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Crossroads of
Euskadi





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Opening letter

ANA AGUIRRE ZURUTUZA

Basque Minister for Industry,
Trade and Tourism

Promoting Euskadi as a prime venue for trade fairs, congresses, conferences and business incentive travel is unquestionably one of the most important aims of our tourism policy. Together with the more traditional vacation activities, it is in this sector that we expect to see stepped up growth based on enhanced promotional efforts and a better overall offer.

The infrastructure needed to meet the needs of conference and event participants in Euskadi is already in place. 1999 marked the opening of the Kursaal Conference Centre and Auditorium in Donostia-San Sebastian and the Euskalduna Conference Centre and Concert Hall in Bilbao, providing two major congress venues. Added to this is the recently opened FICOBA trade fair facility and, as of April, Bilbao's new exhibition center, BEC.

Therefore, we have a wide range of conference facilities but, at the same time, increasingly fierce competition. The demand for conference and event venues may very well be on the rise, but so is the supply, and not only in the Basque Country. There are a number of quality venues for events of this type and it's our job to make sure organizers decide to choose us.

Being good isn't enough; we have to be excellent. Our lure, however,

The conference and events market is on the rise in Euskadi

cannot be based on our conference facilities alone. It is true that our conference centers have garnered important international recognition, which helps place them among the best in the market. However, we shouldn't overlook the importance of the overall destination when it comes to selecting a site for conferences and events.

In terms of a general tourism destination, our quality hotels and dining, well-organized towns and cities, easy-to-use road, rail and air transport, and broad range of cultural and entertainment activities are playing an increasingly important role in keeping us on the cutting edge.

Euskadi is taking the shape of a tourism destination concentrated mostly in the capital cities and

leaning heavily toward culture and cuisine. In other words, Euskadi is perfect for catering to the needs of conference and event goers. Over the past few years, the Basque Government, in cooperation with our Convention Bureaus and conference centers, has initiated a series of actions specifically targeted at promoting Euskadi as a conference and congress destination. And we have every intention of strengthening the work already being done. Therefore, in 2004 we are going to step up our efforts in hosting familiarization tours for Spanish and international

media specializing in the industry, since we consider them 'high yield' candidates. We will also be in Frankfurt for the IMEX Exhibition for Incentive Travel and at the EIBTM Exhibition, the latter of which changed venues last year from Geneva to Barcelona. We'll also be adapting the overall advertising campaign to focus on a specific product – meetings, exhibitions and congresses – so that we can build upon the work initiated last year in terms of advertising inserts.

We have what it takes to make Euskadi an increasingly important destination for this type of tourism: infrastructure, facilities, setting and a wide variety of compatible tour packages. It is up to the public authorities, private concerns and the society as a whole make the most of an already excellent situation.



The Kursaal, another jewel in the crown

ICCA (International Congress and Convention Association) erakundeak antolatu duen lehiaketan lehen saria, Best Marketing Award 2003, lortu du Kursaal-ak, eta beraz, bilera eta kongresu-turismoaren sektorean munduko nabariena izatea lortu du.

A journey from negative emotions to positive emotions" was the leitmotiv of the Kursaal (1999-2003) launching strategy, prizewinner in Busan, Korea, last October 28th at the annual ICCA General Assembly. In the words of Kursaal Managing Director José Miguel Ayerza, "Having been initially short-listed among the best three and later having won this competition is an enormous bonus thanks to which the San Sebastian conference center is already achieving international visibility and fame."

"This is a key award. We have received, among other acknowledgements, two prestigious international awards. One for the building, the Mies van der Rohe Award for Best European Architecture in 2001, and now this one for our marketing strategy, moreover granted by our own sector, hence doubling its value." Mr. Ayerza shares his opinion with the Director of the San Sebastian Convention Bureau that this prize, the ICCA Best Marketing Award 2003, may well mark a before and after in the international growth of the Kursaal Conference Center. "Until now no Spanish entity active in meeting and conference tourism had ever won

or been short-listed for this award."

The campaign presented to the ICCA judges explains the transformation of what was initially a controversial project when construction of the building got under way in 1995, and general opposition to the Kursaal. Criticism revolved around three fundamental issues: the architectural style chosen – modern avant-garde as opposed to the classical style that defines the city center –; the conference center's economic viability and the assumption that it could not be self-sufficient and would therefore have to rely on public funding; and lastly, the fear that the facility would be used mainly for exclusive activities and events. In fact, the project became so controversial that a grassroots 'Anti-Kursaal' platform was created.

San Sebastián, a European tourist destination

To understand the situation we have to pinpoint San Sebastián on the map and know something about what makes it tick. The city has a population of around 200,000 inhabitants. Its tourist tradition stretches back for decades to the early 20th century, when it was considered to be the most aristocratic spa center in Europe. The city is built around a small old quarter and a modernist new town consisting of noble buildings. Fitting the state-of-the-art Kursaal into this emblematic setting – on the seafront right in the center of the city – caused opposition among the most conservative sectors, who succeeded in infecting more than a few of its neighbors.

**1995. urtean eraiki
zen Kursaal aretoa
itsas ertzean. Moneo
arkitekto naparrak
Pritzker Arkitektura
sari ospetsua jaso
zuen proiektua amaitu
eta gero.**



But it is precisely this location that stole the heart of the prestigious architect and Pritzker Architecture Award winner Rafael Moneo. Here he designed two translucent glass cubes portraying, in his words, "two rocks washed up on the shore" in an endeavor to "perpetuate the geography and underline the harmony between the natural and the artificial," given the building's privileged setting overlooking the sea at the mouth of the river. The Kursaal is the result of an ambitious project to endow San Sebastián with a modern, groundbreaking infrastructure that is internationally recognized in the world of architecture and design.

Hence, "A journey from negative emotions to positive emotions," the argument appraised and rewarded by the 500 'judges' (the ICCA general assembly) with the Best Marketing Award 2003, explains how the controversial Kursaal project was transformed from negative to positive in the public eye and how

the building earned outstanding recognition at both local and state levels. The challenge of transforming the initially negative emotions into positive emotions was undeniably given a shot in the arm by the building's international architectural recognition. However, a series of rigorous management criteria was also essential: promoting the 'plaza concept' to convey the feeling of a town square, and creating the Kursaal Foundation – which organizes some thirty cultural events a year with an occupation of 95%. At the end of the day, it was a matter of influencing the emotions of the visitors who attended the events, i.e., the general public, for whom the Kursaal is meant to be a memorable experience.



Palacio de Congresos Europa, in the heart of the capital

Bera da denen artean aintzaindari. Euskal Erkidegoan martxan jarri zen lehenengo Biltzar aretoa da Europa Jauregia eta bertan 1989 ezkeroztik egindako lanak ondorio baikorrak izan ditu azken urteotan Euskadin sortu diren azpiegitura berriengan.

The "Palacio de Congresos y Exposiciones de Europa" is the 'grandfather' of Basque conference centers. Its time-tested success has paved the way for newer venues to open their doors in Euskadi, making us one of the best equipped autonomous regions in Spain in terms of trade fair, conference and event facilities.

Inaugurated in 1989, the conference center was a major asset for Vitoria-Gasteiz, sparking off a series of events on the local, national and international levels. Over the past fifteen years the center has been forging an image of professional excellence, experience and know-how, hosting 900 conferences, congresses and seminars, and bringing the total number of events to 6,000.

The center is very conveniently located – only 15 minutes from the Foronda airport and easily



accessed from the main roads – while at the same time only a stone's throw from the city center, historic quarter, shopping areas and major hotels.

The modern building was designed with an eye to functionality and practicality. Well-lit work areas and state-of-the-art technology provide for a pleasant experience for congress attendees and other conference center visitors. The facility is currently in the process of renovation by stages to adapt to new needs that have emerged since the conference center first opened.

