



**Elena Gómez Castro**

Director General for Defence Policy,  
Ministry of Defence, Spain

**High-Level Military Forum**

**The Mediterranean Sea and North Africa – striving  
for regional stability to enhance European Security**

Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019, 17:50 – 19:20 h

---

**Personal Information**

Born in Zaragoza (Spain) on 10 September 1969. Married.

**Studies**

- Bachelor's Degree in Law by the University of Salamanca (1987-1992).
- Diploma in Higher Studies for National Defence (2009-2010)
- Leadership Course on Public Management at the IESE (2015-2016)

**Professional Background**

Member of the Diplomatic Career since 1997.

Appointed Director General of Defence Policy of the Spanish Ministry of Defence on 17 March 2017.

Previously, since August 2016, had been Deputy Permanent Representative of Spain in the North Atlantic Council.

From September 2011 to August 2016 was Deputy Director General for the General Directorate of Foreign Policy and Multilateral, Global and Security Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. Her responsibilities included:

- Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in the Interministerial Defence Committee.
- Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in the National Council for Maritime Security (from its establishment in February 2014)

Between 2008 and 2011, she was the Diplomatic Adviser to the Spanish Minister of Defence.

Between 2006 and 2008 was Seconded National Expert for the DGE VIII "Defence Issues" to the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, where she was responsible for the EU-NATO relations and for preparing and monitoring the issues addressed at the EU Military Committee.

Between 2004 and 2006, she was Counsellor at the Permanent Representation of Spain to the European Union. Her responsibilities included:

- Head of Cabinet of the Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the EU.
- Head of the Security Sub-registry to the EU Permanent Representation.
- Coordination of the works of the Permanent Representation on EU's response to crisis situations.
- Counselor to the Asia Working Group (COASI).

Between 2002 and 2004, she was Deputy Head of Mission at the Spanish Embassy in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo) where she was also responsible of Consular Administrative affairs.

Between 1998 and 2002, she was Deputy Head of Mission at the Spanish Embassy in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) where she was also Chargée des Affaires Consulaires and Administrative.

1997 – 1998 Head of unit in the Direction General for UN, Security and Disarmament.

#### Decorations

- Grand Cross and Officer's Cross of Isabel la Católica
- Officer's Cross of the Order of Civil Merit
- Cross of Military Merit with White Distinction
- Cross of the Order of Merit of the Civil Guard with White Distinction
- Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the French Republic.