

Alessandro LEIPOLD

Alessandro Leipold is **chief economist of the Lisbon Council**, a Brussels-based think tank. Born in Italy, Mr. Leipold has had a distinguished career in international finance, banking, the European Union organisations and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), where he was acting director of the European Department until the end of 2008.



After receiving an advanced degree in economics from Bocconi University, Mr. Leipold's career began as an economist in the research department of Credito Italiano in Milan. Subsequently at the European Commission in Brussels, as a member of the secretariat of the Monetary Committee (now the Economic and Financial Committee), Mr. Leipold was closely involved in the work setting up the European Monetary System (EMS) in 1978-79, participated in the series of EMS realignments of the early 1980s and worked on European structural and financial integration issues.

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, with presentations to the eurogroup of finance ministers, and assumed the position of acting director of the European Department, leading its activities during the financial crisis and the IMF's programmes in Hungary, Iceland, Latvia and Ukraine.