

Extract from the address by Stephen A. Schwarzman (Co-Founder, Chairman and CEO of Blackstone) at the Appeal of Conscience Foundation's 57th Annual Awards Dinner, which honoured Prime Minister Mario Draghi with the 2022 World Statesman Award

19 September 2022

[omissis]

There is no-one more deserving of this award.

Mario [Draghi] is, without question, one of the most accomplished statesmen and public servants of our era.

His stewardship of the European Central Bank saved the euro from collapse. His service as Prime Minister of Italy, a post he did not seek (almost unique for a politician!), inspired renewed global confidence in Italy and its future.

Mario was the first Italian to receive a PhD from MIT [omissis].

He started his career as a professor of economics and also worked for the World Bank before being recruited by the Italian government to serve as Director General of the Italian Treasury. Later, he served as governor of the Bank of Italy before eventually being called on to head the European Central Bank.

One thing that many people don't know is that he also worked at Goldman Sachs, where he was a vice-chairman and member of the firm's management committee. During his time there, he partnered with senior management on the firm's European strategy, drove engagement with major European clients and governments and helped develop and expand business globally.

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As you can see from these few examples, the breadth and level of excellence that defines Mario's career is stunning. He is truly a man for all seasons and, apparently, for all occupations. As Mario embarks on his next chapter, I have no doubt there is much more to come.

[omissis]