

## Biography of José María Gil-Robles Gil-Delgado

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## Biography of José María Gil-Robles Gil-Delgado

José María Gil-Robles Gil-Delgado was born in Madrid on 17 June 1935. He spent his childhood and the first part of his youth in Estoril, Portugal, where his parents lived in exile. His father, José María Gil-Robles y Quiñones, was the founder and leader of *Acción Popular* and of the Spanish Confederation of the Autonomous Right (*Confederación Española de Derechas Autónomas* — CEDA), and served as War Minister in the Second Spanish Republic. His frequent contact with exiled families from across Europe during his time in Estoril led to his acquiring language skills in Portuguese, French, English and Italian.

In 1952, he returned to Spain, where he began university studies in law in Deusto, in the Basque Country, and in Salamanca he obtained his Master's degree with distinction. After successfully taking the State entrance exam, he joined the higher body of legal practitioners in the Spanish Parliament in 1958 and was lawyer for the Spanish Parliament. He also supervised the publication of the Comparative Law Bulletin (*Boletín de Legislación extranjera*), as well as teaching political law at the Complutense University of Madrid between 1959 and 1964 and serving as a lawyer and member of the Colleges of Lawyers of Madrid, Barcelona, Bilbao, Salamanca, Albacete, Pamplona, Burgos and Valencia, from 1959 to 1997 and from 1999 to the present day. In 2004, he returned to the Complutense University of Madrid as holder of the Jean Monnet Chair within the Faculty of Political Science and Sociology; since 2006 he has been Director of the university's Truylol Serra Centre of Excellence.

He became leader writer, contributor and member of the editorial board of the journal *Cuadernos para el Diálogo* in 1968. Since 1974, he has published a number of legal works on the restoration of democracy and on parliamentary and public law.

His political career began in 1957 when he joined the Spanish Association for European Cooperation, which was closely linked with the European Movement. In 1962, he became a member of the Christian Social Democracy party (*Democracia Social Cristiana*), representing the party at various European and international Congresses and thereby promoting the establishment of closer relations between the Spanish Christian Democratic parties. He was a member of the Management Board of the Christian Democratic Team of the Spanish State, composed of the Basque Nationalist Party (*Partido Nacionalista Vasco* — PNV), the Democratic Union of Catalonia (*Unió Democràtica de Catalunya* — UDC), the Christian Democratic Left (*Izquierda Demócrata Cristiana*) and Christian Social Democracy (*Democracia Social Cristiana*). He was elected Secretary-General of European Christian Democratic Union party (*Unión Europea Demócrata Cristiana* — UEDC) at the party's first congress, and joined the party's board.

In 1984, he was appointed leader of the Centre for Community Studies, which was set up by members of the Spanish Christian Democracy parties. He was later appointed Vice-President of the Humanism and Democracy Foundation, Spanish partner of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (1985–2003). He served as member of the National Management Committee of the European People's Party (1990–2004), President of the Spanish Federal Council of the European Movement (1996–2001), President of the European Movement International (1999–2005), President of the European University Council for the Jean Monnet Programme (2001), Honorary President of the European Movement International (2005), President of the Model European Parliament programme (2006) and President of the Jean Monnet Foundation for Europe (2008).

José María Gil-Robles Gil-Delgado also played a significant role in the European Parliament, of which he was a Member from 1989 to 2004. During his time in Strasbourg, he was member of the Committee on Petitions; the Committee on Rules of Procedure, the Verification of Credentials and Immunities; the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment; the Committee on Institutional Affairs; and the Committee on Legal Affairs and the Internal Market. He was also Vice-Chairman of the Group of the European People's Party (EPP) between 1990 and 1992; Chairman of the Committee on Institutional Affairs between 1992 and 1994; Member of the Board of the European People's Party from 1990 to 1999; Vice-President of the European Parliament from July 1994 to 1997 and President from January 1997 to July 1999; Coordinator of the EPP Group in the Committee on Institutional Affairs; Member of the Delegation for relations with Russia; President of the Animal Welfare Intergroup; and Chairman of the Delegation to the EU–Bulgaria Joint Parliamentary Committee from January 2002 to July 2004. Since May 2006, he has served as President

of the European Parliament Former Members' Association.

