

# euskal etxeak



Issue 51, Year 2001



A Commitment  
to  
Euskadi



## EUSKAL ETXEAK

Issue no. 51 - Year 2001 URTEA

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# Laburpena

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## TO LIFE, PEACE, RESPECT FOR THE BASQUE PEOPLE AND SOLIDARITY

On July 14, *Lehendakari* Juan José Ibarretxe was sworn in under the Gernika tree to serve another term. He intends to continue working towards an ethical commitment to life, achieving peace, respecting the decisions of the majority of the Basque people, and making Euskadi a better place to live. The massive support shown at the polls on May 13 by Basques residing inside and outside of Euskadi has allowed Ibarretxe to reaffirm these commitments, which he has defended numerous times over the last two years.

That same day, the *Lehendakari* informed the Basques of the composition of his new government, which we will cover in this issue. Euskadi's projection and presence beyond its borders will also be reinforced in order to defend our interests, promote a positive image of our values and let the world know that Euskadi is definitely a country of the future, with its own personality and identity.

From these pages, we would like to reiterate that the Secretary General for Foreign Action remains at the service of all Basque men and women residing outside of Euskadi, as well as anyone receiving this magazine. I am convinced that now, more than ever, Euskadi needs to be seen by the world as a peaceful and pacifist country, whose men and women have historically been characterized by their democratic, solidary attitudes, both at home and abroad. I believe that your presence anywhere on this Planet is of great transcendence. Thanks to you, we will continue to be characterized by these same virtues.

As for us, we will continue working towards this goal. Starting in September, we will be making even greater efforts to establish closer relationships with all of you, and with anyone interested in knowing more about life in Euskadi today. For this purpose, we will start publishing a weekly electronic version of this magazine, which you can receive by e-mail. To subscribe, just send us your e-mail address, and the addresses of any friends who share your interest, to: [euskaletxeak@ej-gv.es](mailto:euskaletxeak@ej-gv.es)

We would also like to remind our readers that this magazine is open to outside collaborators, and that everyone is welcome to express their opinions on its pages.

Bihotz-bihotzez eskerrik asko eta besarkada handi bat guztioi.

IÑAKI AGUIRRE ARIZMENDI

Secretary General for Foreign Action,  
Basque Government



Uztailaren 14an Juan José Ibarretxe Lehendakariak bere karguaren zina egin zuen berriro Gernikako Arbolararen azpian eta lanean jarraitzeko asmo sendoa adierazi zuen biziaren aldeko konpromiso etikoa, bakea, Euskal Herriko biztanle gehienek erabakiak errespetatzea eta Euskadiko gizartearen eraikuntza lortzeko. Maiatzaren 13ko hauteskundeetan kanpoko nahiz bertako euskaldun ugari emandako babesak berretsi egin du azken bi urteetan behin eta berriz erakutsitako asmo sendo hori.

Egun horretan bertan jakinarazi zion Lehendakariak gizarteari Jauriaritza berriaren osaketa eta guk horri buruzko informazio gehiago jaso dugu aldizkari honetan. Euskadiren kanpoko presentzia indartu egingo da, berriz, gure interesak defendatzeko, gure baloreen irudi positiboa sustatzeko eta Euskadik nortasuna eta etorkizuna dituela zabaltzeko munduan.

Orrialde hauen bitartez, berretsi egin nahi dugu Euskaditik kanpo bizi diren euskaldun guztien nahiz aldizkari hau jasotzen duzuen guztion esanetara jarraitzen duela Kanpo Harremanetarako Idazkaritza Nagusiko lantalde osoak. Euskadik inoiz baino beharrezkoago du munduan jakinaraztea Euskadi herri baketsua eta bakezalea dela eta bertako gizon eta emakumeen ezaugarri nagusienak jokatibide demokratikoak eta solidarioak izan direla betidanik. Horretarako, ezaugarri horiei eutsi behar diezue Planetako edozein lekutan zaudetenok.

Guk bide horretan jarraituko dugu eta irailetik aurrera ahalegin handiagoa egingo dugu zuekin guztiokin eta Euskadiren gaur egungo bizitza hobeto ezagutzeko gogoia erakutsi duten guztiokin harreman estuagoa izateko. Horretarako, aldizkari honen argitalpen birtuala egingo dugu astero zuek posta elektronikoz jaso dezazuen. Eskaintzen dizuegun aukera horretaz baliatzeko, zuen posta elektronikokoaren helbidea eta aldizkari hori jaso nahi duten lagunena bidali behar diguzue honako honetara: [euskaletxeak@ej-gv.es](mailto:euskaletxeak@ej-gv.es).

Gogoratu nahi dizuet, halaber, aldizkari honen irakurle zareten guztioi aldizkaria irekita duzuela zuen kolaborazioak bidaltzeko eta edozein iritzi bertan azaltzeko.

Bihotz-bihotzez eskerrik asko eta besarkada handi bat guztioi.

IÑAKI AGUIRRE ARIZMENDI

Eusko Jauriaritzaren Kanpo  
Harremanetarako Idazkari Nagusia

## A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO PUT AN END TO VIOLENCE

**Juan Jose Ibarretzek Lehendakari karguaz zin eginez jabetu zen egunean bertan ETak bi atentatu egin zituen. Zazpigarren legegintzaldi honetan, Eusko Jaurlaritzaren helburu nagusia pakea lortzea da, eta gizarte integratu bat lortu ahal izateko alderdi politiko guztien laguntza eskatu du. Baina helburu nagusi hau lortzeko ahaleginekin batera, Eusko Jaurlaritza berriak ba ditu gizarte eta ekonomi politikak aurrera eramateko egitarauak Euskadi Europako nazio aurreratuen parean jartzeko.**

On July 14, Juan José Ibarretxe was sworn in for another term as *Lehendakari* under the Gernika tree on a day marked by violence perpetrated by ETA. In only ten hours, this group assassinated José Javier Múgica, Union of the People of Navarre councilman for the city of Leiza, and *Ertzaina* (Basque policeman) Mikel Uribe. The first acts by a visibly upset *Lehendakari* were to condemn these attacks and share in the pain of the victims' families. For this seventh Basque legislature, he has established achieving peace in Euskadi as his priority objective. Ibarretxe himself made this statement during a speech at his investiture before the Basque Parliament, where he was elected chief executive of the new government in the second round of voting, with the support of the Basque Nationalist Party, Eusko Alkartasuna and the United Left.

During the ceremony, Juan José Ibarretxe called for the collaboration of all political forces in order to find a final solution to this violence and thus respond positively to the commitment to the Basque people acquired during the May 13 election. "A new era is opening before us, a new opportunity, a door to hope. The message from the vast majority of the Basques has been clear. They want Peace. They want political normalization. They want to live together", said the *Lehendakari* during his speech, in which he called for an ethical commitment to the defense of life: "At stake is the future of Euskadi. In the design of this future, there is room for everyone. We are all called upon to work hard". In order to promote such dialog, Ibarretxe referred to Parliament as the "center of operations" for debates on achieving peace, and called for a monographic plenary session in September to discuss the pacification and political normalization of Euskadi.

However, efforts to achieve peace will not cause us to neglect other issues on the program established for this term "because ETA is not going to set the political pace of Euskadi". Thus, said Ibarretxe, we will spend these four years working towards self-government through the creation of a commission to negotiate full compliance with the Gernika Statute and study the possibilities of updating and modifying this law.

Another of the *Lehendakari's* main proposals is to



achieve a greater projection for Euskadi beyond its borders, through the opening of new headquarters for the Basque Government and direct presence in European Union forums. He also committed to continue promoting *Euskera* at every level, and announced the creation of the Euskadi Institute "to promote our culture and familiarize Basque groups all over the world with the reality of our country".

The Basque Government will maintain and strengthen the policies it has been developing in social and economic matters, which have been so successful over the last few years, and have placed the Basque Country quite close to convergence with Europe.

Under the Gernika Tree, Juan José Ibarretxe swore to diligently meet all of these challenges following the formula used by *Lehendakari* José Antonio Aguirre: "Jainkoaren aurrean apalik, Eusko Lur gainean sutunik, asaben gomutaz, Gernikako zuhaizpean, herri ordezkarien aintzinean nere agindua ondo betetzea zin dagit. Humbled before God, standing on the Basque land, in memory of our ancestors, under the Gernika Tree, before you, representatives of the people, I swear to faithfully perform the duties of my office". ■

# THE CHALLENGES OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT

## Vice-Lehendakaritza and Internal Revenue

During her investiture, the Vice-Lehendakari of the Basque Government stressed her commitment to the development of self-government. She plans to work towards full compliance with Statutes. Idoia Zenarruzabeitia expressed her "frank willingness" to negotiate with Madrid the renewal of the Economic Agreement, which expires at the end of this year, and defended unlimited continuation of this agreement.

## Industry, Commerce and Tourism

This Department's priorities will be to increase the level of technology and the internationalization of Basque companies. The Secretary of this Department, Josu Jon Imaz, believes in innovation, and will therefore implement the Science, Technology and Innovation Plan approved in March. The Department will also promote investment geared towards generating employment, as well as the development of the tourist industry.

## Health

The two fundamental issues of this term, as far as health care is concerned, will be the approval of a new Health Plan for Euskadi and promoting the use of *Euskera* and continuing Basque language education among Osakidetza personnel. Reduction of waiting lists and investment in new health care technologies will be other initiatives undertaken by the Department directed by Gabriel Inclán.

## Education and Research

The new Secretary of the Department of Education, Sabin Intxaurreaga, defends education "based on tolerance, respect and human rights". Among his objectives are teaching multiple languages to Basque students (Spanish, *Euskera* and English), promoting French, giving Vocational Education a strategic push and facilitating students' entry into the job market.

## Transportation and Public Works

The Department of Public Works will implement the objectives set in 1999, which include the Basque Meteorological Service and the Euskadi Hydrological Plan. It will also push for improved planning and modernization of the different means of transportation.

## Interior

After his investiture, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Javier Balza, announced that his Department will implement new measures in the fight against ETA, in collaboration with political forces. Coordination with State Security Forces will be maintained for the defense and protection of threatened groups. The Department's first initiatives involve increasing the staff of the *Ertzaintza* (Basque Police Corps), and having this organization participate in cooperation forums with the French police.

## Culture

The objective of the new Secretary of the Department of Culture, Miren Azkarate, is to achieve a social consensus in the area of language policy. The three key goals of this Department will be cultural development, the Youth Plan and promoting the Basque language.

