

Professor Dr. Martin Selmayr is an experienced EU diplomat and a renowned expert in EU law. He was, amongst others, Chief of Staff of Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, Secretary-General of the European Commission and, most recently, European Commission Representative to Austria. From February to August 2024, he is Visiting Professor for EU Law at the Department for Innovation and Digitilisation in Law of the University of Vienna, where he is researching and teaching on current issues related to digitilisation law, sustainability law and financial, monetary and central banking law.

Selmayr studied law at the Universities of Geneva and Passau, at King's College London and at the University of California (Berkeley/Davis). He holds a doctorate in law from the University of Passau and is Honorary Professor for Economic and Financial Law at the University of Saarbrücken. After positions as lecturer at the Chair for EU Law and Public International Law in Passau, as lawyer at the European Central Bank, at the International Monetary Fund and at the media company Bertelsmann, Selmayr joined the European Commission as an official on 1 November 2004. He served under President José Manuel Durão Barroso first as Spokesperson for Telecoms and Media (2004-2010) and then as Chief of Staff of Vice-President Viviane Reding, in charge of Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship (2010-2014). In this capacity, Selmayr played a key role in the preparation of the Roaming Regulations, the General Data Protection Regulation and the establishment of a European Public Prosecutor's Office.

In 2014, during a leave of absence, Selmayr managed the election campaign of Jean-Claude Juncker, lead candidate of the European People's Party for Commission President. When the European Council proposed Juncker as Commission President after the European Parliament elections, Selmayr became Head of his Transition Team and prepared the priorities and structure of the Juncker Commission. On 1 November 2014, he was appointed Chief of Staff of the President. As Sherpa of the President, Selmayr participated, amongst others, in the negotiations of the stability support programme for Greece, the Paris Climate Agreement, the EU-Japan Trade Agreement, the EU-Turkey Statement on migration, the "Brexit" negotiations and in the preparation of G7, G20 and UN leaders' meetings.

In February 2018, the Commission appointed Selmayr as its Secretary-General. In this capacity, Selmayr coordinated the preparation of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, the work on the Withdrawal Agreement with the United Kingdom, the negotiations between the EU and Switzerland as well as the EU-China strategy 2019 which designated, for the first time, China as "systemic rival". He also negotiated the so-called "soybeans deal" with the Trump Administration, which helped preventing a US-EU trade war.

With the election of Ursula von der Leyen as Commission President in 2019, Selmayr changed from Brussels to Vienna where he served as Commission Representation to Austria from November 2019 to January 2024. These were the years of the Covid-19-pandemic, Russia's war of aggression and the following energy crisis. As "EU Ambassador", Selmayr toured all regions of Austria by bike, train or on foot to discuss locally with people about current European issues.

In his (rare) spare time, Selmayr has been teaching since many years EU Law at the Universities of Saarbrücken, Passau, Vienna and at the Danube University in Krems. He is the author or co-author of more than 70 law journal articles, book contributions and books, including a book on the Law of the European Central Bank (in English and Italian) and a leading commentary on the General Data Protection Regulation. Since 2022, he is also honorary Academic Director of the Centre for European Law at the University of Passau.