

Issue 72 Year 2006

# euskal etxeak

## Euskara mundura!



OFFICIAL  
STATEMENT  
BY THE  
LEHENDAKARI  
ON THE ETA  
CEASEFIRE

# AURKIBIDEA / TABLE OF CONTENTS



euskal  
exeak

Issue 72. Year 2006 urtea

## AUTHOR

Eusko Jaurlaritza-Kanpo  
Harremanetarako Idazkaritza  
Nagusia  
Basque Government-General  
Secretariat for Foreign Action

C/ Navarra, 2  
01007 VITORIA-GASTEIZ  
Telephone: 945 01 7900  
euskaletxeak@ej-gv.es

## DIRECTOR

Josu Legarreta Bilbao

## COORDINATION AND EDITORIAL OFFICE

Kazeta5 Komunikazioa  
info@kazeta5.com

## PHOTOGRAPHS

Basque Government Archive,  
HABE Archive

## EDITOR

Eusko Jaurlaritzaren Argitalpen  
Zerbitzu Nagusia  
Servicio Central de Publicaciones  
del Gobierno Vasco

## LAYOUT AND DESIGN

Didart

## PRINTING

XXXXXXXXXXXX

ISSN: 1579-4229

## GAURKO GAIAK / CURRENT EVENTS:

learning Euskara around the globe

**3 • Aurkezpena** Patxi Baztarrika,  
Deputy Minister for Linguistic Policy of  
the Basque Government

**4 • Interview with Kinku Zinkunegi,**  
coordinator of Euskara Munduan Plan



**9 • To the samba beat: the experience in São Paulo**

**10 • University status for the Basque language**

**11 • Germans get wrapped up in Basque language and culture**

**12 • Euskara looks back on thirty years of history**

**14 • Aisa: another step toward integration**

**15 • José Félix Azurmendi, director of EITB International**

**17 • Interview with Andrés Urrutia, Chair of Euskaltzaindia**

**19 • A country on the move:** Official statement by the Lehendakari on the ETA  
ceasefire

**20 • A country on the move:** The Basque Government presents its foreign  
affairs strategy



Jesús de Galíndez

## EUSKADITIK:

**21 •** The Lehendakari attends the swearing-in ceremony  
for Chile's new president, Michelle Bachelet

**22 •** The Lehendakari regards human rights essential for  
coexistence in Georgia

**23 •** Jesús de Galíndez: martyr for freedom

**24 •** Basque Vice President underscores the "balanced  
model" for economic growth in Euskadi

**25 •** Ballet Biarritz performs in Los Angeles

## EUSKAL GAZTEAK MUNDUAN

**26 •** Pedro Oiarzabal and Olivia Bidaurreta Antxustegi

## EUSKAL ETXEAK / BASQUE CENTERS

**28 •** NABO leaders visit Euskadi invited by the Directorate for Relations with  
Basque Communities

**29 •** A delegation from the Department of Justice, Employment and Social  
Security visits Argentina, Uruguay and Bolivia

**30 •** Javier Madrazo signs an agreement with Venezuela Public Television

**31 •** Basque spirit in Havana

## Aurkezpena

PATXI BAZTARRIKA

**B**asque society and government agencies have made a huge effort over the past twenty-five years to revive Euskara. The Basque language in Euskadi today has made considerable advances compared to its circumstances in the 1980s. Twenty years may seem like very little time indeed, but the fact of the matter is that in 1981 only one out of every five Basque citizens spoke Euskara, whereas twenty years later a third of the population now speaks the language. This spectacular leap forward means that there are now 200,000 additional Euskara speakers.

Moreover, the increment in the bilingual population is across the board in terms of age, although it is important to point out that the younger the age group, the higher the percentage of bilinguals, clearly influencing the transmission of the language. 60% of the population between five and fourteen years of age is bilingual.

Euskara has reached new spheres and levels; it is now commonly heard at home, in the community, the media, government, business and commerce, the workplace and in academia. However, knowing the language and actually speaking it are two different matters, the latter sorely lagging behind. Therefore, it is vital to continue working towards promoting the use of Euskara if we want to become a truly bilingual society.



## Opening letter

Deputy Minister for Language Policy of the Basque Government

the future "Euskadi Institute." Approved by the Basque Parliament, the mission of the new agency will be to promote Basque language and culture abroad, and will therefore absorb the activities we have been responsible for until now.

The language assistantship program in American and European universities falls within the framework of "Euskara Munduan," a program administered by the Basque Department of Culture through the independent institute HABE. Euskara Munduan is in charge of developing and certifying Euskara courses for adults taught beyond the borders of Euskal Herria. There are currently thirteen universities in Europe and the Americas that have included Euskara and Basque culture in their curriculums.

Together with university programs, Basque language and culture classes offered at Basque clubs are key to ensuring the future of our cultural legacy. We recognize and greatly admire the efforts made by Basque centers around the world in spreading an appreciation for Basque language and culture. We want the Basques of the diaspora, the men and women who make up our "eighth province," to know that Basque society is proud of their efforts and determination. And we want to work hand in hand to reach out and build the future of our language and culture, no matter where we are in the world.

# Euskara reaches out

Euskara, just like any other language, belongs to those who speak it, in addition to forming part of the cultural heritage of all humankind. At the dawn of the third millennium languages have gone global. At the beginning of the sixteenth century, in the first book published in the Basque language, Bernat Etxepare wrote "euskara jalgi hadi mundura" (Euskara, open up to the world). Today his words ring true more than ever before. The old borders have disappeared; today's world is an open place in which all of humanity benefits from interaction. This is why the Basque Government contributes to the promotion of Euskara and Basque culture both within and beyond our borders. Among other activities we want to strengthen collaboration with Euskal Etxeas to spread the Basque language and reinforce the university language assistantship program under way.

These activities, promoted by the Basque Department of Culture, are slated to come under the umbrella of

**KINKU ZINKUNEGI** *coordinator of Euskara Munduan Plan*

## *A sign of identity for Basque communities*

**1989-1990 ikasturtean Ardanza lehendakariak sortutako “Argentinan euskaraz” proiektua finkatuz joan da eta beste herrialde batzuetara zabaldu da. 2003an, Miren Azkarate Kultura sailburuak hiru eskakizun beteko zituela hitzeman zuen: bertako irakasleak trebatzea, irakasleak eta ikasleak material didaktikoz hornitzea eta aktibitatea diru-laguntzen bidez finantzatzea.**

The seed for Euskara Munduan, a plan created to bring Euskara classes to the Basque centers, was planted in Argentina in 1989 by a group from the Basque community who presented their idea to Lehendakari Ardanza during a visit by the former Basque president. Little by little other Basque centers around the world began adding their names to the list, including countries from Latin America, the United States, Canada and Australia, as well as clubs based in Spain, Paris, London and Rome. Sixteen years after the launching of the plan, originally called “Argentinan Euskaraz,” several thousand people have learned Euskara outside of Euskal Herria and the project is more active today than ever before.

Program coordinator Jose Franzisko Zinkunegi, whose work falls under the auspices of the Institute for Basque Culture, Language and Adult Literacy, HABE (Helduen Alfabetatze eta Berreuskalduntzerako Erakundea), has closely watched appreciation for Euskara spread to all corners of the world. Familiar with the actual conditions and circumstances of Basque communities abroad, his insight helps shed light on the process involved in reviving a language.

### **Young people are the driving force in Argentina**

“In 1989 there were no longer any Basque immigrants in Argentina keeping the language of their forebears alive,” said Zinkunegi. “Euskara was lost and a group of young people from the Basque center told Lehendakari Ardanza that they needed support to revitalize it. That was the birth of Argentinan Euskaraz, a program which took its first steps in 1990. It began with a three-month *barnetegi* program (live-in Basque language school) in the village of Macachín, La Pampa, taught by two teachers from Euskal Herria.



Seventeen Argentinians signed up as students, and after the experience was through they went back to their Basque centers to teach beginning Euskara classes to 175 students.”

From 1990 to 1995 efforts focused on training Euskara teachers so they could respond to the demand in Argentina. In 1996 a second phase got under way. It was decided that more intensive training was needed so that the Argentinians themselves would be equipped to take over the process, although the program would still be funded from Euskal Herria. “We set ourselves a goal: by 2000 Argentina would be completely autonomous in terms of teachers,” said Zinkunegi.