Vitoria-Gasteiz was acknowledged as a 'Congress City' in 1999 when the Palacio de Congresos y Exposiciones Europa was given the Professional Congress Organizer (PCO) award for the

best congress center in Spain. The most outstanding features included high-quality service and technical expertise and infrastructure, a pioneer in the Basque Autonomous Community at the time.

**Azken 15 urteotan 900
biltzar baino gehiago
ospatu dira Gasteizko
Europa Aretoan eta
6.000 bilera baino
gehiago. Bera da biltzar
aretoen artean Euskal
Herriko aintzindari.**

The prize awarded by the Spanish Federation of Professional Congress Organizers was the perfect finishing touch to an intensive project and has encouraged the Palacio Europa team to continue working towards enhanced efficiency and innovation.

In 1997 the Palacio de Congresos y Exposiciones Europa became a founding member of the Spanish Congress Center Association, together with the premier congress centers in Spain.



Euskalduna Jauregia:

Bilbao's new flagship

Bost urte besterik ez ditu Euskalduna Jauregiak eta Guggenheim Museoarekin batera, Bizkaiko hiriburu eta herrialdeak bizi duen eraberritzearen eredu eta sinbolo bihurtu da.

The Euskalduna Conference Centre and Concert Hall is celebrating its fifth year in operation and two years as Spain's leading congress venue. This privileged position was first awarded in 2002 and maintained over the course of last year, coinciding with the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) prize for "World's Best Congress Centre 2003." This is the most prestigious award that can be bestowed on a conference center today.

This building is very unique and without a doubt one of Bilbao's flagships of the 21st century. Designed by Spanish architects Federico Soriano and Dolores Palacios, the building is like a ship being crafted continuously, emerging from the docks of what was once the Euskalduna shipyard.

This concept pays tribute to Bilbao's metalworking and shipbuilding tradition and to the shipyards that



Emakunde awards ceremony last February with the presence of Lehendakari Ibarretxe.

were located in the Bilbao estuary for so long. In fact, the Euskalduna Jauregia is anchored on the shore of the Nervion River where the former Euskalduna Shipbuilding and Repair Company used to stand. The only vestiges of the once active enterprise are the dry docks, the "Casa de Bombas" pump-house, and the so-called Carola shipbuilding crane – named after a women who used to walk across the bridge beside the shipyard every day on her way to work – now in Bilbao's maritime museum.

The Conference Centre and Concert Hall has had a short but stunning history since it first opened in February 1999. In 2003 it was awarded first prize by the Spanish Federation of Professional Congress Organizers. The ICCA and Professional Congress Organizers awards are the two most prestigious distinctions on the national and international levels. In both cases particular consideration was given to the quality of the facilities and the services provided by the center. These awards have helped propel Bilbao to the forefront as an ideal site for hosting conferences and meetings.

Bustling with activity

Between 1999 and 2003 the Euskalduna Jauregia was the venue for a grand total of 2,483 events.

All together, the Euskalduna's occupation rate from 1999 to 2003 reached an average of 85%, a very high percentage for conference centers in Spain. The number of people attending the various events during the center's first five years of life came to 1,868,257, a spectacular figure which gives an idea of the Euskalduna's overwhelming popularity.

Added to the 8,289,544.39 euro surplus over the same five-year period, is the highly positive economic impact the center has had on the Basque Country's GNP. According to calculations made by the consulting firm KPMG, the economic impact from activities associated with the center between 1999 and 2003 amounted to 212,383,000 euros.

Considering the investment that went into starting up the project, the wealth generated by the Euskalduna Jauregia in the Basque Autonomous Community in its first five years is nearly three times the amount of the initial investment. In addition, the impact has led to the creation of 1,059 permanent jobs annually for each of the five years.

The Euskalduna was the first conference center in Spain to be awarded ISO 9001 quality certification, a distinction which only three centers in Spain currently share.

**Azken urteotan
eraikitako
azpiegituren artean,
arrakastatsuenetakobat, Euskalduna
Jauregia da, Bilboko
Nerbioi ibai ertzean
kokatua.**



FICOBA

cross-border fairground

Mugako bi aldeak lotzen dituen espazio berri bat sortu da Gipuzkoan. Ficoba, garai bateko Irungo garraio aparkalekuan kokaturik dagoen erakustazoka, Europako mugaz gaindiko proiektu bakarra da.

Ficoba, the Gipuzkoa trade show, opened its doors last October 9th. Located in the heart of what has become to be known as the "Donostia-San Sebastián/Bayona Eurocity," Ficoba started up operations with its sight set on being the European Union's first cross-border trade show and the perfect setting for local small and medium businesses to exhibit their products and develop business relations.

Ficoba is an initiative of "Recinto Ferial del Bidasoa-Bidasoako Erakustazoka S.A.," an enterprise made up of the City of Irún (99.08%) and the Cross-Border Bidasoa-Txingudi Consortium (0.92%), created to promote cross-border social and economic exchange and to pump new life into Txingudi, the former border area and the main European gateway to the Basque Country.

The project has involved an investment of a total of 21 million euros. The bulk of the funding came from the City of Irún, with collaboration from the Provincial

Government of Gipuzkoa, European Union FEDER funds, the Basque Government-sponsored IZARTU program, and the Cross-Border Bidasoa-Txingudi Consortium.

The fairground covers an area of over 70,000 square meters, including a general services complex, 5,000 square meters of exhibit space in three pavilions, 7,500 square meters of outdoor space specially designed for shows and exhibitions, a 1,000-vehicle parking lot – including a 340-vehicle underground parking area – as well as service roads and accesses. Prizewinning chef Iñaki Izaguirre, awarded the 1988 "Premio Nacional de Gastronomía Marqués de Villena," heads the restaurant and the cooking school, both of which are located on the premises.

Ficoba began operations in 2003 with a busy calendar of events. A total of 22 activities of all types were hosted at the trade fair facility, accounting for a turnover of 572,000 euros in 2003 and bringing a total of 20,000 event-goers to Ficoba.

Projects for 2004

2004 is full of interesting prospects and will be a key year for Ficoba. Over the course of the year Ficoba will be hosting three of its own trade shows. In June, "Bioterra 2004," the first cross-border ecology fair, will focus on organic agriculture, ecological management and the environment. In order for exhibitors to take part, they will have to demonstrate that their products are strictly organic and environmentally friendly. In October the "Mendiexpo Mountaineering Fair" will open its doors. Geared toward the general public, this trade fair will showcase all areas of sports, tourism and outdoor activities. The object of the event is to create an

annual meeting ground for professional mountaineers and outdoor recreation aficionados from both sides of the Pyrenees. A Christmas fair will bring the year to a close at Ficoba. Instead of the more traditional year-end children's event, the Ficoba Christmas fair will include fun activities for kids aged 0-100.

In short, with this wide range of activities, Ficoba, the Gipuzkoa trade show, wants to become a driving force in the economic activity of the area and a common ground for people on both sides of the border.





The Bilbao Exhibition Centre: a landmark project for Euskadi

Betidanik izan da Bilbo azoka eta komertzioarekin zerikusia duen gaitan aintzaindari. Lehen mailako postu hori indartzera dator orain Barakaldon eraikitzen ari den Bilbao Exhibition Center berria, Bilboko Nazioarteko Azokari testigua hartuko diona.

Bilbao's new international trade fair facility, which began construction in 2001, opened its doors for business in April this year. The Bilbao Exhibition Centre is the name of the trade fair's new premises – and the most innovative center in Europe. The first event scheduled to kick off the newly inaugurated building was Construlan, a Construction and Equipment Exhibition held from April 21st through the 24th.

Construction of the building moved at lightning speed. Meanwhile, on March 31st, the Bilbao International Trade Fair, once a city landmark, officially disappeared to become part of the BEC.

The idea of creating a new trade fair facility responded to the need for larger exhibition space, giving it greater international appeal and making it possible to further reinforce the quality of service the center has been known for all these years. The facility, equipped with the most advanced instruments available today for providing exhibitors and visitors with high-quality service, will move the trade fair to a more competitive position, particularly with regard to its stellar events, the Machine Tool Biennial and Ferroforma.

