

Raquel Maria Mota Lucas was born in Pego/Abrantes, Portugal, where she graduated in International Economic Relations at the Universidade do Minho. In 1997 she obtained a Masters of Arts in European Economic Studies from the College of Europe in Bruges. Subsequently she was a blue book trainee at the European Commission/DG REGIO.

From 1998 to 2005, she worked in the public administration in Portugal in various Ministries, always on the domain of European or/and international affairs, including as a member of Cabinet of the Minister of Health as *attaché* for European affairs.

Raquel Lucas joined the European Commission on 2005 following an open competition. She spent six years in DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, where she was team leader of the Portuguese desk in charge of Lisbon Strategy/Europe 2020 strategy and ESF programmes monitoring in Portugal.

In 2012, she was seconded to the Support Group for Portugal (SGPT) responsible for the overall coordination of the SGPT and the support for the implementation of the Portuguese adjustment programme, involving the interaction with Portuguese Authorities, Cabinets and Commission Services, and with the IMF.

In September 2012, Raquel became a member of the Cabinet of the President Barroso.