Above and below are pictures taken at one of the *barnetegis* organized in Argentina.

Argentinan,  
hirugarren eta  
laugarren  
belaunaldiek  
egin zuten  
eskakizuna.

"We began bringing people to Euskal Herria when they reached level 6 and here they would continue their language studies in *barnetegis* for periods of up to three months. As they became more comfortable with the language, we would provide them with methodology resources and basic teaching skills so they could teach classes at their Basque centers. You have to keep in mind that these people were volunteers, not trained teachers, and they all came from different backgrounds and professions.

The funny thing with the Argentinians was that the demand for learning Euskara came from a group of young people. They were third- and fourth-generation descendants of Basque immigrants who felt the need to revive the language of their ancestors. Zinkunegi went on to explain that was "common for first-generation immigrants to place little importance on their own language. They downplay its importance because what they really want is for their children to learn the language spoken in their new country. Euskara was a language that stayed at home around the dinner table. In Argentina all of the people are 'hyphenated' Argentinians, meaning they're either Italian-Argentinians, Polish-Argentinians, Basque-Argentinians... They're all Argentinians, but somewhere in that confusing welter the Basque-Argentinians insist on asserting their 'Basqueness.' They feel the need to let they world know they're Basque. The elements that survived as signs of identity are family names and folklore, but the language was lost. But the younger generations have shown great interest in reviving the



language, and since these are the people now at the helm, it's really encouraging.

The number of people enrolled in Euskara classes in Argentina rose from 175 in 1990 to 273 adults and 91 children in 1995. Now, in 2006, the number is expected to exceed one thousand counting all the different Basque centers in the country.

### From the Southern Cone to the United States

At the 1999 World Congress of Basque Communities held in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Basque centers from other countries had the opportunity to learn all about the Argentinian experience and join in on the project. Chile and Uruguay were the first of the Southern Cone countries to sign up. Also key to further expansion of the project was the NABO conference held in 2001. "The Basque organizations in the United States were interested in offering Euskara classes and invited us to present the teaching materials we used in our courses. The upshot of that initial contact was laid down two years later at the 2003 congress. The aim was clear: for 75% of the NABO partner organizations to be set up to offer Basque language classes by 2007. That was the challenge they put forth, and from that point on what had previously been called Argentinian Euskarak became known as Euskara Munduan. Teaching Euskara in Basque centers now took on a global dimension.

The people who began to take interest in Euskara in the United States were the children and grandchildren of





camp program in which children aged 8-16 learn about Basque culture and customs.

### Fulfilled promises

At the 2003 congress Basque Minister for Culture Miren Azkarate took on the commitment to respond to the Basque centers' demands with regard to Euskara. Her pledge was to make sure local teachers received training to eliminate the dependence on Euskal Herria; to provide teachers and students alike with educational materials; and to finance the effort.

At the congress Azkarate also promised to adapt the teaching materials to local needs. "For the first few years the materials used were the same as those used in Euskadi for Euskadi. In Argentina they worked pretty well because the language of instruction was Spanish. Sometimes the references were out of context and the materials had to be adapted to fit the circumstances, conditions, people and geography, etc. of their own country, but in general terms the texts were valid. But in the United States the material just didn't work, so we had to change it and use English as

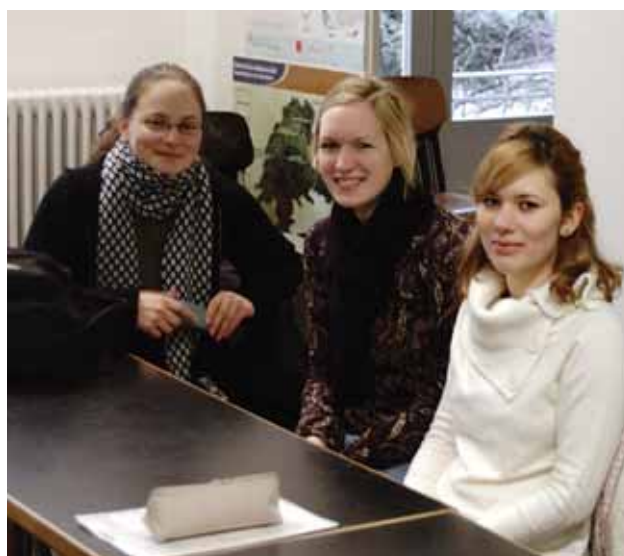
**Otsailaren 17an "Euskararen eguna" ospatu zuten San Franciscon, NABOk 18an eta 19an ospatu aurretik.**

the language of instruction. The commitment we took on in 2003 was to adapt the first three levels to English and French, which is now complete. The first course of the Boga program, that is the first 300 hours, are now available in Euskara-French and Euskara-English. This has made it possible to use Boga in the United States, Sydney and London, as well as in French-speaking communities including Paris and Montreal".

### Internet and distance learning

In 2003 "Euskara Munduan" started up a new system for training instructors, spurred on by the introduction of new technology in daily life. "This phenomenon," added Zinkunegi "has brought about a change in the influx of information so that nowadays Basque emigrants are much more closely connected to their homeland than ever before. These changes have also made Basque centers more open."

Since the project was initiated other formats and media have been created to help students learn from home without the need for a teacher to be physically present. That was when we decided it was time to focus on distance learning.



Students in Frankfurt

**2005eko urtarrilean,  
25 pertsonaz osatutako taldea  
bildu zen Boisen “Boga”  
programa eta auto-ikaskuntza  
kudeatzeko.**

“Our website is designed as a virtual campus, with a teacher from the Lazkao *barnetegi* who designs a new set of exercises every week aimed at the 40 new instructors this year from Argentina, Uruguay and Chile. The local instructors receive the work every Monday, organize their time however they see fit, and send the exercises back to us when they’re finished.

Oral expression, which is not available online, is reinforced with 2 two-week *barnetegis* in Argentina in January and July, coinciding with school vacations. The people who sign up for the distance learning program agree to participate in the *barnetegi* since they are considered an essential vehicle in achieving fluency. The third course using this new system of teaching began in March and, according to Zinkunegi, has exceeded all expectations. “The level the teachers have acquired is much higher than we had ever imagined.”

The offer remains open to any country or federation of Basque clubs interested in training their own local Euskara instructors. In fact, a number of other countries have already decided to take advantage of the program. In Mexico courses are offered at the Basque center in Mexico City, which has installed Boga at their facility. The same holds true for Venezuela, at the Caracas and Valencia centers, and in Puerto Rico. In Brazil, classes are offered at the Euskal Extea in São Paulo. “In January and February 2005 the Boga system was set up at the Brazil center and 30 students signed up. Former university professor Estebe Ormazabal made the São Paulo experience possible by offering to teach the Euskara classes at the center. The most recent addition to the Euskara Munduan program is the Basque club of Montreal.”

The experience has not only been confined to the Americas. In Europe the new Basque center in Paris now has 80 students learning Euskara; in London, although the Euskal Etxea is located in a small office, classes are taught at the Metropolitan University as part of their Basque studies center; in Rome courses have been offered for three years, and the number of students has grown so much that the UPTER (Università Popolare di Roma) decided to create a



**Euskal Liburutegia in Frankfurt.**

department of Euskara in collaboration with ACE (Asociacione Culturale Euskara). In Spain, Madrid and Barcelona had a long tradition of independently organized Euskara classes, all of which have now come under the umbrella of Euskara Munduan. All levels are available in these two major cities. Courses are also taught at the Basque centers in Mallorca, Murcia, Valladolid and Valencia.

### **Basque libraries**

In association with the Euskara Munduan program, a number of libraries specializing in Basque studies are supplied with reading materials in the same fashion as any other public library in Euskal Herria. Around 300 volumes a year are earmarked for Mexico, Buenos Aires and Frankfurt. In Mexico agreement was signed with the National Library of Mexico, and in 2005 another agreement was signed with the Federation of Argentinian-Basque Entities (FEVA). The actual library is located at the Laurak Bat Euskal Etxea in Buenos Aires but a library loan service is available through any other Basque center in Argentina. In Frankfurt a central Euskal Liburutegia has been set up to serve all of Germany. These libraries contain the entire body of Basque literature, plus a collection of reading materials on Basque culture in the language of the country.