This project is both necessary and emblematic for the Basque Country due to its role as a driving force in the economy, its design and technology. Located in Ansio, Barakaldo, the BEC is divided into six pavilions, four of which cover 15,000 square meters of space and two, 21,000 sq. meters, the latter of the two having special features that give it multipurpose-room flexibility. The total exhibition area amounts to 120,000 square meters. The building also has a 18,000 sq. meter conference center, a shopping arcade, a hotel, an intermodal station, and parking for 4,000 vehicles.

The goal of this new facility, which involved a total investment of nearly 440 million euros, is to promote, build and manage the operations of the new Bilbao trade fair. The idea of building this new facility, the most modern in Europe, came from the need to create more exhibition space, which would in turn enhance international participation and the service quality for which the Bilbao trade fair is known for. The Bilbao International Trade Fair, with its 76,000 square meters of space, had become too small some time ago. The need to expand the trade fair facility, mainly to accommodate the venue's most important events, the Machine Tool Biennial and Ferroforma, has resulted in an ambitious and avant-garde project.



TRADE FAIR MILESTONES

- 1882:** First Provincial Fair of Bizkaia
- 1932:** First Motor, Accessories and Radio Trade Fair
- 1956:** VIII Bilbao Exhibition and opening of new facility
- 1960:** Spain's first monographic exhibition dedicated to machine tools
- 1980:** Bilbao becomes a reference in Europe for trade fair activity

BEC MILESTONES

- 2001:** BEC is designed in March and construction begins in June
- 2004:** BEC opens its doors

A FEW CURIOUS FIGURES

- ▶▶ If laid out in a straight line, the walkways at BEC would run from Bilbao's Plaza Moyúa to Plaza Circular.
- ▶▶ All the electrical wiring tied end to end would stretch from Bilbao to Berlin.
- ▶▶ If all the rebar used in the building's framework was laid out end to end it would cover an expanse of 11,500 kilometers – the same distance from Bilbao to Moscow to Vladivostok on the coast of Siberia.
- ▶▶ Four Eiffer towers could be built with all the steel sections used in the metal structure of the BEC.
- ▶▶ All of the earth dug up to build the BEC would enough fill four soccer stadiums the size of Bilbao's San Mamés from the field to the highest bleacher.
- ▶▶ 270 apartment buildings with four units on each floor could be roofed with the materials used to cover the BEC.

The Basque Government helps locate Spanish Civil War missing

As a result of a declaration made by the Basque President on December 12th 2002, a draft agreement was established for the creation of an Interdepartmental Commission attached to the Office of the Presidency to investigate, locate and exhume Spanish Civil War graves. Since the project began, over three hundred requests have been filed by family members in hope of clearing up the historical mysteries surrounding the deaths of their missing loved ones.

In addition to the Office of the President, a series of Basque governmental departments are also involved: Interior, Housing and Social Affairs, Justice,

*Gerra Zibilean
eraildako gorpuen
desehorzketetan, maila
handiko jendez
osatutako taldea ari da
lanean: antropologian
adituak, historigileak,
hondalanak egiten
dituztenak...*

Employment and Social Security, Health, and Culture. The Commission entrusted the Aranzadi Science Society with the task, working jointly with the University of the Basque Country (UBC). Leading the Aranzadi team is Professor Francisco Etxeberria, director of the Department of Physical Anthropology and professor of Legal and Forensic Medicine at the UBC School of Medicine.

When the Aranzadi team was researching civil war graves outside the Basque Country, they were surprised to find that such graves also existed in Euskadi. "At first I couldn't believe it," said Professor Etxeberria when his team made the initial discovery. Aranzadi first



went to the town of Zaldibia at the request of the Town Council, where they uncovered two bodies, and later to Mondragón-Arrasate, where another two were exhumed. "The discovery had major impact, leading to the Lehendakari's December 10th declaration and the creation of an official committee to investigate the matter if the families so requested. The committee signed an agreement with the Aranzadi Science Society to see to the task."

Since it was and continues to be an issue with a considerable amount of social impact, Aranzadi was reluctant to take on the entire project. "However, I earnestly thought that if we couldn't do it, then nobody could," said Professor Etxeberria. "Because I think that Aranzadi is the best qualified organization for the job; we have people who trained in the proper methods of digging, people who know about anthropology and history.... Plus, the project we put forward to the Basque Government included collecting oral testimony and putting it on video, which gives the project a cultural anthropology and almost ethnological dimension. We have over twenty people, not all of whom are members of Aranzadi, putting together a catalog on the location of the graves and writing up reports."

Although this project is actually a deviation from the other work Aranzadi's Department of Physical Anthropology is involved in, it has opened up a new facet for the organization. "It's quite an interesting and rather surprising experience, in addition to being gratifying. The Basque Government covers the cost for each excavation wherever and whenever an exhumation is requested."

The civil war grave project has also effected Aranzadi's work on other levels. As Etxeberria explains, "the ancient, medieval and prehistoric collections we were studying have been enriched by so much attention. The scientific or laboratory dimension of studying the remains of Spanish Civil War victims is certainly



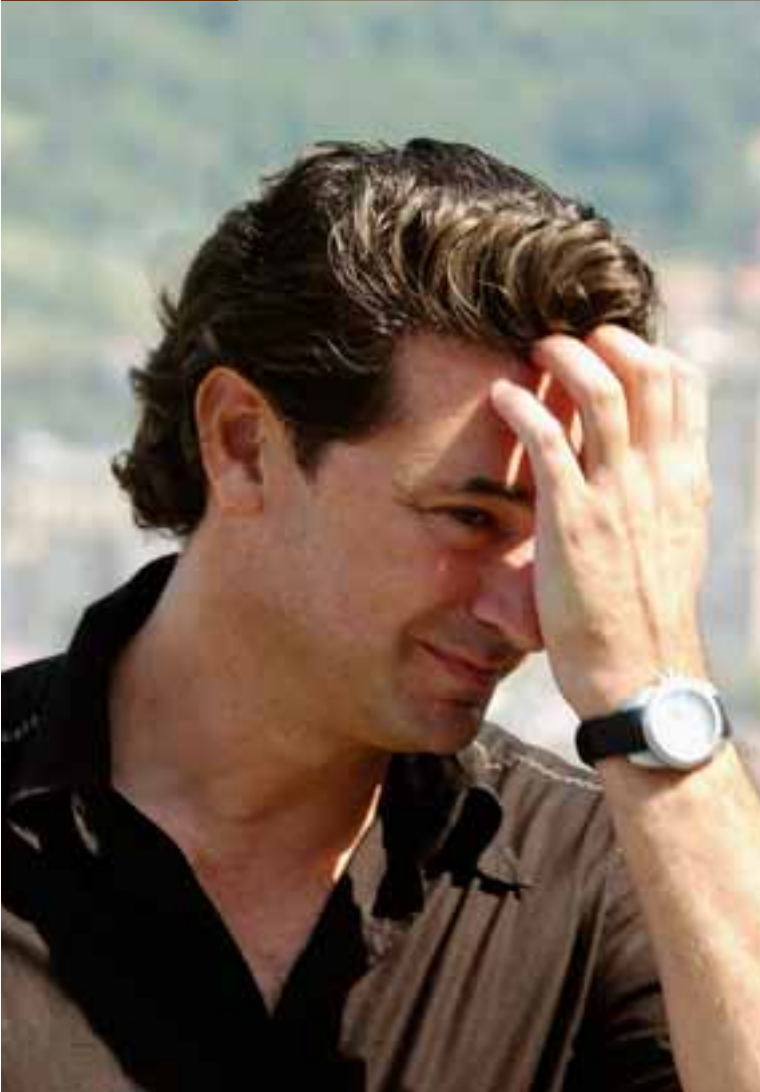
*Hirurehun famili baino
gebiago izan dira
hilketa hauek argitzeko
behar diren ikerketa
historikoei aurre
egiteko diru laguntzak
eskatu dituztenak.*

essential, but the issue also has significant media repercussions. We've also been invited to give a number of conferences on the subject.

