

Christine LAGARDE

Minister for Economy, Finance and Industry

On November 14, 2010, Christine Lagarde was reappointed Minister for Economy, Finance and Industry in the Government of Prime Minister François Fillon.

Born in Paris in 1956, Christine Lagarde completed her undergraduate studies in Le Havre and Bethesda (Md, USA) at Holton Arms School. She then graduated from law school (Paris X), and obtained a Master degree from the Political Science Institute in Aix en Provence.

After being admitted as a lawyer to the Paris Bar, Christine Lagarde joined the international law firm of **BAKER & MCKENZIE** as an associate, specializing in Labour, Anti-trust and M & A. Member of the Executive Committee of the Firm in 1995, Christine Lagarde became Chairman of the Global Executive Committee of Baker & McKenzie in 1999, and subsequently Chairman of the Global Strategic Committee in 2004. Under her leadership, BAKER & MCKENZIE increased their gross revenues by 50 %, and ended the fiscal year 2004 at USD 1.3 bn.

Asked by the French Prime Minister, Dominique de Villepin, to join his Government in June 2005, Christine Lagarde decided to put her skills and work experience to the service of her country. Her nomination as **Minister for Foreign Trade** allowed Christine Lagarde to use her negotiation skills during the World Trade Organisation talks. She also promoted French exportations. After a brief stint as **Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries** under the newly elected President Nicolas Sarkozy she became **the first woman to hold the post of Finance and Economy Minister of a G7 country**, resulting from the ministerial reshuffle of June 2007. Her nomination was widely acclaimed in the international press.

Since then, Christine Lagarde has been in charge of France's economic policy in the challenging context of one of the most severe crisis since WWII. She also chaired the ECOFIN council, which gathers the Finance Ministers of the European Union, from July 2008 to December 2008. During this period, and under Mrs. Lagarde leadership, unprecedented measures to support the financial system as well as the European economies were adopted.

A regular participant at the G20 meetings, Christine Lagarde has contributed to foster international policies regarding supervision and regulation within the financial sector including issues regarding compensation or non cooperative jurisdictions. In order to combat the effects of the crisis and provide protection from the negative repercussions of a poorly-managed financial system, Christine Lagarde, in concert with the member countries of the G20, is working to introduce global economic governance.

In 2009, Christine Lagarde was ranked the **17th most influential woman in the world by *Forbes* magazine**, the **5th best European executive woman by *The Wall Street Journal Europe*** and adjudged one of **Time magazine's top 100 world leaders**. The *Financial Times* named her European Finance Minister of 2009, and in a recent poll conducted for RTL and *Le Parisien*, she was the second most popular public figure in France. Christine Lagarde was awarded Trombinoscope's Minister of the Year prize for 2009 and, following a poll by *l'Express* magazine, she was elected Best Minister by her peers. Christine Lagarde also tops the list of best ministers as published by the review *Valeurs Actuelles*.

Christine Lagarde took over from Philippe SEGUIN as head of the Board of Directors of Sciences-Po Aix-en-Provence.

Christine Lagarde, a former member of the French national team of synchronized swimming, is the mother of 2 sons.

She was appointed Knight of the Legion of Honour (Chevalier in the Légion d'honneur), France's highest civilian distinction, in July 2000.