



Josep Borrell **Spain (S&D)**

Background

Born in Puebla de Segur, Catalonia in 1947. He is a prominent Catalan political figure who has held several Spanish and European posts as a member of the PSOE (Spanish Socialist Workers' Party). He graduated in Aeronautical Engineering from the Polytechnic University of Madrid. Borrell also holds two Master's Degrees, the first one in Operative Investigation from Stanford University, and the second one in Energy Economics from the French Institute of Petroleum. Josep Borrell is also Doctor in Economic Sciences from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, and Professor of Business Mathematics at the same university.

Borrell became an Aeronautic Engineer, having qualified at the Polytechnic University of Madrid in 1969. In the summer of 1969, Borrell stayed in a Kibbutz (Gal On), in Israel's lowlands where he met his first wife Carolina Mayeur, with whom he has two children. He began his professional career working for the Spanish oil company CEPSA for 7 years. He has written 5 books, has participated in more than 10 collective volumes and published more than 150 opinion articles. He has participated as a main speaker in more than 100 conferences in 25 countries

Political Expirience

- In 1998-99, he was the promoter of the statutory adoption of the primaries by the Socialist Party (PSOE) in the 35th Congress of the PSOE and, briefly, he also served as deputy of the PSOE for Madrid in the Congress of Deputies in 2003-2004.
- From 2004 to 2007, he was the President of the European Parliament,
- He also drafted in January 2017 the basis of the political project with which Pedro Sánchez won the primary election process. After the victory of Sánchez, he served as the Secretary of Economic Policy and Employment of the PSOE.
- The President of the Government, Pedro Sánchez, appointed Borrell new Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain in June 2018.
- In 2019 he was elected as the lead candidate in the Socialist Party list for the European Parliament elections

EU priorities

Politically, Borrell is known for being a staunch EU supporter and is often characterized by his outspokenness and occasional outbursts. As Foreign Minister, he has been active over the crisis in Venezuela and has been open in his criticism of US President Trump. Borrell married Cristina Narbona, president of the PSOE, in 2018, after being in a relationship for the past two decades.

Other Insights

After his tenure in the EP, Borrell retreated from politics to continue his academic career, most notably as President of the European University Institute in 2010. However, Borrell was forced to resign from his post after allegations of a conflict of interest when he failed to declare his earnings of €300,000 a year as member of the board of the renewable energy group Abengoa.