## Housing and the Environment

One of Joseba Azkarraga's objectives will be a decisive push for rental policy to palliate the lack of housing. He believes in working over the terrain to respond to the current demand for flats, and plans to establish a Housing Observatory in order to determine actual needs. As far as environmental issues are concerned, environmentally sustainable policies will be promoted.

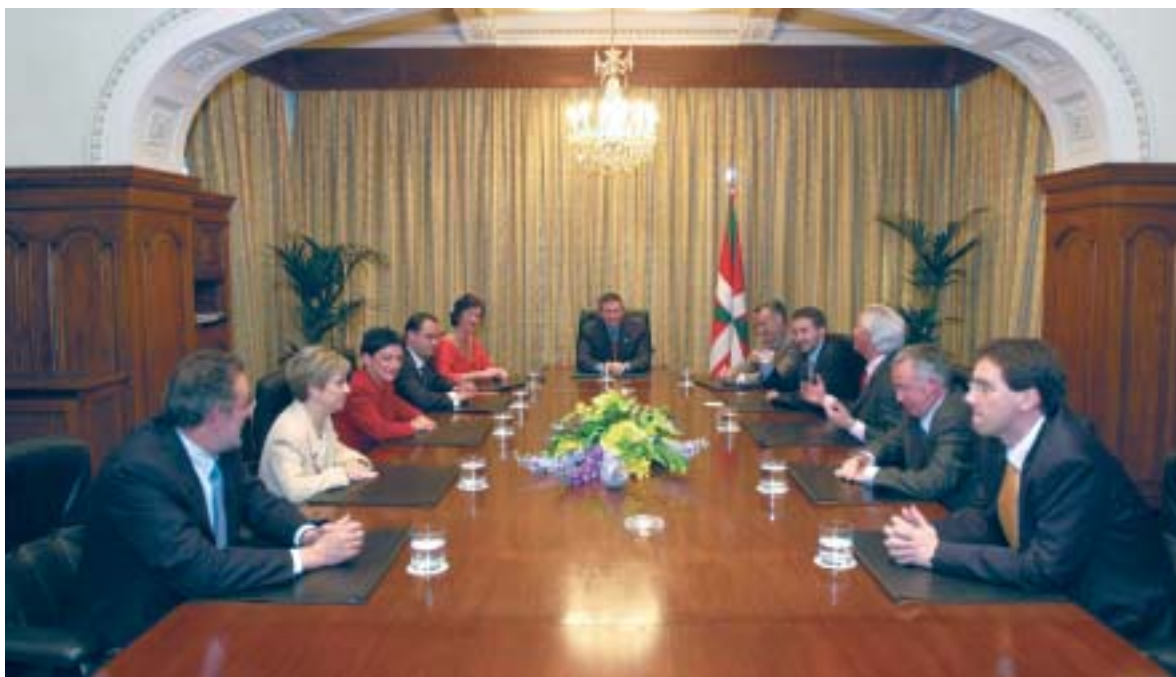
## Justice, Labor and Social Security

The Department directed by Anjeles Iztueta will work for the implementation of active measures to help the most disadvantaged to reenter society. Her other new projects will be to reduce the number of labor-related accidents, improve the quality of labor contracts and develop the Family Support Plan.

## Agriculture and Fishing

The Secretary of this Department, Iñaki Gerenabarrena, will continue with the Department's previous policies, with greater emphasis on employing young people in agricultural operations. In the fishing sector, the Department will stress social issues related to safety on fishing vessels and the new budget policy.

# RENEWED CONFIDENCE



## Juan Jose Ibarretxe Jaunak aurreko legegintzaldian lagundu dioten Sailburuenganako konfiantza erakutsi zuen eta izendatu dituenen artetik hiru bakarrik dira berriak: Kultura, Etxebizitza eta Justizia.

This is the start of a new political era for Euskadi, in which the presidency of the Basque Government intends to regain understanding between all parties, open up new paths to achieving peace, reach greater levels of self-government and continue prospering in economic and social matters. To work towards meeting these objectives, the *Lehendakari*, Juan José Ibarretxe, has placed all of his trust in the main body of the team that was formed after the 1998 election. That government was unable to conclude its term due to the early election, and will now have more time to work on the projects they have brought forth over the last few years.

Six of the seven governmental department secretaries belonging to the PNV (Basque Nationalist Party) who took office under Juan José Ibarretxe's presidency have kept their jobs. Only Mari Carmen Garmendia, head of the Department of Culture during the previous term, has left office. This position is now occupied by another woman, Miren Azkarate from San Sebastián, who has many years of experience in the study and teaching of *Euskera*.

Azkarate is one of the three new additions to the

Basque Government, along with Joseba Azkarraga and Anjeles Iztueta, members of the party Eusko Alkartasuna. Azkarraga will be in charge of the Department of Regional Planning, Housing and the Environment, where he will replace Patxi Ormazabal. Anjeles Iztueta, on the other hand, will occupy the position that Sabin Intxaurreaga left at the Department of Justice, Labor and Social Security to take charge of the Department of Education, where he will replace Inaxio Oliveri.

On July 17, the investiture ceremony was held for the department secretaries who will form Juan José Ibarretxe's second government. On that day, the outgoing cabinet members actually left office, and the incoming members took possession of their departments. Before that date, however, close contacts were maintained to ensure a smooth transition for the four Departments undergoing leadership changes.

At this ceremony, the *Lehendakari* read the decrees to appoint the secretaries of every department, as well as the *Vice-Lehendakari*, a position that will again be occupied by Idoia Zenarruzabeitia. Josu Jon Imaz will also serve another term as Government Spokesman. ■



### Idoia Zenarruzabeitia

#### **Vice-Lehendakaritza, Internal Revenue and Public Administration**

Born in Usansolo in 1959, Ms. Zenarruzabeitia holds a Law degree, specializing in Legal-Economic issues. She was a member of the Basque Parliament during the third and fourth legislatures. After the 1998 election, she became *Vice-Lehendakari* and Secretary of the Internal Revenue Department, offices that she still holds today.

### Javier Balza

#### **Interior**

This lawyer from Bilbao will now serve a second term as Secretary of the Department of the Interior. Balza has been a counselor to the Basque Government since 1981. Since January, 1995, he has served as the Basque Government's Secretary General for Autonomous Development and the Legal Regime.



### Anjeles Iztueta

#### **Justice, Labor and Social Security**

This native of Tolosa is replacing Sabin Intxaurreaga as Secretary of the Department of Justice, where she was Vice-Secretary during the previous term. Since 1997, she represented Eustat at

the administrative level and for European issues, at the Basque Government's Secretary General for Foreign Action.

### Miren Azkarate

#### **Culture**

Ms. Azkarate holds a degree in Basque Language and is a member of Euskaltzaindia, the Grammar Commission and Euskera Batua. At the University of the Basque Country, she served as Vice-Rector of *Euskera* (1996-1997) and Faculty (1997-2000), and is now replacing Mari Carmen Garmendia, who served as Secretary of the Department of Culture for the last six years.



### Joseba Azkarraga

#### **Regional Development, Housing and the Environment**

Azkarraga replaces Patxi Ormazabal as Secretary of this Department. Born in Agurain, he served as a Member of Congress in Madrid (1979-1982) and Senator for the

Basque Country (1982-1986). Since 1993, he has been a member of the Mondragón Group and Public Sector Director for Caja Laboral.



### Sabin Intxaurreaga

#### **Education, Universities and Research**

This former Secretary of Justice will now be our highest authority on Education, where he is replacing Inaxio Oliveri. Since 1995, Intxaurreaga has been responsible for Eusko Alkartasuna's Area of Institutional Policy, and has represented Biscay at the Basque Parliament since 1984.



### Josu Jon Imaz

#### **Industry, Commerce and Tourism**

Born in Zumarraga in 1963, Imaz holds a Ph.D. in Chemical Sciences. He served on the European Parliament since 1994, and will now serve another term as Secretary of the Department of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, while also continuing to serve as Spokesman for the Basque Government.



### Gabriel Inclán

#### **Health**

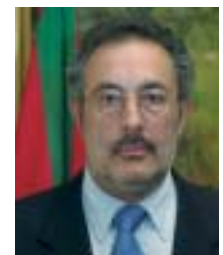
This will be Gabriel Inclán's second consecutive term as Secretary of the Department of Health. This Doctor of Medicine and Surgery from Barakaldo served as General Manager of the Hospital de Galdakao (1986-1988) and Medical Director of the Hospital de Cruces (1991-1997), as well as Health Care Director of Osakidetza since 1997.



### Álvaro Amann

#### **Transportation and Public Works**

This architect born in Vitoria-Gasteiz will now serve another term at the Department he was appointed to after the previous regional election. Álvaro Amann has been a Member of Parliament since 1990 and is a full member of Eusko Ikaskuntza, Society of Basque Studies.



### Iñaki Gerenabarrena

#### **Agriculture and Fishing**

This native of Gasteiz and technical forestry engineer has worked for different institutions and companies, and participated in the second Basque Country Forestry Inventory. After serving as a Member of Parliament during the last two legislatures, he will now serve a second consecutive term as Secretary of Agriculture and Fishing.





Eusko Legebiltzarra  
Basque Parliament

## THE PRESIDENT OF THE BASQUE PARLIAMENT CALLS FOR A COMMITMENT TO PEACE



**Maiatzaren 13ko hauteskundeetatik sortutako zazpigarren legegintzarako Eusko Legebiltzarraren eraketan garrantzizko aldaketak dira: %40 legebiltzarkidego berriak dira. Juan Maria Atutxa aukeratu dute berriro ere Presidente, eta bere izendapeneko hitzaldian Legebiltzarrean diren alderdi politikoetako ordezkariak laguntza eskatu zien erakunde honentzat helburu nagusi diren bi hauek lortu ahal izateko: indarkaria bukatu eta pakea lortu.**

On June 8, the seventh term of the Basque Parliament started with Juan María Atutxa's reelection as President of that institution, and the votes to designate the four members who will form the Parliamentary Board, the body governing the Parliament itself, for the next four years.

The leader of EA, Gorka Knörr, was designated First Chairman with the votes from the PNV-EA coalition, while PP candidate Carmelo Barrio became Second Vice-Chairman with the support of PSE-EE. The People's Party (PP) backed socialist Manuel Huertas as First Secretary of the Board, and part of the congressmen from the nationalist group and Eusko Alkartasuna voted to have Kontxi Bilbao, of the United Left (IU) become Second Secretary. In this manner, all parliamentary groups, with

the exception of EH (who were only backed by their own seven representatives) will be represented in the parliamentary governing body.

