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Previously, he worked for the European Commission, first (1990-2001) as Economic Advisor to the Director-General for Economic and Financial Affairs, and then (2001-2004) as Principal Economic Advisor to President Romano Prodi and Executive Director of his Economic Advisory Group. From 2005 to 2009 he was External Member of President José Manuel Barroso's Economic Advisory Group.

André Sapir has written extensively on various aspects of Europe's Economic and Monetary Union, including on economic governance, the banking union and the capital markets union.

He holds a PhD in Economics from The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He is Member of the Academia Europaea and of the Royal Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts.