



Dr Ángeles Rodríguez Peña President of the COST Committee of Senior Officials

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Dr Ángeles Rodríguez-Peña has been heading the COST Committee of Senior Officials since 22 June 2010.

Dr Rodríguez-Peña has been Special Advisor to the Secretary of State for Research and Innovation at the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness since January 2011 and was the Spanish representative of the COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) from July 2007 until her election as President.

As former Deputy Director General for European Programmes from 2007 to 2010 she headed the Spanish delegation in the Scientific and Technical Research Committee of the Council of the European Union (CREST) and as a member of the newly-named European Research Area Committee (ERAC).

She also represented Spain in the Strategic Forum for International Science & Technology Cooperation (SFIC), another CREST level created by the Council of the European Union. From 2002 to 2007, she was Deputy Head of International Affairs at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) responsible for European Science Foundation (ESF) relations as well as European policy fora such as the Framework Programme.

Dr Rodríguez-Peña's flair for international research cooperation is partly thanks to her own background as a scientist and her experience as a coordinator for implementing bilateral and multilateral relations at the CSIC level.

After obtaining her Ph.D. in Biology in Madrid, Spain, she obtained a postdoctoral fellowship from the European Molecular Biology Organisation in 1981 to join the former Imperial Cancer Research Foundation – now Cancer Research UK – in London, United Kingdom, where she remained as an associated scientist until 1986.

She went back to Spain with yet another fellowship for 'brain gain' until she obtained a permanent position at CSIC and started her own research group. Her scientific activities then allowed her to spend time as a visiting scientist at Harvard Medical School in Boston, USA, and at the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden.

Between 2002 and 2004 **Dr Rodríguez-Peña** was a seconded national expert at the Research Directorate-General of the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium.

Teaching is Dr Rodríguez-Peña's hidden love which she is able to combine with her career thanks to an honorary professorship at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid in Spain obtained in 1995.

Dr Ángeles Rodríguez-Peña speaks Spanish and English and has a working knowledge of French.