

# Belgium: Political Developments and Data in 2023

## The Autumn of the Vivaldi Government

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### Abstract

*In the final full year ahead of the 2024 general elections, tensions within the Belgian federal government were as intense as it was since its inception. If the De Croo I large coalition had been able to present a united front in the face of the need to respond to the pandemic and the energy crisis in its first years, its fragile character emerged in 2023, but yet without breaking. No large reform was implemented, as if the coalition parties were already more preoccupied with positioning themselves for the 2024 elections than achieving a pension, tax or institutional reform. After years of relative stability in terms of party leaders, several Belgian political parties held leadership elections in 2023, or decided to postpone them for after the general elections.*

### Introduction

The De Croo I cabinet had to deal, in 2023, with major issues related to national events (nuclear power plant, inflation, social crisis and community problems). The varied character of the coalition meant that the government's development of policies generated many tensions, especially in this pre-election year. In addition, the composition of the government in terms of ministers had to be altered for various reasons, but chiefly as a consequence of the vigorous opposition of the two main parties in Parliament (Flemish Interest / *Vlaams Belang*, VB, and New Flemish Alliance/ *Nieuwe-Vlaamse Alliantie*, N-VA).