



## **ANTONIO DE LECEA**

Director, International Economic and Financial Affairs, European Commission

Antonio de Lecea became Director for International Affairs in the European Commission's Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs in November 2004. He is in charge of the international issues relevant for the Economic and Monetary Union and of shaping and implementing the economic dimension of the EU external policies. This involves both bilateral economic relations with non-EU countries as well as participation in the preparatory work of key multilateral and regional economic institutions and fora (IMF, World Bank, G7-G8, OECD, other MDBs) where he acts as the European Commission's Financial Sous-Sherpa.

Most recently, Prof. de Lecea was Economic Advisor in the Private Office of Romano Prodi, previous European Commission President, a position he held from 1999 until late last year. He has worked for the European Commission since 1986 holding management positions in the EU budget and control areas, as well as in the economics and finance. Before joining the European Commission he was a member of the Private Office of the Spanish Secretary of State for Finance in Madrid and held other academic positions.

Mr. de Lecea obtained a Ph.D. in 1983 from the Catholic University of Louvain (UCL), in the European Doctoral Programme for Quantitative Economics jointly run by the London School of Economics, Bonn University and the UCL, and a first degree in Economics from the Barcelona Autonomous University (UAB). Since 1986 he is also Associate Professor of Applied Economics in the Basque Country University (UPV), in Bilbao, Spain, a position that he now holds on secondment. He has published in the areas of public finance and European economy.