



# *European Financial Integration and Stability*

## *Speakers' biographies*

Joint online conference  
of the European Commission and  
the European Central Bank

27 May 2021



<https://europa.eu/FU33Cu>

#EFSIR

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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.



## Klaus Wiedner

*Director, DG for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union (DG FISMA), European Commission*

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Dr. Klaus Wiedner is Director for financial systems and crisis management in DG FISMA (Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union) of the European Commission. His responsibilities include monitoring financial markets and institutions, contributing to the completion of the Banking Union, country surveillance, macro-economic policy, impact assessment of financial sector regulation, bank resolution in close cooperation with the Single Resolution Board and developing Europe's role in the financial sector globally.

Klaus Wiedner joined the European Commission in the mid-1990s and held various other senior positions since. In particular, he was Head of Unit for Banking Regulation and Supervision, preparing and negotiating bank prudential regulation and contributing to the development

of Basel standards. Prior to that, he was Head of Unit for Insurance and Pensions, formulating and negotiating prudential and consumer protection regulation and contributing to the setting of international standards in insurance, occupational and private pensions. Previously, he was Head of Unit for Procurement, drafting and negotiating a general reform of the European procurement rules and a new defence procurement framework, and a Member of the European Commission Legal Service on Competition and Internal Market.

Before joining the European Commission Klaus Wiedner was competition expert in the Austrian Ministry for Economic Affairs. He studied Law in Graz/Austria and at the College of Europe, Bruges/Belgium.



## Verena Ross

*Executive Director  
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.



## David Knibbe

*Chief Executive Officer and chair of the Executive Board and the Management Board, NN Group*

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David Knibbe was appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and chair of the Executive Board and Management Board of NN Group as of 1 October 2019.

David is responsible for the strategy, performance and day-to-day operations of NN. Previously, he was appointed to the Management Board on 7 July 2014.

From 1 September 2014, he was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Netherlands. In this role, David was responsible for all insurance and banking business in the Netherlands, and was leading the integration of Nationale-Nederlanden & Delta Lloyd and the acquisition of VIVAT Non-life.

He has experience in the financial services industry dating from 1997. David is treasurer and member of the board of the Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers

(VNO-NCW) and a Member of the Board of the Johan Cruyff Foundation.

David holds a master's degree in Monetary Economics from Erasmus University in Rotterdam (the Netherlands) and completed a general management programme at Harvard Business School (US).



## Jim Reid

*Global Head of Fundamental Credit Strategy  
and Thematic Research, Deutsche Bank*

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Jim is a Managing Director and Global Head of the Fundamental Credit Strategy Group. He also heads up DB's Thematic Research Product and Corporate Bank Research. Jim is a top-ranked strategist, consistently named the No.1 analyst in the major surveys over the last 25 years. In 2019 he was voted No.1 Strategist in four categories in the European Institutional Investor flagship Fixed Income Poll. He has had 25 No.1 positions in these awards in the last decade, more than quadruple the number of any other analyst.

His daily Early Morning Reid report has been running for over 13 years now, has tens of thousands of daily readers, and has the most subscribers of any DB research publication globally. It is one of the most widely read financial market pieces in the investment world.

Jim joined Deutsche Bank in September 2004 and has nearly 25 years of experience in Investment Banking. Before becoming a strategist, Jim spent the first three years of his career in sales covering both real money accounts and hedge funds.

Jim has a BA Degree in Economics and Economic History from Warwick.



## Judith Hardt

*Senior advisor  
Better Finance*

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Judith is a lecturer at the Solvay Business for the Advanced Master in Financial Markets and the Special Advisor of Better Finance, the European Federation of Investors and Financial Services Users.

During her career, she headed several leading European financial services organisations.

In 2014, she spearheaded the launch of the Swiss Finance Council.

From 2004 to 2014, she was the Managing Director of the Federation of European Stock Exchanges (FESE) which she led through two successive EU legislatures.

She was the CEO of the European Mortgage Federation (EMF) from 1993 to 2004.

In 2003, she launched the European Covered Bond Council (ECBC). From 2005 to 2007, she chaired the European Parliament Financial Services Forum (EPFSF).

She also served two terms as Vice-Chair of the ESMA Securities and Markets Stakeholder Group.





## Luis de Guindos

*Vice-President  
European Central Bank*

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Luis de Guindos is Vice-President of the European Central Bank since 1 June 2018. In this capacity, he is also a member of the Executive Board, the Governing Council and General Council of the European Central Bank.

He was Minister of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness (2016-2018) and Minister of Economy and Competitiveness (2011-2016). He was Secretary of State for Economic Affairs and member of the Economic and Financial Committee of the EU (2002-2004). Prior to that, he was Secretary General for Economic and Competition Policy (2000-2002) and Director General (1996-2000).

Mr de Guindos was Head of Financial Services (2008-2009) at PricewaterhouseCoopers and Director at IE Business School and PwC Center for the Finance Sector (2010-2011). He was Chief Executive Officer Iberia at Lehman Brothers and Chief Executive Officer at Nomura Securities (2006-2008).

