



BRIEFING NOTE: Maire GEORHEGAN-QUINN

Name	Máire Geoghegan-Quinn 
First time Commissioner?	Yes
Date of Hearing	Wednesday 13 January 16.30-19.30
Country	Ireland
Political Party	Fianna Fail (ALDE)
Previous Irish Commissioner	Charlie McCreevy
Portfolio	Research, Innovation and Science
Services	DG Research (RTD); The Marie Curie Programme Units RTD T.2 and T.3 move from DG RTD to DG Education and Culture (EAC). Joint Research Centre (JRC); European Research Council (ERC); Research Executive Agency (REA); European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA).
Personal details	Born September 5, 1950 in Galway, Ireland. Married. 2 children.
Current duties	Since March 2000: Member of the European Court of Auditors.
Political career	1994 -1997: Member of Dáil Éireann and Opposition Spokesperson on Health. 1993 -1994: Minister for Justice. Member of the Irish Government team which negotiated the Joint Declaration of December 1993, by the British and Irish Governments, on Peace and Reconciliation in Ireland. 1992: Minister for Tourism, Transport and Communications. 1991 -1992: Member of Dáil Éireann. 1987 - 1991: Minister for European Affairs. Chaired inter-departmental cttee. on EU policy with responsibility for co-ordinating Ireland's EU Presidency in 1990. During the Presidency chaired the Budget, Telecommunications, Culture and

	<p>Development Councils.</p> <p>1982 - 1987: Member of Dáil Éireann. Chairwoman of 1st Joint Parliamentary Cttee. on Women's Rights and Member of Parliamentary Cttee. on Marital Breakdown.</p> <p>1982: Minister of State for Education.</p> <p>1981 - 1982: Member of Dáil Éireann.</p> <p>1979 - 1981: Minister for the Gaeltacht (1st woman Cabinet Minister since the foundation of the State).</p> <p>1977 - 1979: Minister of State for Commerce.</p> <p>1975 – 1977: Member of Dáil Éireann (Irish Parliament).</p>
Professional career	<p>1997 - 2000: Columnist with "The Irish Times" newspaper; TV presenter; Part-time business consultant; Non-executive director Aer Lingus; Non-executive director Ryan Hotels.</p> <p>1996: Publication "The Green Diamond".</p> <p>1970 -1975: Teacher</p> <p>Former member of the Governing Authority of the National University of Ireland Galway.</p>
Education	1970: Teaching qualification, Carysfort College, Dublin
Languages	<p>Irish: mother tongue.</p> <p>English: fluent.</p> <p>French: basic knowledge</p>
FYI....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ She moved into politics following the death of her father who was Fianna Fáil TD for Galway West from 1954 until 1975. She won the subsequent by-election to become the first female cabinet minister since the foundation of the state in 1922. ▪ Her time in the post of Minister for Equality & Law Reform was marked by the Downing Street Declaration ▪ In 1994, she announced that she would be a contender for Taoiseach when Albert Reynolds retired, but withdrew from the contest on the day of the vote. ▪ She retired from politics at the 1997 general election and became a non-executive director of Aer Lingus

For more information on the Commission hearings and the other nominees, please contact:

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