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Belgium is a Parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarch. Therefore, the prime minister is the head of government. The bicameral federal parliament is composed of a Senate and a Chamber of Representatives.

Leon Delacroix, a member of the CP (Clerical Party), became prime minister on November 22, 1918, shortly after the armistice ending World War I. He formed his cabinet with Soc (the Socialist Party) and Lib (the Liberal Party). He resigned on November 18, 1920, after the collapse of his three-party coalition. Delacroix was succeeded by his fellow party member de Wiart. The coalition initially held, but the socialists left October 24, 1921 (Buyst Lauwers & Uytterhoeven 1991). Therefore, we code the leadership transition from Delacroix to de Wiart as a minor SOLS change. Georges Theunis, a member of the CP, was called upon to form a government as prime minister on December 15, 1921. He was instrumental in repairing damage done to the country during the war. Theunis formed a coalition government with the Liberal Party as well; we do not code this leadership change as a (minor) SOLS change. He stepped down from office on May 13, 1925. Aloys Van de Vyvere, a leading Catholic politician, formed a single party cabinet on May 13, 1925. However, his government was attacked by Liberals, and he was forced to resign after only a month on June 17, 1925. Since de Vyvere formed a single party cabinet, we code the change from Theunis to de Vyvere as a minor SOLS change.

Prosper A. J. Poullet, a member of the CP, became a prime minster on June 17, 1925. His government attempted to improve the country's finances through tax increases and more social legislation. Since, unlike de Vyvere's cabinet, Poullet's cabinet had the Socialist Party as a coalition member, we code this as a minor SOLS change. Poullet resigned on May 20, 1926. Henri Jasper, a member of the CP, formed a coalition government on May 20, 1926. He first formed his cabinet with the Socialist Party and Liberal Party (a minor SOLS change). In his second cabinet, which started from November 22, 1927, the Socialist Party was excluded from his coalition (a minor SOLS change). He presided over the Hague Reparation Conference in 1928. He left office on June 5, 1931. Jules Renkin, a leader of the CP, became prime minister on June 5, 1931. He formed a coalition government with the Liberal Party as Jasper's second government did (no minor SOLS change). His government granted official recognition of Flemish language. Conflicts between the Liberals and the Catholics over the language issue caused problems in the cabinet. The Liberals and Socialists called for the dissolution of parliament and new elections. Rankin stepped down on October 22, 1932 to prepare for new elections.

De Broqueville, who led Belgium through World War I and the German occupation, was again named to head the government on October 22, 1932. He led a coalition government with the Liberal Party. Since the coalition membership was same as previous government, we do not code the leadership change from Rankin to Broqueville as a SOLS change. He resigned on November 19, 1934. Theunis again formed a government on November 19, 1934. His government included the Liberal Party as a coalition partner. Since the coalition membership was same as previous government, we do not code the leadership change from Broqueville to Theunis

as a SOLS change. His government was forced to resign on March 26, 1935, when inflation caused the devaluation of the Belgian franc.
Paul Van Zeeland, who was recognized as a leading economist, was called to form a coalition government to deal with the growing economic crisis on March 26, 1935. Unlike previous cabinets, van Zeeland included the Socialist Party as well as the Liberal Party as his coalition members (a minor SOLS change). His government was forced to resign on November 24, 1937 over a financial scandal involving the National Bank. Paul Emile Jansen, a member of the Liberal Party (Lib), was called upon to form a government after the resignation of Paul Van Zeeland, and finally succeeded in forming a cabinet composed of Liberals, Socialists, and Catholics on November 24, 1937. For the first time since 1919, the Liberal Party became a leading party in Jansen cabinet. We code this as a major SOLS change. His government resigned over a budgetary problem on May 15, 1938. Paul-Henri Spaak, a head of the Socialist Party's left wing, became prime minister on May 15, 1938. He formed a coalition with Catholic Party and the Liberal Party. Since a leading party changed, we code the formation of the Spaak government as a major SOLS change. He served until February 9, 1939.

