

Short biography of Yves Mersch

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Yves Mersch

President of the Banque Centrale du Luxembourg (since 1 June 1998)

Born on 1 October 1949 in Luxembourg

Education and training

- 1973: Master's in Law, University of Paris I–Panthéon-Sorbonne
- 1974: Postgraduate studies in International Public Law and Master's in Political Science, University of Paris I–Panthéon-Sorbonne
- 1975: Postgraduate studies in Political Science, University of Paris I–Panthéon-Sorbonne

Career

- 1974: Admission to the Bar in Luxembourg and appointment as Assistant Professor in Public Law at the University of Paris–Sud 11
- 1975: Assistant in the Luxembourg Ministry of Finance
- 1976–1978: Assistant at the International Monetary Fund, Washington D.C.
- 1978–1979: Attaché in the Luxembourg Ministry of Finance
- 1980–1981: Financial adviser to the Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the United Nations, New York
- 1981: Adviser in international financial and monetary relations at the Ministry of Finance
- 1983–1999: Member of the Council of the Luxembourg Monetary Institute
- 1985–1989: Government representative for the Luxembourg Stock Exchange
- 1989–1998: Director of the Treasury; personal representative in the Ministry of Finance for the negotiations leading to the Maastricht Treaty
- Since 1 June 1998: President of the Banque Centrale du Luxembourg (re-elected for a second term on 8 June 2004)
- Member of the Governing Council and General Council of the European Central Bank

Domestic and international positions

- Monetary Committee of the European Communities: Alternate Member (1982–1985) and Full Member (1989–1998)
- International Monetary Fund (Alternate Governor)
- World Bank (Alternate Governor)
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (Alternate Governor)
- European Investment Bank (Member of the Management Committee)
- Council of Europe Development Bank (Member of the Governing Board)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (Governor)

President:

- of the Office du Ducroire (Luxembourg)
- of the Fund for the Fight against Drug Trafficking (Luxembourg)

Vice-President of the Société nationale de crédit et d'investissement (Luxembourg)

State representative on the Governing Boards of:

- ARBED S.A. (steel production)
- Société européenne des satellites (SES) (satellite services)
- Postal and Telecommunications Company
- Société Nationale des Habitations à Bon Marché (a company that builds low-priced housing in Luxembourg)
- Banque et Caisse d'Épargne de l'État

Other positions

- Since 2000: President of The Bridge Forum Dialogue, a non-profit association set up in 2000 with the participation of the European Union institutions in Luxembourg
- 2003–2009: Member of the Academic Committee of the International University Institute of Luxembourg (IUIL)
- Since 2006: Member of the Management Committee of the Luxembourg School of Finance Foundation (FLSF)

Honours

- Officer of the Legion of Honour (France)
- Grand Officer of the Order of the Cross of Merit (Latvia)

Yves Mersch and Pierre Werner

— Yves Mersch worked directly with Pierre Werner at the Luxembourg Finance Ministry (1984–1989), particularly on the establishment of Luxembourg's own monetary status, the creation of the Luxembourg Monetary Institute, the expansion of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange, the legislation regarding the Luxembourg financial centre, and international relations.

— He was directly involved in the negotiations for and drafting of the Maastricht Treaty and is believed to have penned the Luxembourg proposal concerning Economic and Monetary Union.

— When Pierre Werner died in 2002, by way of tribute to the former Prime Minister, Yves Mersch instigated the Pierre Werner Lecture, an annual lecture cycle run by the Banque Centrale du Luxembourg and organised in cooperation with The Bridge Forum Dialogue.

— In 2003, as President of the Banque Centrale du Luxembourg, he named the bank's new building after Pierre Werner and unveiled a sculpture representing the former Prime Minister on the bank's patio.