

Alessandro LEIPOLD



Alessandro Leipold is **chief economist of the Lisbon Council for Economic Competitiveness and Social Renewal**, a Brussels-based think tank and policy network. In that capacity, he writes cutting edge research on the outlook and need for reform – both institutional, micro and macro. He also monitors European Council conclusions and developments, weighing in from time-to-time with his widely-read **Economic Intelligence** policy brief series. He is also a contributor to *Il Sole 24 Ore*, Italy's leading business daily, and a senior fellow at the LUISS School of European Political Economy in Rome.

Born in Italy, Mr Leipold had a distinguished career in international economics, finance and banking, principally at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), where he served as acting director of the European department until the end of 2008. He most recently completed a stint as executive director for Italy, Albania, Greece, Malta, Portugal and San Marino on the Board of the International Monetary Fund.

Mr Leipold's career began in the research department of Credito Italiano after receiving an advanced degree in economics from Bocconi University. Subsequently, he joined the European Commission in Brussels, where he served as a member of the secretariat of the Monetary Committee (now the Economic and Financial Committee), the principal oversight body for coordinating member-state policy. In that role, Mr Leipold was closely involved in the work setting up the European Monetary System (EMS) in 1978-79, and participated in the series of EMS realignments of the early 1980s.

He joined the IMF in 1982, where his career spanned surveillance and programme work, leadership of the IMF's international capital markets missions and IMF governance issues. From 1998, he was part of the senior management team of the European department at the IMF with responsibilities covering regional studies, oversight of World Economic Outlook forecasts for Europe and leadership of IMF missions to several major European countries, including France, Italy and Spain. In 2008, he led the IMF's mission to the euro area and assumed the position of acting director of the European department, leading its activities during the 2008-2009 financial crisis. He was chief economist for the Lisbon Council from 2010 to September 2017, before returning to the IMF as executive director through October 2018. He rejoined the Lisbon Council as chief economist in November 2018.