The Catholic Party returned to power in 1939. According to Capoccia (2001, 447), the Catholic Party had changed its name in 1937 to the Social Catholic Party-Catholic Flemish People's Party (PCS-KVV) as a result of internal reform under Pierlot. Hubert Pierlot of the reformed PCS-KVV, was elected prime minister on February 9, 1939 (a major SOLS change). He first led a coalition of Catholics and Socialists from February 21, 1939, and then he led a coalition of Catholics and Liberals from April 18, 1939 (a minor SOLS) (Buyst, Lauwers, and Uytterhoeven 1991, 7), and finally he led a coalition of Catholics, Liberals and Socialists from September 3, 1939 (a minor SOLS) (Deschouwer 1999, 77). Note that we code Belgium as a parliamentary democracy until September 4, 1939, at which point it is coded by POLITY (2010) as -66 (interruption/foreign occupied).

Following the German invasion of Belgium in 1940, Pierlot fled to France. He made his way to London where he set up a government-in-exile during the occupation. Archigos codes Pierlot as ending his rule May 28, 1940 and resuming September 3, 1944. Archigos codes no leaders for Belgium in between. During the German occupation, von Rundstedt, a Generalfeldmarschall of the German Army, took control of occupation forces and control the administration of the country. Following the coding rules specified paragraph 2 in page 16 in the CHISOLS codebook, we do not code a leadership transition from Pierlot (regular government) to von Rundstedt (occupation government) as a SOLS change, since the country lost its independence at this time. In May 1940, Alexander Ernst Alfred Hermann Freiherr von Falkenhausen, a German general, was appointed as military governor for Belgium and he served as the head of the military government of Belgium from 1940–44 during its occupation by Germany in World War II.

After the liberation in September 1944, Pierlot returned to Brussels. He faced political problems when he tried to disband resistance groups that had fought to ban marches and public gathering following a period of violent demonstration. Pierlot's government resigned on

February 11, 1945, after requesting more assistance from the Allied powers.[1] We cannot find enough information on the coalition composition of the Pierlot government in 1945, so without further information, we assume no coalition partners.

On February 11, 1945, Achille Van Acker of the Parti Socialiste Belge-Belgische Socialistische Partij (BSP) became the new PM (Cahoon 2000). Along with the new PM came a new coalition makeup; the coalition during Van Acker's premiership included the Christelijke Volkspartij (CVP), Parti Socialiste Belge-Belgische Socialistische Partij (BSP), Liberale Partij/ Parti Libéral (LP), and the Kommunistische Partij van België (KPB). We code the transition from the Pierlot government to the Van Acker government as a major SOLS change because the latter PM was not a member of the formers party.

The coalition under Van Acker consisted of the CVP, BSP, LP, and KPB (Woldendorp et al. 2000, 130). Later that year, on August 1, 1945, the composition of the coalition changed when the CVP left the coalition and the DU and ICAT parties joined (Woldendorp et al. 2000, 130). Accordingly, we code a minor SOLS change for August 1, 1945.

In March of 1946, both a leadership and SOLS change occurred. On March 11, 1946, Paul-Henri Spaak of the BSP party became the new PM as a result of national elections (Álvarez-Rivera 2010). Spaak presided over a coalition government consisting of the BSP and LP parties. Since Spaak and his predecessor Van Acker were both from the BSP party, we code no major SOLS change for this transition. However, since changes were made to the coalition makeup, we code a minor SOLS change for March 11, 1945 (Woldendorp et al. 2000, 130). Later that year, another set of leadership and SOLS changes occurred when Van Acker, of the BSP, once again became PM and the KPB party rejoined his coalition. We code a minor SOLS change for April 1, 1946. One more leadership change occurred on August 2, 1946 when Van Acker was replaced by fellow party member Camille Huysmans (Cahoon 2000). For this transition, we code no SOLS change.

1947 saw the replacement of Huysmans by the former PM Spaak in the role of PM. Both politicians were from the same party so we code no SOLS change. However, the makeup of the coalition changed in that LP and KPB left the coalition and the CVP was included in the Spaak coalition (Woldendorp et al. 2000, 130). Accordingly, we code a minor SOLS change for March 27, 1947.

