics and Classics

■ **1973-5:** Vice President of centre-right *Christian Democrat Party* (CVP) Youth

■ **1978:** Joins CVP National Bureau

■ **1988:** Elected to Senate, becomes Chairman of CVP

■ **1993-99:** Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Budget

■ **1995:** Elected to Chamber of Representatives

■ **2004:** Becomes Minister of State

■ **2008:** Appointed Prime Minister after political crisis – easing tensions between Flemish and Walloons

■ *Writes "haiku" poetry in his native Flemish (Dutch), also speaks French, English and German*