This first plenary session, which lasted two hours, concluded with a speech by the newly reelected Juan María Atutxa, who called for "courage and generosity" from the political parties in order to build peace together in Euskadi. During his address, he asked for "an effort by all members of Parliament to seek common ground in order to facilitate this priority objective" and stressed the need to set aside "sectarianism, discrediting and insults" and to defend "respect and dialog".

Juan María Atutxa paid homage to the victims of violence and those still threatened before referring to



The five members of the Parliamentary Board.

the challenges that must be met in this seventh term. He advocated resolving issues such as the expansion of the European Union and its consequences for Euskadi, updating certain laws and recovering the Basque language.

### Many new faces

After the May 13<sup>th</sup> election, the composition of the Basque Parliament has changed considerably with respect to the previous term. New members occupy 40% of the seats, as only 45 of the 75 members from the previous term have kept their positions.

Among those who have left their seats are three historical political figures, the only members who had served election after election ever since the Basque Parliament was founded: Carlos Garaikoetxea, Patxi Ormazabal (both of EA) and José Antonio Maturana (PSE-EE), who are leaving the legislature after 21 years of service. That makes José Antonio Rubalcaba (of the PNV) the oldest member of Parliament. He has occupied his seat since 1980, when he replaced former *Lehendakari* Jesús María de Leizaola.

Many familiar faces from the Basque political scene will occupy a parliamentary seat for the first time during this seventh term. This is the case of Josu Jon Imaz and Javier Balza (PNV), Javier Rojo (PSE-EE) and María San Gil

(PP). Others, such as *Vice-Lehendakari* Idoia Zenarruzabeitia, are returning after several years away from the Basque Parliament. Ms. Zenarruzabeitia is one of the 25 women serving in Parliament, making up one third of the total, a far cry from the four female members who served in the first Basque Legislature in 1980. One of the new female members, Araitz Zubimendi (EH), 24, is the youngest of the 75 members of the Basque Parliament.

As far as the professions of the members of Parliament, the majority (24) are lawyers, followed by eight economists and five physicians. ■



Juan María Atutxa.

### SPOKESMEN

Parliamentary Group	Name
Basque Socialist (13 seats)	Rodolfo Ares
Basque People's (19 seats)	Leopoldo Barreda
Basque Nationalist (25 seats)	Joseba Egibar
Eusko Alkartasuna (8 seats)	Rafael Larreina
Euskal Herritarrok (7 seats)	Arnaldo Otegi
Mixed/United Left (3 seats)	Javier Madrazo

### COMPOSITION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY BOARD

Name	Position	Parliamentary Group
Juan María Atutxa	Chairman	Basque Nationalist
Gorka Knörr	First Vice-Chairman	Eusko Alkartasuna
Carmelo Barrio	Second Vice-Chairman	Basque People's
Manuel Huertas	First Secretary	Basque Socialist
Kontxi Bilbao	Second Secretary	Mixed/United Left

## EUSKADI RESEARCH AWARD 2001

The award went to Juan Uriagereka, one of the promoters of the biological perspective in language studies

The linguist Juan Uriagereka, one of the promoters of the biological perspective in language studies, was chosen to receive the Euskadi Research Award 2001, granted by the Basque Government. This year, the judges of this sixth annual award chose a man who was studying to be an economist, but ended up leaving numbers behind to travel to the U.S. state of Connecticut to study letters with a scholarship from the Basque Government.

Son of a Biscayan seaman who married a girl from Galicia, Uriagereka came to Euskadi for the first time at the age of 15. He studied at the Universidad de Deusto, where he graduated in Anglo-Germanic Languages in 1983, before embarking on his American adventure. In just a few years, he went from receiving education to teaching in universities in Catalonia, Madrid, Euskadi, Brazil, Argentina, Japan, Puerto Rico and the United States, where he is currently a professor at the University of Maryland.



Juan Uriagereka has supervised the doctoral theses of people who are now teaching at colleges all over the world. He also serves as an editor for specialized journals and is an excellent writer. "If we don't do away with the languages that exist now, in this century we'll be much more capable of understanding the human mind", said the recipient of the award, who considered the honor an acknowledgement of Linguistics and the group of young people who, like himself, were trained based on the work of Mitxelena, the driving force behind a dozen world-class researchers. ●

## KOLDO SARATXAGA, THE BEST BASQUE ENTREPRENEUR

Sener and Lagun Artea were also honored at 'Basque Company Night'

The managing director of the Guipuzcoan coach-maker Irizar, Koldo Saratxaga, was chosen as the Best Basque Entrepreneur for the year 2000 at the tenth annual "Basque Company Night", sponsored by Caja Laboral, EITB and Empresa XXI. Saratxaga was the driving force behind the expansion of Irizar, which was almost bankrupt when he arrived in 1991. The company now exports luxury bus bodies to 65 countries and has created mixed companies in China, Morocco, Brazil, India and Mexico.



The Lagun Artea Group, which focuses on the engineering and construction of installations for iron and steel works, received the "Made in Euskadi" distinction. This company has tripled its staff and multi-

plied its turnover by five over the last few years. The Business Innovation award went to Sener Ingenieria y Sistemas, which has been participating in the development of advanced projects for 45 years.

The judges made special mention of the president of the Guipuzcoan employers' union, José María Korta, assassinated by ETA last summer, to whom they dedicated an honorific award. The ceremony was attended by the *Lehendakari*, who also

said a few words in memory of "our friend Korta". During his speech, Juan José Ibarretxe stressed the courage of the entrepreneurs and encouraged them to continue favoring economic growth and the creation of jobs in Euskadi through their work. ●

## SPORTS AWARD CEREMONY

*Lehendakari* Juan José Ibarretxe and the Secretary of Culture of the Basque Government, Mari Carmen Garmendia, delivered the Basque Sports Awards 2000, to honor the work and professional careers of different persons and entities related to the world of sports.

The award to the best athlete went to the four Basque members of the national women's field hockey team who participated in the Sydney Olympics: Erdoitza Goikoetxea, Maider Telleria, Elena Urkizu and Begoña Larrazabal.

Two awards went to mountain sports. The former president of the Basque Mountaineering Federation, Paco Iriondo, was honored for his promotional and training work as well as his dedication, while the Basque picture award was granted to the brothers Alberto and Félix Iñurrategi (posthumously for Félix, who died last year while descending the Gasherbrum II).

Doctor Ander Letamendia, the author of different studies on the hand injuries plaguing *pelotaris*, was honored for his scientific contribution to sports, and the Orío Olympic Rowing

Club was honored as the sports entity of the year 2000. The sponsorship award went to the Basque telephony company Euskaltel for its collaboration with the Fundación Euskadi cycling team. ●



**Mountaineers Félix Iñurrategi (posthumously) and his brother, Albert, received the Basque picture award.**

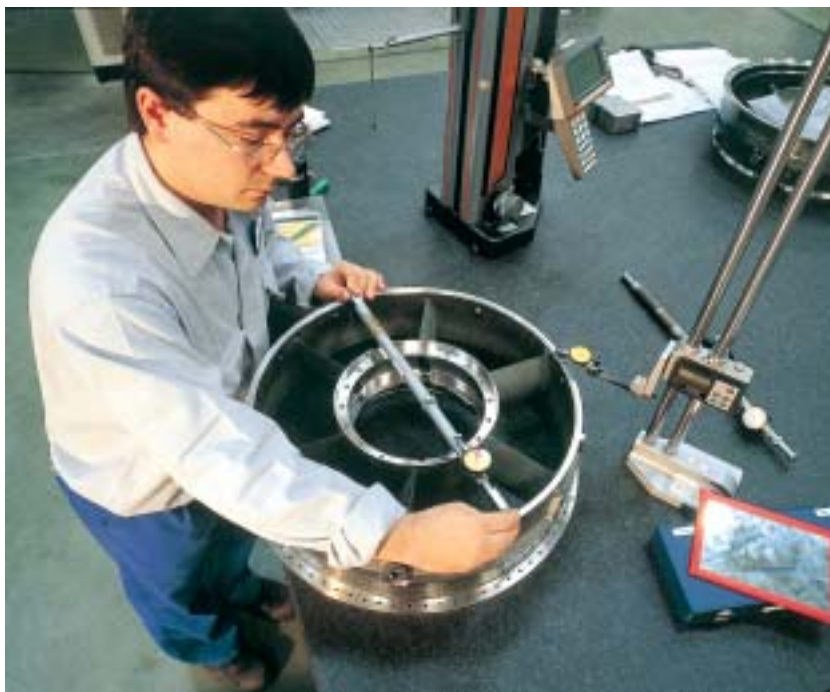
## Euskadi will continue to support projects against drugs in Latin America



The Basque Government will continue providing technical and economic support for those projects against drug abuse that are currently being carried out in Latin America with which it has collaborated up until now. That was the statement delivered by *Lehendakari* Juan José Ibarretxe to the representatives of non-governmental organizations from thirteen countries with whom he met on June 26, coinciding with the Worldwide Day Against Drugs. In those countries, the Basque Government finances the program called 'The Adventure of Living' through the NGO Edex.

Since 1989, through this same organization, more than half of the schools in the Basque Country have participated in a health education initiative directed at children. Edex started its work in Latin America in 1994 with two pilot programs in Colombia and Peru, but the collaboration program in the fight against drugs has already extended to seventeen countries in the Americas. ●

# EUSKADI, AT THE FOREFRONT OF EUROPEAN ECONOMIC GROWTH



**Industriaren hazkuntzak beste sektoreetako baino haundiagoa izaten jarraitu zuen; hauek, ordea, azkenengo hamarkadan hazkuntza erregularragoa izan dute. Datu hauen arabera, hurrengo urteotako Euskadiko ekonomiak aurrera egingo du iraunkorki. Azkenengo urteotan Euskadik bizi duen ekonomi egoera oparoaren ondorioz, Euskal Autonomi Elkarteak Europak dituen maila berberak lortu ditu alor askotan eta langabezia bera murriztu egin da, 2.000. urtearen bukaeran %12,4koa zelarrik.**

The year 2000 saw continuity in the economic growth that Euskadi has been experiencing for the past decade, which has placed this region at 99% of the average for the European Union after an increase of no less than five percentage points between 1997 and 1998. Average growth for the Basque Country was very high during this ten-year period, reaching 3.5% compared to Spain's 2.6% and the European Union's 1.8%. This improvement is mainly due to the good economic behavior of the past few years. In the year 2000, as in 1999, the Basque Country experienced 4.3% economic growth, indicating that the Basque economy is one of the most dynamic in the western world, with cycles characterized by stable, sustained growth.

