

Ms. BENITA FERRERO-WALDNER

Born in Salzburg (Austria), she holds the position of Member of the Board of Directors of GAMESA CORPORACIÓN TECNOLÓGICA, S.A.

Doctorate in Law from the Paris-Lodron-University of Salzburg, Austria, diplomat and Honorary Doctorate from the Lebanese American University in Beirut, is a former European Union Commissioner for Trade and European Neighbourhood Policy (Dec. 2009 - Feb. 2010) and for External Relations in the European Union (Nov. 2004 - Nov. 2009), and has developed her wide-ranging professional career in both the political and diplomatic spheres, as well as in the private sector.

Between 2000 and 2004, she held the Foreign Affairs Federal Minister of the Republic of Austria and was a candidate to run for Federal President of her country in 2004. She was also the Vice-President of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2000, as well as the Republic of Austria's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation (Minister of the Cabinet between 1995 and 2000).

In the private sector, she has held positions of responsibility in the German company Gerns and Gahler and in P. Kaufmann Inc. New York, as Sales Director for Europe.

She has recently joined the Board of Directors of the German insurance company Munich Re.

Throughout her career she has published numerous articles, essays and books throughout her career, the most outstanding of which is "Charting course in a changing world".

Furthermore, she has received several awards from different countries including, the "European Diplomat of the Year Award" from European Voice Magazine (2007) and the XVI "Blanquerna Award" granted by Generalitat of Catalonia (Regional Government of Catalonia) in 2009.