

Maria Pilar Aguar Fernandez



Member of the IHI JU
Governing Board

Director, People Directorate of
the Directorate-General for
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the European Commission

Ms. Pilar Aguar Fernandez joined the European Commission in 2001, initially auditing national food-safety control systems working for the Directorate-General for Health & Consumers.

From 2005 to 2012, she managed European research programs in industrial technologies, including nanotechnology safety and new materials. Between 2012 and 2017, she led the Joint Research Centre's (JRC) Unit on Chemical Assessment and Testing, developing testing methodologies for EU legislation on chemicals, consumer products, nanomaterials and health technologies.

In 2017, she returned to DG Research & Innovation, overseeing research programs on health and environment, health innovations and health systems. She represented the EC at the board of the Innovative Medicine Initiative (IMI).

From January 2021 to August 2025, she led the Health and Food Audits and Analysis Directorate (DG SANTE), monitoring the enforcement of EU legislation on food safety, animal and plant health, animal welfare, and certain areas of human health protection.

Ms. Aguar holds degrees in Pharmacy and Food Science, with specialized training in toxicology and public health. Before joining the EC, she worked at Spain's Ministry of Health (1994–2001), leading laboratory operations and customs inspections for imported goods.