Locating the graves of people gone missing during the Spanish Civil War is an important part of our recent history. For this reason, Juantxo Agirre, the General Secretary of the Aranzadi Science Society, is looking

into the possibility of compiling and publishing all of the oral testimonies collected.

"We'll be reporting directly to the commission created for this purpose and will have to negotiate with the Basque Government. After all, we'll be public employees working for the administration. We'll also have to have the authorization from the families," added Francisco Etxeberria.



Ez zuen horrelako arrakastarik inundik inora espero. "La pelota vasca. La piel contra la piedra" Julio Medemen filmografian urrats berriak ireki dituen luzemetraia bilakatu da, baina hori horrela izanik ere, zuzendari donostiarrak ez ditu errez ahaztuko hilabete hauetan jasotako irainak. Euskal Herrian bizi den egoera politikoaren aurrean ikuspuntu pertsonala eskeini nahi zuen Medemek eta filmak irakurketa politikoaz aparte, begirada artistikoa bazuela defendatu izan du behin eta berriro. Politika eta batez ere zenbait alderdi eta mugimendu politikoaren interesak izan ditu aurrez aurre, nahiz eta lan honek zenbait zinemaldietan –Sundance eta Belfasten esaterako– txalo ugariak jaso.

«The first thing I set my mind on doing was to not hate»

D Did you have any idea of what you were getting yourself into when you decided to make a documentary on the Basque conflict?

Actually, no, I didn't because I went into the project with an open mind and the best of intentions, and I found myself in the middle of a lynching. It just shows how much tension and deep-rooted hatred the Basque Country suffers from, and the lack of dialogue.

How did the idea of this documentary come about?

When I left Euskadi and went to live in Madrid in 1996, I have to admit that leaving the Basque Country behind was a relief. I was feeling really stifled by the ideas of people who, with that stubborn, timeworn dignity, only serve to guarantee the perpetuation of the Basque conflict. After a long time distancing myself from all things Basque, especially politics, I found that the escalation of Aznar's ultra-Spanish nationalism was becoming unbearable. After

finishing my movie "Lucía y el Sexo," the totalitarian confrontation against Basque nationalism made me decide to go back and try to write something minimally fair about the Basque conflict. The first thing I set my mind on doing was to not hate, and I thought that if I managed to do that, it would be the best idealization of hatred. And that's how "La pelota vasca" was born.

So you came to Euskadi to start shooting.

That's right. And I had the feeling that after seven years I wasn't completely here, because I didn't really want to be. I was so determined not to feel any hatred, not to go back to the place I left off, that I kept a fearful distance. I mean, instead of plunging into the Basque conflict head first, I tried to take people away from the places they were familiar with and bring them, one at a time, to me. The random choice of backgrounds – woods, fields, mountains, sea cliffs – which helped paint a portrait of the pristine

“

*«Nik denei eman nahi nien
ahotsa, baina, zoritxarrez, ez zen
posible izan»*

“

*«Dokumentalak ez du terrorismoaren
biktimen sufrimendua bakarrik
azaltzen eta badirudi hori pekatu
mortala dela batzurenzat»*



Basque countryside, steeped in feelings as ancient as they are unshakable, came in handy to keep a bird's-eye view and in that way persuade me that I could see hatred without actually hating it.

Some critics say that there are points of view that have been left out.

I wanted to give everyone a chance to express their opinion but, unfortunately, it was impossible. There are no testimonies from representatives of the Partido Popular because they refused, quite angrily I might add, to allow any of their members to be interviewed. Nor does the ETA leadership appear, not even any prisoners, because they didn't want to take part. Both the PP and ETA have single-minded thoughts, and my film is the opposite of single-mindedness. Three independent people who were very important to me also turned down the invitation: Fernando Savater, Jon Juaristi and Cristina Cuesta, member of COVITE, the Association of Victims of Terrorism. It seems that my biggest sin was to make a documentary that did not focus exclusively on the suffering of the victims of terrorism.

As a result of the criticism, you were forced to define yourself politically and you ended up posted a long document on the Internet entitled "S.O.S."

It was a way of defending myself from the bombardment of criticism I received, especially from the right-wing media. I have no qualms about expressing my total repugnance to terrorism, no ifs, ands or buts, and my genuine feelings of solidarity and support for the victims of terrorism. But there are people who think that that isn't enough and scorn my support as if my feelings of solidarity would stain them. I've also never hidden the fact that I don't consider myself a nationalist. Some people will probably think that making this declaration makes me not so bad, but that's not why I say it, since I know there is such a thing as pluralistic, non-violent nationalism. I believe in left-wing policies and simply don't want to see a monochrome Basque society. I think we have to respect the democratic majority and the public should have the right to be asked their opinion. I agree with the words of Bernardo Atxaga at the beginning and end of the documentary. Atxaga talks about the "dream of moving beyond the idea of the 'Basque people' and starting to live in a 'plural Basque city'".

Basque dance with Lisa Corcostegui

Basque club dance groups will be receiving material collected in five CDs to help teachers broaden their repertory and be able to include dances from all regions of Euskal Herria. The dances were collected by Lisa Corcostegui during the Gaztemundu Program in 2002. Lisa, born in North America, heads the Zenbat Gara Dance Ensemble, founded at the University of Nevada, Reno, and currently in residence at the Center for Basque Studies. Some of the dances, including a few specific dances from Araba, have never been seen outside Euskadi.

Catalog of traditional dances

"Jaiak/Dantzak. Calendario de fiestas y danzas tradicionales del País Vasco" (Jaiak/Dantzak. Traditional festivals and dances of the Basque Country) is the name of a book written by ethnographer and researcher Kepa Fernández de Larrinoa, recently published by the Basque Department of Culture. The book is a collection of the dances thriving today in the different regions of Euskal Herria.

The author conducted a survey and a subsequent ethnographic study in order to catalog this area of Basque folklore and include his findings in a single volume. Along with notes on the actual fieldwork, the author provides detailed information on each of the dances: specific characteristics, location, musical accompaniment, history, evolution, people and groups performing the dances, and the festivities tied to each one. The aim of the catalog is to serve as an authoritative resource and tool for spreading knowledge on traditional Basque dance. A total of 1,000 copies were printed in the first edition of the book, which will be available for sale. The publication will also be sent to libraries, dance groups, the Basque dance federation Euskal Dantzarien Biltzarra, and other centers active in music and dance.

Fermín Muguruza begins the last stage of his farewell tour

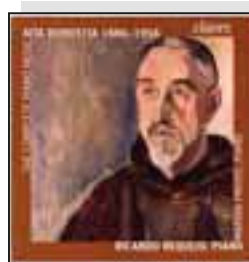
In May, Fermín Muguruza will begin the second leg of his "Komunikazioa Tour," the last tour in his musical career, according to Muguruza. So far he has concerts scheduled in Argentina and Japan and is planning on taking part in the Roskilde Festival in Denmark and the Sierra Nevada World Music Festival in San Francisco, California. Muguruza's participation in the California event, however, will depend on whether the US officials allow him to enter the country. Muguruza will be presenting his latest CD "Inkomunikazioa," a blend of jazz, soul, reggae, ska, funk, hip hop, rock and Basque folk, all with punk-style energy and rebelliousness. With 22 years of experience under his belt playing with different groups – Kortatu, Negu Gorriak, Dut and his current band – he has become one of the most influential figures on the Basque music scene. His lyrics have always spoken of Basque culture – open, permeable and sensitive to the influences of new places and new encounters. His avocation of the so-



called 'third way,' which lies somewhere between violence and constant political rebellion, has brought him problems with the authorities on more than one occasion, including the cancellation of a number of his concerts.