In 1949, a major SOLS change occurs when Gaston Eyskens of the CVP party becomes the new PM on August 10, 1949 (Goemans et al. 2005, 232). Coding a major SOLS change is appropriate here since the latter PM was from a different party then his predecessor. A coalition adjustment accompanied this major SOLS change in that the BSP was no longer included in the coalition and the LP joined the new coalition.

1950 saw two leadership changes, first Jean Duvieusart of the CVP on June 8, 1950 and Joseph Pholien on August 15, 1950 also of the CVP. Since both were members of the CVP, just

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[1] With regard to the name of political party to which Pierolt belonged, there was a name change in 1937 as a result of internal reform of the Catholic Party (CP). In the campaign for the May 1936 elections, the new Catholic leader Hubert Pierlot attempted to make an internal reform to capture the vote of younger Catholics and crated PCS- KVV = Parti Catholique Social-Katholieke Vlaamsche Volkspartij (Social Catholic Party-Catholic Flemish People's Party; catholic federated parties 1937-45) as one division in the CP. See Giovanni (2001, 447). Therefore, we use PCS-KVV instead of CP from the year 1937.

as there predecessor, Eyskens was a member of the CVP, no major SOLS change is coded for 1950. A minor SOLS change is coded for 1950 since the transition from Euskens to Duviensart saw the exit of the LP from the coalition, thus leaving just the CVP (Woldendorp et al. 2000, 130). We code a minor SOLS change for June 30, 1950.

In 1952, a Duviensart of the CVP was replaced by his fellow party member Jean Van Houtte on January 15 (Goemans et al. 2005, 232). No adjustments were made to the existing coalition, so we code neither a major nor a minor SOLS change.

In 1954, Houtte was replaced by the former PM Van Acker of the BSP party and the coalition makeup changed with Van Acker's new coalition excluding the CVA and including the BSP and LP (Woldendorp et al. 2000, 130, Cahoon 2000). We code a major SOLS change for April 22, 1954 since the two PMs were from two different parties. Also, on April 22, 1954, the coalition makeup changed when the CVP left the government and the BSP and LP formed a coalition government (Woldendorp et al. 2000, 130). We code no minor SOLS change for this day since a major SOLS change also occurred on April 22.

In 1958, Eyskens, CVP party member and former PM, once again came to the position of PM on June 25, 1958 (Woldendorp et al. 2000, 130). Also, on June 26, 1958, the BSP and LP parties were removed from their inclusion in the coalition and the sole party in the Eyskens coalition was his own party, the CVP (Goemans et al. 2005, 233; Cahoon 2000). Since Van Acker and Eyskens were from two different parties, BSP and CVP respectively, we code a major SOLS change for June 25, 1958. A second coalition change occurred on November 7, 1958 when the LP party joined the coalition. Accordingly, we code a minor SOLS change.

In 1961, PM Eyskens was replaced by fellow CVP party member Théodore Lefèvre on April 25. During this leadership transition, LP left the governing coalition and BSP rejoined (Cahoon 2000; Woldendorp et al. 2000, 130). We code no major SOLS change since both PMs were from the same party, but we do code a minor SOLS change as is appropriate.

In 1965, Lefèvre was replaced by fellow party member Pierre Harmel on July 27 (Goemans et al. 2005, 233; Cahoon 2000). Since both politicians are from the same party, we code no SOLS change. Harmel was replaced by Paul Vanden Boeynants (once again of the CVP) on March 19, 1966 (Cahoon 2000). Along with Harmel's fall as PM came the removal of the BSP in a new coalition and the inclusion of the LP (Woldendorp et al. 2000, 130). Though we code no major SOLS change, we do code a minor SOSL change for March 20, 1966. Two years later, Vanden Berynants was replaced by fellow CVP member and former PM Eyskens. No major SOLS change is coded here. However, a minor SOLS change is coded for June 18, 1968, because the LP left the coalition and the BSP once again was included.

In 1972, a minor SOSL change occurred when the Christelijke Volkspartij-Parti Social-chrétien (PSC) joined the coalition (Cahoon 2000; Woldendorp et al. 2000, 130). No leadership changes occurred in 1972 so we code only a minor SOLS change for January 21, 1972.