In the light of his wide-ranging professional achievements, he was awarded the Robert Schuman Medal in 1995; the Cross of Agricultural Merit in 1981; the Order of Francisco Morazán, awarded by the Central American Parliament (PARLACEN) in 1997; the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of Chile in 1998; the Grand Cross of the Order of the Liberator General San Martín (Argentina) in 1998; and the Medal of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay in 1998. He was also given the title of Honorary Citizen of the City of Salamanca in 1998, as well as other honours including the Grand Cross of the Order of Antonio José Irizarri (Guatemala, 1999), the Silver Medal of Galicia (2000), the Grand Cross of the Order of Isabella the Catholic (2000), the National Order of the Legion of Honour (France, 2000), the Gold Medal of the European Parliament and the Grand Cross of Civil Merit (Spain, 2005).

José María Gil-Robles Gil-Delgado has also received several academic honours: he was named Doctor Honoris Causa at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations in 1998, Honorary Member of the Catholic University of Chile in 1998 and Doctor Honoris Causa at Sofia University, Bulgaria, in 1999.

He is the author of several publications, including: *Derecho de huelga* (published by ZYX, Madrid, 1961); *Comentarios a la Ley de Arrendamientos Rústicos* (Civitas, Madrid, 1981); *Legislación agraria básica* (Civitas, Madrid, 1986); *Control y Autonomías* (Civitas, Madrid, 1986); *Los derechos del europeo* (published by the author, Madrid, 1993); *Los Parlamentos de Europa y el Parlamento Europeo* (published by the author, Madrid, 1997); and *Pasión de Europa* (published by Cyan and the EPP-ED Group, Madrid, 2002).

His other publications include: 'Leyes electorales', from *Boletín Oficial del Estado* (Madrid, 1969); 'Ley Sindical: principios básicos y regulación efectiva', from *Cuadernos para el Diálogo* (Suplemento 1971); 'Paz y Fueros: el problema regional en Europa', from *Cuadernos para el Diálogo* (Suplemento 1974); 'El Parlamento y la vida política', from *España hoy* (Secretaría de Estado para la Información, Madrid, 1982); 'Unidad jurisdiccional y atribución de facultades arbitrales a órganos de la Administración', from *El Poder Judicial* (Dirección General de lo Contencioso del Estado, Instituto de Estudios Fiscales, Madrid, 1983); 'El Derecho parlamentario y el funcionamiento de los órganos deliberantes de las entidades locales', from *Organización territorial del Estado (Administración Local)* (Dirección General de lo Contencioso del Estado, Instituto de Estudios Fiscales, Madrid, 1985); 'El profesional de la agricultura y el cultivador personal en la ley de Arrendamientos Rústicos', from *Cuadernos de Derecho Judicial* (Consejo General del Poder Judicial, Madrid, 1985); 'La familia y el Concilio Vaticano II', from *El Concilio del Siglo XXI* (PPC, Madrid, 1987); 'Los reglamentos de las Cámaras', from *Las Cortes Generales* (Dirección General del Servicio Jurídico del Estado, Instituto de Estudios Fiscales, Madrid, 1987); 'Los Reglamentos Parlamentarios de las Comunidades Autónomas', from *Organización territorial del Estado (Comunidades Autónomas)* (Dirección de lo Contencioso del Estado, Instituto de Estudios Fiscales, Madrid, 1987); 'El Senado en la Constitución Española', from *La Constitución Española diez años después* (Tapia, Madrid, 1988); 'Control de la actividad de las Comunidades Autónomas por órganos del Estado' and 'El control extraordinario de las Comunidades Autónomas', from *Comentarios a las Leyes Políticas — Constitución Española de 1978* (Edersa, Madrid, 1988); 'Familia y Sociedad', from *Pastoral Familiar en España* (Conferencia Episcopal Española, Subcomisión Matrimonio y Familia, El Escorial, 1992); 'La protección del Medio Ambiente en las regiones, un ejercicio de subsidiaridad' (Barcelona, December 1995); 'La evolución de poderes en la UE', from *Homenaje-Libro a M. Fraga* (June 1996), 'La protection de l'environnement dans les régions, un exercice de subsidiarité', from Mark Dubrulle (ed.), *Régionalisme, Fédéralisme, Écologisme* (Presses interuniversitaires européennes, Brussels, 1997).