



Rafael A. Benitez

Director
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Rafael A. Benitez was born on 23 January 1969 in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain. He holds a Master's degree in European Law (LL.M.) from the College of Europe (Bruges) and degrees in Law and Finance from the I.C.A.D.E. - University of Comillas (Madrid). He also studied Political Science at the U.N.E.D (Madrid). He has studied in Spain, Belgium and the United States.

Rafael A. Benitez is currently Director of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

He has worked in the Council of Europe since 1994 and has previously occupied other functions including: Director of Programme and Finance, Chief of Protocol, Head of the Programme Department, Head of the Public Law Department, Head of the Anti-Terrorism Division and Head of the International Law Division.

In the Council of Europe he has also had responsibilities in the areas of administrative law and justice – participating in the drafting inter alia of the handbook *The Administration and You*; local and regional democracy – participating in the drafting of the *Charter of Local Public Services* and the introduction of the *Country profiles on local and regional democracy*; and the fight against corruption – participating in the drafting of several legal texts including the *Code of Conduct for Public Officials*.

He has written on protocol, international law, administrative law, public ethics, corruption, and terrorism. He has been a visiting lecturer at the Institute of International Relations (ITI-RI) and the International Human Rights Institute (IIDH) in Strasbourg and a member of the admissions board to the French *Ecole Nationale d'Administration* (ENA).

Prior to joining the Council of Europe he worked in the private sector, both in a law firm and a business association.

He is a Knight Officer of the Royal Order of Isabel la Católica and member of the American Honors Society.

He speaks Spanish, English, French and Italian.