# To the samba beat



Students of the São Paulo Euskal Etxea.

**Estebe Ormazabal borondate handiko gaztea da, eta ziur dago euskara eta euskal kultura zabaltzea bere biziko muga dela. São Paulo hirian aurkitu du jarraitzailerik, eta eskola bakoitza “jai bat, energia injekzio bat” dela adierazi du.**

Estebe Ormazabal, a determined young man keen on spreading Basque culture and language, has decided to make this one of his life projects. He has found he followers in the city of São Paulo, where each of his classes are, in his words, “a fiesta, a shot of energy.”

“I came to Brazil in 1996 and came in contact with the São Paulo Euskal Etxea through a good friend of mine, Xabier Harluxet. Teaching people about Basque culture had never been taken very seriously, so got together and organized an event about our culture focusing mainly on the language. With help from the Basque Government we hired an Euskara teacher – Mikel Lasa Altuna – and together with the Department of Non-Indo-European Languages of the University of São Paulo (USP), organized the first course on Basque language and culture. We were amazed at how popular it was. Thirty people enrolled in the class and a lot of people were interested in the initiative. At the time we weren't able to keep the program going. But in 2005 I came back to São Paulo and at the first meetings held with the people in charge of the Euskal Etxea we agreed that starting up classes again would be a good way to attract new members, a way of bringing fresh insights to our community. Besides learning Euskara and having contact with our culture, people would be encouraged to take part in the other activities organized by the Euskal Etxea. And, who knows, in the long term we might even turn out our first Brazilian *bertsolari txapel*!”

Classes began in August 2005 at ‘Casa Catalunya,’ which was rented for a symbolic amount, and in September 2005 a new group got started at the University of São Paulo.

Since the São Paulo Euskal Etxea is located on the outskirts, the center is used exclusively for social events and parties for students. “For the time being we only offer beginning level classes using traditional classroom methods: *mintza praktika* (conversation), talks on subjects related to Euskal Herria. Classes are generally three to four hours, two days a week, every other week. The average number of students in each class is 25. We also have the online self-paced language program BOGA offered through HABE.

Estebe Ormazabal is always amazed at the wide array of reasons why people are drawn to these classes: “We have Basques that came here after the Civil War who for political reasons never had the chance to learn their own language – our oldest student, Elías Echegoyen, is 80. We also have young descendants of Basques who've never had any contact with the Basque Country. Some of the people sign up for sentimental reasons, because their husbands or wives are of Basque ancestry. There are even linguists and a couple of crazies.”

Most of the students are between the age of 25 and 40, and 20% are over 60. By gender, 60% are male and 40% female.

Ormazabal's personal opinion is that the experience has been very positive: “I can't even begin to express how excited and proud I am to be teaching these people. I know what the language situation is like in our own country and how difficult it can be for Basque speakers in Euskal Herria. I also know how unwilling some people are to make an extra effort and that there is still prejudice against speaking Euskara. My students are a shining example of passionate people who appreciate their culture, people who respect those who are different, and who know what it means to work hard at something you love. For me it's an honor to be involved in this project.”

# University status for the Basque language

**Europa osoan banatutako hamahiru unibertsitatek eta Amerikako kontinenteak euskara eskolak ematen dituzte ikasgeletan, Eusko Jaurlaritzako Kultura Sailak sustatutako irakurlego programei esker. Helburua euskararen eta euskal kulturaren ezagutza nazioartean zabaltzea da.**

A total of thirteen universities in Europe and the Americas offer Euskara classes in their classrooms as part of university language assistantship program sponsored by the Basque Department of Culture to promote Basque language and culture at the international level.

Lorea Bilbao, advisor to the Basque Department of Culture and coordinator of the university language assistantship program claims that much progress has been made since the 2003-2004 academic year when the first agreements were signed between the Department of Culture and a couple of universities. "In the immediate future," she added "the language assistantship program will probably be one of the many activities of the Euskadi Institute - expected to be set in motion next year - aimed at promoting Euskara and Basque culture beyond our borders."

The Euskadi Institute, the first agency of its kind in the Basque Autonomous Community, will be responsible for promoting and communicating a positive image of Euskadi and Basque society, and fostering an understanding of Euskara and Basque culture. Until the Institute is implemented, the university language assistantship program is seeing to both tasks. "What we would like to see happen," added Ms. Bilbao, "is for Basque language classes taught at universities and other centers for higher education around the world to become part of their regular curriculum through the creation of permanent study programs, Basque studies centers or even university chairs."

Chile was the first country to take advantage of the program, and now it is available in four Chilean universities: the Pontifical Catholic Universities of Santiago and Valparaíso, the University of Chile in Santiago and the University of Chile in Valparaíso. The University of the Republic in Montevideo, Uruguay, and the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) have also signed the agreement. Added to the list is the Basque Studies "Minor" created as a result of an agreement between Boise State University in Idaho, the Basque Department of Education, Universities and Research, and the General Secretariat for Foreign Action.



**Thirteen universities in Europe and the Americas offer Euskara classes.**

In Europe, Germany stands out for its two experiences in teaching Euskara at the university level: the Freie Universität in Berlin and the Euskal Ikaskuntzen Zentrua (Center for Basque Studies) both signed agreements with the Basque Department of Education, Universities and Research, and the General Secretariat for Foreign Action. Students at the University of Helsinki in Finland, the University of Warsaw in Poland and the UPTER University (Università Popolare di Roma) in Rome also have the chance to learn Euskara. In Spain, the Basque language is offered at the University of Valencia.

"The students interested in these programs," added Lorea Bilbao, "don't necessarily have the same profile, nor are they all descendants of Basques, as some people might think. There are all kinds of people with a wide variety of interests and reasons for enrolling in the classes, some for purely academic reasons, others due to similarities between Euskara and their own languages. Other people are fascinated by the mystery that shrouds the origin of the Basque language or the fact that it manages to remain so strong while being a minority language in its own country. Some people are also attracted for political and social reasons, perhaps influenced by the Basque companies operating in the area, or even for tourism-related reasons.

According to Lorea Bilbao, the goal now is to "consolidate the programs already in motion, assess their progress and introduce any improvements considered necessary with an eye to extending the program to areas strategic for disseminating the Basque language and culture, and therefore familiarizing people with the cultural and social environment in Euskadi today."



Basque civilization class at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt

## Germans get wrapped up in Basque language and culture

Spearheading the Frankfurt experience is Martin Petrus, an enthusiastic teacher – self-defined as half Catalanian, half German – who explained how the initiative of bringing Basque language and culture to the German city was developed. He discovered that on a personal level this activity helped him “to adapt and reconcile his German heritage with the multicultural circumstances around him.”

“All of it began with an Agreement of Cooperation signed between the Basque Departments of Education and Culture, the Basque Secretariat for Foreign Action and Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, more specifically, the Institutes of Comparative Languages, Social Sciences and Romance Languages,” Petrus said. “The agreement,” he added “contained a series of goals, including the creation and maintenance of a central Euskal Liburutegia for Germany; interdisciplinary courses with Basque subject matter incorporated in student study programs; the creation and publication of methods for teaching Euskara to Germans; support for the publication of scientific and/or literary papers on Basque-related subjects; and reinforcing all of these activities with cultural events such as Basque film screenings, etc.”

