



JOSÉ MARÍA BENEYTO

Born in Valencia (Spain), Prof. Beneyto is an academic, lawyer and business consultant, as well as a prolific writer; during a period in his life he has been a politician who held office in Spain and in the European Union.

He studied Law, Philosophy and Economics in Spain (University of Navarre), Germany (University of Münster) and the US (Harvard University). He graduated summa cum laude and took an LL. M. from Harvard Law School and two Ph. Ds. from the University of Münster in Law and in Philosophy and History. Advanced Degree in Management from IESE Business School (PADE).

He was a civil servant with the European institutions from 1986 to 1990, and from 1994 to 1996, where he advised the European Parliament and the European Commission on EU Law, international trade, and international economics.

From 1990 to 2019 ongoing he has been an international corporate lawyer and an academic in different US (University of Maryland, New York University, Harvard University) and Spanish Universities. As an attorney, he practiced Corporate Law, Regulation and Competition, International Business Law and International Arbitration with Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton in New York and Brussels, and with Gómez-Acebo & Pombo in Brussels and Madrid. As a Professor of European Law, International Business Law and International Relations, he taught undergraduate and graduate courses and has published or co-authored 50 books and ca. 120 articles.

From 2011 to 2016 he was a Member of the Spanish Parliament and Spokesman for Foreign Affairs, and a member of the Economics and Competitiveness Parliamentary Committee and of the EU Committee. He was elected President of the Spanish Delegation to the Council of Europe, Vice Chair of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and a member of its Committees on External Relations, Legal Affairs and the Committee on Selection of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

In 2017 he was appointed Pierre Keller Visiting Professor at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, where he taught courses on European policies and Corporate Governance. And from 2019/20 he is a Visiting Professor at Harvard Law School, Harvard University.

His current activities are focused on Corporate Governance, leadership in business and society, public policies, and geopolitics. He is a member of the Board of different private companies, Foundations and institutions in Spain and globally. He is the President of the Institute on Governance and Society and of the strategic counseling firm Link Advisory Economics.



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His last publication analyzes the Chinese project of the New Silk Road (One Belt, one Road). In recent years he has written on the future of the EU, Corporate Governance, Strategic M&A and Regulation, Geopolitics and Global Governance.

Chairman and Co-founder of the "Institute for Governance and Business", a think tank based in Madrid (Spain) and in Cambridge/Ma. (USA), specialized in Corporate Governance issues, Sustainability, and Corporate Social Responsibility. In this capacity, he is the chairman of the Seminar on "Corporate Governance and Society", which has become a leading platform of discussion of best practices and new developments in CG and ESG matters. He co-directs also the Annual Congress on CG and ESG which takes place every year in a European capital under the auspices of the Institute for Governance and Society and Banco Santander, as well as the yearly Conference on Sustainability and Corporate Governance which is being co-organized together with the Institute of Family Business Owners. The Institute for Governance and Society has a selected membership of CEOs, Presidents and Board members of leading Spanish and European companies, and it cooperates closely with an extensive network of similar institutions globally. Main areas of interest are stakeholder capitalism, sustainable finance, the transition to green energies and environmental-friendly infrastructures, non-financial information, metrics in ESG, ESG investing pre- and post- pandemic, board diversity, and the role of the law in sustainable corporate governance.

President of the consulting company "Governum", with a focus on CG and ESG. Governum advises public, private companies and family businesses in Spain, Europe, Latin America and the US. It has developed four main lines of activity: diagnostic of Corporate Boards; corporate governance of the subsidiaries of multinationals; strategic corporate governance as a tool for transformation of family businesses; and the impact of financial funds on corporate governance. Governum advises also other entities on CG and ESG, such as Universities, Foundations, and sports clubs. It has also acted as external consultant to the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the Inter-American Bank for Development.

Prof. Beneyto has written two novels ("The elements of the world", Madrid 2009; "The spy who deceived Hitler", Madrid 2016). He is fluent in Spanish, English, German and French and has a basic knowledge of Russian and Chinese. He has three children and lives in Madrid/Spain, and during periods of the year in Cambridge/Ma.