

## Short biography of Élisabeth Guigou

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Élisabeth Guigou was born in Morocco, where she began her studies at the Faculty of Letters, Rabat. She left the country after decolonisation and completed studies in Economic Sciences in Montpellier before joining the French National School of Administration in 1972.

In 1974, she became a civil administrator in the Treasury Department of the Ministry of Finance, where she subsequently occupied several posts in the offices of the Treasury, banks, the financial market and Planning from 1975 to 1978. From 1979 to 1981, she held the prestigious post of Financial Attaché for the French Embassy in the United Kingdom. In 1981, the year in which the Socialist François Mitterrand was elected President of the Republic, she briefly returned to the Treasury, where she directed the office of the States of Europe, America and Asia before becoming Technical Adviser to Jacques Delors, Minister for Economy and Finance in the Maurois government, then to François Mitterrand at the Élysée in 1982. She was involved in the major European decisions taken during the first seven-year Presidential term of François Mitterrand, in particular the decision to keep the franc in the European Monetary System and as well as the European revival, which began at the Fontainebleau European Council in June 1984.

At the beginning of the cohabitation period, the President of the Republic appointed her Secretary-General of the Interministerial Committee for Questions on European Economic Cooperation (SGCI), which she led until 1990. In this role, she prepared for the Intergovernmental Conference on Economic and Monetary Union, leading the 'Guigou group', which comprised senior officials at European and national level.

After François Mitterrand was re-elected in 1988, she became Minister for European Affairs under the Foreign Minister Roland Dumas from 1990 to 1993, in the Rocard, Cresson and Bérégovoy governments. In this capacity, she was involved in the work of the two Intergovernmental Conferences which led to the drafting of the Treaty on European Union and to its adoption at the Maastricht European Council. She then became the key figure in the campaign for the Treaty of Maastricht, which was adopted by referendum in France in September 1992 by a small majority.

After the failure of the left wing in the 1993 parliamentary elections, she became an MEP in 1994 and represented the European Parliament in the Intergovernmental Conference which prepared for the Treaty of Amsterdam, signed in 1997.

In 1997, the Gaullist Jacques Chirac, who was elected President of the Republic in 1995, dissolved the National Assembly. The French right wing was then beaten in the parliamentary elections and Élisabeth Guigou, elected MP for the Socialist Party, became Minister for Justice in the government of Lionel Jospin, before becoming Minister for Employment and Solidarity from 2000 to 2002. Since 2002, she has been MP for Seine-Saint-Denis. She has also been Vice-President of the Delegation for European Union in the French National Assembly.

In 1994, she founded the organisation [Europartenaires](#); she is also involved in the European organisations [Femmes d'Europe](#) and [Friends of Europe](#). *Europartenaires* supports a plan for a society that will restore meaning to the European integration process and redefine the roles and responsibilities of the social and political figures involved.