



European  
Commission



# ***Taking stock of European financial supervision***

*Supervisory convergence and the single rulebook*

Virtual conference  
20 April 2021

***Speakers' biographies***



<https://europa.eu/IQk88fy>

Banking and  
Finance

***#CMUsupervision***

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## Mairead McGuinness

*European Commissioner for Financial Services,  
Financial Stability and Capital Markets Union*

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Mairead McGuinness is the European Commissioner for financial services, financial stability and Capital Markets Union.

The Commissioner's vision for the portfolio is focused on ensuring the financial sector's strength and stability, so that it can deliver for people, society and the environment.

Before joining the Commission in October 2020, Ms McGuinness was First Vice-President of the European Parliament from 2017. She served as an MEP from Ireland for 16 years, and was a Vice-President of the Parliament since 2014.

As Vice-President, she oversaw relations with national Parliaments, led the Parliament's dialogue with religious and philosophical organisations, and had responsibility for the Parliament's communication policy.

During her time in the Parliament, Ms McGuinness sat on a range of committees, covering agriculture, environment, public health, budgets, petitions and constitutional affairs. Her legislative work included leading for the EPP Group on the European Climate Law, the revision of medical devices legislation, and CAP reform post-2013. As an Irish MEP representing the border region, she was outspoken on Brexit and the consequences for the EU and Ireland.

In 2006-2007, Ms McGuinness chaired the Parliament's investigation into the collapse of the Equitable Life assurance company which identified issues around weak financial regulation.

Prior to becoming an MEP, she was an award-winning journalist, broadcaster and commentator.



## Paulina Dejmek Hack

*Director General Affairs in DG FISMA,  
European Commission*

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Paulina Dejmek Hack is Director for General Affairs at the European Commission's Directorate General for Financial Services, Financial Stability and Capital Markets Union (FISMA).

Paulina joined the European Commission in 2004, after having worked in a law firm in Frankfurt am Main and at the EFTA Surveillance Authority in Brussels where she was responsible for financial services, capital movements and company law.

After a couple of years in the unit for insurance and pensions in DG MARKT, Paulina joined the Legal Service of the Commission in 2007, providing legal advice on financial services and financial market matters. During the Swedish EU Presidency in 2009, Paulina was seconded to the Swedish Permanent Representation as financial attaché.

Paulina joined the private office of Commissioner Michel Barnier,

subsequently Vice-President of the European Commission, in 2010. She was the Deputy Head of Cabinet between February and October 2014.

Between November 2014 and November 2019, Paulina was an economic adviser and Director for Coordination and Administration (from June 2019) to the then European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker.

From December 2019 and until 15 February 2021, Paulina was Director for strategy in the European Commission's Task Force for relations with the United Kingdom and directly involved in the negotiations between the European Union and the United Kingdom.

Paulina is a Swedish and Czech citizen, she holds a Master of Laws degree from the University of Lund, Sweden, and a doctorate degree from the University of Heidelberg, Germany.



## Verena Ross

*Executive Director  
of ESMA*

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Verena Ross is the Executive Director of the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA). She was appointed to the role in March 2011 and joined ESMA on 1 June 2011. She is the first Executive Director of the organisation and forms part of the senior management team along with the Chair of ESMA. The Executive Director has responsibility for the day-to-day running of the organisation.

Prior to this, Verena held a number of senior posts in the UK's Financial Services Authority (FSA), with her final position being Director of the International Division from October 2009 to May 2011. Verena was also a member of the FSA's Executive Committee and the Executive Policy and Risk Committees.

Verena joined the FSA in 1998 to run the Executive Chairman's office during the regulator's start-up phase,

and was briefly a seconded advisor to the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission in 2000. She subsequently held various positions in the Markets Division and was Director of the Strategy & Risk Division before becoming Director of the International Division.

Verena is a German national. Following studies in Hamburg, Taipei and London (SOAS) she began her career at the Bank of England in 1994, where she worked as an economist and then banking supervisor.



## Isabel Benjumea

*Member of the European Parliament, rapporteur of the EP's own initiative report on further development of the CMU*

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Born in Madrid in 1982, Isabel has a degree in Law and International Relations from the Universidad Pontificia de Comillas of Madrid (ICADE).

She spent the first years of her professional career in Washington DC, where she worked at the World Bank, implementing transparency and accountability programmes for local governments in Latin America.

In 2011, after returning to Spain and spending one year in the International Relations Department of the FAES think-tank, she decided to undertake her first business project in the tourism sector, Greatness, which she ran until 2017. In December 2018, she became Deputy Chief of Staff of the President of the Spanish People's Party (PP) Pablo Casado. She left this position when she was elected as a Member of the European Parliament in May 2019.

In this IX legislature, she is the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Regional Development. She is also a Member

of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, a Member of the SME Intergroup and a Member of the URBAN Intergroup. Furthermore, she is a Member of the Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee and of the Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly.