Since the program got under way, a great deal of activity has been taken place. “So far we’ve offered two courses per semester, put together a radio program and Basque film sessions, and created the first Basque grammar for Germans. A book is also being written, and literary presentations have been set up in connection with the 2003, 2004 and 2005 book fairs. And a gathering of German experts on Basque studies was held at the Expolingua Fair in Berlin in 2005. All of these efforts now fall under the German Center for Basque Studies, now officially named the ‘Euskal Ikaskuntzen Alemaniako Etxea.’ Right now we’re working with the Basque Government to draw up a new agreement to ensure that our activities continue and to



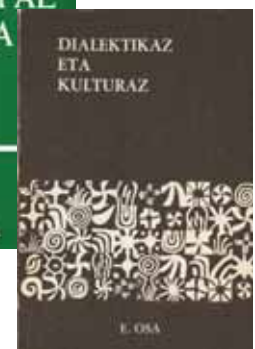
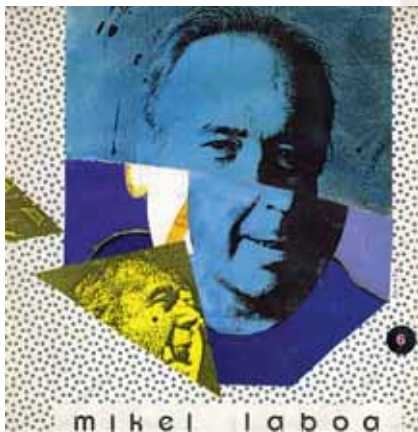
gradually extend the scope of our Basque studies in Germany in cooperation with other Basque-German scientific and cultural organizations.”

The courses began in summer 2003 with an introductory course on Basque culture, history and civilization. Euskara classes have been offered since the 2003-2004 academic year. The students are divided into levels: beginning and advanced classes, and classes that focus on reading, which includes Basque literature and texts on different aspects of Basque culture.

Students meet for two hours a week, and there is a written exam at the end of each semester. The classes are held at the University, at the institutes mentioned above on the new Westend Campus, and at the Institute of Comparative Languages. More women than men enroll in the classes. Most of the students are in their early twenties, although some are over fifty.

Petrus explained the reasons why German students are interested in Basque language and culture: “Some students sign up to earn credits toward their degrees, since the classes are part of the institutes’ curricula. In the case of Comparative Languages students, clearly they’re interested in the fact that Euskara is the oldest and perhaps the ‘most unusual’ language in Europe. One of the radio programs we broadcast explores Basque ties in Germany. The people in our Basque community are thrilled to take part and, in a certain sense, ‘show’ others what it means to be Basque. In other words, beside our regular university activities, *euskaldunes* from the community like to get involved. And of course the contacts already made in other cities and regions of Germany, Austria and Switzerland demonstrate the increasing interest in ‘things Basque’ on the part of Basques residing in Germany, or of Germans with personal, cultural or business ties to the Basque community.

Gerra zibilaren ostean euskara debekatzearen eta jarraitzearen ondorioz, “Kristau ikasbidea” bihurtu zen neska-mutilentzako euskarazko liburu bakarra. Geroago etorri ziren argitalpenak; lehenengoak atzerrian editatutakoak. Era berean, gerora etorri ziren helduak eta larriak alfabetizatze ahaleginak, literaturako nahiz musikako lehenengo urratsak idazle, musikari eta abeslari gazteekin.



## Euskara looks back on thirty years of history

MIKEL ATXAGA

One of the repercussions of the Spanish Civil War was to ban and persecute Euskara, making “Kristau ikasbidea” the only children’s book available in Basque. In time new books and magazines appeared, the first of which were published abroad. Then came efforts to teach children and adults to read and write Euskara, followed by the first forays in literature and music by young writers, musicians and singers.

After the Civil War the panorama for Euskara was one of prohibition and harassment, and the *euskaltzales*, champions of Basque heritage, had either been killed, imprisoned, silenced or had fled the country. However, at church the priests began again to deliver their sermons and teach catechism in Euskara. For the boys and girls of the post war period “Kristau-ikasbidea” (the catechism) was the only book they were allowed to read in Euskara. All of the other books were burnt, hidden or banned.

The first publications were printed abroad: “Urrundik, bake oroi” (1945) and “Gudarien egiñak” (1946) by Telesforo

de Monzón; “Joañixio” and “Bizia garratza” (Irazusta, 1946 and 1950); “Urte guziko meza eta bezperak” (Orixe, 1950); and “Sopokel-en antzerkiak” (Zaitegi, 1946); the magazine series, “Euzko Gogoa” (1950-56, Zaitegi, Orixe, Andima). and other publications such as “Anaiak,” “Itxartu,” “Euzkadi,” “Argia,” “Euzko Deia,” “Alderdi,” “Galezca,” and “Ekin.”

Before the 1950s nothing was published in Euskara in Hego Euskal Herria. The first publication was “Egan,” sponsored by the “Real Sociedad Bascongada de los Amigos del País” and the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa (1948), followed by “Jakín,” put out by the Franciscan monks at Arantzazu (1956), and “Zeruko Argia” by the Capuchin monks (1960). The first books to be published were “Arantzazuko Poema” (1949) and “Ama-semeak” (1951) by Salvatore Mitxelena; “Euskaldunak” (Orixe, 1950); “Alosko Torrea” (1950) and “Joanak, joan” (1955) by Jon Etxaide; “Noni eta Mani”, (P. Muxika, 1952); “Euskal Mila Olerki Eder” (X. Onaindia, 1954); “Hamabost egun Urgain’en”, (J. A. Loidi, 1955); “San

Agustinen Aitorkizunak" (Orixe, 1956); "Leturiaren egunkari ezkutua" (Txillardegi, 1957). Many of these books were published by the publishing house Itxaropena.

The only way to learn to read was by actually reading, and those who dared to write did so by submitting articles for publication in magazines and journals. Very few people managed to become fluent in Euskara with such limited resources. Grammars or books that had been written before the Civil War were driven underground.

### The impetus takes hold

To promote Euskera and Basque literature, Vice Lehendakari Joseba Rezola created "Sabindiar Batzain" in Donibane Lohizune (Saint Jean Luz) in 1950; the *hizketaldiak* emerged in 1953 and in 1956 EKA (Euskal Kulturaren Alde) with participation by Manu Sota, José Miguel Barandiaran, Manuel Irujo, José Antonio Aguirre, Telesforo Monzón and Ibiñagabeitia, among others.

In 1942, Elvira Zipitria started up the first underground *ikastola*; in 1956 *gau-eskolak* (night schools) were started in Donostia to teach Euskera to adults, and a year later the Benedictine monks followed suit in Lazkao. In 1953 María Dolores Agirre returned to Iztunde Ikastola to teach Euskera to adults and to promote Basque-language theater arts. Around the same time, the radio station "La voz de Guipúzcoa" (the voice of Gipuzkoa) began broadcasting a few programs in Euskara. Other radio stations sprung up, such as Segura (1956), Arrate (1959) and Loiola (1961).

Xabier Peña teaching classes in Bilbao (1949), and would later publish "Euskal irakasbide laburra"; EIA (Euskal Ikasle Alkartasuna) was created by Luis Mari Retolaza, Josu Arenaza, Alfonso Irigoien, and in 1970 X. Peña published "Iniciación del estudio del euskera".

At the same time important gatherings were being organized: Eusko Ikaskuntza Basque Studies Society) in Baiona, (1954); Euskaltzaindia in Arantzazu (1956), and in Paris 400 people showed up in 1956 at the First World Basque Congress.

Those were also the years of the first bertsolari championships. The first one was held in Tolosa (1945), and others, sponsored by Euskaltzaindia, followed in 1958 in Iparralde, Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa; in 1960 the first Euskal Herriko Txapelketa Nagusia (Bertsolari Championship of Euskal Herria) was staged.

Newspapers in Euskara appeared at newsstands under such titles as "Anaitasuna" and "Agur" in Bizkaia, "Goiz-Argi" and "Zeruko Argia" in Gipuzkoa, "Herria" in Iparralde and "Príncipe de Viana" in Navarra. These were the "schools" for learning to read and write in Euskara, and where such writers as Ricardo Arregi, Ramón Saizarbitoria, Arantxa

Urretabizkaia, Amaia Lasa, Lurdes Iriondo, Xabier Lete, Andu Lertxundi and Bernardo Atxaga got their start.

While the phenomenon of *ikastolas* spread outward from San Sebastián to other Basque capitals and towns, musicians like Lurdes Iriondo, Benito Lertxundi, Xabier Lete, Antton Valverde, and the groups Ez dok Amairu, Oskarbi and Oskorri used their voices and music to promote the cause of Euskara.

