

A close-up portrait of Elio di Rupo, a man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a red bow tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

Today in History

December 6, 2011

▲ **Elio di Rupo became Prime Minister of Belgium after 541 days of negotiations, the longest in history. He is the first Walloon to hold the post in 38 years**

1774: Austria became the first nation to establish a state education system, when Johann von Felbiger's Educational Statute came into effect

1896: Ira Gershwin, composer of some of the best loved songs of the 20th century, was born

1921: The Irish Free State was set up as Ireland's 26 southern counties gained independence from Britain

1998: Hugo Chavez was elected President of Venezuela