Last year, industrial expansion was again considerably higher than that of the other sectors. However, we must take note of the balanced evolution of the different categories into which economic activity is divided. The industrial sector has grown an average of 4.3% since 1993, compared to 3.2% growth in construction and 3% growth in services. The maximum growth rate of 8.7% achieved by industry in 1998 is especially worthy of mention.

Unlike the 80's, growth in services and construction was more moderate during the 90's, in keeping with a cycle in which investment was playing a more

important role, while private and public consumption were more reserved.

This economic bonanza has allowed Euskadi's per capita Gross Domestic Product to increase by 9% compared to that of Europe. The Basque GDP has always been higher than the Spanish average, but where that difference was 15% in 1990, it was 18% in 1998 (latest official European data). Thus, in this respect Euskadi has achieved full convergence with Europe.

This economic situation has had a favorable effect on the Basque job market. The employment rate, after approaching the Spanish average in 1993, was higher, surpassing the national rate during the past three years. Even more significant has been the decrease in unemployment. The increase in unemployment that occurred between 1991 and 1994 as a result of the industrial crisis of that period has been reversed. Since 1995, not only have unemployment figures decreased, but Euskadi has managed to keep them below the national average, even improving by 4% the number of workers who were jobless before the aforementioned industrial crisis. Today, the level of employment, the working population, is the highest experienced by the Basque economy in recent history. Unemployment has decreased considerably, reaching 12.4% during the fourth quarter of the year 2000.



Industry was the sector that generated the most jobs, along with a considerable increase in the number of indefinite labor contracts.

### Economic prospects for the future

All of the above data seems to indicate that economic growth in Euskadi will continue to be stable and sustained for the next few years. Jobs will continue to be generated, and the unemployment rate is expected to decrease to 11% toward the end of this year. Based on current figures, there is reason to believe that this rate may decrease to 10% in the year 2003.

The GDP will grow roughly 4% in 2001, with an average growth rate of 3.5% for the period from 2001 to 2003. ■

### ECONOMIC BEHAVIOR IN THE YEAR 2000

	Economic growth	Industrial production
Euskadi	4.3%	5.5%
U.S.A.	5.0%	5.5%
Spain	4.1%	4.0%
Germany	3.1%	5.1%
France	3.2%	3.2%

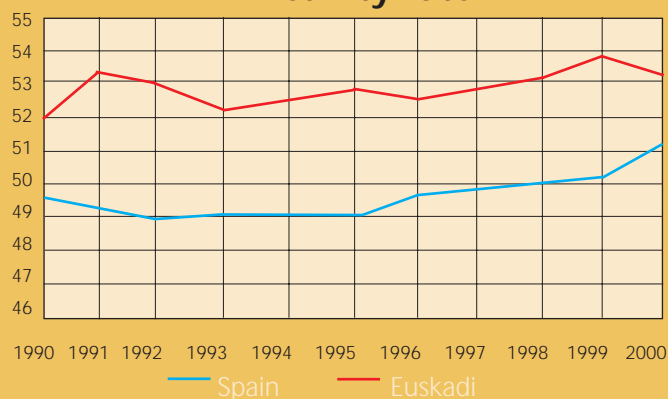
### EVOLUTION OF THE COMPONENTS OF THE GDP IN EUSKADI

	Industry	Construction	Services
1991	3.5	2.8	2.6
1992	4.4	2.0	2.2
1993	4.7	4.4	4.0
1994	3.9	3.1	2.9
1995	0.4	1.3	1.1
1996	4.1	4.8	4.6
1997	4.5	4.2	3.8
1998	4.2	4.1	3.8
1999	6.9	4.1	4.2
2000	4.3	4.3	4.0

### EXPECTED MACROECONOMIC SCENARIO FOR EUSKADI IN 2001

	1999	2000	2001
Private consumption	3.5	2.8	2.6
Public consumption	4.4	2.0	2.2
Gross capital formation	4.7	4.4	4.0
Internal demand	3.9	3.1	2.9
External balance contribution	0.4	1.3	1.1
Industry	4.1	4.8	4.6
Construction	4.5	4.2	3.8
Services	4.2	4.1	3.8
VAT	6.9	4.1	4.2
Average GDP	4.3	4.3	4.0
GDP deflator	3.2	3.7	2.9
Employment	4.3	1.3	2.0
4th quarter unemployment rate	14.9	12.4	11.0

### Activity rate



# TECHNOLOGICAL PARKS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD ANALYZE THE DIGITAL SOCIETY IN BILBAO

**Mundu Biltzarrak 50 naziotako 500 aitu baino gehiago bildu zituen ekainean Bilbon**

The Palacio Euskalduna in Bilbao hosted the eighteenth World Technology and Science Parks Conference, held June 11-13. More than 500 experts from fifty countries met to analyze the future of such centers in the new information society and in the economy of the digital era. The meeting was a great success, according to Klaus Plate, president of the International Association of Scientific and Technological Parks (IASP). "It was the best of all the conferences we've held", said Plate, who said he was favorably impressed by Basque society and its efforts to switch from a traditional economy based on iron and steel works to one based on new technologies.

One of the conclusions reached by the experts who met in Bilbao, 60% of whom were from abroad, was that this new industry is going to cause a profound change, a revolution that will affect both the technological world and the rest of society. The parks analyzed at the conference have in fact been important worldwide driving forces in the regions where they were established, and have created hundreds of thousands of new jobs all over the world.

During the three days of presentations, different data was revealed, expressing the optimism with which new technology companies face the upcoming years. For example, Chuck Martin, president of Net Future Institute, said that the volume of electronic commerce between companies will increase from 336 billion to almost three trillion dollars in only three years. He also forecast that while 65% of the contacts between clients are now made by telephone, in another two years e-mail will be the instrument used on half of these occasions.

## The choice of Euskadi as a location

The IASP is an association founded in 1984, made up of 212 technological parks from 54 countries, including a total of 50,000 companies. Since 1996, its worldwide headquarters has been located in the Spanish city of Málaga, which was chosen from the projects presented by seven other candidates, including Paris and Amsterdam. Those responsible for this association designated the Basque Country as the location for the eighteenth Worldwide Technological Park Conference during the bidding held in Australia in 1998. Before Bilbao, this



event was hosted by Istanbul in 1999 and Edinburgh in the year 2000.

This choice was no coincidence. Euskadi's Network of Technological Parks has served as an example for the rest of Spain, due to its pioneering nature and pattern of development, which has provided considerable momentum for the area's economy.

Last year, the Basque technological parks had a turnover of 2.1 billion pesetas and employed more than 7,000 people. The year 2000 was considered the consolidation of a project that started fifteen years ago with the inauguration of the complex located in the Biscayan town of Zamudio. For the first time in its history, the Network achieved profits last year. The combined results of the centers in the three Basque provinces was 166 million pesetas. Total turnover was 209.5 billion pesetas, 32.6% more than the previous year. The number of companies located at the parks also increased to 185.

In the year 2000, Basque companies and technological centers invested 27 billion pesetas in Research

**Euskadiko Parke  
Teknologikoek iaz 2.100  
milioi pezeta fakturatu  
zuten eta 7.000 lanpostu  
baino gehiago sortu zuten**

and Development, 13% of their total turnover and 10 billion pesetas more than in 1999.

By provinces, the park in Zamudio achieved the best results, with profits of 290 million pesetas. In Gipuzkoa, Miramon closed its best year to date and got ahead of the profit attainment plan by achieving profits of 69 million pesetas. Miñano, in Araba, was the only park to record losses, but its forecasts have improved and it is expected to achieve positive results soon.

All of this from an emerging market sector with a very encouraging future led the IASP to choose Euskadi to host the conference this year. And for good reason, as the turnover from the Basque parks makes up 50% of Spain's total.

### Government actions

During the inauguration ceremony, *Lehendakari* Juan José Ibarretxe reiterated the Basque Government's belief in new technologies and said that Euskadi's newest challenge is to achieve convergence with Europe and to become a research capital for the entire continent.

Ibarretxe stressed the "effort" by Basque institutions to "build our own science and technology system around these centers, increasing Research and Development spending to 1.3 % of the GDP". The *Lehendakari* believes that this figure should reach 1.7% in the year 2004.

During his speech, Ibarretxe explained some of the actions taken by his Government in the area of the digital economy. One of these is the 'Euskadi Information



Society Plan', whose main instrument is the 'Konekta Zaitetz' program. Through this program, he hopes to double the number of computers in the Basque Country to a total of 400,000 units, and multiply by five the number of residential Internet connections.

The Basque Government is also implementing its Science, Technology and Innovation Plan, with an expected investment of 100 billion pesetas to provide increased momentum to the technological parks, the companies located in these facilities and progress in Research and Development. ■

## A country of conferences

San Sebastián's Kursaal, Bilbao's Palacio Euskalduna and the Palacio Europa in Vitoria have all become luxury settings for organizing symposiums, conferences, and all kinds of meetings. Business in this sector has never been better since the different centers were inaugurated. Those responsible for the infrastructures and professionals from Euskadi all agree that business prospects from now to 2003 are excellent. The Basque capital cities hold plenty of appeal for such meetings, especially now that facilities are available with sufficient space for large numbers of people. Even so, smaller facilities such as those in Miramar, Donostia, Artaza, Leioa or Villaso, in Vitoria, have not been eclipsed.



The number of conferences in all three capitals grew last year compared to 1999, and this year's figures will be even higher. Bilbao is the city with the most activity in this respect, and is basing part of its future on this sector by considerably increasing the number of hotels over the next few years. ■

## Euskadi contains one of Europe's most consolidated networks of technological parks

**Euskadiko hiru poligonoen inguruneetan aparteko erakundeok dira: lantegi bikainak, Unibertsitateak eta Ikertegi eta Teknologi Transferentziarako Zentruak. Aukera ezin hobeko inuguruneak!**



### Zamudio Technological Park

This is Spain's most pioneering Technological Park. It began operating in 1985, and has attained recognition as a model to emulate. Strategically located just 10 kilometers from Bilbao, 3 from the airport and 6 from the University of the Basque Country, it features a gross surface area of 180 hectares. Its high level of development has allowed this park to completely occupy a first phase containing 376,901 m<sup>2</sup> of industrial lots. It focuses mainly on Telecommunications (and features one of Spain's largest concentrations of such companies), Computing, Aeronautics, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Technologies. It features five Research, Development and Technology Transfer Centers; GAIKER and ROBOTIKER Technology Transfer Centers; LABEIN Research and Testing Laboratory; ESI (European Software Institute) and the AERONAUTICAL TECHNOLOGY CENTER.