### Children, teens and adults

To help children learn to read and write "Umeen deia" was founded in Navarra by the Franciscan monk Torres Ibañez, Aita Felipe Murieta, in 1959, and published until his death in 1966. In Gipuzkoa the magazine "Zeruko Argia" included a comic strip called "Pin-Pin" from 1960-64. José Antonio Retolaza created "Kili-Kili" in Bizkaia, a magazine read by youngsters throughout Euskal Herria and still published today. It came out in mimeograph form from 1966-68 and in print in 1977. The publishers of "Kili-Kili" organized an annual *jaialdi*, a hugely successful event that drew in up to 9,000 children.

The ideas kept coming and eventually *gau-eskolak* were set up so that young people who left school at an early age could learn something more than just Spanish and math, especially young men before they entered military service. The same name was later used in 1966 for adult reading and writing classes set up in different locations, but now under the supervision of Euskaltzaindia, on a proposal from Ricardo Arregi. The first exercises involved reading assorted texts and studying a limited amount of grammar to reinforce writing skills. When the first grammar books became available they were then included as class materials: "Euskera ire laguna", (Patxi Altuna, 1967); "Euskára Irati bidez" (Jon Oñatibia, 1965), and in standard or unified Basque (*Euskera batua*), "Oinarrizko euskara" by Imanol Berriatua (1968), based on the methods used in Hebrew schools.

Ricardo Arregi died in a tragic car accident in 1969 at the age of 27. By then the *gau-eskolak* were well-rooted and soon began being known throughout Euskal Herria as *euskaltegiak* under the sponsorship of Euskaltzaindia. Many of these schools opted to use the methods developed by Brazilian educator Paulo Freire, who believed that teaching people to read and write raised their social and political awareness. To coordinate all of the Basque language schools an umbrella group called AEK (Alfabetatze-Euskalduntze Koordinakundea) was founded in 1977, dominated primarily by the so-called "abertzale left."

In 1981 the Basque Government created HABE (Helduen Alfabetatze-Berreuskaldutze Erakundea), the Institute for Basque Culture, Language and Adult Literacy.

# Aisa: another step toward integration

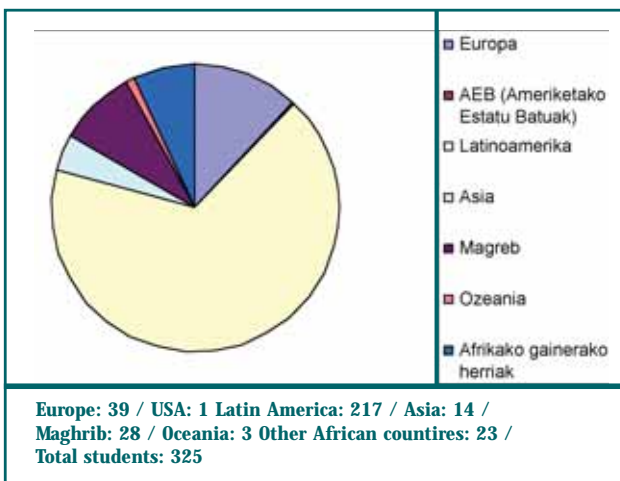
**HABE material didaktikoa sortzen joan da irakasleentzat eta ikasleentzat zazpi hizkuntzatan: euskaraz, gaztelaniaz, frantsesez, ingelesez, arabieraz, bereberrez eta txineraz. Helburua, etorkinak euskarara gerturatzea.**

Immigrants entering Euskadi have the opportunity to learn Euskara through Aisa, a project jointly sponsored by the Department of Language Policy, HABE and the Office of Immigration. The idea is that by giving newcomers an opportunity to learn the language, culture and customs, they will find it easier to integrate into Basque society.

For this purpose HABE has created different types of learning materials: books for students and teachers, two videos and an easy-to-use visual dictionary in seven languages: Euskara, Spanish, French, English, Arabic, Berber and Chinese. At the same time a series of initiation courses have been set up, with 325 people taking part in 2005. Altogether a total of 32 courses have been taught in 21 locations.

The chart below shows that the majority of students come from Latin America, mainly Colombia, Bolivia and Ecuador. In terms of Africa, most of the students taking part in the courses have been from Morocco.

Begoña Martínez Monasterio, the person responsible



for the Aisa teaching materials, sees the experience as very positive "The opinions collected from all three groups involved in the project - students, teachers and local governments - are interesting and very enriching," she said, adding that "it's a program that helps build bridges between different cultures. It's not only a matter of other people learning about our culture; the Basque people are also realizing that we have a lot to learn from them."



For the teaching staff it has also been a new experience since they have had to take an entirely new approach to teaching Basque culture and language. For instance, in a single group there can be students who speak many different languages.

For many of the students it is often difficult to make it to class on a regular basis due to difficult working conditions, varying work shifts, having to change their place of residence, etc. Nevertheless, in HABE's judgment these Euskara courses "open up a new world for the students, if only to help them recognize street signs and posters, in addition to bringing them closer to Basque culture. "It's one

step further toward integration."

## Etorkinen ahotsa, voices of the world

"Etorkinen ahotsa" is a multicultural publication that has been distributed free of charge since 2003. The magazine's twentieth issue came out in February. Although published mainly in Spanish, articles are also written in other languages, including Euskara.

Esther Isasa, the person in charge of the "learning Euskara" section, explained how the magazine has developed. "At first we included short simple sentences such as greetings. We also printed articles on Basque culture, but in Spanish, as well as short conversations in Euskara in the form of vignettes. It's all oriented toward familiarizing people with Euskara and encouraging them to make use of the euskaltegis."

Until now there has been only one edition for the whole Basque Country, but different versions are expected to be published in each of the provinces: Araba, Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa.

[www.habe.euskadi.net](http://www.habe.euskadi.net)  
[www.vocesdelmundo.org](http://www.vocesdelmundo.org)

**JOSÉ FÉLIX AZURMENDI***Director of EITB International****“The virtual Basqueland is a reality”***

**EiTBk hitzarmena sinatu zuen New Yorken JumpTVrekin, hain zuzen, Internet bidez irudiak zabaltzeko munduko enpresarik kualifikatuena. Horri esker, lan-kontuak edota ikasketak direla eta sare honetan komunikatzeko modua izango dute, baita arbasoak atzerrira joan zirelako kanpoan direnek ere. Informazioa trukatzeaz gain, bizimodua ere alda diezaiekeen zerbait.**

**E**iTB signed an agreement in New York with JumpTV, the world's most experienced online television network. Basques residing around the globe for work or study, or because their ancestors immigrated to other countries, will now have a communication network, not just news broadcasts, that may very well change their lives.

Today nobody has the slightest doubt that the future of digital media is with the Internet. Nobody doubts that the television receiver will very soon cease to be an inanimate, one-way device that only serves to reproduce outside programming. Well, the future is already upon us. José Félix Azurmendi is the director of EiTB's international television division and the person in charge of brokering the deal with JumpTV. The agreement was signed a few days ago by managing director Andoni Ortuzar not far from New York's Wall Street in the financial heart of the United States - and the world. Azurmendi has agreed to explain to Euskal Etxeak readers what all of this really means.

**What equipment do you need to watch television via this system?**

A computer, and if you want the same quality as you get on your conventional signal television, you'll need broadband.

**But isn't that what is already available on the regular EitB website?**

No, it's completely different. At eitb.com we can listen to decent quality radio broadcasts, but it doesn't give us high-quality television programming. And, by the way, if you'd rather watch a program on the television screen, it's easy to connect your computer to the TV.

**How does one subscribe and what does it cost?**

The regular offer made by JumpTV, which has over 100 international pay channels, costs just under ten dollars a month. We're negotiating a deal which would include multi-signal packets and subscription options for different periods of time. "Canal Vasco" is already accessible. The signal is delivered to Montreal from the Hispasat satellite and is connected to the Internet through JumpTV's own network, the best available today for online broadcasting. Very soon - probably by the time this magazine comes out - we'll also be able to see "ETB-Sat," which offers half of its programming in Euskara, broadcasting its signal from London. The easiest way to see how it works is to visit our web site at eitb.com and/or at www.jumptv.com.

