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INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION EVENT 2025

A meeting supported by the IBA European Regional Forum, the IBA Corporate and M&A Law Committee, the IBA Antitrust Section and the French Chamber of Commerce in Spain

7th IBA French–Spanish Day

7 October 2025

Madrid Bar (Ilustre Colegio de Abogados de Madrid),
Serrano 9, 28001 Madrid, Spain

A day dedicated to bring closer the French and Spanish legal communities and discuss the most relevant legal issues for Spanish/French business in the current environment, such as:

- The investments scenario for Spanish/French transactions: might the regulatory burden be too high?
- The increasing role of foreign (sovereign) funds in M&A transactions: a comparative look at Spain and France
- Defence as a European priority: opportunities and challenges of the EU ReArm Europe Readiness 2030 Plan

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For more information and to book online visit www.ibanet.org/conference-details/CONF2749

Programme

Event Co-Chairs

Almudena Arpón de Mendivil *Gómez-Acebo y Pombo, Madrid; IBA Past President 2023-2024*
José María Pérez *Bredin Prat, Paris*

Event Coordinator

Sergio Sánchez Solé *Garrigues, Barcelona; Co-Chair, IBA Online Services Committee*

Guests of Honour

H.E. Mrs. Kareen Rispal *Ambassador of France in Spain*
H.E. Mr. Eugenio Ribón *Dean of the Madrid Bar Association*
Mr Íñigo Méndez de Vigo *State Secretary for the EU (2011-2015); Minister of Culture and Spokesperson for the Government (2015-2018)*
M Cyril Forget *Head of the Economic Service of the French Embassy in Spain, Madrid*
Ms Soledad Atienza *Dean of the IE Law School, IE University, Madrid; Co-Chair, IBA Future of Legal Services Commission*
Ms Sara Bieger *CEO, La Chambre, Madrid*
Ms Loreto Ordóñez *President, Diálogo, Madrid*
Mr Bertrand Gaillard *Inward Investments Director, Business France, Madrid*

Organising Committee

Marc Mossé *August Debouzy, Paris*
Jacques Buhart *Avocat à la Cour, Paris; IBA Honorary Life Member of Council and Association*
Jean-Emmanuel Skovron *BDGS, Paris*
Juan Aguayo *Cuatrecasas, Madrid*
Patrick Jaïs *De Pardieu Brocas Maffei, Paris*
Sergio Sánchez Solé *Garrigues, Barcelona; Co-Chair, IBA Online Services Committee*
Laura Muñoz *Garrigues, Barcelona*
Nadège Nguyen *Gide Loyrette Nouel, Paris; Diversity and Inclusion Officer, IBA Law Firm Management Committee*
Clara Rivero *Gómez Acebo & Pombo, Madrid*
Florence Legeay *Pérez-Llorca, Madrid*
Joan Roca *RocaJunyent, Barcelona*
Marta Ríos *Uría Menéndez, Madrid*

Host Committee

Araoz y Rueda, Madrid
A&O Shearman, Madrid
BDO, Madrid
Broseta, Madrid
CMS-ASL, Madrid
Cuatrecasas, Barcelona
Dentons, Madrid
DLA Piper, Madrid
DWF-RCD, Barcelona
Garrigues, Madrid
Gómez-Acebo y Pombo, Madrid
Hogan Lovells, Madrid
Jones Day, Madrid
Linklaters, Madrid
Pérez-Llorca, Madrid
Ramón y Cajal, Madrid
RocaJunyent, Barcelona
Uría Menéndez, Madrid

With the participation of The Economic Service of the French Embassy, La Chambre (the French Chamber of Commerce in Madrid), the French Chamber of Commerce in Barcelona, Business France, and the support of IE Law School, and of Asociación Diálogo



Sponsored by IE Law School, Karnov Group and Veolia



0900 – 1000 **Registration and welcome coffee**

0945 – 1000 **Welcome**

Almudena Arpón de Mendivil *Gómez-Acebo y Pombo, Madrid; IBA Past President 2023-2024*

1000 – 1030 **Opening of honour**

H.E. Mrs Kareen Rispal *Ambassador of France in Spain*

H.E. Mr Eugenio Ribón *Dean, Madrid Bar Association*

1030 – 1100 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mrs Soraya Sáenz de Santamaría, Vice President of the Spanish Government and Minister for the Presidency (2011-2018)

Mrs Sáenz de Santamaría combines an impressive experience in both the public and private sectors. Qualified as a lawyer for the government (1988), she was the Vice President of the Spanish Government and Minister for the Presidency (2011-2018), minister of territorial administrations (2016-2018) and spoke person for the Government (2011-2016). Mrs. Sáenz de Santamaría chaired the inter-ministries commission for Brexit (2016-2018). She is a member of the State Council since 2018, a board member at Moeve and an external counsel to Cuatrecasas law firm.

