

Ana Palacio

Former Foreign Affairs Minister, Spain



Ana Palacio is an international lawyer and founder of *Palacio y Asociados* (Madrid, Brussels and Washington DC), a law firm specializing in European and International Law, and arbitration.

Between 1994 and 2002, Ms. Palacio was a Member of the European Parliament, where she chaired the Legal Affairs and Internal Market Committee; the Citizens Rights, Justice and Home Affairs Committee; as well as the Committee of Committee Chairs. She participated as member of the Presidium of the Convention for the Future of Europe (2001-2003) in the debate and drafting of the European Constitution. In 2002, Ms. Palacio became the first woman to serve as Foreign Affairs Minister of Spain (2002-2004). As a member of the *Cortes* (the Spanish Parliament), she chaired the Joint Committee of the two Houses (*Congreso de los Diputados* and *Senado*) for European Union Affairs (2004-2006). She further served as Senior Vice President and General Counsel of the World Bank Group, as well as Secretary General of the ICSID-International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (2006-2008). Ms. Palacio was a member of the *Consejo de Estado del Reino de España* (Council of State) – the supreme consultative body to the Spanish Government on legislation and regulation (2012-2018).

Ms. Palacio was a member of the Executive Committee and Senior Vice-President for International Affairs of the nuclear energy leader AREVA (2008-2009), and subsequently held different positions within the EU, in particular: member of the Committee established by the Treaty of Lisbon for vetting Judges and Advocates General for the EU court system (2010-2013); member of the Advisory Group on Foreign Affairs and Security convened by the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy (2010-2014); advisor to the European Commission on Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship (2010-2012); and Coordinator of the Trans European Networks (2014).

Ana Palacio currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Atlantic Council of the United States, and is a member of the governing bodies of several research centers and public institutions, including the MD Anderson Cancer Center. Ms. Palacio is also Advisor and member of the Scientific Committee of the European House-Ambrosetti, member of the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), and member of the Scientific Council of the Elcano Royal Institute (*Real Instituto Elcano*). Ms. Palacio is a visiting professor at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, where she teaches “Global Powers, Institutions and Governance”. She maintains a monthly column at *Project Syndicate*, the world’s largest opinion syndication organization, as well as publishing weekly in *El Mundo*, the second largest printed daily newspaper in Spain. She is a recurrent participant and speaker at international conferences and *fora*.

Ms. Palacio sits on the corporate board of Pharmamar (biotech), Enagás (gas systems), AEE Power (energy infrastructures) and Ecoener (renewables); is a member of the International Advisory Board of Investcorp (investment), and Office Chérifien des Phosphates -OCP- (fertilizers); and is a member of the Governing Council of the Instituto de Empresa (business school).

She holds degrees in Law, Political Science and Sociology. She has received numerous awards and decorations, including the insignia of Officer at the Order of the Legion of Honor of the French Republic, an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Georgetown University and the 2016 Sandra Day O’Connor Justice Prize that acknowledges extraordinary contributions in the area of the rule of law.