**In other words the novelty is that everyone around the globe can have access to the ETB signals?**

Everyone will be able to access the signals, whether they live in Los Angeles, Korea, Capetown or Australia. And everyone will be able to download videos on demand. In other words, for a ridiculously low price, if not totally subsidized, they'll have access to special children's programs, which they can save and watch again, as well as any of the thousands of hours of programming we have in our archives, including pelota finals, for example, or movies.

**That's new, isn't it?**

Totally new. It's completely revolutionary. It will allow anyone who has a computer to view any of the images



*"Everyone will have access to these signals, whether they live in Los Angeles, Korea, Cape Town or Australia"*



*"Soon we'll be able to see these images on our cell phones and other formats"*

we include in the network via the broadband information highway run by JumpTV. JumpTV subscribers are already using the company's infrastructure to enjoy complete TV programming, such as soccer matches – the game between Australia and Uruguay, for instance, attracted 70,000 simultaneous online viewers without a single hitch through VTV. And the Japanese and Chinese are crazy about the tango classes now broadcast from Buenos Aires. You can't even imagine some of the things made possible with this.

Soon we'll be able to see these images on our cell phones and other devices. And it'll be sooner rather than later. Basques working or studying in different countries around the world, or people whose ancestors immigrated to other places, will now have access to an entire network, not just news broadcasts, that can change their lives. The idea of a virtual Basqueland is now a reality. Naturally, when it comes to the Internet, it doesn't matter where you are. You're neither "in" or "out." We're all part of the same community, and this network will benefit those of us living in Euskal Herria as much as it does people elsewhere, even when they're on the road. The

password used to access services follows the subscriber wherever he or she goes.

We'll explain how the system works little by little. New subscription options will be made available as the project moves forward. But right now the mother who called the other day from the North American heartland, whose young son is learning to speak Euskara along with English already knows that every Saturday and Sunday morning her son can wake up to *marrazki bizidunak* (cartoons). And Guipuzkoans working in China or Brazil already know that they can watch the *teleberri* newscasts live or record them to watch at their leisure. All of them can now watch Canal Vasco, with almost all Spanish programming, or ETB-Sat, half in Euskara.



**ANDRÉS URRUTIA** *Chair of Euskaltzaindia*



**Euskaltzaindiak, euskal hizkuntzaren akademiak, estatutuak aldatzeko erabakia hartu du, urgazle izena hartzen duten euskaltzainak ugaritze aldera. 24 ziren lehen, orain, gehienez, 32 izango dira. Hala, euskal gizarteko sektoreek tokia izango dute, eta 1919. urtean jaio zen erakundeari perspektiba berriak emango dizkiote.**

## *New blood invigorates Euskaltzaindia*

**E***uskaltzaindia*, the Royal Academy of the Basque Language, has decided to amend its by-laws to increase the number of full members from 24 to a maximum of 32, and to make room for different sectors of Basque society to bring fresh ideas and new perspectives to the institution founded in 1919. The new members will be incorporated gradually, explained Andrés Urrutia, Academy Chair since December 2004, while at the same time vacancies due to the death of members will be filled in the same manner as in the past.

The new by-laws will maintain the lifetime appointments for full members but will provide for special emeritus or supernumerary status for members when they reach the age of 75, without limiting their rights and obligations. The only thing they will no longer be able to do is delegate their vote to another member should they be absent from a plenary session.

Changes in the by-laws will enable four new *euskaltzainas* to become full members the first year, and another two the following year, without prejudice



to the two new *euskaltzainas* appointed to fill the seats of recently deceased Academy members Juan Mari Lekuona and Patxi Altuna

### We're not sitting in an ivory tower

Andrés Urrutia, born in Bizkaia, notary public by profession and Academy member since 1997, is presiding over a period of change in the internal structure of the organization, backed by fellow members. In December 2004 he took charge of the Academy with the firm resolution that the changes should come about gradually without tarnishing the institution's scientific and cultural prestige. He also proposed to improve external communications and revamp the public image of the Academy and its members. "People have the idea that all of the members are elderly and sit in an ivory tower without really knowing what they're doing. Fortunately, that's not how it is. At Euskaltzaindia we work on a daily basis in close contact with Basque society –we are not isolated– so that the language can serve as an instrument for communication among all Basques."

When Andrés Urrutia first accepted the position of Chair, he proposed three objectives in the areas of funding, research and internal organization. At the end of his first year, he says his impression is positive and that his expectations have either been met or are well on their way.

"With regard to funding, an agreement has been signed between the Basque Government and the three provincial governments. The arrangement already in place with the Government of Navarra will continue, as will the agreement linking the Academy with agencies in Iparralde. In the area of research, after 20 years of compilation work we have completed the General Basque Dictionary with over 125,000 words and phrases in 16 volumes. We've launched other projects, such as the Dictionary of Standard Basque, and have improved the Linguistic Atlas of Euskara, drawing up linguistic maps based on surveys on words and word morphology. The atlas makes it easy to see the geographical distribution of different variants of the same word or grammatical structure. Euskaltzaindia has also begun working on a corpus of Basque personal and place names, and we are making the most of the Internet and new technologies. As for the third area, internal organization, we are on the verge of reforming our by-laws to increase the number of Academy members from 24 to a maximum of 32."

The work of Euskaltzaindia is not ad-lib. It requires careful thought and continuous dedication in all areas. After all, the Academy's slogan "Ekin eta jarrai" (work and continue) is not there for nothing. Euskaltzaindia's Research Section studies Basque grammar rules and terminology to build a unified literary language. The job of defining regulations is the responsibility of the entire Academy, which meets in monthly sessions. This task is a key element for the standardization of a language. The Watchdog Section is in charge of promoting the use of Euskara and safeguarding the linguistic rights of the speakers of the Basque language. It puts forward publications, exhibitions, conferences, classes, prizes and awards, and organizes research groups and activities, as well as any other initiative aimed at defending and promoting the language.

"The role of Euskaltzaindia today is not so much to teach Basque language and culture, but rather to encourage those who do learn the language to make sure it is not just a symbol, but a means of communication, a part of our identity, and unrelated to any sort of political ideology.



*The work of  
Euskaltzaindia is not  
ad-lib. It requires  
careful thought and  
continuous  
dedication in all  
areas.*

## ACADEMY MEMBERS

There are three different types of members, all appointed lifetime positions:

**FULL MEMBERS.** All full members have voting and decision-making powers. Under the new by-laws there will be up to 32. Currently there are two women and the rest are men. Among them are representatives of all of the dialects of Euskara. Over half of them hold university positions.

**HONORARY MEMBERS** Prominent researchers and/or persons who have made significant contributions to the Basque language over their lifetimes. Currently there are 19 honorary members.

**CORRESPONDING MEMBERS** Currently there are 131 engaged in the different working commissions: Grammar, Dialectology (linguistic atlas), Onomastics, Literature, Unified Euskara, Lexicography, Phonology, and in the Watchdog Section, Corpus and Promotion. There are also three other so-called structural commissions: Publications, Azkue Library and Economic-Legal commissions. Experts in different areas also sit on these commissions alongside full and corresponding members.

## Official statement by the Lehendakari on the ETA ceasefire

**Lehendakari Juan José Ibarretxe issued an official declaration on behalf of the Basque Government in response to the ceasefire declared by ETA. In it he underscored his satisfaction at the fact that ETA has finally paid attention to Basque society. He also expressed his hope for the future, reaffirmed his responsibility as Lehendakari and**

**emphasized his unwavering commitment to using purely political and democratic means to solve the conflict. He also appealed to all of the political parties and ideologies in Basque society to consider the process of peace and political normalization as their own in order to achieve a definitive reconciliation.**

**W**e are very satisfied that ETA has finally listened to Basque society. "As Lehendakari and in the name of the Basque Government, I want to express the excitement felt by Basque society by the ETA permanent ceasefire." These were the opening words of Juan José Ibarretxe's March 22nd declaration on behalf of the Basque Cabinet of Ministers in response to the news of the ceasefire declared by ETA.

"Basque society," he went on to say "calls for the complete and definitive cessation of all forms of violence and firmly demands the respect of human rights and freedoms for all people. Accordingly, it is ETA's obligation never again to frustrate the hopes of our people, and it is everyone's obligation, political parties and institutions alike, to create a universal and irreversible peace.