Double CD released of the complete piano works of Aita Donostia

A double CD has just been released containing the complete piano works of Aita Donostia played by Ricardo Requejo and María Pintos. The two CDs were put out by the Swiss record label Claves, which will see to its international distribution. The inauguration ceremony was held on February 27th at the headquarters of the Basque Music Archive, Eresbil, located in Rentería, Gipuzkoa. Eresbil has been involved in the project from the start and is responsible for safeguarding the original manuscripts



of the works.

The first of the two CDs, performed entirely by Irún-born Ricardo Requejo, contains the "Preludios Vascos," 20 pieces written by the Gipuzkoan composer, based on Basque folk melodies. The second record contains Aita Donostia's "Mosaicos" and "Piezas Infantiles," originally written for educational purposes and meant to be played by teacher-student duos. On the CD these pieces are played by Requejo and pianist María Pintos, also a native of Irún.

The High-speed Train, right on track

After twenty years of negotiations, the high-speed train (TAV, in its Spanish initials) linking Bilbao-Vitoria-San Sebastian, and connecting the three Basque capitals with Madrid – commonly known as the "Y Basque" – has finally worked its way out of the quagmire and will become a reality in 2008, according to the Spanish Development Minister.

Although the project was actually approved at the European Council Essen Summit in 1994, disagreements between the Spanish and Basque authorities resulted in delaying the project for two decades. The Basque Government accused the Central Government of showing a lack of interest, while Madrid underscored the countless obstacles in the way of the Basque Y in Euskadi. The TAV, designed by the Basque Government, received criticism from the Basque Autonomous Community itself. Its Y-shaped configuration was questioned by the Chambers of Commerce of Gipuzkoa, Araba and Bizkaia, which proposed an L-shaped route, and eliminating the direct Donostia-Vitoria link. Basque labor unions and ecology groups also raised their voices in protest. In July last year, these groups met with the Minister of Transportation to express their opinion that the project would have major social, economic, agricultural and environmental impact, in addition to a lack of real utility on the part of the general public.

Finally on February 12th, the Council of Ministers agreed



PI: combination transport stations. PTC: ground platforms
 --- Roads. --- Railways.

to make a call for bids on eight sections of the TAV in Euskadi, involving a total investment of 814 million euros. The Spanish Ministry of Development approved the agreement and the Basque Minister of Transportation, Alvaro Amann, praised the decision, bringing a long period of disaccord to an end.

The time stipulated for the high-speed train to cover the distance from Donostia-San Sebastián to Bilbao is 38 minutes, compared to the present travel time of an hour and 38 minutes. The journey from Donostia-San Sebastián

to Vitoria-Gasteiz is expected to take 24 minutes, instead of an hour and a half. And it will take two hours, 15 minutes to travel from Donostia-San Sebastián to Madrid, currently a six-hour train ride.

The connection to France, however, is far from being resolved. According to the French Government, the only realistic plan is the high-speed train line linking Bordeaux and Irún in 2020. Until that time, the TGV (French high-speed train) will continue going to the French border town of Hendaye, but on conventional rails.

New Basque Law on Universities

It took the Basque Parliament three full plenary sessions to approve the new Basque Law on Universities, a law of great importance that comes at a difficult political moment and in a very specific context, since the University of the Basque Country (UBC) is holding elections for its new governing team. The Basque Government currently invests 1.5% of the GNP in the UBC, but, according to Basque Minister of Education Anjeles Iztueta, the goal "is to invest 3% of our GNP in R+D if we want to be on par with the rest of Europe by 2010." At present, 85% of Basque university funding is public, meaning that costs are covered by the taxpayers. This is precisely why the minister is so interested in "being as efficient and responsible as possible when it comes to managing these funds."

José Antonio Aguirre centennial

On March 28th, a sculpture of Lehendakari José Antonio Aguirre was unmasked in Bilbao, and homage was paid to his burial place in Donibane Lohitzune. These two events launched the hundredth birthday of the first Lehendakari of the Basque Government. Present at the event were Aguirre's children, the current Lehendakari Juan José Ibarretxe, and all of the Lehendakaris serving before him – with the exception of the late Ramón Rubial – Carlos Garaikoetxea and José Antonio Ardanza. The statue of Lehendakari Aguirre was placed near the first seat of the Basque Government.

The commemorative events organized around the centennial by the Basque Government will



emphasize the personal profile of Aguirre, his political career person, and his pro-European facet. The next issue of EUSKAL ETXEAK magazine will take an in-depth look at the life of Lehendakari Aguirre.



Aintzane Aguirre

Aintzane Aguirre: discretion, a rule to

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Lehendakaritzan
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Aintzane Aguirre.
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da erraz ahaztuko
emakume honen
goxotasuna eta
borondate ona.



Goiko argazkian, Aguirre sendia 1941. urtean New Yorkerako bidean.

For fifteen years, Aintzane Aguirre, eldest daughter of the first Lehendakari of the Basque Government, worked from the Office of the Presidency, responding to countless questions and concerns from Basques around the world with her special natural elegance. But not everyone knew, or even imagined for that matter, what was behind the last name "Aguirre." Discretion has always been her motto and even now, when the commemorative events revolving around her father's 100th birthday are in full swing, she has opted to remain in the background. Only the people who know her personally knew who the woman was who pulled the cloth off the statue of José Antonio Aguirre in Bilbao and who stood next to Lehendakari Ibarretxe in the picture. But neither the TV commentator, nor the caption below the photo in the newspaper even mentioned her.

live by

Aintzane Aguirre had a very close relationship with her father and was brought up in the United States and Paris. When she was a girl she had the opportunity to meet some of the most important political and intellectual figures of the time. That was the fortunate side of a difficult and painful life in exile.

In 1988, considering her vast cultural background and familiarity with different areas, she joined the Directorate for Relations with Basque Communities as a consultant. And there she worked for all those years, always with a smile on her face and always eager to tackle any questions or problems, including translations and matters of protocol.

From her corner of the Office of the Presidency, Aintzane Aguirre has been one of the bridges between Euskadi and Basque communities around the globe. Far from posing for the picture seen here of her talking on the telephone, this image captures perfectly her daily tasks and demeanor at the office. We thought it only fitting to celebrate Aintzane's retirement with a few photographs. We would have liked to talk with her and ask her to tell us a few stories about her past and present. But once again, discretion won out over renown for Aintzane Aguirre.

Last February 6th a retirement reception was held at a Gasteiz restaurant to bid Aintzane Aguirre a warm good-bye. She was decorated with the "Langile finari" ribbon and a number of Basque Government employees who worked with Aintzane over the years – both government officials and secretaries alike – honored her with a gift she won't easily forget: a landscape painting of Parque de la Florida, the park she walked through every day on her way to work – discretely and with a smile on her face.



Otsailaren 6ean, Aintzane Agirreri eskeinitako omenaldiaren zenbait irudi.



INMA SHARA *Orchestra conductor*

Inma Shara urrutiko izena badirudi ere, Inmaculada Sarachaga, 31 urte dituen Amurrioko andre baten izen deiturak dira. Orkestra zuzendari bera, izena "internazionalizatu" behar izan omen zuen kanpoan hain arrotz gera ez zedin.



«Conducting also requires a certain amount of personal maturity»

Choosing "Shara" as a stage name for Inmaculada Sarachaga had nothing to do with trying to sound chic; it was a mere question of practicality. "When I was studying in other countries people always had problems with my last name. I was constantly having to repeat it. Finally, I decided to submit four names to the SGAE [Spanish Society of Authors Composers and Publishers] and they authorized Shara. It was simply a matter of saving time and energy."

