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Researcher Rosa Menéndez: new CSIC President

- With links to CSIC going back to 1979, she has held various institutional and management positions throughout her career
- This doctor of Chemistry is an expert in carbon materials for applications in energy and the environment
- Rosa Menéndez is the first woman to hold the presidency of CSIC, an organisation first created in 1939



Rosa Menéndez (born in Cudillero, Asturias, 1956) is the new president of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC). The appointment of this CSIC researcher took place today, Friday, at the Council of Ministers meeting. Menéndez, the first woman to head CSIC, joined the scientific organisation in 1979. During this time, she has held the positions of director of one of its institutes, Institutional Delegate, and Vice President of the organisation.

In recent years, Menéndez has begun a line of research into graphene for applications which include biomedicine and energy storage. This doctor in Chemistry is an expert in carbon materials and replaces the outgoing president, and fellow CSIC researcher, Emilio Lora-Tamayo, who held the position since January 2012.

Speaking about her new appointment, the CSIC researcher said, "I feel extremely proud to occupy this position within the institution where I have worked for the last 40 years. It's a huge challenge. We mustn't forget that CSIC is the largest scientific institution in Spain, and so our work will be constant and we look forward to undertaking large projects in the years to come".

Management experience

Menéndez held the position of vice president of scientific and technical research at CSIC between 2008 and 2009. She was the organisation's institutional delegate in Asturias and she also held the post of director at CSIC's National Coal Institute, located in Oviedo, Asturias, between 2003 and 2008.

Her experience also includes the management of R&D plans and action programmes. She was an evaluator and coordinator of several European Union R&D programmes, she managed both the National Materials Plan and the National Energy Plan and she also co-ordinated an energy tender process for the Community of Madrid.

Carbon materials: Research and patents

This Asturian researcher with a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Oviedo (1986) has participated in more than 30 research projects. Of those, she led a total of 23- nine of them European. Most of the Spanish projects she has been involved in have included business participation and focused on such topics as the use of catalysts for chemical processes in the production of clean energy, utilising graphene in energy storage systems for use with electric vehicles, and the production of graphene for diverse purposes.

The newly appointed President of CSIC, who has spent time in the USA and the UK during her career, has had over 200 articles published in prestigious international journals. She is also the author of 10 patents, and has directed 18 doctoral theses.

Menéndez has participated in more than 50 research contracts as an advisor on scientific issues related to topics such as aeronautics and the electricity and mining sectors.

The new CSIC President has received various accolades over the years in recognition of her scientific work. She received the Shunk Carbon Award in 1996 for her contribution to the development of carbon materials and, in 2007, her efforts in the development and dissemination of Science was recognised with the Álvarez Buylla Vital Award, which was granted by UNESCO-Mieres City Council. In 2009, she received the DuPont Science Award for her work on the study and development of new carbon materials and in 2016 she received the Spanish Materials Association award in recognition of her career in science.

CSIC

As the country's largest public institution devoted to scientific research, the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) is one of the most important bodies of its type in Europe. It is ascribed to the Ministry of the Economy, Industry and Competitiveness through the Secretary of State for Research, Development and Innovation, and its main objective is to develop and promote research for the benefit of scientific and technological progress, and to be open to working jointly with both Spanish and foreign entities alike.

The driving force behind CSIC's research comes in the shape of its 122 centres and institutes which are spread throughout Spain's autonomous communities, and whose research staff account for 4,000 of its 12,000 employees.

Although only 6% of CSIC's staff are involved in Research and Development in Spain, they generate approximately 20% of Spain's national scientific production. CSIC is also responsible for 45% of all public-sector patent applications in Spain, and since 2004, it has created more than 40 technology-based companies.

Not only does CSIC share many joint research centres, it also manages a range of important facilities as well as a full and extensive network of specialised libraries. Thanks to its multidisciplinary and multi-sector nature, CSIC encompasses every field of human knowledge. Its activities- ranging from fundamental research to technological development- are centred around eight scientific and technical areas, ranging from human and social sciences to biology and biomedicine; from natural resources to agricultural sciences; and from physics to the science and technology of food, materials and chemicals respectively.