### Miramón Technological Park

Located in a privileged natural setting, this facility is just 5 minutes from Donostia and 10 minutes from the airport. It has a gross surface area of 130 hectares and nearly 107,000 m<sup>2</sup> ready for construction. This Park's main areas of Technological Orientation are: Medical Technologies, New Materials, Multimedia and Audiovisual Technologies and Advanced Robotics. The following technological research centers are located in this Park: INASMET (Materials Technology Center), INBIOMED, and the main audiovisual technology development structure in the Basque Country (EITB).



### Álava Technological Park

Created in 1992, this was a project with a vision for the future. The facility is located 5 kilometers from Vitoria-Gasteiz and 7 from the airport, and features excellent connections by highway or rail. Its high level of urban development has allowed it to complete a first phase with a useable surface area of 240,383 m<sup>2</sup>. It focuses mainly on Aeronautics, Advanced Electronics and Energy. LEIA (the Álava industrial testing laboratory), the Aeronautic Technology Center and the Energy Technology Center are its main R & D driving forces. It also features a Business and Innovation Center (BIC), which truly acts as a business incubator.



# THE CENTURY OF WOMEN

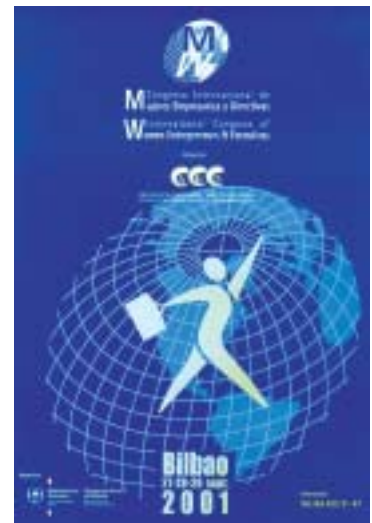
**XXI. Mendean emakumeak zuzendaritza ardurak hartuko omen ditu erakunde publiko eta pribatuetan, eta, beraz, "Emakumearen Mendea" izango dela esan da. Baina oraindik berdintasunerako aukera arazoa guztiz konpondutzake dago. Irailean Bilbon izango den Emakume Enpresari eta Zuzendarien Nazioarteko Biltzarrak mundu globalizatu eta konplexuan egoera honek dituen arazoak aztertuko ditu.**

The twenty-first century will bear witness to the progress made by women in the socioeconomic fabric of society, and their significant presence in positions of responsibility in public and private institutions. Female entrepreneurs and executives have come up with unprecedented models for managing people; however, equal opportunities are still an unresolved issue, and platforms are still needed to respond to the demands of women in business. The idea is to achieve a series of goals, such as promoting private initiatives by women, eliminating gender inequality on the job market and attaining a model to allow women to reconcile family life with their careers.

One of the groups working towards these goals is the Association of Female Entrepreneurs and Executives of Bizkaia (AED), founded in 1995 as a channel for expressing the ideas of a group that has played a relevant role in the economic reactivation of this Basque province, contributing different ways of understanding management and organizational models within companies.

The AED has implemented numerous innovative actions to supplement the policies developed by Basque institutions in this area. In September, the association will organize an International Conference of Female Entrepreneurs and Executives in Bilbao, a project ambitious in its content and scope, whose goal is to promote and provide incentives to further female business and management creativity in the competitive, complex and globalized economy of the twenty-first century.

The conference will last for three days, and will be held at the Palacio Euskalduna on September 27 - 29. More than twenty speakers from all over the world will participate. Issues of great interest will be explored during morning and afternoon sessions, to help participants understand not only the evolution of women as business leaders, but of the world of business itself in today's society of information and technology.



The unequal effects of globalization and how to reconcile the professional and personal lives of women will be two of the main issues covered at this conference, which will also serve as a framework for making business contacts between female executives from different countries. After the presentations, other issues of interest can be addressed in debates and discussions in the presence of women who have managed to succeed in the always difficult and competitive world of business. Their experiences will be offered as models of how to break the gender imbalances that have traditionally existed on the job market. ■

# HIGH QUALITY PRODUCTS

**Nekezaritza, abelazkuntza eta arrantza Euskadin aspaldikoak eta gizarte bizitzan eragin haundia izan dute.**

**Azkenengo hamarkadetan sail honek aparteko ahaleginak egin ditu teknika eta teknologi berriak erabiliz kalitate haundiko produktuak lortzen. Europako nekezaritza-ko elikagai alorraren krisialdi honetan, Eusko Jaurlaritzak Euskadiko produktuen kalitatea eta osasungarritasuna bermatzeko egintzabide bereziak sortu ditu.**



What with mad cow disease, foot-and-mouth disease, swine fever, and the questions that have arisen about possible health problems caused by genetically modified foods, doubts have been cast upon the safety of different food items offered on the European market. In Euskadi, a nation traditionally closely linked to cattle raising, agriculture and fishing, this crisis has not affected us directly, but has resulted in the implementation of new control mechanisms by a government that has always worked hard to guarantee the quality of all products from this region. For this reason, last January the Basque Government's Department of Agriculture and Fishing created the Elika Foundation. This foundation is intended to guarantee the safety of Basque agricultural products and reinforce consumer confidence in foods from Euskadi.

This initiative is not new. The Basque Government has been working for more than two years, along with the Neiker Public Corporation, the Kalitatea Foundation and the Azti Foundation, to design an entity that will ensure rigorous control of agricultural production processes. Thus, it was prepared to face the crises that have arisen so far.

Beef, the meat that has generated the most distrust due to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy,

better known as mad cow disease, must pass a series of strict tests in

Euskadi, more rigorous than those required under current law. The use of feed of animal origin is prohibited, and periodic inspections of animal fodder factories and farming operations are performed. All cattle over 24 months of age that is slaughtered at Basque slaughterhouses is tested for this disease.

A permanent alert system has been established for all kinds of food emergencies, and slaughtering cattle at home is now prohibited. With these measures, we can guarantee that the meat sold in Euskadi meets all requirements to be consumed with the utmost confidence.

Meat is not the only kind of food subject to rigorous controls. For years, the Basque Country has been establishing and developing numerous programs, plans and corporations to ensure the quality of our autochthonous products, and for the future of the agricultural industry itself. Last year, the Sustainable Rural Development Plan for the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country was passed for the period from 2000 to 2006, and an investment of 83.26 billion pesetas has been assigned to this program. This amount will be financed by the Basque Government, the governments of the three Basque provinces and the beneficiary companies. These funds will be invested in agricultural operations,



establishing new operations for young farmers, training for the agricultural industry, improving product processing and marketing, and subsidies to ensure the protective ecological functions of our forests.



## Azti Foundation

Azti, Fishing and Food Institute, is a foundation with expertise in oceanography and the marine environment and fishing and food industry research. The experience accumulated since 1984, as well as its spirit of service and technical and human capacities have helped it achieve international prestige. Azti offers specialized services in applied research and technological development, advising and technical consultancy, training and technological information, and assistance with analyses and testing. Its research has served to establish the technical basis for optimal fishery management. It is also involved in the transfer of new technologies to fishing fleets in order to increase their competitiveness. Azti has created two technology transfer centers in Chile and Argentina.

## Mendikoi Public Corporation

In 1994, the Mendikoi Public Corporation was created, under the auspices of the Basque Government's Department of Agriculture and Fishing. Its mission is to meet the needs for innovation and comprehensive development in rural areas. In response to this challenge, technical training will be offered to the agricultural professionals of today and tomorrow, as well as information, support and expert assistance for the creation of new businesses and in order to attract investment that will contribute to development and the creation of jobs. All of the above is intended to improve the quality of life of the inhabitants of rural areas.

## Kalitatea Foundation

The Kalitatea Foundation is an entity created in 1998 by the Basque Government's Department of Agriculture in order to promote and develop quality agricultural products that would be valued, differentiated and appreciated by the market, in order to achieve a competitive edge. ■

## QUALITY DENOMINATIONS

The Basque Country Quality Denominations qualify and identify food products produced or manufactured in Euskadi that have met a series of requirements in order to obtain official recognition with the corresponding label.



### Denomination of Origin

These denominations are assigned to products from a particular place, whose quality is mainly due to the geographical environment in which they are produced, and which are processed or prepared in that area. There are five Denominations of Origin in Euskadi:

- Txakoli Wine from Getaria
- Txakoli Wine from Bizkaia
- Txakoli Wine from Araba
- Idiazabal Cheese
- Rioja Wine from Álava



### Basque Quality Label

This label identifies and distinguishes those foods produced, processed and/or prepared in the Basque Country, whose quality, specificity or uniqueness are above average. Its objectives are to guarantee the consumer a strict level of quality, identify the origin and authenticity of the products, defend the work of the producers and promote quality. The following products bear the Basque Quality Label:

- Peppers from Gernika
- Hot Peppers from Ibarra
- Quality Tomatoes
- Beef
- Pasteurized Milk
- Northern Tuna (Bonito and Cimarrón)
- Suckling Lamb
- Farmhouse Chicken
- Natural Honey
- Beans
- Potatoes from Álava



### Euskal Baserri

Identifies fruits and vegetables from Euskadi, grown with special care and attention in small gardens. The grower's proximity to the market allows for these products to be picked at their moment of optimal ripeness, for maximum flavor and freshness.



### Ecologically Grown Foods

These products were grown using environmentally friendly methods. This kind of agriculture preserves the fertility of the soil, promotes biodiversity and uses no synthetic chemical products.

The Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve promotes the sustainable coexistence of living things within a context of respect for the environment

## AN ECOLOGICALLY DIVERSE NATURE RESERVE

**Urdaibaiko Biosfera Erreserba Bizkaiko Golkoko bihurtu baten kokatuta dago, Bizkaiko Busturialdean. Seguraski, berezko eskualde hau paisaje eta ekologi aberastasun ugarientariko duena izango da Euskadin: mendi maldatsuak, haranak, ibarrak, padurak eta hondartzak, mota askotako pizti, hegazti eta landarez horniturik.**

Urdaibai is one of Euskadi's major nature reserves, where one can observe a broad spectrum of flora and fauna within the framework of perfect coexistence between man and his environment. On December 8, 1984, at the suggestion of the Basque Government, the International Coordination Council of UNESCO'S MAB Program included this area in the International Network of Biosphere Reserves in order to protect the integrity and promote the recovery of the different ecosystems found there, due to their natural, scientific, educational, cultural and socioeconomic importance.

