



Mairéad McGuinness

Mairéad McGuinness is a former European Commissioner for Financial Stability, Financial Services and the Capital Markets Union whose leadership has helped shape Europe's financial and regulatory landscape. An experienced policymaker, broadcaster and communicator, she delivers authoritative insights into EU regulation, sustainable finance, geopolitics and the future of European business.

KEY TOPICS

- The future of EU financial regulation: what boards need to understand now
- Sustainable finance: where the EU got it right, and where it overcorrected
- Digital assets and the global regulatory race: the MiCA moment and beyond
- Capital Markets Union: the unfinished business and why it matters
- The EU's role in a changing geopolitical order
- Agriculture, food security, and the European Green Deal
- Media, disinformation, and the health of democratic institutions
- How regulation is made: lessons from the inside for business leaders

BIOGRAPHY

Introduction

Mairéad McGuinness is one of Europe's most respected authorities on financial regulation, public policy and European affairs. Best known for serving as European Commissioner for Financial Stability, Financial Services and the Capital Markets Union from 2020 to 2024, she played a leading role in shaping some of the European Union's most significant financial reforms during a period of profound economic and geopolitical change. Today, McGuinness is recognised for her unique ability to explain the complexities of European policymaking and its impact on business. Her keynote presentations provide audiences with first-hand insight into how regulation is developed, why policy decisions are made and what organisations should expect from Europe's evolving political and regulatory landscape.

Professional Background & Credentials

As European Commissioner, Mairéad McGuinness was responsible for overseeing financial stability, financial services and the Capital Markets Union. During her tenure, she led policy across areas including sustainable finance, digital finance, banking regulation and capital markets, helping to shape legislation that continues to influence businesses operating throughout Europe and beyond. Her work included overseeing the implementation of landmark initiatives such as the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR), the EU

Taxonomy for sustainable activities, the Markets in Crypto-Assets (MiCA) framework and the continued development of the Capital Markets Union. Before joining the European Commission, McGuinness served as a Member of the European Parliament from 2004 to 2020. She was elected First Vice-President of the European Parliament, one of the institution's most senior leadership positions, and served on the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, reflecting her longstanding interest in agriculture, rural communities and food policy. Prior to her political career, McGuinness spent more than two decades as an award-winning journalist and broadcaster in Ireland. Her experience in the media has shaped her engaging communication style and ability to make complex policy issues accessible to diverse audiences. She currently serves as Vice-President of the European People's Party and remains closely engaged with the strategic direction of European policymaking. In recognition of her contribution to public life, University College Dublin awarded her an Honorary Doctorate in 2024.

Speaking Style & Audience Value

Mairéad McGuinness delivers insightful keynote presentations, executive briefings and fireside conversations that combine policy expertise with practical business relevance. Drawing on years at the centre of European decision-making, she provides audiences with a clear understanding of the political and regulatory forces shaping financial markets, international business and economic policy. Rather than focusing solely on legislation, she explores the thinking behind regulatory decisions, helping organisations understand how policy is likely to evolve and what it means for corporate strategy, investment and growth. Her presentations are particularly valuable for board meetings, financial services conferences, client events, leadership forums and organisations with significant interests across European markets. Audiences gain practical insight into regulatory change, sustainable finance, digital innovation, geopolitics and the future direction of the European Union.

Awards & Recognition

Mairéad McGuinness has earned widespread recognition for her contribution to European policymaking and financial regulation. Her distinguished career includes:

- European Commissioner for Financial Stability, Financial Services and the Capital Markets Union (2020–2024)
- First Vice-President of the European Parliament
- Member of the European Parliament (2004–2020)
- Vice-President of the European People's Party
- Honorary Doctorate from University College Dublin (2024)
- Award-winning journalist and broadcaster

Media & Public Service

Before entering politics, Mairéad McGuinness built a successful career in journalism and broadcasting, earning a reputation for clear, balanced communication. This experience continues to distinguish her as a speaker who can translate complex regulatory and political issues into practical insights for business audiences. Alongside her work in financial regulation, she has been a longstanding advocate for agriculture, rural development and food security, bringing a broad perspective to discussions on sustainability, resilience and Europe's future. [Contact us](#) today to learn how Mairéad McGuinness can bring valuable insight into leadership, digital assets, financial markets, geopolitics, sustainable finance and the future of European policymaking to your next

conference, executive briefing or leadership event.