



..... Paris, 3rd November 1993  
..... OLIS : >  
..... dist. : >

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SG/PRESS(93)63

#### NEW SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO THE OECD

Ambassador Claudio Aranzadi has taken up his post as Spain's Permanent Representative to the OECD, succeeding Ambassador Eloy Ybanez.

Born in Bilbao in 1946, Ambassador Aranzadi qualified as an industrial engineer in his native city, and subsequently took an economics degree at the University of Paris I (Panthéon-Sorbonne). He began his career in the research department of the Ministry of Industry, before joining the research department of the Banco de Vizcaya. He later became Deputy Economic Adviser of the Bancaya Group, before being appointed head of the technical affairs in the Cabinet of the Minister of Industry and Energy.

Named Vice-president of the Instituto Nacional de Industria (INI) in 1984, Mr. Aranzadi became President of INI two years later. He was appointed Minister of Industry and Energy in 1988, and became Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism in 1991 until July 1993.

Ambassador Aranzadi is married, and has a daughter.

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END-OF-TEXT