

Mairead McGuinness



Mairead is Vice-President of the European Parliament and represents the Midlands-North-West constituency in Ireland. Mairead plays a leading role in the area of Children's Rights as the Parliament's Mediator in cases of International Parental Child Abduction.

Mairead oversees the Parliament's Information Policy, Press and Citizens Relations, including the Parliament's information offices across the 28 Member States. She also has responsibility for the Parliament's scientific research body – STOA – which aims to bridge the gap between the scientific community and policy-makers.

Mairead is a member of the Parliament's Agriculture and Rural Development Committee and the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee. An agricultural economist, her work focuses on the future shape of agriculture and rural development policies, global development policy, the environment, public health, and food safety and security.

She is Vice-Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee.

Mairead was lead negotiator for the European People's Party group on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (Pillar I).

She authored a major report for the Parliament on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy and global food security and has worked on unfair trading practices in the food supply chain. Mairead was voted Member of the European Parliament of the Year for Agriculture in 2011.

She is co-chair of the Member of the European Parliament Heart Group, focused on tackling heart disease through information, awareness, diet and physical activity.

Mairead is lead negotiator for the European People's Party group on the revision of key legislation on medical devices – an important health sector covering everything from home-use items like sticking plasters, pregnancy tests and contact lenses to x-ray machines, pacemakers, breast implants and hip replacements.

Mairead chaired the Parliament's investigation into the collapse of the Equitable Life assurance company which identified issues around weak financial regulation before the financial crisis of 2008.

Prior to becoming a Member of the European Parliament, Mairead was a well-known journalist, broadcaster and commentator.