In 1973, two important changes occurred. The Eyskens government was replaced by a BSP party member Edmond Leburton on January 26 (Goemans et al. 2005, 233; Cahoon 2000). Along with a new PM from a different party came the addition of the Party for Freedom and Progress (PVV, formerly the LP prior to 1961) (Cahoon 2000) into the new coalition. Though a minor SOLS change occurred, we code only the major SOLS change for January 26, 1973. In 1974, the CVP retook the office of PM (Cahoon 2000). On April 25, 1974, Léo Tindemans of the

CVP became the PM. We code this as a major SOLS change since both politicians were from different parties. The coalition composition also changes in April 1974 when the Partij voor Vrijheid en Vooruitgang replaced the BSP in the coalition. Later, on June 12, 1974, the Rassemblement Wallon party (RW) joined the coalition (Woldendorp et al. 2000, 130). We only code this last SOLS change as a minor SOLS change since the earlier coalition change coincided with a leadership change.

In 1976, elements of the PLP and RW merged to form the PLRW. On December 9, 1976, the PLP ceased to be a part of the coalition government and the PLRW took its place (Cahoon 2000). Though elements of the old PLP and RW party were still present in the new PLRW, we treat the PLRW as a new party (Cahoon 2000). If this new association was as simple as a name change for the same group, we would not treat the PLRW as a new SOLS. However, since new political elements have been incorporated into the party, we treat the PLRW as a different party. Accordingly, we code 1976 as a minor SOLS change.

In 1977, a few noteworthy changes to the coalition makeup occurred. The PRLW and RW were no longer a part of the coalition while newcomers Fédéralistes Démocrates Francophones (FDF) and the Volksunie (VU) (Woldendorp et al. 2000, 130). Given the loss of two coalition partners and the inclusion of two new parties, we code a minor SOLS change for June 3, 1977.

The following year, a leadership change occurred when Tindemans of the CVP was replaced by former PM Vanden Boeynants of the PSC party (Cahoon 2000; "Language pact pushed New Premier faces elections in Belgium"; "Belgian Cabinet Resigns"). However, as Van den Boeynants heads an interim government, we do not code a major SOLS change for October 20, 1978 ("Language pact pushed New Premier faces elections in Belgium"; "Belgian Cabinet Resigns").

On April 3 1979, Wilfried Martens of the CVP replaced Vanden Boeynants' interim government; as Martens' coalition differs from that of Tindemans, this is a minor SOLS change. A change to the composition of the coalition for that year also occurred on April 3, 1979, when the VU was replaced by the PSB party (Cahoon 2000; Woldendorp et al. 2000, 131). However, since a major SOLS change occurred on that same day, we code no minor SOLS change.

In 1980, two minor SOLS changes occurred. The first, on January 23, saw the removal of the FDF from the coalition (Woldendorp et al. 2000, 131). The second, on May 18, saw the inclusion of the PVV and the Parti Réformateur Libéral (PRL). The PRL is an outgrowth from the unitarian PVV and PLP parties. However, since the new party is not just a name change, but a reorganization of different parties, we treat the PRL as a new party (Woldendorp et al. 2000, 131, Cahoon 2000). Accordingly, we code a minor SOLS change. In summary, the two minor SOLS changes are: CVP/PSC/BSP/PSB/FDF (Martens), CVP/PSC/BSP/PSB (Martens), CVP/PSC/BSP/PSB/PVV/PRL (Martens).

In 1981, Martens was replaced by Mark Eyskens, not the former PM yet still a fellow CVP member (Cahoon 2000). Since Eyskens is of the same party as his predecessor, we code no major SOLS change. Instead, we code minor SOLS change here (April 6, 1981), since his coalition excluded PVV and PRL. Later in 1981, Martens once again became PM, an office preceded him by his fellow CVP party member Eyskens (Cahoon 2000; Goemans et al. 2005). Accordingly, we code no SOLS change. We do code a minor SOLS change for December 17, 1981 when the PVV and PRL replace the PSB and BSP as coalition members (Woldendorp et al.

