

The Center for International Studies (ZIS) invites all interested IR and economics students and lecturers of its IR programme to the fourth EIB lecture in 2021:

The European Investment Fund (EIF) – Access to finance for Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs)

Christa Karis

Since February 2018, **Christa Karis** is Departmental Director at the European Investment Fund and in charge of Strategy Coordination and Business Support in the Equity Investment and Guarantees Department. Before, she was in charge of Corporate Relations and Communications at EIF after having worked as Deputy Head of the Guarantee, Securitisation and Micro Finance team. There, she has been responsible for the development and implementation of a range of guarantee products in all EU Member States. Prior to joining EIF, Ms. Karis worked in the corporate finance department of WestLB, Germany. She holds a degree in Economics from the University of Trier, Germany.

Christa Karis will continue our lecture series in cooperation with the EIB Institute. She will particularly address the European Investment Fund (EIF) as part of the EIB Group and its task is to support Europe's SMEs by improving their access to finance through a wide range of selected financial intermediaries. To this end, EIF personnel designs, promotes and implements equity and debt financial instruments which specifically target SMEs. In this role, the EIF fosters EU objectives in support of entrepreneurship, growth, innovation, research and development as well as employment.

Date: **Thursday, 3 June 2021**
Time: **4:40 p.m. – 6:10 p.m.**
Place: **Online via WebEx**