Located in the backwaters of

the Gulf of Biscay, in the Biscayan district of Busturialdea, Urdaibai occupies an area of 220 square kilometers. It is home to 45,000 residents of 22 towns, eleven of which are completely integrated within the reserve. Its northern border is the coastline, with the Matxitxako and Ogoño capes protecting the entrance to the estuary, marked by Izaro island. Its other geographical borders, defined by the divide of the Oka river basin, are marked by different altitudes, in a territory that is never more than twelve kilometers wide and twenty kilometers long.

Urdaibai is truly a natural paradise, where it became necessary for human beings and nature to live together. The area where it is located has played an important role in the social and political organization of Biscay. In the shade of the Gernika tree, assemblies of state were held and official oaths were sworn. Gernika and Bermeo are home to 80% of the inhabitants of an area whose economic activity is based on the iron and steel, maritime/fishing and forestry industries on the one hand, and

cattle raising and agriculture on the other. It also features tourism, focusing on the beaches, historical villages and the network of hotels and agrotourism accommodations scattered throughout the area.

One of the functions of the organization that manages the reserve is to promote research projects and studies on the area, in order to become more familiar



with this region and act with measures designed to protect and develop it. Today, numerous research groups from different disciplines are conducting a wide range of projects concerning Urdaibai.

### A uniquely beautiful landscape

Urdaibai features a very diverse landscape. The rivers, in their quest for the Cantabrian Sea, have sculptured the relief as if it were a work of art. The abrupt mountains, with their low altitudes and steep slopes, overlook green valleys, giving way to soft fertile plains and marshes and ending in the great blue plain of the sea,



bordered by a thin strip of cliffs, harbors and beaches.

The reserve is also home to traditional agricultural operations, in a diverse, harmonious landscape featuring small villages, traditional farmhouses and historically and economically important population centers. All of this gives Urdaibai a richly unique charm, making it one of the most remarkable areas in Euskadi.

### Plant community

The Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve possesses first-class naturalistic value if compared to other areas in Cantabria where industrial development has strongly degraded the environment. The areas of ecological and naturalistic interest can be divided into four categories: the wetlands linked to the Mundaka estuary, the Cantabrian holm oak groves, the coastline and the Atlantic countryside.

Man has left his mark in the form of a valuable mosaic of meadows, small forests, thickets and farmhouses, both extremely interesting and productive. Today, modern forestry plantations, occupying more than 60% of the territory, also dominate the landscape of the Biosphere Reserve.

At Urdaibai, we can distinguish between 25 different units of vegetation, which can be grouped into 8 categories. There are five natural or spontaneous communities, and others requiring continuous actions by human beings for their development and maintenance. Only in the vascular or higher plant groups, more than



615 species have been inventoried and described.

### Zoological community

The diversity of biotopes found at Urdaibai has resulted in a wide variety of fauna: birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, insects, fish, mollusks and crustaceans.

The marshes, as a wetland influenced by the tides and the continental waters brought by the rivers or springs emanating from the spots where limestone makes



contact with clay on the valley floor, are an extremely valuable area for birds. This is even more important given the fact that Urdaibai is an area where birds migrating between Europe and Africa stop to rest.

This spot offers the greatest variety of nesting, sedentary, migrating and accidental bird species to be found anywhere in Euskadi. It is included in the RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands of International Importance and in the 'Special Protection Areas for Birds-NATURA 2000' recognized by the European Union.

### Culture

Urdaibai contains numerous archeological sites and historical remains, many of

great value for understanding the main periods of human presence in the region. The oldest remains found in the region (the Santimamiñe caves in Kortezubi) belong to the first of the cultures developed by human beings in the Late Paleolithic age (35,000 to 18,000 B.C.)

The area offers a vast architectural and cultural heritage, featuring farmhouses, churches, city halls, mills, tower houses, hermitages, cemeteries, bridges, docks, etc. The symbolic importance of the Gernika tree and Casa de Juntas are especially worthy of mention. All of this contributed to the specificity of this region for the purposes of being declared a Biosphere Reserve.

At Urdaibai, one can enjoy four museums. Of the three located in Gernika, two are devoted to the town of Gernika and the third to Euskadi in general. Another museum is located in Bermeo, and is entirely devoted to the world of fishing.

Two towns in the area also offer various leisure activities. The Gernika Jai-Alai games, fixed-seat rowing races, rural sports and the International Folklore Week held in Bermeo on August 14 - 17 are all well-known. ■



# A MATTER OF AWARENESS

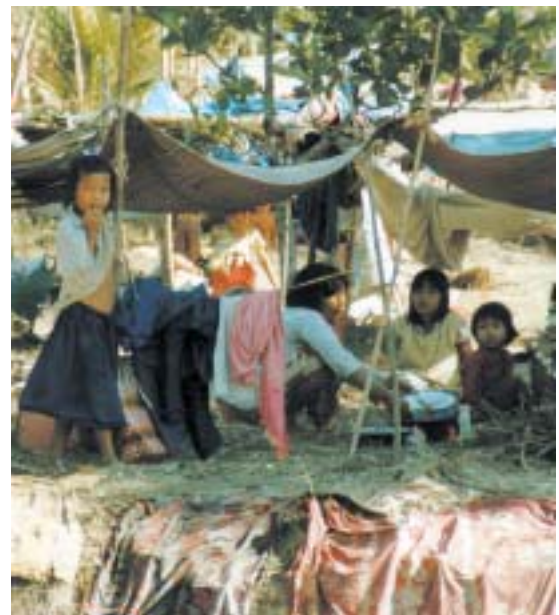


The beach or the mountains? This is the eternal dilemma that must be faced when summer vacation arrives and the time comes to find a place to take a well-deserved break from a long year of school or work. However, some young Basques, well aware that there are people in the world whose problems are much more important than this less transcendental decision, have decided to use their months of leisure to help make the lives of the less fortunate a little better. It's not only a matter of cooperation, but of awareness that has caused these 87 young people to pack their backpacks and embark on an adventure that will take them thousands of miles from home for three months.

These young people had all worked on volunteer projects before, and knew how important their contribution could be to help improve the living conditions



**Laurogeita zazpi gazte euskaldunek Euskadiko Garapenerako Gobernuz Kanpoko Erakunde ezberdinen lankidetzarako proiektuetan igaroko dituzte udako oporrak; proiekturik gehienok munduko nazio txiroenetan kokaturik daude.**



of other human beings who lack basic necessities only because they were born in less fortunate areas of the world. For this reason, a two-month training period was sufficient to prepare them for the jobs they would have to perform. They were selected in April, and started leaving for their destination countries in early July.

The different projects these young people will participate in were designed by different Basque non-governmental organizations, and cover all kinds of aid plans, such as education, health, the environment, agriculture and technical issues that can help improve living conditions.

These 87 volunteers will travel to 17 different countries in the Americas (Venezuela, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Colombia, Brazil, Peru, Panama, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala), Africa (Cameroun, Equatorial Guinea, Tanzania and Benin) and Asia (India and the Philippines). ■



## IN SEARCH OF ANCESTORS

**Ellis ugarte newyorkarretik Estatu Batuetara urte askotan sartu ziren inmigranteen berri ematen du Interneteko orri batek. Web honetaz, nazioko artxibategi eta zentsu ezberdinekin konekta daiteke, edo eta familia baten aurrekoen berri ere lor daiteke bere abizena tekleatuz. Aberasteko aukera bila Ameriketara joandakoen historia ezagutzeko aukera aparta.**

Ellis Island is located in Upper New York Bay, very close to where the Statue of Liberty welcomes those reaching the city of skyscrapers by sea. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, this island was the place where authorities recorded the names of those who came to the United States in search of the 'land of opportunity'. It is estimated that over 12 million immigrants entered North America through Ellis Island, and that 100 million Americans are their descendants.

As a tribute to all of these adventurers who crossed the sea to start a new life, there is a web page where the user can learn more about the history of the island and those who left their name printed on application forms to enter the country. [www.ellislandrecord.com](http://www.ellislandrecord.com) is a portal from which one can also access other web pages related to immigration, and offers many immigrants the chance to find out more about their ancestors.



The site includes direct access to national archives and documentation centers, which in turn provide genealogy information, including wedding, birth and death records, as well as other situations requiring an official certificate.

Through the Ellis Island website, one can also enter other portals such as [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) or [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), where information can be obtained on the family's origins in the country by simply typing in a surname. Stories, experiences, pictures, period newspapers...all of these provide a very useful service to those whose only records of their ancestors are oral reports passed from generation to generation. Thanks to the Internet, they can now expand upon this information. ■

The Caracas Sukalde Association was founded for the purpose of promoting Basque cuisine in Venezuela

## GASTRONOMY AS A SIGN OF IDENTITY



**Euskal Herriko sukaldaritza zabaltzeko asmoz Mexikoko Euskal Etxean sortutako Sukalde Elkarteak izen bereko beste bat sortu du Caracaseko Euskal Etxean. Bi ekintzapideon asmoa nazio arteko sare bat sortzea da, Euskadiren izena eta izana denok gogoko dugun hizkuntzaz, sukaldaritzaz, ezagutarazteko.**

Euskadi possesses certain identifying features that set it apart from the other nations of the world. Some of the elements that make up the Basque Country's own particular heritage are its language, culture, folklore and traditional sports. Basque gastronomy also plays a very important role. Cooking is an international language, that breaks down language barriers and serves as the perfect introduction to a country. Euskadi's fame in this respect goes well beyond its borders due to the exquisiteness of its dishes, which owe

their success to the quality of the ingredients used. Foreigners who travel to the Basque Country always leave with fond memories impressed upon their palates.

In Venezuela, the Caracas Basque Center has launched a project to help make Euskadi's excellent cuisine better-known in this country, and in the Americas in general. The idea is not new, as a similar association has been working towards the same goal in Mexico for quite some time. The Mexican group was in charge of laying the foundations for Sukalde, the name that will also be adopted by the newly formed association in the Venezuelan capital.