Shara has conducted in several countries from Singapore to Germany, and heads the Camerata Enrique Jordá, a recently created string orchestra consisting predominantly of musicians from the Basque National Orchestra. She recently returned from Germany, where she was guest conductor for the Vogtland Philharmonic Orchestra, and will be joining them on tour to a

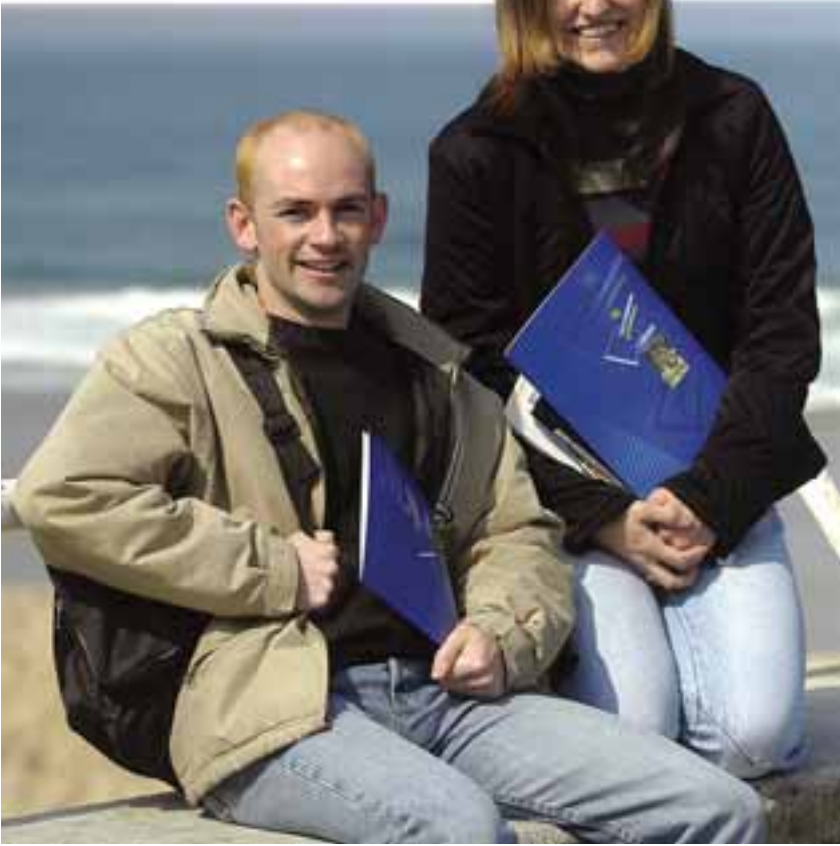
number of Spanish cities.

Inma Shara's upcoming plans also include conducting for the Israel Symphonic Orchestra, one of her lifelong dreams. In her opinion, the Israel Symphonic "is remarkably good at sight reading, and with such talented musicians you can achieve the ideas you have in your head quickly and in a disciplined fashion. It's like a music-making machine and you can tell that the musicians enjoy what they're doing."

Given her age, it is a challenge for Shara to pick up the baton and take charge of an orchestra. But she explains that she "studies a piece and then studies it again the following year and that way I see how I'm progressing. Conducting also requires a certain amount of personal maturity. You have to be able to internalize the music and apply personal experience to the compositions. What each person

learns in life is also very important when it comes to performing. I'm enthusiastic and have a lot of time ahead of me, but I need to sow before I can reap."

Inma Shara has worked under Alexander Rahabari, Sir Colin Davis and Zubin Mehta, each of them making an important contribution to her development and training: "Rahabari is a man with an intense sense of musicality, he's obsessive when it comes to performing; perhaps his artistic skills are more developed than his actual technique. It's just the opposite with Mehta, who's technique is so exquisite that you can see the music in his arms as he embraces the orchestra; even when the orchestra is silent you can read the music in his arms. And Davis is the epitome of elegance, calm and relaxed with the orchestra, and a gentleman who knows how to bring out the best in the musicians."



LOREA AGUIRRE AND JAVIER ZABALA

*Euskal Herrirantz
scholarship holders*

*«We're lucky to be able to take advantage
of this training experience»*

**Lorea Aguirre eta Javier Zabala
Argentinan jaiotakoak dira
baina euskaldun sentitzen diren
hoietakoak ditugu. Guregana
Euskal Herrirantz programari
esker iritsi dira, Eusko
Jaurlaritzak kanpoko
euskaldunen artean heziketa
profesionalean hobetzeko
sortutako proiektuari esker.**

Javier and Lorea didn't know each other before they started out on a project which would take them to Donostia for at least two years. They aren't from the same city, but they do have several things in common: they both come from Basque families, they're both members of Euskal Etxeak and they're both interested in completing their vocational training.

Lorea Aguirre was born in Rosario, Argentina, 27 years ago and

this is her third time in Euskadi, so adaptation came easy to her. "The first time I came was in 1980 with my family. Then I came back through the Gaztemundu program in '98, which is when I really got to know what life was like here, although it was never completely foreign to me since I used to watch ETB international on TV.

Javier, born in Villa María, Argentina, had also visited Euskadi before. But he felt like he "needed to add to his experience and values."

Basque society hasn't surprised Lorea because, in her words, "all of the values that I see here are also the ones I was raised with at home." The only thing that is different to her is the pace of Donostia. "In Rosario all the stores and businesses don't close down in the middle of the day."

Javier, who earned his degree in Business Administration and held a job in Argentina, doesn't miss anything he left behind. "Well, I do miss my family, but I got in touch my 'other' family in Lekeitio and Eibar and they took me in as if they'd known me all their lives." "Here," says Javier, "the people might seem a bit cold at first, but not when they get to know you. After that, you find some really noble, fine people." He shares an apartment with five others and gets along fantastically with the landlord.

Lorea, a member of the Rosario Euskal Etxea, found out about the scholarship program through her club and didn't hesitate to apply. "I'd already studied three years of Business Administration and was working. I mean, I wasn't desperately looking for a way to get out of the country." Both of them agree that the worst thing is having lived through two Basque winters, but realize how lucky they are to have been granted scholarships. They also know that they can return home and that they were not forced into exile like their parents were when they left Euskal Herria for Argentina.

When they finish their studies this year at Instituto Zubiri, Javier and Lorea – and all the other grant recipients – will spend three months apprenticing at a company before they decide whether to stay on in Euskadi or return to Argentina. Javier has his mind made up: "If I can find a job in my field, I'm staying."



 **ARGENTINA, URUGUAY**

The Speaker of the Basque Parliament attends events commemorating Lehendakari Aguirre

Last March, Juan María Atutxa, Speaker of the Basque Parliament, initiated in La Plata an official tour of Argentina and Uruguay. He was invited by the Uruguayan Basque Centers in celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the birth of José Antonio Aguirre. Juan María Atutxa's tour also included a visit to three other Basque Centers (La Plata, Laurak Bat in Buenos Aires, and Euzko Etxea in Montevideo), where he took part in a series of events organized in celebration of a hundred years since the birth of José Antonio Aguirre y Lekube, first Lehendakari of the Basque Government. It was in Uruguay that Aguirre was able to reveal his true identity after having to wear a disguise and use false documents to escape the Gestapo in Nazi-occupied Germany. Aguirre arrived in Montevideo on a ship from Sweden as José Andrés Alvarez Lastra and resumed his real identity in the Uruguayan capital, where he has a street named after him.

At the Laurak Bat Basque Center Atutxa was entrusted with a plaque donated by the Federation of Basque Centers of Argentina to be placed on the commemorative statue of Lehendakari Aguirre in Bilbao. The Speaker of the Basque Parliament also gave a conference on the political legacy of José Antonio Aguirre,



which was transmitted by videoconference to all of the Basque Centers in Argentina.

In terms of institutional contacts, Atutxa met with the Speaker of the Congress and the Senate of the region of Buenos Aires. A collaboration protocol was drawn up, which will enable the Basque and Argentinean institutions to share information regarding fiscal regulation and to open a period of joint reflection on the procedures used by both institutions to strengthen the legislative transparency and citizen participation. The members of Argentinean

parliament expressed great interest in continuing discussion on the proposal to reform the Basque Statute of Autonomy. Next July a committee comprising members from both chambers of the Argentinean parliament will return the visit and see first hand how government institutions are organized in Euskadi. Some of the experiences discussed at the previous meetings will also be included in their agenda.