She is also a Substitute Member of the Committee on Culture and Education, the Delegation for relations with Japan and the Delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly.

Isabel Benjumea is co-Founder of the Floridablanca Network, a Spanish liberal think-tank to which she has made numerous contributions and has written many articles about for national media. Currently, she teaches Entrepreneurial Thinking as part of the Degree of Entrepreneurship at the Francisco Marroquín University in Madrid.

MEP Since 2019.



## Michael McGrath

*Assistant Secretary Financial Services Division,  
Department of Finance Ireland, Vice-Chair of the FSC*

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### **Current responsibilities:**

- Assistant Secretary (State Secretary) Department of Finance, Financial Services Division (since September 2017). Policy responsibilities include domestic, EU and international matters relating to Funds, Markets, Insurance, Pensions, Ireland for Finance - 2025 and AML matters.
- Irish Member and the current Vice Chair of the Financial Services Committee.
- Management responsibilities for the Department's internal Legal Unit.
- Chair of the Departmental Council – a Staff/Management Consultative Forum.
- Member of the Department's Executive Board and Management Board.
- Member of the Irish Pensions Authority (Minister's nominee on the 3-person board).
- Assistant Secretary of the Economic and Budget Division (2007-2012), with management responsibilities for the Irish budgetary process. Responsible for the Department's engagement with the EU, IMF and World Bank on economic and fiscal matters and led on the EU-IMF External Assistance Programme.
- Irish member of the EU Economic Policy Committee.
- Government appointed member of the National Statistics Board.
- Assistant Secretary of the EU Division (2012-2014) and in that role was the Alternate member of the Economic and Financial Committee and EWG.
- Department's lead senior official for the 2013 Irish Presidency of the EU.
- Alternate Executive Director (IMF 2014 – 2017) and represented Canada, Ireland and 10 Caribbean countries at the IMF Executive Board.

### **Prior experience:**

- Joined the Department of Finance in 1990 as an economist and worked in the Economics and Fiscal Divisions of the Department at various levels.
- Member of the Department of Finance's Executive Board and Management Board since being appointed as an Assistant Secretary in 2007.

### **Education/Other:**

- BA (economics and sociological & political studies); MA (economics); MSc (taxation); Post Graduate Higher Diploma (Statistics); and is a Certified Bank Director.
- Has also completed a number of management and leadership courses.



## Gabriela Figueiredo Dias

*Chairperson of the Portuguese  
Securities Regulator (CMVM)*

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Gabriela Figueiredo Dias is the Chair of the CMVM Management Board since December 2016. She holds a Master in Law from the University of Coimbra, where she also teaches. She worked as a legal advisor and consultant in the private sector for over two decades.

In 2007, she joined the CMVM as Senior Advisor on international affairs and regulatory policy. Gabriela later became Deputy Head of the International and Regulatory Policy Department, Director of the Department of Markets, Issuers and Financial Information and in 2015, she took office as Vice-Chair of the CMVM. In her current capacity of CMVM Chair, she is also a member of the National Council of Financial Regulators.

Gabriela has also been participating in several international fora, such as ESMA, where she is Member of the

Board and of the Mediation Panel and former member of its Management Board (2016-2020).

In January 2019 she was appointed Chair of the ESMA Investment Management Standing Committee.

Gabriela is also an IOSCO Board Member and in that capacity, Observer at the Monitoring Board of the IFRS Foundation. Gabriela is also a long-standing and active member of the OECD Corporate Governance Committee and of its Bureau (Executive Committee), for which vice-chairmanship Gabriela was elected on 17 November 2016.

She has been also serving as Co-Chair of the MENA/OECD Working Group on Corporate Governance.

In February 2021 she was elected Presidente of the General Council of the University of Coimbra.





## Karel Lannoo

*CEO of the Centre for  
European Policy Studies (CEPS)*


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Karel Lannoo has been Chief Executive of CEPS since 2000, Europe's leading independent European think tank, ranked among the top ten think tanks in the world.

He manages a staff of 70 people. Karel was an Independent Director of BME (Bolsas y Mercados Españolas), the listed company that manages the Spanish securities markets (2006-18) and is a member of foundation boards and advisory councils.

He has published several books on capital markets, MiFID, and the financial crisis, the most recent of which is *The Great Financial Plumbing, From Northern Rock to Banking Union*, 2015.

He is also the author of many op-eds and articles published by CEPS or in international newspapers and reviews. Karel is a regular speaker in hearings for national and international institutions (the European Commission, European Parliament, etc.) and at international conferences and executive learning courses.



European Commission  
DG Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union  
SPA2 - Pavillon  
Rue de Spa 2 / Spastraat 2  
1000 Bruxelles / Brussel  
Belgium  
<http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/finance>

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