

Biography of Mario Monti

Mario Monti (Italian pronunciation: ; born 19 March 1943 in Varese (source: Grazia Bordoni, birth certificate)) is an Italian economist and politician. He served as a European Commissioner for two consecutive terms and was appointed rector and president of Bocconi University. He currently serves as a Senator for life in the Italian Senate, and has been asked to lead the new government in Italy after former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's resignation.

Education and academic career

Mario Monti holds a degree in economics and management from Bocconi University, Milan. He completed graduate studies at Yale University, where he studied under James Tobin, the Nobel prize-winning economist.

He taught economics at the University of Turin (1970-85) before moving to the Bocconi University, of which he has been rector (1989-1994) and then president (since 1994). His research has helped to create the Klein-Monti model, aimed at describing the behaviour of banks operating under monopoly circumstances

Monti is a Praesidium member of Friends of Europe, a leading European think tank, was the first chairman of Bruegel, a European think tank founded in 2005, and he is European Chairman of the Trilateral Commission, a think tank founded in 1973 by David Rockefeller. He is also a leading member of the Bilderberg Group.

Monti is an international adviser to Goldman Sachs and The Coca-Cola Company.

Political career

In 1994 Monti was appointed to the European Commission, along with fellow-Italian, Emma Bonino, by the first Silvio Berlusconi government. In his capacity as European Commissioner from 1995, he was responsible for "Internal Market, Financial Services and Financial Integration, Customs, and Taxation".

Four years later, in 1999, Massimo D'Alema's government confirmed his appointment to the new European Commission under the presidency of former Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi. Thereafter he was responsible for "Competition", in which capacity he initiated anti-monopoly proceedings against Microsoft. He also led the investigation into the proposed merger between General Electric and Honeywell in 2001, which the European Commission blocked.

The second Berlusconi government did not confirm him for a third time in 2004, instead proposing Rocco Buttiglione in his place. Since Rocco Buttiglione was rejected by the European Parliament, the government proposed Franco Frattini.

In December 2009, he became a member of the reflection group for the future of Europe, chaired by former Spanish Premier Felipe Gonzalez. In this forum, he advocated an economic government for Europe and a European Monetary fund. He also supported a New European Deal with a better coordination between social and economic issues in Europe.

In 2007, he was one of the first supporters of the first European civic forum, Etats Généraux de l'Europe, initiated by European think tank EuropaNova and European Movement.

In 2010, Monti was asked by Commission President Manuel Barroso to produce a Report on the Future of the Single Market proposing further measures towards the completion of the EU Single Market

Monti is a founding member of the Spinelli Group, an organization launched in September 2010 to facilitate integration within the European Union (other members of the steering group include Jacques Delors, Daniel Cohn-Bendit, Guy Verhofstadt, Andrew Duff and Elmar Brok).

On 9 November 2011 Monti was appointed a Lifetime Senator by Italian President Giorgio Napolitano. Mario Monti was seen as a favourite to replace Silvio Berlusconi to lead a new unity government in Italy in order to implement reforms and austerity measures. On 12 November 2011 Giorgio Napolitano conferred him the task to form a new government .

Personal life

Mario Monti was born in Varese, Lombardy. He is married, and has two children. Monti is interested in Ancient Egypt, a passion acquired during his time at Turin University, and he is a patron of the renowned Museo Egizio in Turin.