COLOMBIA

Columbian businessmen visit Euskadi

A delegation of Basque businessmen, headed by José Vicente Katarain and Rafael Martín (photo on right), visited Euskadi to establish lines of collaboration with an eye to promoting business and cultural projects. It just so happens that the delegation, made up of ten highly-qualified businessmen, is part of the Governing Board of the Colombia-based Euskal Etxea. The idea came about during last year's World Congress of Basque Communities in Vitoria, when it was decided to make an effort to strengthen bonds between Basques around the world. "Our mission was to bolster business and trade relations between Colombia and the Basque Country," said José Vicente Katarain.

The delegation had a tight agenda concentrating on two main areas: to promote trade agreements and encourage cultural projects on both sides of the Atlantic. With regard to the first area, meetings were held with IDOM, the Bilbao engineering, architecture and consulting firm that designed the plan for the historic center of Bogotá. The



delegation also met with SPRI to promote infrastructure projects in the capital, and with the Mondragón cooperative MCC to strengthen some of the aspects associated with Colombian cooperatives.

As for the area of culture, the delegation of businessmen met with the Basque Deputy Minister of Culture, Gurutz Larrañaga, with the idea of promoting several projects considered of major importance by members of the delegation. The projects discussed included an annual Basque film festival in Colombia, ongoing participation by theater groups in the International Theater Festival held at

Easter in Colombia, and setting up a stand at the South American Book Fair to include literature produced by Basque authors and publishers.

José Vicente Katarain summed up the delegation's mission with these words: "The Colombian Euskal Etxea and its Governing Board – whose members are all businessmen – is currently promoting a number of cultural and business projects. We've come to Euskadi to find out how interested Basque businessmen are in investing in such efforts and in strengthening the cultural ties between the two countries."

BASQUE CENTERS



ARGENTINA



The Basque Department of Education and the Argentinean Ministry of Education sign cooperation agreements

"Teach someone how to fish and he'll eat for a lifetime." That is the idea that led the Basque Government and the Argentinean Ministry of Education to sign a collaboration protocol regarding technical training. The Minister of Education for the Basque Government, Anjeles Iztueta, in a recent eight-day tour of several Argentinean cities, delivered materials so that students can use them as hands-on learning tools.

The cooperation agreement for technology and training signed by the Argentinean Ministry of Education, Science and Technology also involves a teacher exchange program. This will enable teachers in Argentina to become familiar with the teaching methods used in Euskadi, while at the same time allowing Basque instructors to teach the technical aspects of the machinery delivered. After



signing the agreement, the Basque delegation gave a conference entitled "Euskadi, país de aprendizaje" (country of learning), at the office of the National Institute of Technical Education (INET), which was transmitted via satellite to all of the Basque Centers in Argentina and to INET partner schools.

Along with a full agenda of official meetings, the Basque

Minister of Education also had the chance to learn about the different activities carried out by the Basque communities in Argentina. On the first day, Anjeles Iztueta visited "Colegio Euskal Echea" in Llavallol, Buenos Aires, where she was given a tour of the 100-year-old institution that now has an enrollment of over 1,600 students.



Traveling photography exhibition by Paulino Oribe

A traveling exhibition of the work of Basque photographer Paulino Oribe will be on display at a number of Basque Centers in Argentina through the middle of this year. Dedicated to Basque immigrants who settled in South America to make their living as herding livestock, the exhibit is entitled "Basque Shepherders in Río de La Plata." Below is a list of the itinerary and dates of the exhibit: Bragado: February 7th through 23rd; Chivilcoy: February 24 through March 1st; Mendoza: March 2nd through 8th; Laurak Bat Basque Center, Buenos Aires: March 9th through 15th; General Roca: March 16th through 22nd; Bahía Blanca: March 23rd through 29th; Chacabuco: March 30th through April 5th; Junín: April 6th through 12th; Arrecifes: April 13th through 19th; Pergamino: April 20th through 26th; San

Nicolás -April 27th through May 3rd; Rosario: May 4th through 10th; Santa Fe: May 11th through 17th; Chaco: May 18th through 24th; Cañuelas: May 25th through 31st; La Plata: June 1st through 7th; Mar del

Plata: June 8th through 14th; Tandil: June 15th through 21st; Azul: June 22nd through 28th; Las Flores: June 29th through July 8th; Río Cuarto: July 6th through July 12th; and Villa María: July 13th through 19th.



BASQUE CENTERS

Announcement of subsidies

Deialdak

There's still time to apply for one of the **Summer Camps** organized by the Basque Department of Youth! The second application period opens on April 26th for the 10 summer camps held in Euskadi. For more information, visit www.gazteaukera.net/auzolandegiak



May 13th is the application deadline for subsidies aimed at cultural tours to countries in which Basque Centers are located. Application forms should be sent to: Presidencia del Gobierno-Lehendakaritza. Secretaría General de Acción Exterior, c/ Navarra 2. 01007 Vitoria-Gasteiz. For more information visit www.euskadi.net/euskaldunak



Financial aid will be available again this year for Basque Centers to attend to the welfare needs and cases of extreme poverty of eligible members of Basque Communities. The application deadline is May 20th. For more information contact a Basque Center or log on to: www.euskadi.net/euskaldunak



DFOTO

"Fundación Centro Ordóñez-Falcón" was the driving force behind DFOTO, the first International Contemporary Photography and Video Fair in Donostia-San Sebastián. The fair was held from April 15th through 18th at the Kursaal Conference Center, spotlighting 38 specialized guest galleries, 18 of which from different places in Europe.

The monographic fair was a showcase for the year's most interesting work in photography and video, an art form that is playing an ever-increasing role in the world of contemporary art and in the exhibition programs of museums and galleries.

For four years DFOTO has been, and hopes to continue being, a place where the general public can become familiar with

the work of the foremost artists in this area. It also sets out to provide an environment for private and corporate art collectors and to generate a space for sharing experiences and information in the hope of consolidating the contemporary photograph and video market.

The Fundación Ordóñez-Falcón is considered to be the best in Spain and among the most outstanding photography collections in the world.

Wines of Euskal Herria

The Gourmand World Cookbook Awards selected "Vinos de Euskal Herria-Euskal Herriko Ardoak" as the World's Best Educational Wine Book 2003. The book, published by the Basque Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, is written in both Spanish and Basque. Author Mikel Garaizabal faced stiff competition in Barcelona, the scenario of the international final. "Vinos de Euskal Herria-Euskal Herriko ardoak" includes information about the different areas in which quality Basque wines are produced.

"Tabula Bacalao"

"Tabula bacalao," promoted by Guipuzkoan chef Andoni

Luis Aduriz from Restaurante Mugaritz, also went home with a prize from the Gourmand Cookbook Awards in Barcelona 2003, this time in the category of Best Fish and Seafood.

Published by Montagud Editores, the book offers just about everything you ever wanted to know about codfish. Information is provided by some 80 authorities from a wide variety of fields, including literature, biology and anthropology. The book also contains historical anecdotes and a generous section with recipes created by the world's greatest chefs.

When "Tabula bacalao" took the award, special mention was made to the fact that the book was published in Euskara and Spanish, and that the authors' copyright proceeds will be donated to Intermón Oxfam and its campaign to develop and promote fair trade.

Readers of this issue of Euskal Etxeak will find one of Andoni Aduriz's recipes for cod in our "Gourmet Corner."



euskal etxeak



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EUSKO JAURLARITZA



GOBIERNO VASCO



Asier Abaunza Robles, zuzendariaren idazkaria, Iera Azkarate de la Cruz, eta Urko Apaolaza Avila, bekadunak.

Agur bero bat

One of the conclusions that came out of the III World Congress of Basque Communities held in Vitoria-Gasteiz last July was the need for a change in the content of the two EUSKAL ETXEAK publications to enhance communications with members of Basque communities abroad: "Completely redesign the magazine Euskal Etxeak and the online newsletter Euskal Etxeak Virtual (graphic design, wider choice of material for a broader audience, etc.), for the purpose of enhancing the publications' effectiveness and scope, and with input from both organized and unorganized Basque communities."