He graduated with honours in BSc in Economics from Colegio Universitario de Estudios Financieros (CUNEF) in Spain (1982) and graduated as State Economist and Trade Expert (1984).



## Frank Elderson

*Member of the Executive Board  
European Central Bank*

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Frank Elderson is a member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank. He oversees the ECB's Legal Services and is Vice-Chair of the ECB's Supervisory Board.

Mr Elderson previously served as Executive Director of De Nederlandsche Bank (DNB). At DNB he held several senior positions before joining its Governing Board in 2011.

Frank Elderson is Chair of the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System. He co-chairs the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Risks of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision.

Mr Elderson studied various courses at the University of Zaragoza, Spain. He graduated in Dutch law at the University of Amsterdam in 1994 and obtained an LL.M. Degree at Columbia Law School, New York, in 1995.



## Sirpa Pietikäinen

*Member  
of the European Parliament*

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Sirpa Pietikäinen is a member of the European People's Party (EPP) in the European Parliament. She is a former Minister of the Environment in Finland (1991-1995), and a Member of the parliament from 1983 to 2003 and Member of the European Parliament since 2008.

At the European Parliament, Ms Pietikäinen is a member of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee and a substitute member of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee. Within her work, she seeks to combine her two specialities, that of environment and economics. Ms Pietikäinen is a strong advocate of a transition to a circular economy and sustainable finance, and served as the lead negotiator on behalf of European Parliament and the EPP group on the first Sustainable Finances legislative initiatives, Disclosure and Taxonomy Regulations as well as

on the Parliament's Own Initiative Report on Sustainable Finance.

A graduate from the Helsinki School of Economics, Ms Pietikäinen holds an MSc in Business, and has been teaching university courses on negotiations theory and practices. She is active in several organisations, her positions of trust including Chairmanship of the Globe EU.



## Philippe Zaouati

*Chief Executive Officer  
Mirova*

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Philippe Zaouati is the CEO of Mirova, an asset management company specializing in sustainable investment, which he created within Natixis in 2014, recognized as one of the pioneers of green and sustainable finance. After a career in various financial institutions, including Caisse des Dépôts and Crédit Agricole, notably as an expert in quantitative management, head of international distribution and head of marketing and communication, he has devoted himself for ten years to the development of responsible investment. Author of several books including "Green finance begins in Paris" in 2018 and "Sustainable finance: ringing in a second chance" in 2020, he has contributed to market and regulatory developments in France and Europe. Successively Chairman of the Responsible Investment Committees of AFG and EFAMA, member of the high-level expert group on sustainable finance at the European Commission in 2018, co-founder and Chairman of the Finance for Tomorrow initiative, member of the One Planet Lab, group of experts created by the

President of the French Republic, he has notably contributed to the development of responsible investment labels and transparency standards on climate. Since 2015, he has been particularly involved in the development of impact investing, particularly in natural capital. Involved in public debate, Philippe Zaouati contributed to the writing of Emmanuel Macron's presidential program on the environment, before being the referent of La République en Marche in Paris from 2017 to 2018. He is co-founder and President of the think tank Osons le Progrès which aims to be a laboratory of progressive ideas.

Philippe Zaouati is also the author of several novels, including "Les refus de Grigori Perelman", the English translation of which will be published by the American Mathematical Society, and more recently "Applaudissez-moi !". Philippe Zaouati is a graduate of the National School of Statistics and Economic Administration (ENSAE) and a member of the Institute of French Actuaries. He teaches sustainable finance at Sciences Po.



## Mario Greco

*Chief Executive Officer  
Zurich*

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Mario Greco joined Zurich in March 2016 as Group Chief Executive Officer and member of the Executive Committee. Mr. Greco started his professional career in management consulting, working in McKinsey & Company's Milan office from 1986 until 1994, where he became a partner in 1992 and subsequently a partner leader in the insurance segment. In 1995, he joined RAS (Allianz Group) in Milan as head of the claims division. He became general manager in charge of the insurance business the following year. In 1998, he was appointed managing director and in 2000, he became the company's CEO. At the end of 2004, Mr. Greco joined Allianz AG's executive board, with responsibility for France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece and Turkey. In April 2005, he joined the Sanpaolo IMI Group in Milan as CEO of EurizonVita and in October 2005, he was appointed CEO of Eurizon

Financial Group. From 2007 to 2012, he served at Zurich, first as CEO Global Life and from 2010, as CEO General Insurance. In 2012 he was appointed CEO of Generali.

Mr. Greco is chairman of the Pan-European Insurance Forum and a member of the board of directors of the Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce. He is also a member of the International Advisory Council of Bocconi University, a member of the Executive Faculty and a member of the EMBA X advisory board at the University of St.Gallen and a member of the advisory board of the Department of Economics at the University of Zurich.

