

Alessandro LEIPOLD

Chief economist at the Lisbon Council, a Brussels-based think tank and policy network. Born in Italy, Mr. Leipold has had a distinguished career in international economics and 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 filled the position of acting director of the European Department, leading its activities during the financial crisis and the Fund's programmes in Hungary, Ukraine, Latvia and Iceland. He has given numerous presentations on international financial issues, lately centred on the global crisis and challenges and opportunities going forward.