Mrs Saenz de Santamaria shall provide her view on the current geo-political environment, the Spanish business context, the importance of the relationship with France and, more broadly, with the European Union. She will address the different roles played by Governments, public and private stakeholders in promoting such relationships, and the relevance of a robust legal framework.

The intervention will be followed by a Q&A with the audience moderated by Almudena Arpón de Mendivil.

1100 – 1130

A conversation with Mr Miquel Roca Junyent

At times of convulsion, we must recall the relevance of dialogue and of commitment to consensus. Mr Roca Junyent is such a great example in that field. He is a lifeful page of Spain's transition to democracy, a historic moment marked by political leaders with a strong belief in the need of reaching agreements. Mr Roca Junyent is one of the seven fathers of the Spanish Constitution approved in 1978 which allowed Spain to walk into the democratic path. Mr Roca Junyent also authored the draft Catalanian statute of autonomy.

Born in Bordeaux, an active lawyer with now more than 50 years of experience, founding partner and honorary president of the law-firm RocaJunyent, member of the board of directors of companies such as Abertis, Banco Sabadell and Aigües de Barcelona, amongst other, Mr Miquel Roca will share with us his views regarding the relevance of the European Union and the increasingly important roles that France and Spain should play within the same.

Mr Roca Junyent shall also reflect on meaningful ways in which the legal profession should contribute to achieving that goal.

Mr Roca Junyent's intervention shall develop as a conversation with Almudena Arpón de Mendivil, followed by a Q&A with the audience.

1130 – 1200 **Coffee break a la madrileña y a la catalana**

1200 – 1300 SESSION ONE

Investments scenario for Spanish/French transactions: might the regulatory burden be too high?

There seems to be a slight reduction in the number of significant cross border deals between France and Spain in the last year. On the other hand, the French Spanish Cooperation Treaty signed in January 2023, has not yet been ratified. This panel will look at how cross border investments between the two countries have developed with a focus on the impact on transactions of sectorial regulatory approvals added up to the general antitrust and FDI controls. It shall address the best practices to make the deal go through.

Moderators

Jacques Buhart *Avocat à la Cour, Paris; IBA Honorary Life Member of Council and Association*

Joan Roca *RocaJunyent, Barcelona*

Speakers

Oriol Armengol *Garrigues, Madrid*

Nadège Nguyen *Gide Loyrette Nouel, Paris; Diversity and Inclusion Officer, IBA Law Firm Management Committee*

José María Miralles *Pérez-Llorca, Madrid*

Anne Touponay-Schueller *Jeanet, Paris; European Regional Forum Liaison Officer, IBA Women Lawyers' Committee*

1300 – 1400 SESSION TWO

The increasing role of foreign (sovereign) funds in M&A transactions: a comparative look at Spain and France

Infrastructure, energy, utilities and real estate investment funds are significantly increasing their investments in Spanish and French corporates. These funds channel private savings – eg, the Canadian pension funds- or public revenue – eg, the Norwegian Government Pension Fund Global, Norges and the various Gulf state funds.

We shall address what the reaction has been towards investments by these funds both by the business community as well as on the part of authorities and regulators, in an effort to identify similarities or differences for purposes of transaction structuring and implementation with the involvement of such funds.

Moderators

José María Pérez *Bredin Prat, Paris*

Juan Aguayo *Cuatrecasas, Madrid*

Speakers

Forrest Alogna *Darros, Villey, Maillot, Brochier, Paris*

José Gonzalo *Banque Publique d' Investissement (BPI), Paris*

Céline Fornaro *Agence des Participations de l'État (APE), Paris*

Didac Severino *Pérez-Llorca, Madrid*

Alex Dolmans *Hogan Lovells, Madrid*

1400 – 1500 **Buffet lunch**



1500 – 1545

A coffee with the Head of the Economic Service of the French Embassy in Spain, with the CEO of La Chambre and the Inward Investment Director of Business France

This panel gathering the three main actors regarding business promotion between Spain and France, shall discuss the topical practical issues of French/Spanish business relations, such as the current business environment between France and Spain, what do French business appreciate more from the Spanish business and cultural environment and those needing improvement.