Ibarretxe said that the permanent ceasefire declaration by ETA "opens a window of hope that nothing and nobody should close" and that it calls for everyone to work together "to open a definitive peace process based on a negotiated end to the violence until which time it has completely disappeared. We must all be able to sincerely acknowledge all of the victims in lay the foundations for reconciliation in Basque society." The Lehendakari said that he had offered the Spanish Primer Minister, José Luís Rodríguez Zapatero, his and his government's total disposition in helping pave the way for the peace process. "I have voiced my commitment to support a loyal and sincere dialogue on the political issues linked to the Normalization Process."

He also expressed his unwavering commitment to finding political and democratic solutions to the conflict "based on the political nature of Euskal Herria today, and with the utmost respect for the fundamental principle of democracy: that political matters must be resolved by the legitimately chosen representatives of the people." He made public appeal to all of the political forces and groups in Basque society and announced the beginning of contacts with representatives from all of the Basque political parties to evaluate the new optimistic scenario



Lehendakari Ibarretxe during his declaration.

and propose the start of a preliminary phase of dialogue without exclusions.

"Society must feel that it is part of the process of peace and political normalization," said the Lehendakari. "It cannot just shrug if off as 'a matter of politics'. All of the men and women who live and work here must take part in the process."

"What brought us where we are is the insistence of society," added Ibarretxe. "Society opened the door to hope and it will be Basque society that will keep us from turning back; society will demand that agreements be reached, and demand that we move forward, participate and decide."

The Lehendakari concluded by saying "It's time to silence arms once and for all, to create a universal and irreversible peace. It's time to define the basis for the reconciliation of Basque society. It's time to work to reach a normalization agreement. It's time for Basque society to freely decide its own future in peace."



The strategy approved by the Basque Cabinet of Ministers has been published in book format.

## The Basque Government presents its foreign affairs strategy

**The document, printed in book format, covers the historical background and current situation, as well as a plan of action for future foreign affairs. It was elaborated by the General Secretariat for Foreign Action with contributions from different Basque Government departments and other economic and government stakeholders.**

In light of increased globalization, all areas of politics take on an international dimension, rendering foreign policy essentially an extension of domestic policy. This calls for a broad base of support and a vision of the future that include any and all relevant actions if Euskadi is to gain a strong position in Europe and the rest of the world.

The goal of the Basque foreign affairs plan is to create a foreign policy, based on our own unique character that promotes the name of Euskadi around the world. We want to develop a comprehensive Basque foreign policy in which all institutions and areas of competence are included so that the Basque Country can gain international recognition instead of just being a place some people have heard of. To meet this goal, we must promote the presence of Euskadi in the decision-making bodies of the European Union in which Basque interests are at stake and develop an active policy of cross-border cooperation in accordance with European Union guidelines. We must also have the instruments available to inform the outside world of the actual situation in Euskadi, and have access to international forums and bodies appropriate for defending and promoting the economic, cultural and institutional interests of the country.

Among the objectives of the foreign affairs strategy for Euskadi to directly participate in all of the European Union institutions and bodies where it has areas of competence or specific interest, and in the international order as a whole. The document sets out to position Euskadi as an active subject in both Europe and the international arena. To achieve this goal Euskadi must promote its image abroad by developing a congruent policy of communication that underscores the aspects in which Euskadi has become an international gold standard: health care, solidarity, sustainable development, gender equality, and policy on industry. To this end, efforts will be made to encourage relationships and the sharing of experiences with international, national and regional institutions that have interests in common with Euskadi.

### Historical background

Throughout history Basque society has had a long tradition of interaction with the rest of the world at the highest levels through government institutions and representatives of economic, social or cultural organizations. As early as 1937 the first foreign offices were established under the first Basque Government headed by Lehendakari Aguirre. Later, forced exile under the Franco dictatorship stepped up foreign relations and activities.

Today, integration in the European Union and increasing globalization have had a direct impact on the daily lives of Basques. In 1988 Euskadi's presence in European institutions was made official with the creation of a Basque office in Brussels. Since 1996 it has formally operated as the Delegation of the Basque Country in Brussels. The Basque Government has delegations in Madrid, Mexico, Chile, Argentina and Venezuela.

### The Lehendakari conveys his interest in strengthening Basque-Chilean relations to Michelle Bachelet

“ It is a great honor to have been invited specially by the President to represent the Basque people,” said Lehendakari Juan José Ibarretxe at the power handover ceremony for Michelle Bachelet which took place in Valparaíso.

This is the first time a Lehendakari has officially attended the swearing-in ceremony of a foreign president. Ibarretxe took advantage of his visit to the country to convey to the new President his determination to strengthen relations between Euskadi and Chile, which, according to the Lehendakari, will be a strategic objective for his government.

In his address, Ibarretxe thanked Bachelet for her kindness in inviting him to the ceremony and said that with his presence he was not only representing the people who lived in Euskadi, but the “ thousands upon thousands of Basques living here in Chile, people who are Basques and Chileans, Chileans and Basque.”

The Lehendakari said that during his two-day visit to Chile, Bachelet and her Government told him that Euskadi was recognized as “ a hard-working people” and that the contributions made by Basques were fundamental to the country’s well-being and economic growth. “ This is because of the participation by Basque entrepreneurs and Basque people throughout history” she said.

The Lehendakari made it a point to convey to the President that strengthening relations between the Basque Country and Chile would be a strategic objective for Euskadi and the Basque Government. “ Although the relationship between Chile and Euskadi already includes a broad range of activities, our strategic goal is to widen the scope even further,” he added. Ibarretxe said that his presence at the power handover ceremony was not just testimonial,



Juan José Ibarretxe greets Michelle Bachelet at the swearing-in ceremony for Chile's new president.

but that it showed the growing trust Euskadi places in Chile. “ We also

appreciate the trust Chile has placed in Euskadi,” he added.



**A VISIT TO EUZKO ETXEA.** In the framework of his official visit to Chile, the Lehendakari stopped in at the Euzko Etxea in Santiago to meet members of the local Basque community. He told the people that with ETA’s decision to lay down its arms, Euskadi would now be able to live without violence. He added that a negotiation table would be created for all of the political parties and that a political negotiation process on the right to decide would be implemented between Basque political parties, the Spanish Government, the Basque Government, Spanish Prime Minister Rodríguez Zapatero and the Lehendakari. He said that he expected an agreement for coexistence between Euskadi and Spain to be hammered out and that it would be followed by a referendum.

## Lehendakari Juan José Ibarretxe, *honoris causa* in Georgia



## The Lehendakari regards human rights essential for coexistence in Georgia

"As of today the Lehendakari is a full member of our university family," said Rusudan Lordkitanidzt, Rector of the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi Public University of Georgia at a ceremony to name Lehendakari Juan José Ibarretxe doctor *honoris causa*. The rector praised Ibarretxe's work as a politician and economist and said that the university had decided to bestow on him its highest distinction for his contribution to promoting the values of democracy, peace and human rights. The rector also underscored the cooperation projects being carried out between Euskadi and Georgia in the area of university studies and innovation, especially the programs between the University of the Basque Country and the Tbilisi Public University.

The Lehendakari thanked the university for the recognition and honor of being named *doctor honoris causa* and reminded the people present at the event that the Basque people and their language, Euskara, were the oldest in Europe. "It is an honor," he said

"to be given recognition by an academic institution. It is an honor, because there is no freedom without education; there is no sovereignty without education; it is not possible to progress, to generate welfare, if this is not done based on a foundation of critical citizens, of educated men and women and therefore, the fact that a Basque Lehendakari is honored thousands of miles from home, sharing his home here with you, is indeed a tremendous honor. Yet there is also no freedom without respect for human rights and without respect for the different peoples of the planet such as yours and ours.

The Lehendakari also wanted to highlight the role of human rights as an instrument in the formulation of any arrangement of coexistence. "Respect for human dignity and human rights constitute the ultimate basis for an order of coexistence which aspires to be recognized as free, democratic, fair and founded on the principal of solidarity. Today,



human rights represent the essential values of coexistence. That is why the defense and promotion of human rights, both from an individual and a group standpoint, are not the exclusive domain of the public powers, but also fundamentally constitute a task of citizens themselves, of society as a whole, of each and every one of us."

