

Máire Geoghegan-Quinn
European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science



Máire Geoghegan-Quinn was appointed the European Commissioner with responsibility for Research, Innovation and Science in February 2010. Since then, she has spearheaded the development of the Innovation Union and the proposals for the future EU research and innovation program, Horizon 2020.

Between the period March 2000 and February 2010, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn served as a member of the European Court of Auditors.

From 1975 to 1997, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn was a member of the Irish Parliament. She was the first woman to be appointed as a cabinet Minister since the foundation of the Irish state.

Prior to this, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn served as the Irish Government Minister with responsibility for European Union affairs. She oversaw the preparation of the Irish Presidency of the European Union in 1990, which took place in the immediate aftermath of the collapse of communism in Eastern and Central Europe. During this Presidency, she was the Irish representative at meetings of the Council of Foreign Affairs Ministers. She also chaired Ministerial meetings of the Budget, Telecommunications, Culture and Development Aid Councils.

From 1991 to 1994, she served as the Irish Minister with responsibility for Tourism, Transport and Telecommunication and as the Irish Minister for Justice. She was one of the negotiators of the Downing Street Declaration which was signed between the Irish and the British Governments in December 1993. This declaration paved the way to bringing peace to the island of Ireland.

Between 1997-2000, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn served as a non-executive director of both Aer Lingus and of the Ryans Hotel Group. She was a TV presenter, a columnist in the Irish Times newspaper, and she served as a part-time business consultant.

She is a former member of the Governing Authority of the National University of Ireland Galway.

Máire Geoghegan-Quinn is the author of a book entitled 'The Green Diamond'.

Prior to entering politics in Ireland in 1975, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn qualified and worked as a primary school teacher.