Moderators

Almudena Arpón de Mendivil *Gómez-Acebo y Pombo, Madrid; IBA Past President 2023-2024*

Jean-Emmanuel Skovron *BDGS, Paris*

Speakers

Cyril Forget *Head of the Economic Service of the French Embassy in Spain, Madrid*

Sara Bieger *CEO, La Chambre, Madrid*

Bertrand Gaillard *Inward Investment Director, Business France, Madrid*

1545 – 1645 SESSION THREE

Defence as a European priority: opportunities and challenges of the EU ReArm Europe Readiness 2030 Plan

The French and Spanish defence industries represent a significant share of the European and global markets, key players and a big number of midcaps supplying weapons, dual use equipment and advanced technology systems and components. The opportunities placed by the ReArm Europe Readiness 2030 plan, as outlined in the March 2025 White Paper for European Defence, will impact those industries and will require massive investment from both the public and private sectors. It will also need simplification and harmonisation of regulations, among others: the award of works, supplies and services by contracting authorities, intra EU transfers of defence products, granting of licenses, and employment frameworks. Such investments should also be simplified in the fields of merger control, antitrust and State aid rules.

We will open a debate about the different approaches in the French and Spanish jurisdictions to this evolving framework and the opportunities for cooperation between local defence industries

Moderators

Marta Rios / Sebastián Sáenz de Santamaría *Uría Menéndez, Madrid*

Valery Denoix de Saint Marc *August Debouzy, Paris*

Speakers

Lieutenant General (R) César Simón López *Senior Military Advisor to the President of Airbus Spain, Madrid*

Ricardo Martí Fluxá *President of TEDAE (the Spanish Association of Defence, Aeronautical and Space Technological Corporations), Madrid*

Eduarne Navarro *Uría Menéndez, Madrid*

Philippe Guibert *De Pardieu, Brocas, Maffei, Paris*

1645 – 1700 Closing remarks

José María Pérez *Bredin Prat, Paris*

1700 – 1800 Farewell drinks

The organisers may at any time, with or without giving notice, in their absolute discretion and without giving any reason, cancel or postpone the Conference, change its venue or any of the other published particulars, or withdraw any invitation to attend. In any case, neither the organisers nor any of their officers, employees, agents, members or representatives shall be liable for any loss, liability, damage or expense suffered or incurred by any person, nor will they return any money paid to them in connection with the Conference unless they are satisfied not only that the money in question remains under their control but also that the person who paid it has been unfairly prejudiced (as to which, decision shall be in their sole and unfettered discretion and, when announced, final and conclusive).

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For Conference delegates from jurisdictions where CPD/CLE is mandatory, the IBA will provide a Certificate of Attendance for the Conference. Subject to CPD/CLE requirements, Conference delegates can use this to obtain the relevant number of hours' accreditation. The number of CPD/CLE hours available may vary depending on the rules applied by the members' bar association/law society on time recording criteria.

A Certificate of Attendance is available to Conference delegates on request. Please ask at the IBA Conference registration desk for information on how to obtain the certificate.

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When making the reservation, please refer to Gómez-Acebo & Pombo agreed rates for this event.

- Hotel Santo Mauro Hoteles y Resorts de Lujo en Madrid | Santo Mauro, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Madrid
Please email **cbasterrechea@santomaurohotel.com**
- Relais & Chateaux Hotel Ortifa
Please email **carlos.ramirez@hotelortifa.com** referring to EventsIBAOctobre2025
- The Madrid EDITION – Luxury Hotel
Please email **reservations.mad@editionhotels.com**

Booking form



7th IBA French-Spanish Day

Tuesday 7 October 2025, Madrid Bar (Ilustre Colegio de Abogados de Madrid),
Serrano 9, 28001 Madrid, Spain

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rosa.sanchez@uria.com



International Bar Association

the global voice of the legal profession



About the IBA

The International Bar Association (IBA), established in 1947, is the world's leading organisation of international legal practitioners, bar associations, law firms and law societies.

The IBA influences the development of international law reform and shapes the future of the legal profession throughout the world. It has a membership of more than 80,000 individual lawyers and more than 190 bar associations and law societies spanning over 170 countries.

Inspired by the vision of the UN, the IBA was founded in the same spirit, just before the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was proclaimed in 1948.

The IBA covers all practice areas and professional interests, providing members with access to leading experts and up-to-date information, enabling them to better represent their clients' interests.

Through its various committees, fora and task forces, the IBA facilitates the exchange of information and views among its members as to laws, practices and professional responsibilities relating to the practice of law around the globe.

The principal aims and objectives of the IBA are:

- to promote an exchange of information and views among its members as to laws, practices and professional responsibilities around the globe;
- to support the independence of the judiciary and the right of lawyers to practise their profession without interference;
- to support human rights for lawyers worldwide through the IBA Human Rights Institute;
- to provide members with world class professional development to enable them and their organisations to deliver outstanding legal services
- to deliver top level international network-building opportunities;
- to be committed to the development of international law reform; and
- to contribute to the advancement, development and harmonisation of law at an international level.

International Bar Association

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