

Hikmet Ersek

President, CEO, and Director

Hikmet Ersek is the President and CEO of Western Union, a leader in global money transfer and payments. He was born on August 11, 1960 in Istanbul, Turkey, to an Austrian Catholic mother and a Turkish Muslim father. Ersek spent his early years in both Istanbul and Vienna, providing the foundation for the cross-cultural competence that has become a signature of his business career.

With more than 30 years of executive experience in financial services, Ersek joined Western Union in 1999 and became CEO in 2010 of one of the most global companies in the world. Under Ersek's leadership, Western Union has successfully diversified its business to become a global payments company, with cross-border offerings for individuals, small businesses, NGOs, educational institutions, financial institutions and others, backed by investments in best-in-class compliance and anti-money laundering operations.

Ersek has been committed to evolving the company to meet the needs of customers worldwide. He spearheaded the growth of Western Union's innovative digital platform, which enables customers & businesses to quickly move money online, on mobile & through social media. The integration of this digital platform with the company's vast retail network gives the company a unique ability to serve customers across the online and offline worlds.

Today, Western Union moves about \$300 billion per year in nearly 130 currencies and serves about 150 million customers in 200 countries and territories and processes 34 transactions every second.

Ersek's career in financial services began with Europay/MasterCard in Austria in 1986. A decade later, he joined General Electric (GE) Capital, where he also represented the GE Corporation as the National Executive in Austria & Slovenia.

A citizen of both Austria and Turkey and since 2010 resident of the United States of America, Ersek's international background and role as Western Union's CEO have

made him a passionate global advocate for diversity and the rights of migrants and refugees. He has been recognized as Corporate Responsibility Magazine's 2012 Responsible CEO of the Year, Austrian Citizen of the Year in 2016, Best FinTech CEO 2018 by the FinTech Breakthrough Awards, Manager of the Year 2018 by the University of Economics Vienna (Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien) and he was awarded in 2019 by the Republic of Austria with the Decoration of Honor.

He speaks English, German and Turkish fluently, and enjoyed a short career as a professional basketball player in Europe prior to his private sector experience.

Ersek currently serves as the Austrian Honorary Consul for Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico. He is a member of the International Business Council of the World Economic Forum and the U.S. Business Roundtable. Ersek holds a Master's (Magister) degree in Economics and Business Administration from the Wirtschaftsuniversität (University of Economics) in Vienna, Austria.