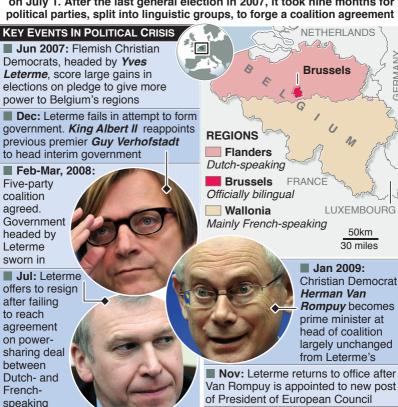
Belgium political crisis looms over EU presidency

As Belgians head to the polls, there are fears that a new government will not be formed before the country assumes the rotating EU presidency on July 1. After the last general election in 2007, it took nine months for political parties, split into linguistic groups, to forge a coalition agreement



■ Dec: Government collapses amid scandal over rescue of stricken bank Fortis

refuses to accept resignation

regions. King

Apr 2010: Coalition fractures in row

Jun 13: National elections held

over francophone voting rights in suburbs of Brussels. Leterme resigns

but stays on in caretaker role