



Jens Weidmann

ECONOMIST

Inflation, fragmented monetary regimes, and rising public debt are no longer background conditions. They shape pricing, capital cost, and the credibility of every long-horizon decision a board makes. Leaders need someone who has sat inside the institutions setting those conditions, not a commentator translating them from outside.

Jens Weidmann, former President of the Deutsche Bundesbank and Chairman of Commerzbank's Supervisory Board, helps boards and senior leaders read monetary policy, financial stability risk, and the political economy of the eurozone with the precision of someone who shaped them.

Jens Weidmann's 2026 Biography

AVAILABLE FOR

- Speaking

Why organisations work with Jens Weidmann

- A decade inside the ECB Governing Council during the sovereign debt crisis, the Draghi “whatever it takes” period, and the pandemic response. Few speakers can describe those decisions from inside the room.
- The hawkish dissent on the ECB council was not branding. It was a substantive position on bond purchases, fiscal dominance, and the limits of central bank independence, and it informs how he reads today's inflation and debt dynamics.
- Active commercial bank chairman (Commerzbank) and reinsurance supervisor (Munich Re). His view on rates, regulation, and risk is grounded in current board exposure, not a retired official's recollections.
- Chief G8 and G20 sherpa for Germany under Chancellor Merkel. He brings a working knowledge of how monetary, fiscal, and geopolitical decisions are negotiated between major economies.
- Chaired the BIS board and led the IMF's 2022 panel on institutional safeguards. The credentials matter because they signal access to the small group of people who set the rules of cross-border finance.

JENS'S SPEAKING THEMES

- Economic Forecasting
- Economic Trends & Global Markets
- Geopolitics
- Political Risk & Policy
- Risk Management

LANGUAGES: English

Biography highlights

- President of the Deutsche Bundesbank, 2011 to 2021
- Member of the ECB Governing Council and Chairman of the Board of the Bank for International Settlements during his Bundesbank presidency
- Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Commerzbank since 2023
- Member of the Supervisory Board of Munich Re
- Professor of Practice in Central Banking and Co-Director of the Centre for Central Banking, Frankfurt School of Finance and Management

- Former Head of Division IV (Economic and Financial Policy) at the German Federal Chancellery and chief German sherpa for G8 and G20 summits
- Chair of the IMF External and Independent Panel of High-Level Experts on Institutional Safeguards, 2022

Biography

The Bundesbank seat on the ECB Governing Council carries a particular weight. It represents the largest economy in the eurozone and a tradition of monetary discipline that predates the single currency. For a decade, that seat was occupied by Jens Weidmann, and during the Draghi era he was the Council's most consistent dissenter on sovereign bond purchases and on the boundary between monetary and fiscal policy.

Before the Bundesbank, Weidmann was the German Chancellery's chief economic adviser and the country's sherpa at the G8 and G20. The negotiations after Lehman, the Greek programme, and the early architecture of European banking union all crossed his desk. Earlier still he served the German Council of Economic Experts, where his work fed into the Agenda 2010 reforms that reshaped the German labour market.

Since stepping down from the Bundesbank in 2021, his focus has shifted from rule-setting to rule-applying. As Chairman of Commerzbank's Supervisory Board he oversees one of Germany's two large commercial banks through a higher-rate environment and a renewed debate over European banking consolidation. At Munich Re he sits inside the supervisory governance of a major reinsurer, where climate and geopolitical risk meet capital adequacy.

He teaches and writes from the Frankfurt School Centre for Central Banking, which he co-directs. The IMF's 2022 decision to appoint him chair of its independent panel on institutional safeguards, after the data scandal involving its managing director, signalled that his judgement on institutional integrity carries weight beyond Germany.

Key speaking topics

- Monetary policy and central bank independence
- Eurozone economic and financial stability
- Inflation, public debt, and fiscal dominance
- Banking supervision and financial regulation
- G7, G20, and international policy coordination
- Geopolitical risk and the global financial system

Ideal for

- Bank, asset manager, and insurer boards setting strategy under shifting rate and regulatory regimes
- CEOs, CFOs, and CROs of multinationals exposed to euro-area policy and currency risk
- Government, regulator, and policy audiences working on financial stability and reform

Audience outcomes

- A grounded reading of where eurozone monetary policy is heading and what would shift it
- A clearer sense of how political and fiscal pressure now interacts with

central bank decisions

- A working view of the constraints and choices facing European banks and insurers
- An informed perspective on G20-level coordination, sanctions, and the financial architecture around geopolitical risk