Teresa Ribera Rodríguez

Personal information

Born in Madrid in 1969.

Academic background

Degree in law from Complutense University in Madrid (1992). Diploma in constitutional law and political science from the Centre for Political and Constitutional Studies in Madrid.

Official in the Senior Body of State Administrators, which she joined in 1996.

Former Associate Professor of Public Law at the Autonomous University of Madrid.

Political and professional experience

Third Deputy Prime Minister of Spain and Spanish Minister for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (July 2021 to present).

Fourth Deputy Prime Minister of Spain and Spanish Minister for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (January 2020 to July 2021).

Minister for the Ecological Transition (2018–2020).

Executive Director of the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), headquartered in Paris (2014–2018).

Programme Adviser for Energy and Climate at the IDDRI (2013–2014), where she was involved in approving the Paris Agreement.

General Director of Strategic Development and New International Markets at the solar photovoltaic company Isofotón (September 2012 to May 2013).

Spanish Secretary of State for Climate Change (2008–2011).

Director-General of the Spanish Climate Change Office (2004–2008).

Before becoming Director-General of the Spanish Climate Change Office, she held various technical posts in the regulatory departments of the Ministries of Public Works, Transport and the Environment (1996-2004).

She stood as the lead candidate for the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) in the June 2024 European Parliament elections.

Ribera Rodríguez was the PSOE candidate for the Madrid constituency in the general elections held in April 2019, November 2019 and July 2023, where she was second on the list.

She was an elected member of the Congress of Deputies during the 13th, 14th and 15th legislatures.

She is an Associate Member of the Technology and Society Group at the Belgian Royal Academy.

Since 2000, Ribera Rodríguez has been involved in the international climate negotiations process for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and in European policy development. She chaired the Panel for the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat's Momentum for Change initiative and has also been a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Council on Climate and of the Global Leadership Council of the Spanish Sustainable Development Network (SDSN).

Member of the Board at the Stockholm Environment Institute from 2016 to 2018.

In 2018, she was a member of the international peer review group for Germany's sustainable development strategy, chaired by Helen Clark. She has also worked on reports and carried out other tasks for the International Energy Agency on a regular basis.

She was actively involved in the preparatory work to set up the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and chaired its final preparatory conference held in Madrid. She has maintained links with the organisation since its inception and, until she took up her post as Minister, was a member of the IRENA committee studying the geopolitics of renewables.

During Ribera Rodríguez's time in office as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Ecological Transition, Spain has forged ahead with a fair transition away from coal, encouraged the roll-out of renewables – with more than 50% of the electricity produced in Spain now coming from renewable sources – and has devised a new water plan to address water management against the backdrop of climate change. Other notable achievements include the defence, recovery and protection of emblematic ecosystems and the expansion of the network of protected areas, with the aim of protecting 30% of land and sea areas by 2030. In 2019, she was responsible for organising the UNFCCC COP25 in Madrid.

She speaks English and French.