Biography of Carlos María Bru Purón

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Biography of Carlos María Bru Purón

Carlos María Bru Purón was born in Astudillo, Palencia, on 28 February 1927. Having completed a Master's Degree in Law at the Complutense University of Madrid, he then studied at the Sorbonne in Paris. He registered as a notary in 1956 at the College of Notaries in Seville and practised this profession in Alcobendas (Madrid) until his retirement in 1997.

He attended the Fourth Congress of the European Movement held in Munich in June 1962, which was referred to pejoratively as the *Contubernio de Múnich*, or the conspiracy of Munich. His open opposition to the Franco regime led to his being arrested on several occasions and his passport seized.

From 1968 to 1977, he served as Deputy Chairman of *Izquierda Democrática* (the Democratic Left), a party within the Christian Democracy movement, and in 1979, he joined the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (*Partido Socialista Obrero Español* — PSOE). From 1982 to 1987 he was a Socialist Member of the *Cortes Generales* (the Spanish Parliament). He was a Member of the European Parliament for the Socialist Group from 1986 to 1994, as well as in 1999 when he temporarily occupied a vacant seat.

During his time in Strasbourg, Carlos María Bru Purón was Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Institutional Affairs (now known as the Committee on Constitutional Affairs) and member of the Committees for Legal Affairs, Rules of Procedure and the Environment, as well as of the European Parliament's interparliamentary delegations for relations with Israel, Austria and Australia.

Since the early 1980s, he has held various responsibilities within the Management Committee of the Spanish Federal Council of the European Movement (CFEME): he was General Secretary from 1982 to 1986, President from 1986 to 1996 and Vice-President from 1996 to 2004. He is currently the organisation's President. He also serves as Emeritus Member of UNICEF-Spain, of which he has also been Deputy Secretary and Legal Adviser.

Carlos María Bru Purón has written several articles and essays on legal, political and social matters, which have been published in newspapers and journals. He also takes part in conferences organised by universities and other centres, regularly makes television appearances (for channels TVE, CNN+ and Popular TV) and is invited to speak on radio programmes about issues related to European integration.

His publications include: *Gestión y Cogestión* (published by Edicusa, 1972); *Crítica y Polémica* (published by Arión, 1977); *La Ciudadanía Europea* (published by Sistema, 1994, prologue by Felipe González); *Una reforma nonnata del Código Civil* (Consejo General del Notariado, 1996); 'La Ciudadanía Europea como base legitimadora de las instituciones y el Derecho Comunitario' from *Documentación Social*, No 123 (2001); 'La Convención de la Unión Europea y el futuro de las regiones en Europa' from *El papel de las Regiones en Europa*, (published by Biblioteca Nueva, 2003); 'El Derecho Comunitario' from courses given by the Consejo General del Notariado and the Menéndez Pelayo International University (2004), and *El Congreso por la Libertad de la Cultura y la Oposición Democrática al franquismo* (2009).

The collaborative work *Europa a debate: 20 años después* (published by Plaza y Valdés, 2006) contains an interview with Carlos María Bru Purón conducted by Miguel Ángel Solsona and Ricardo Angoso García. He worked with Eugenio Nasarre and other authors on *Semblanza de Izquierda Democrática* (published by Avance, 1976), and with other members of the CFEME, on *Cuando la Transición se hizo posible: El Contubernio de Múnich*, (published by Tecnos, 1993), in publications such as *Europa: el estado de la Unión* (2006), and in tributes to Marcelino Oreja and Carlos Molina del Pozo. He is also Director and co-author of *Diccionario de la Unión Europea* (published by Universitas, 1999) and *Exégesis conjunta de los Tratados y de la Constitución Europea*, (published by CIVITAS-Thomson, 2005).

Furthermore, many articles bear his name: those published in journals such as the *Revista de Instituciones Europeas* for the CFEME, *Tiempo de Paz* for the Movement for Peace, Disarmament and Liberty (MPDL) and in the journal of the European Parliament former Members' Association. He has also been responsible for prefaces and colophons published in CFEME publications since 2002.

