

Short CV

Catherine Day is a former Secretary General of the European Commission, a post she held from 2005 to 2015. She is the first woman to hold this post. Prior to her appointment as Secretary General she was Director General for Environment and from 2002 to 2005 was deputy Director General in the Commission's external relations department. She worked on the future enlargement of the EU in the 1990s and was one of the architects of the pre-accession process for the countries of central and eastern Europe. Catherine worked in the Cabinets of Commissioners Richard Burke, Peter Sutherland and Leon Brittan.

Catherine chaired the Governing Body of University College Cork from 2015 to 2023. She currently chairs the Board of Trustees of the Chester Beatty. She is on the board of Irish Times and the Irish Times Trust. She chaired the Irish Citizen's Assembly on gender equality 2019-2021 and has advised the Irish Government on improving the international protection system for asylum seekers. She is a Board member of European Movement Ireland and the Institute for European Affairs in Dublin and is on the advisory Board of the Centre for European reform in London.

She studied economics in University College Dublin and has an M.A. in international trade and economic integration.

June 2025