The magazine you are now reading is the outcome of the suggestions made at the World Congress. After a call for tenders among Basque experts in the field of communications, a decision was made to restructure and improve not only the image but also the actual content of both publications to include subjects we feel will be of general interest to the entire Basque community around the world. We have also included sections geared toward enquiries and suggestions, and would particularly like to see young people make use of these areas so that we can find out what they really think.

As part of our revamping efforts, we'd like to point out an aspect that affects our own internal structure. Three new people have now joined our

team. Asier, Urko and Iera (pictured above) have university studies who will undoubtedly provide a breath of fresh air and their own perceptions of the present and future of our country. We realize that understanding the past is important to our daily work, but we must also keep our sights set on the future and tackle the exciting challenges that lie ahead.

I'm sure that many of you who are reading this article will remember the ATZEUS survey conducted several months ago now. This department is genuinely concerned about the more unfortunate members of the Basque community, especially those in extreme need, and has been working in this area since 1999. However, in dealing with social welfare programs, we always come up against a roadblock: the lack of objective information, including people's names, addresses and their actual state of affairs.

The ATZEUS survey was designed precisely to collect this information. Mailings were sent out to 25,000 people belonging to Basque communities abroad; 12,780 people filled in the survey and sent it back to us. Nearly 2,000 survey-takers claimed to have a monthly income of under 200 US dollars. These and other data have helped us gain a better understanding of the situation facing members of the Basque community. Based on this

information, a Decree was passed last fall to provide subsidies for cases of extreme poverty. A resolution dated February 20th 2004 was published in the Official Gazette of the Basque Country on March 24th of this year. Subsidy announcements are made on a yearly basis. Applications should be submitted to a Basque Center, making sure to properly complete the forms and send them in before the deadline specified in the corresponding resolution. Please note that these are subsidies, not pensions and such aid is granted to people facing situations of extreme poverty.

I think it is important to recall that one of the most significant conclusions that came out of the III World Congress last year was the need to renovate the Basque Centers with an eye to the future. In doing so, the Congress passed a motion that each Basque Center should update their member database, with each member being as an individual, not an entire family. This allows us to obtain more precise information on the characteristics of the people associated with Basque Centers (children, teenagers, young adults, seniors, etc.), and is essential when it comes to establishing the objectives for subsidy programs and other actions.

Lastly, I would like point out that in addition to revamping the magazine's image and content, we've decided to make a greater effort in reaching the entire Basque community abroad. Anyone who is interested in receiving the magazine EUSKAL ETXEAK or the online newsletter EUSKAL ETXEAK VIRTUAL absolutely free of charge, should send us their regular mailing address and e-mail. We hope that young Basques the world over will join us in this challenge for the future by sending in their suggestions and ideas. Let us know what you think so that we can do the best job possible in trying to meet your expectations.

JOSU LEGARRETA BILBAO
Director of Relations with
Basque Communities



Andoni Aduriz

Restaurante Mugaritz

Otzazueta baserria • Errenteria [www.mugaritz.com]

Andoni Aduriz, dreamer, romantic and superb chef, is also an impassioned researcher in the world of gastronomy and eager to experiment with ingredients at this restaurant Mugaritz, a refurbished farmhouse in the middle of the Guipuzkoan countryside in Errenteria. Born in Donostia, 32-year-old Andoni has been heading the team at Mugaritz for five years, helping his guests to understand that with many dishes, enjoyment can be more emotional than physical. Andoni Aduriz's innovated cuisine has earned the restaurant a Michelin star.

COD IN STOCK CONCENTRATE WITH CRUSTY BREAD, PLUMS, BRAISED TOMATOES, CROSNES AND HOT SPICY PARSLEY

PREPARATION:

For the stock concentrate: Wash the desalted cod skins and put them in the water to boil. When the water starts boiling, turn down the heat and let it simmer until only a quarter of the water is left in the pot. Strain the broth and add salt. Set aside.

For the soup bread: Toast the bread slices in the oven at 200°C. When they are deep golden brown in color, but not burnt, remove them and place them in a large casserole dish. They do not have to line the entire bottom of the dish since they will swell when the stock is poured over them. Cover the bread with the liter of stock, just so they are barely covered. Cook over low heat until the bread takes on a semi-gelatinous texture (between an hour and hour and a half). Carefully drain and remove the bread and allow to cool. When completely cooled, cut the slices in 3 x 1.5 cm rectangles. Set aside.

For the prunes: Put the red wine, cinnamon stick and bay leaf in a pot on the stove. Boil for 2 minutes and remove from heat. Let the wine sit for 3 minutes and add the prunes. Allow them to steep in the wine overnight. Drain and cut the prunes in half, width-wise, taking care not to break them as you remove the pits. Set aside.

For the braised tomatoes: Put a pot of water on the stove to boil. Meanwhile, cut a small hole in the top of the tomatoes. When the water comes to a boil, scald the tomatoes for 10 seconds. Remove them and place them in a bowl with water and ice cubes. Remove and drain. Peel the tomatoes, put them in a bowl, and season them with a pinch of salt, a pinch of sugar, a dash of black pepper and the olive oil. Place them on a baking tray and put in the oven at 80°C for approximately 4-5 hours. The liquid will cook out and they'll wrinkle up

like raisins.

For the crosnes: Cut off the ends. Rub them with the water and rock salt mixture to remove impurities. Sauté for a few seconds in a tablespoon of olive oil.

For the arugula: Wash the leaves carefully in cold water. Drain thoroughly and set aside until just before serving, when the olive oil is added.



For the parsley mixture:

Wash the parsley in cold water. Drain thoroughly and chop. Cover with the olive oil and allow to soak overnight. The next day, add the salt, cheese, garlic and cayenne peppers to the parsley and grind all together.

Crush until the mixture takes on a smooth texture and push it through a fine-meshed strainer. Test the mixture for salt.

For the cod steak: Heat the garlic olive oil to 65°C. Once it has reached the right temperature, add the pieces of cod and let them cook for 5 to 6 minutes. The middle should be hot but raw. This process should be done at the last moment right before serving.

FINISHING TOUCHES

Heat the cod stock concentrate.

Drain the cod steaks.

Put the bread slices, crosnes, tomatoes and prunes on a small baking dish. Heat gently in the oven.

When the cod is ready, remove from oil, drain, and place one steak in the middle of each plate. When the garnish is hot arrange around the piece of cod. Pour the hot stock concentrate over the cod and garnish.

Dress the arugula leaves with olive oil and place on top of the cod steaks. Top with a spoonful of the parsley mixture.

INGREDIENTS

(Serves four)

For the stock concentrate:

1 kg. cod skins
1 liter water

For the soup bread:

4 thick slices of crusty bread
1 l. beef broth

For the prune mixture:

4 non-pitted prunes
250 ml. red wine
A sliver of cinnamon stick
1 bay leaf.

For the crosnes (Japanese artichokes):

8 crosnes
Water and rock salt for washing
1 tablespoon olive oil

For the braised tomatoes:

8 cherry tomatoes
Salt
Sugar
Black pepper
3 tablespoons olive oil

For the arugula:

8 leaves arugula (rocket)
A few drops olive oil
Salt

For the hot parsley mixture:

1 sprig parsley
3 dl. olive oil
15 g. aged Idiazabal cheese
1 clove garlic
3 cayenne peppers

For the cod:

4 desalted salt cod steaks, 150 g. each
1 l. garlic olive oil

*For each plate:

2 halved prunes
2 rectangles crusty bread
2 tomatoes
2 leaves arugula
2 crosnes
1 cod steak
4 soupspoons stock concentrate
1 soup spoon hot parsley

Photo album



Photograph from Paulino Oribe's traveling photo exhibit

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