

Idoia Mendia

Minister of Justice and Public Administration and Spokesperson of the Basque Government

Modernize government

The life of Idoia Mendia, Minister of Justice and Public Administration and Spokesperson of the Basque Government, is rich and varied at a personal and professional level, a career forged in the rank and file of the party, in a multitude of neighbors' meetings, with professionals, with political leaders of different colors, and with fellow members of the PSE-EE.

She speaks Spanish, Basque, English and French. After obtaining a Law degree from the University of Deusto, she lived in Amsterdam where she received further training with a Masters degree In European Studies. In her professional and political career, she took decisions as councilor of Barrika Town Hall, as member of the Basque Parliament (2001-2009), as a practicing lawyer, as representative of a neighbors' association, as legal officer for the PSE-EE and, since May of this year, Minister of the first Socialist Government of the Basque Country.

She has been a dedicated "blogger" for a number of years and is committed to ICTs that facilitate communications between people. As a lawyer, she speaks the language of the people. For that reason, her relationship with the media as Spokesperson of the Basque Government has been easy from the beginning.

Her blog (Nirekin parte hartu / Participate with me) is an extension of her way of dealing with political and personal relationships: a space to debate in liberty, to share ideas about politics and also about life in general. It is also a forum to address the concerns and preoccupations of people.

As Minister of Justice and Public Administration, one of her main aims is to accelerate the procedures the public are forced to follow in their dealings with the government. To do this, she is going to take



advantage of the potential offered by the new technologies. In the field of Justice, some of her objectives will include the setting up of new law offices to improve relations with society, the modernization of law courts through the installation of videoconferencing systems and the implementation of the electronic signature.

Together with the Education Department, she is also working on the restructuring of the 2008-2011 Basque Education Plan for Peace and Human Rights, which aims to promote democratic and pacific values in support of the victims of terrorism.