Last year, the Caracas Basque Center organized a gastronomic festival, which was attended by chefs from the city's main Basque restaurants. One of the guests was Pablo San Román, one of the promoters of Sukalde Mexico, who helped start talks to



The courses have sparked great interest.

**Venezuelako Sukaldeko elkartekideen artean bertako sukaldari ospetsuenetarikoak dira.**

develop an equivalent project in Venezuela. This helped put into practice one of the conclusions adopted at the Fourth Conference of Basque Associations held last year in Euskadi: to urge the Basque Centers to organize projects similar to the creation of the Sukalde Association in Mexico.

The challenge faced by those organizing these initiatives is to have their work serve as an example for Basque Centers in other countries, until an international network has been constructed to make Sukalde an important instrument for sharing and promoting Euskadi through its cuisine. In Venezuela, the idea is to also create an Institute of Basque Cuisine, based in Caracas but continental in scope.



**Chef Asier Garbizu taught a course on Basque cuisine.**

**Courses and initiatives**

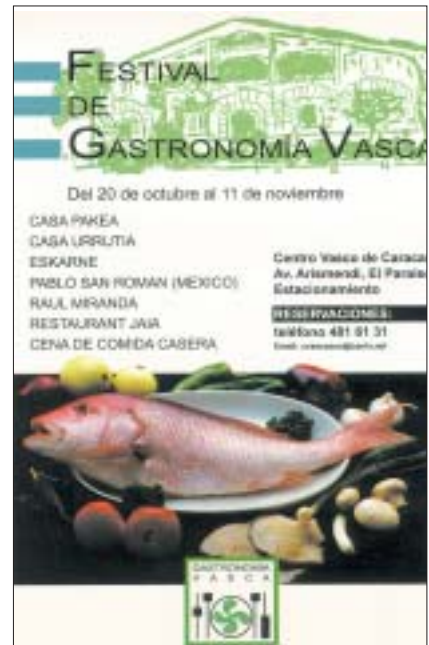
In early July, the Venezuela Sukalde Association was recorded in the appropriate register. Among its members are some of the country's most prestigious professional chefs, amateurs and promoters in charge of carrying out the different projects that arise. Each section has a board of directors specializing in the corresponding area so that all activities generated through Sukalde are put in the appropriate hands. The initial group will be made up of 30 people, some of whom are first-generation Venezuelans (children of Basque immigrants). Others were born in Euskadi, and still others are Venezuelan members of the Caracas Basque Center.

As far as the association's practical work is concerned, the projects undertaken so far have been a complete success, starting with the Gastronomic Festival held by the Basque Center last October to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary, where the idea of

creating Sukalde was first proposed. The event's success far exceeded the expectations of the organizers, who saw the demand for seats grow well beyond what they had planned. The Caracas Basque Center found important sponsors for this event, such as ETB, the banking group BBVA and companies from Venezuela, allowing them to celebrate in grand style.

The association has an ambitious calendar of activities planned until the end of this year. Some of these have already been put into practice, and were a great success. For example, four cooking courses have been taught by prestigious chefs in Venezuela. The instructor for the first course was Aitor Garbizu, who is currently working as a chef in Barcelona, who offered an interesting introduction to Basque gastronomy. The young Venezuelan Enrique Ramírez taught a course on salads, while Ainara Arozena, student of the Aila de Zarautz cooking school and member of one of the families belonging to the Basque Center, offered an instructive class on how to prepare *pintxos* and canapés.

The Venezuela Sukalde Association also held a wine tasting course, and took a field trip to get a closer look at how wine is made. It is also organizing a series of talks on the reason the association was created: the prestigious cuisine of the Basque Country. ■



**Ainara Arozena taught students to make *pintxos* and canapés.**

*Caracaseko Euskal Etxeak lau sukaldaritza ikastaro antolatu ditu eta asmo berri ugari ditu aurtengo.*

## CONFERENCE BY THE BASQUE GOVERNMENT'S YOUTH DIRECTOR IN BUENOS AIRES

Representatives of the Basque Government's Youth Office, headed by the Director himself, José Luis Madrazo, took a trip to Buenos Aires at the end of May to participate in the Hostel Conference of the Americas, and took advantage of their stay there to visit Basque associations in the Argentinean capital.

On June 1, Madrazo gave a speech at the Laurak Bat Center, in which he described the youth policies that are being implemented in Euskadi. He explained the main points of the Youth Plan, which is being implemented to provide a global response to the different demands and concerns that his department receives from Basque youth.

He also described how the members of Basque associations can participate in the youth activities promoted by the Basque Government, such as scholarships, cultural exchanges or promoting the Basque language, among others.



In addition to responding to questions on issues relating to his own office, Madrazo answered some questions posed by his young audience, who wanted to hear first-hand about the political situation in Euskadi following the Basque parliamentary election on May 13, and how it was being experienced in Euskadi. ●

## VILLA MARIA HOLDS A CHARITABLE SAN IGNACIO DAY CELEBRATION

On July 28, the Basque Center in the Argentinean town of Villa María celebrated the day of San Ignacio de Loyola, patron saint of the Basques, with a festive dinner party, which was also charitable. The event was held at the headquarters of this Euskal Etxea, whose members were in charge of organizing all preparations to commemorate the holiday. There was food, music and gifts, including a trip for two to Rio de Janeiro. This festive atmosphere was the perfect setting for a social and charitable event, in which some companies from the region also collaborated.

The proceeds obtained from the tickets sold to participate in the dinner party, as well as the contributions from entities outside the Basque Center, were used to purchase powdered milk, which was later distributed among the different charitable associations in Villa María and Villa Nueva. An excellent way to celebrate San Ignacio Day while also helping the less fortunate. ●

## The Basque priest Antonio Zubia's work in a Caracas neighborhood is recognized

The Guipuzcoan priest Antonio Zubia, of the Marianist order, has received recognition for his community service in the populous district of Isaías Medina Angarita, better known as Catia, where he has managed to integrate many children and young people who had been excluded from the educational system for different reasons. Through a project called City of Hope, Zubia has given them a chance to become educated and face life.

In this district of the Venezuelan capital, 58 murders took place in 1999, a figure which decreased to three last year and was kept to zero during the first half of 2001.

The residents of Catia acknowledge the efforts of this Basque priest, who has managed to get more than 300 volunteers involved in his initiative. Thanks to this project, different families who had been feuding for many years have been reconciled, which has significantly contributed to reducing crime in the area. ●

## A young Peruvian woman wins a trip to Euskadi thanks to a contest organized by the Basque Channel

**Hamabost urteko Karla del Rocío Polanco neskatxa peruarra izan da irabazle Ameriketarako Euskal Telebistaren kanalak 600 pertsonaren artean antolatu duen zabalkunderako spot bati erantzunez parte hartu duten 600 pertsonaren artean.**

Karla del Rocío Polanco, a young Peruvian woman, was unable to contain her excitement when told that she had won a contest organized by the Basque Channel and would be awarded a ten-day trip for two to Euskadi. Like Karla, hundreds of people had responded to a promotional ad broadcast by Euskal Telebista's channel for the Americas, in which participants were asked to answer three simple questions: "Through what system do you connect to the International Channel?" "What are your favorite programs?", and "Do you have any suggestions?"

Responses to this questionnaire were received from countries such as Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Uruguay, Chile, Puerto Rico, the United States, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Paraguay and Honduras. The success of this ad reflects the warm welcome that is being received by ETB's programming in the Americas, where viewers particularly enjoy the news services. After the news came sports programs (especially soccer, cycling and jai-alai) and the programs '*Lo que Faltaba*' and '*Ésta es mi Gente*'. This last program is one of Karla del Rocío's favorites, who also enjoys '*La Primera Noche*', '*Noticias para América*' and '*El País de los Vascos*'.

The Polanco family lives in Moyabamba, in the region of San Martín. This area is located in the heart of

the Amazon jungle, where the presence of Basque priests has always been noteworthy. The Basque Government also participates actively in the development of this region, and an NGO based in Vitoria-Gasteiz devotes part of its funds to solidarity projects in Moyabamba.

Karla del Rocío and her family also take part in these plans to help the needy, and her contact with Basque groups in the area, especially priests, explains her interest in the meaning of certain words she hears in *Euskera*. She will now have the chance to satisfy her curiosity about a land that "must be charming", as the Polanco family put it. The young winner will arrive in Euskadi accompanied by her father, who is delighted by this chance to savor the Basque cuisine he's heard so much about, and to discover the reality of a nation he has only seen on TV. ■



**The winner, Karla del Rocío Polanco**

### CD with traditional Basque music

Nearly forty Euskal Etxeak, who kindly responded to a survey by the Basque Government's Office of Relations with Basque Associations on the situation of the dance groups ascribed to their centers, have received a recently published CD containing traditional dance music from every corner of Euskal Herria under the title '*Zazpi Oin, Zazpi Hots*'.

This Office is currently planning some projects related to the dance groups, which may see the light next year, including a seminar on the subject. ●

### CAPULCO, SITE OF THE 'CESTA DE ORO' TOURNAMENT

The traditional Christmas 'Cesta de Oro' tournament organized each year by the Basque company Eusko Basque will be held this year in the Mexican city of Acapulco, where the most prestigious names in Jai-Alai will compete from December 25 to January 6. The current champions, Alberdi I and Aranburu, will not have an easy time defending their titles, as the company will organize balanced matches between the world's eight best teams. The matches will be televised by Euskal Telebista, and can be followed in both Euskadi and Mexico. Eusko Basque intends to give an international push to this game, which has always aroused great interest in the Americas. ●

## DISCOVERING ONE'S ROOTS THROUGH SPORTS

**Argentinako Rosarioko Euskal Etxeko andrazkoen Maxi-Voley taldeak Euskadi bisitatu du, Voleibol-eko Euskal Federazioak gonbidatuta. Bere aurrekoen jaioterria ezagutzeko aspaldiko ametsa bete dute, torneoa jokatuz Euskadi osoa ezagutzeko aukeratu ere izan dute eta.**

Any excuse is valid for going back in one's own history and returning to the land where one's ancestors were born, which they left to search for better opportunities thousands of miles away, and for which they have instilled a tender love in their descendants. The experienced women's Maxi-Volleyball team from the Basque Center in Rosario, Argentina, came to play ball, but competing was not nearly as important to them as the chance for an important cultural exchange with those awaiting them on the other side of the Atlantic.