Mr. Greco holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Rome and a master's degree in international economics and monetary theory from Rochester University.



## Aila Aho

*Founder of Harava Advisory, ex-Nordea, Rapporteur for the Green Bond Standard, Member of the Technical Expert Group*

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Aila Aho founded Harava Advisory after leaving Nordea where she worked over 30 years in various senior Nordic positions including Head of Sustainable Financing Wholesale Banking and Head of Export and Project Finance.

Her current focus includes ESG related risks and opportunities, EU taxonomy, green and sustainability linked bonds and loans, integrating sustainability in corporate strategy, risk management and reporting and international policy work, particularly in the financial sector.

She was a member of the European Commission Sustainable Finance Technical Expert Group TEG and rapporteur for the EU Green Bond Standard (2018-2020).

She is a member of the Board of Advisors for Climate Leadership Coalition CLC.



## John Berrigan

*Director-General, DG for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union (DG FISMA), European Commission*

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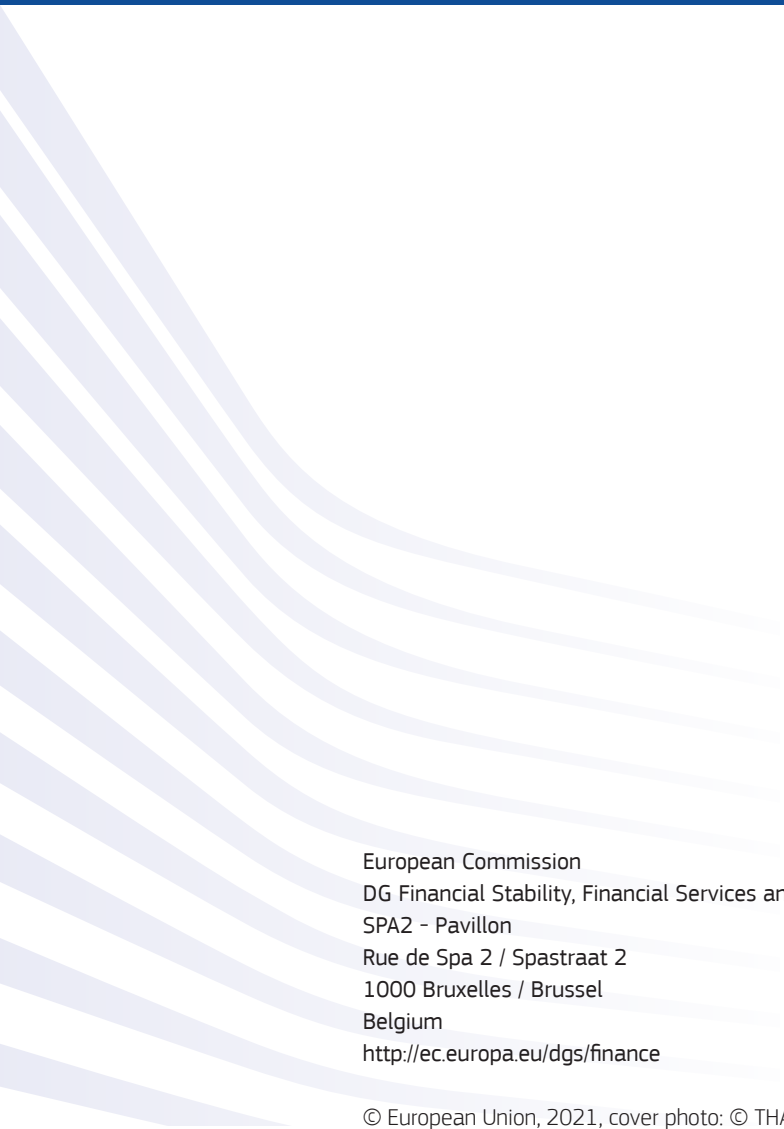
John Berrigan is the Director General in DG FISMA (Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union) of the European Commission.

DG FISMA is responsible for EU-level policy making and legislative initiatives with respect to the financial sector, including Banking Union, Capital Markets Union, sustainable finance, digital finance, anti-money laundering and sanctions. In this context, John represents the European Commission on the Economic and Financial Committee and the Financial Services Committee, which report to EU Finance Ministers.

He also represents the Commission on the Financial Stability Board, which reports to G20 Finance Ministers. He attends the European Systemic Risk Board and is a permanent observer on the Single Resolution Board.

John has been a Commission official since the mid-1980s and has spent most of that time working on financial-sector issues - first in DG ECFIN (where he contributed to macro-financial analysis in general and more specifically to financial-sector aspects of the assistance programmes for Member States) and now in DG FISMA. He worked on preparations for the introduction of the euro in 1999 and was secretary of the so-called Giovannini Group, which produced reports, inter alia, on issues related to euro-denominated debt issues and post-trading in EU securities markets in the early 2000s. In the mid-1990s, he worked for several years with the International Monetary Fund.

John has a masters degree in economics from University College Dublin. He is married with two children.



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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