2000, 131). In summary, the minor SOLS changes in 1981 are: CVP/PSC/BSP/PSB/PVV/PRL (Martens), CVP/PSC/BSP/PSB (Eyskens), and CVP/PSC/PVV/PRL (Martens). (There seems to be a conflict between Woldendorp et al. and Archigos. Woldendorp claims that Mark Eyskens, CVP, began his term in 1980 when the PVV and PRL left the coalition. Archigos has him starting in 1981. We go with Archigos for Eykens' entry date)

In 1988, a minor SOLS change occurred when two parties, the PVV and PRL parties, left the coalition and the VU rejoined the coalition after ten years of absence (Woldendorp et al. 2000, 131). No leadership changes occurred this year so we code only a minor SOLS change for June 9, 1988.

In 1991, general elections were held which, after a 100-day delay, resulted in a 1992 leadership change and coalition change. In 1992, the VU left the coalition while all other previous member remained (Woldendorp et al. 2000, 131). We code this a minor SOLS change for the date March 13, 1992.[2] In the same year, a leadership change occurred when Marteens was replaced by fellow CVP party member Jean-Luc Dehaene on March 7, 1992 (Cahoon 2000). We code no major SOLS change since both men were from the same party, therefore, only a minor SOLS change is coded for 1992.

Seven years later, in 1999, political conditions in Belgium were turned on their head when a vastly different coalition as well as a new PM from a different party was elected (Álvarez-Rivera 2010; U.S. Department of State 2010; "Elections held in 1999"). 1999 is coded as a major SOLS change since the outgoing PM, Martens of the CVP, was replaced by Guy Verhofstadt of Vlaamse Liberale Democraten (VLD – formerly PVV) on July 7, 1999 heading a coalition of VLD/PSB/PRL-FDF/BSP/Ecolo/Agalev.

In 2003, adjustments were made to the coalition where only the liberals and socialists would be in power, thus refining the coalition down to the VLD, PSB, MR, and SPA-SPIRIT (U.S. Department of State 2010). Accordingly, we code a minor SOLS change for May 18, 2003. This coalition held together until the Belgian election of 2007 when the coalition changed to VLD/CD&V-NVA/MR/PSB/CDH. A minor SOLS change occurred December 21, 2007.

In 2008, we code a major SOLS change when Yves Leterme of the Christen-Democratisch & Vlaams (CD & V) became the new PM of a CD&V-NVA/MR/VLD/PSB/CDH coalition on March 20, 2008 (Cahoon 2000). We code a major SOLS change for this date since Leterme and his predecessor were of different parties. A second SOLS change occurred on December 30, 2008 when Leterme was succeeded by fellow CD & V party member Herman Van Rompuy. We code no major SOLS change for this day since both former and latter PM were of the same party.

Leterme got a second chance to serve as prime minister of Belgium in 2009 when Herman Achille Van Rompuy resigned as prime minister to become the President of the European Council (Isenson 2009). Leterme and Van Rompuy were both from the same political party and the governing coalition remained the same, thus according to the democratic coding rules, there is not a SOLS change nor a minor SOLS change in 2009. In 2010, the Open VLD (O-

[2] According to multiple sources (Álvarez-Rivera 2010; "Elections held in 1991"; Woldendorp et al. 2000, 131) no coalition was formed following the 1991 general election because there was a political crisis which prevented the different regional factions from compromising and forming a government. The government was not formed until a new PM was installed in 1992.

VLD) party quit the governing coalition, resulting in a minor SOLS change (News Wires 2010). The withdrawal of the O-VLD resulted in a collapse of the coalition government and Leterme's resignation as PM (Shoichet 2010). While Leterme only served as prime minister from November 2009 to April 2010 (5 months), he served as caretaker prime minister for over one year (Mulvey 2011). Elections were held in June 2010, but a government was not formed until 2011 (Waterfield 2011). Elio Di Rupo was sworn in as prime minister on December 6, 2011 after forming a six-party coalition (Waterfield 2011). Di Rupo, leader of the PS party, was from a different party than Leterme, thus the transition is coded as a SOLS change.

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