


Biography of Manuel Marín González

Source: CVCE.

Copyright: (c) CVCE.EU by UNI.LU
All rights of reproduction, of public communication, of adaptation, of distribution or of dissemination via Internet, internal network or any other means are strictly reserved in all countries.
Consult the legal notice and the terms and conditions of use regarding this site.

URL: http://www.cvce.eu/obj/biography_of_manuel_marin_gonzalez-en-dbda7f5b-c66f-4ec8-a05b-c34foc21a77a.html

Last updated: 07/07/2016



Biography of Manuel Marín González

Manuel Marín González was born on 21 October 1949 in Ciudad Real. He was awarded a Master's degree in Law at the Complutense University of Madrid, a Master's in European Law at the European University Centre in Nancy, France, and a Diploma of Higher European Studies at the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. He also completed a traineeship at the European Commission in Directorate-General IV.

He became a Member of the Spanish Parliament in the Constituent Legislature in 1977 and in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th and 8th Legislatures, from 1979 to 1986 and from 2000 to 2008. He also served as Deputy Secretary-General of the Socialist group in the Spanish Parliament (1979–1986), spokesman in the Foreign Affairs Committee (1979–1986 and 2000–2008) and President of the Spanish Parliament (2004–2008).

When the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (Partido Socialista Obrero Español — PSOE) joined the government in 1982, Manuel Marín was appointed State Secretary for Relations with the European Communities, and he therefore became head of the negotiating team for Spain's accession to the European Communities until the Treaty of Accession was signed in 1985.

When Spain joined the European Communities, Manuel Marín González was put forward as a Member of the European Commission, and he served as Vice-President of the Commission from 1993 to 1999. His work at the European Commission was wide-ranging. As Commissioner for Social Affairs, Education and Employment, he was directly in charge of the 'social dimension' of the single market, and he also introduced the Erasmus programme, an exchange programme for students in the European Union which has experienced great success. As Commissioner for Development Cooperation and Fisheries, he was responsible for negotiations on the ACP Convention and for the drafting of a new common fisheries policy. Whilst a Member of this Commission, he established a new Generalised System of Preferences.

Manuel Marín González was also Commissioner for Economic Cooperation with the Mediterranean, Latin America and Asia; as Head of Mediterranean policy, he organised the Barcelona Process, which aimed to create a free trade area bringing together the two shores of the Mediterranean. He negotiated and signed the economic cooperation and free trade agreements with Tunisia, Morocco, Israel, Egypt and Jordan, and he adopted the mandate for negotiations with Syria, Algeria and Libya.

In Latin America, he worked for the establishment of free trade agreements with Mexico, Mercosur and Chile, and the renovation of the Generalised System of Preferences and the human rights clause; in Asia, he was responsible for developing cooperation agreements with ASEAN and bilateral agreements with India and Pakistan.

He was also Head of the special programme of aid to Palestine which resulted from the Oslo Accords, and he took part in all the Summits between Heads of State for the peace process. He was the moving force behind the European Union's Humanitarian Aid Office.

Alongside his political responsibilities, Manuel Marín González was Professor at Carlos III University of Madrid, the Mexico Institute of Technology, Mexico City, and the University of Alcalá, Madrid. Since 2008, he has served as President of the Fundación Iberdrola.