At the invitation of the Basque Volleyball Federation, seven players, their coach and trainer traveled to Euskadi loaded down with sports equipment and thrilled to visit a country that had always been a presence in their lives. Some team members had already had a chance to visit Euskadi, but for most of them this was the first trip to discover their origins, which made the excitement even greater.

They landed in Sondika on July 14, to spend a



week playing in four matches against teams from Bizkaia, Araba, Gipuzkoa and Euskadi, and to tour the three Basque provinces. They also visited the Basque Parliament and Ajuria Enea Palace, where the entire expedition was welcomed by *Lehendakari* Juan José Ibarretxe.

They would never forget Bilbao's Guggenheim Museum, the city of San Sebastián, the Old Cathedral and medieval quarter in Vitoria-Gasteiz, the Alaveses part of La Rioja, and many other places with familiar names that they finally saw with their own eyes. They would later share these experiences with their friends at the Zazpiak-Bat Euskal Etxeak in Rosario.

"This athletic and cultural encounter with Euskadi has allowed us to get to know the reality of this land, which is quite different from what we read about in the papers in Argentina. Everyone bent over backwards to welcome us with open arms, making our stay here unbeatable. The memories of this trip will stay with us forever", they said as they boarded the plane that would take them back to the land of their birth. In Argentina, they will continue acting as ambassadors for a country they consider their own, regardless of where they were born. ■

***Helburua ez zen partiduak irabaztea, Argentina eta Euskadiren arteko harremanak estutzea baizik.***

## THE CENTER IN SAN JUAN VISITS THE BASQUE COUNTRY

In June, some members of the Eusko-Etxea Center in San Juan, Argentina took a trip to the Basque Country, where they finally saw things they had been hearing about for years first-hand. They toured the three provinces of our Autonomous Community, enjoyed its landscapes and fine cuisine, and said that the best souvenir they took home was their "fond memory" of their stay among the Basques. During their stay in Euskadi, they were welcomed at the Basque Government's *Lehendakaritza*, as shown in the photograph. ●



## EUSKADI-AMERICAN JAI-ALAI CHAMPIONSHIP

**Representatives from seven South American countries played in a tournament against the Basque team**

Last May, *Pelotaris* representing jai-alai federations from Chile, Brazil, Uruguay, Peru, Venezuela, Mexico and Bolivia played in a tournament in the Basque Country against a team representing Euskadi. This visit was in response to the Basque team's two trips to the Americas since it was formed last year.

The representatives from Euskadi clearly dominated the games, winning seven of the eight events. The only victory by a South American team took place in the doubles event, where Beltrán and Santa-  
maría beat Martín I and Antxia 40-24. ●



## Salou celebrates Euskadi Day

The weekend of July 7 and 8, the Txoko Lagun Artea in the town of Salou in Catalonia held its thirteenth annual Euskadi Day celebration with a program full of events. Both the members of the Basque community residing in this coastal town and the locals participated. The festivities started early Saturday morning with the traditional *passacaglias* featuring *txistularis* and *trikitrixas*, giving way to a day of music, Basque dancing and rural sports (*aizkolaris*, *harrijasotzailles* and *trontzalaris*). Sunday started with a kayak race and continued with a *bacalao al pil-pil* (boiled cod) contest, with the participation of the Chefs Association of Costa Dorada, the area where Salou is located.

The events at this Euskadi Day celebration, which has already become a tradition, were sponsored by the Basque Government, the Salou Municipal Government and the Provincial Government of Tarragona. ●

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA WILL PUBLISH JOSÉ MANUEL AZKONA'S BOOK ABOUT BASQUE IMMIGRATION IN ENGLISH**

In December, the University of Nevada will publish the English translation of *Paraísos Posibles* by José Manuel Azkona as part of the collection *The Basque Series*. This book is a meticulous study of Basque immigration to the Americas throughout five centuries of history. *Possible Paradises* will be an extended edition of this work, already published in Spanish, in which Azkona examines the roles of the Basques who went to the New World in search of new opportunities. He also examines the impact of their adopted land on Euskadi.

In his book, this historian from Bilbao stresses the fundamental role of the Basques in the exploration and conquest of the Americas, as well as their participation in transatlantic communications and commerce.

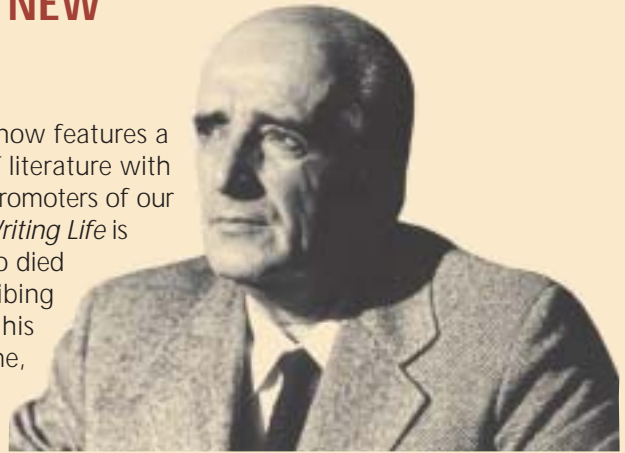
Through numerous graphs, maps and photographs, Azkona's pioneering study takes a very broad view of the Basque presence in the New World, linking the different centers of immigration, from Argentina to the North American West.

In the summary of this book that appears in the catalog of works published by the University of Nevada, Azkona's book is referred to as being of "monumental importance" for getting to know a nation "that has culturally always valued hard work and social solidarity". ■

**POSTHUMOUS PUBLICATION OF A NEW BOOK BY ROBERT LAXALT**

The University of Nevada's Basque Series collection now features a new book by Robert Laxalt, the most prestigious writer of literature with Basque themes in the United States, and one of the great promoters of our culture in the US. *Travels with My Royal: A Memoir of the Writing Life* is a book in which this American writer of Basque origin, who died last March, explores himself and his life as a writer, describing scenes ranging from his childhood in Carson City to his teaching days at the University of Nevada. At the same time, Laxalt performs a personal critique of his works.

The title of this book refers to the Royal typewriter that Laxalt used all his life as a tool for his work and a vehicle to help put his famous creations in the hands of his audience. The typewriter even occupied a place of honor at some of the ceremonies held in Laxalt's memory after his death. ■



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### Euskadi will be connected to the world's most important fiber-optic network

TyCom will build a submarine cable terminal station at the Zamudio Technological Park that will house the necessary equipment to connect the land and submarine segments of its global TGN network, involving an investment of 24 million euros. The cable will enter Bizkaia at Sopela beach, and pass through several towns before reaching the park. From the station, transmission, reception, remote power and motorization operations for the underwater and land plants will be performed. The TGN network is scheduled to become the longest, most advanced submarine fiber-optic network in the world. The Iberian Peninsula will be connected to this network at three points: Catalonia, Portugal and Euskadi. ●

### Moneo's cubes now officially belong to Donostia



In late June, Rafael Moneo signed the end of construction certificate for the Kursaal in San Sebastián, along with officials from the building's Board of Directors. The final construction cost was 10,382,000,000 pesetas. Moneo was gratified by the fact that his award-winning work has become an emblematic site for Donostia, and stressed the building's flexibility for hosting a wide variety of activities as the key to its success. ●

### The best bull in the world is Basque and has 160 calves

'Jazz', a 5-year-old bull bred by the Aberekin cattle insemination center in the Biscayan town of Derio, has achieved the best genetic evaluation in the world, according to the Interbull test (International Genetic Evaluation Service). This bull, who has sired 160 dairy cows, won first place in the competition against 52,784 bulls from all over the world. The characteristics evaluated are the quantity and quality of the milk produced by the cows sired, as well as their capacity to transmit longevity. ●

### New public centers for free Internet surfing

The Basque Government will invest 406 million pesetas to implement the new program 'Konekta Zaitetz ciudadan@', which will create a network of centers providing free Internet access at municipal sites all over Euskadi. The plan also includes free training courses. The first part of the program, which involved authorizing subsidies for purchasing computers, surpassed all expectations. The Basque Government and municipal governments will sign agreements allowing most towns to open such centers to the public. ●

### The Prest training and employment fair will be held in November

The third Prest Fair, dedicated to training and employment, will be held November 8, 9 and 10 at the Bilbao International Trade Fair. This event, organized by the Basque Government's Labor Department, the Biscayan provincial government and the BBK, has become the perfect setting for informing the public about the current training and employment situation. The previous Prest Fair featured a hundred exhibitors and received 28,000 visitors. The workshops, featuring actions by businesses, professional associations, universities and chambers of commerce, were attended by more than 3,000 people. ●

### Career Start-up Programs

The Basque Department of Education will devote 776 million pesetas to the development of Career Start-up Programs during the 2001-2002 academic year. The goal of these subsidies is to create socioeducational projects directed at young people between the ages of 16 and 21 who have left school without obtaining a degree or have had learning difficulties, and would like to receive further training. ●

### More than 1,500 travel vaccinations administered in Bilbao in the year 2000

Last year, Bilbao's International Vaccination Center administered more than 1,500 vaccinations for preventing typhoid fevers, tetanus, diphtheria and different types of hepatitis. This service, which provides information on health requirements depending on the destination country, was consulted by 8,500 people who planned to travel to Africa, Asia and Central and South America. Most were traveling as tourists, while nearly 7% were participating in international cooperation programs. ●

### Paris presents France's first retrospective exhibition of Chillida's work



From June to September, the Jeu de Paume National Gallery in Paris is presenting the first retrospective exhibition offered by the Guipuzcoan sculptor Eduardo Chillida in France. It includes a selection of a hundred works from public and private collections in Europe, Asia and the Americas. The exhibition presents the Basque artist as one of the most important of the second half of the 20th century, stressing his ability to extract art from a chisel and forge. In addition to the sculptures, ink drawings on paper by the artist himself are also being exhibited. ●



CASA VIAMONTE. Built in 1939 by Carmelo Pulichino



CHALET LLANTADA. Built in 1937 by José Bartolami and sons.



CASA COLÓN. Built in 1937 by Santiago Castagna



CHALET RODRÍGUEZ. Built in 1921 by Fernandino Lemmi



The previous issue of Euskal Etxeak magazine featured José María Azarloza's article on the influence of Basque architecture on some buildings in Mar del Plata, Argentina. The limited space available at that time prevented us from publishing all of the photographs showing some of the buildings that best represent the influence of typical Basque constructions on this picturesque city. We decided to take advantage of this page to continue sharing pictures of the houses that helped Azarloza conduct an in-depth study on this subject.