Juan José Ibarretxe later referred to the role of culture as a common denominator in human rights which contributes to a set of universal principles and a common basis for coexistence. "The construction of a fair social architecture necessarily involves a respectful debate of the different social projects. A fair system of coexistence cannot be constructed without dialogue among peoples and among cultural and ideological traditions."

The Lehendakari wanted to point out that the Basque people are a nation respectful of other peoples and cultures. "We are a people that wishes to live together with other cultures and in our own modest way help to make this planet a little fairer and a little bit better. We want peace in Euskadi and we want peace in the world. We are going to achieve peace for the Basque People, and achieving peace in Euskadi means a contribution on the part of the Basque People to peace in the world. And we shall do this in the only way possible: through dialogue. The Basques are a civilized, peaceful and essentially hard-working nation with its own identity and dignity.

Fiftieth anniversary

## Jesús de Galíndez: martyr for freedom

JOSU LEGARRETA

It was the years of the Spanish Civil War: 1936-1939. Jesús de Galíndez was 21 years old at the time. He had just earned his law degree.

At that tragic time in Madrid, the Basque Government Delegation enjoyed powers that are hard to imagine today. Galíndez refers to some of them in his book "Los Vascos en el Madrid sitiado" (Basques in Madrid under siege): "On the cover of our identity papers was the Basque coat of arms and the letterhead read 'Delegación General de Euzkadi. Madrid'. It contained all of our personal details. (...) Rather than being defined as *abertzale*, we wanted to be subject to the legal texts of autonomy, and therefore we asked for the option of 'citizenship'. (...) More than one person wrote saying they opted for 'Basque nationality' and these were people who had never considered themselves *abertzales*. (...)"

Galíndez explains how in only four months 2,033 cases of prisoners or people gone missing passed through their hands, and that 553 people of all ideologies and religious beliefs were released through the efforts of the Basque authorities.

Like so many others, Jesús de Galíndez suffered the pain of concentration camps and exile. He later became Delegate of the Basque Government in the Dominican Republic. While he was there, the research he carried out for his doctoral thesis on the dictatorship of General Trujillo was more than enough reason to make him flee the



***“Galíndez never saw his political dreams realized. In fact, somehow he intuitively knew about his death.»***

country for New York. In 1949 he was named Delegate to the Basque Government and at the same time taught International Law at Columbia University.

Galíndez was an exponent of an open, progressive, supportive style of nationalism, a type of nationalism that wants the same for Euskadi as the rest of the world. "I feel that way," he said in one of his writings "because I'm Basque. And because we are Basque we can hold another

citizenship; we can love the country we live in; we can have compassion for the problems of others even though some people think it strange that I should share the problems of Puerto Ricans in New York; that I should attack the Latin American dictators; that I should take part in the International League of Human Rights; that I should be moved when I hear the patriotic hymn of a Mexican *charro* or the drumbeat of a black Caribbean."

But at the same time he would remember his own homeland with the same passion, calling it "my darling, my Euzkalerria, for whom I swore my love as a child." And with dreams for the future, in his writings about the importance of founding a Federation of Argentinian-Basque Entities to safeguard the

rights of the Basque people, he proposed the creation of an "International Federation, or whatever the name of the body might be, that would be recognized by the General Secretariat of the United Nations..."

However, Galíndez never saw his political dreams realized. In fact, somehow he intuitively knew about his death. In Mexico, his verses were published in "Euzko Deya": "And I will return... I will return / or they'll bring me back dead / hide me away in the earth / the earth of my grandparents. / Lay me down in Amurrio, / as I am tired and cannot / stop along the way; / I'll fall where I fall, traveler. / Take me, take me there, / although I'm still walking, I'm dying; / take me to the steep hill / beneath the oak tree of my dreams".

## Basque Vice President underscores the “balanced model” for economic growth in Euskadi

In an assessment of Euskara’s 2005 economic evolution, Basque Vice President Idoia Zenarruzabeitia pointed out that 2005 saw the greatest growth in the past five years owing to the “balanced model” for economic growth.

From the demand perspective, the most dynamic factor was the Gross Capital Formation (investment) of 5.3%, much higher than final consumption, which stood at 3.1%. Within final consumption, it was households (private consumption) that sustained most of this growth, presenting an annual rate of 3.3% for 2005, while growth in public consumption at rose to 2.4%.

The Vice Lehendakari said that compared with other economies, consumption did not increase higher than the overall economy; in other words, Euskadi is not living beyond its means.

With regard to the foreign balance, the GDP only dropped 0.1%, which essentially means a balance between imports and



Idoia Zenarruzabeitia, Basque Vice President.

exports, i.e. very low foreign trade deficit.

From the supply perspective, the highest sectorial growth was generated by Construction (6.0%), and there was also a high

contribution by the primary sector (5.8%).

Industry has become consolidated (2.5%), improving its position by two tenths over the year before (2.5%); this is important for the Basque Country given the greater relative weight of industry (one third) in the economy. Market services maintained a good trend, with an annual growth rate of 3.2%.

The Vice Lehendakari said that fortunately the Basque economy was not “brick-dependent,” and that 2006 is expected to see even further growth in industry, reaching 3.8% this year.

### 2006: a similar year

Employment continued on a positive trend, with an unemployment rate of 5.7%, a figure which brings the Basque Country to technological unemployment. The negative point was inflation, which rose 4% last year and is not expected to drop this year mainly due to rising oil prices

As far as the trend in GDP by provinces is concerned, in 2005 the GDP in both Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa experienced annual growth of 3.6%, respectively one point and half a point higher than in 2004, while Álava, as the province with the highest rate in 2005 (3.9%), showed a slower growth rate than the preceding year (5.6%).

The forecast projected by the Basque Government for this year is similar to 2005, with a 3.6% increase in GDP. A difference is the rise in investments, and as a result, in industry, due to the pronounced increase in the purchase of capital goods.

The Vice Lehendakari said that the slight increase in interest rates expected in Europe may somewhat discourage greater investment, but it could help to control the impact of inflation.

## IÑAKI AGUIRRE ZABALA

### OBITUARY

Iñaki Aguirre Zabala, brother of Aintzane, highly appreciated by Basque communities for her 15 years of service as advisor to the Directorate for Relations with Basque Communities, died on March 10th at the age of 62. Aguirre Zabala led a brilliant 25-year career as professor at the University of the Basque Country. At the time of his death he was Chair of International Relations and Director of the Department of Public International Law, International Relations and History of Law. Our most sincere condolences go out to his wife and family. Goian Bego.





## Ballet Biarritz performs in Los Angeles

On March 24th and 25th, Ballet Biarritz presented "Don Juan" with music by Christoph Willibald Von Gluck at UCLA's Royce Hall in Los Angeles. This particular version of Don Juan was composed in Vienna in 1761 and was to have an enormous influence in promoting action ballet as opposed to operatic ballet.

Now, Thierry Malandain, director of Ballet Biarritz and choreographer for this performance, puts an original

and refreshing spin on a classic ballet. Don Juan, for whom any woman was a target for seduction, was born in Sevilla during Spain's Golden Age. And since, through the literary inspiration he provoked, he is described as a free thinker, a melancholic womanizer, in search of absolute, and barely exhausted by his endlessly fascinating pursuit. For Gluck he was the libertine sketched by Molière. Ballet Biarritz keeps

those traits, as well as giving him other expressions. Fundamentally the idea revolves around a character looking for woman, through women. Or is he looking for himself?

Don Juan has already garnered acclaim from both critics and audiences alike in performances in a number of cities in Euskal Herria. The choreography features the excellent technical skill of the dancers led by Thierry Malandain.

## Aitzpea Goenaga directs her first film, "Zeru horiek"

Aitzpea Goenaga, film and stage actress and director of several television series, presented her first film as director at the International Festival of Audiovisuals (FIPA) in Biarritz. Her movie, titled "Zeru horiek," is based on a book by Bernardo Atxaga.

"First I was asked to develop the screenplay and then I was offered to direct the film. Since I had already read the book, and had actually filmed



it in my head, the whole project went pretty quickly," said the Basque filmmaker. The movie was shot in Barcelona in eighteen months of twelve-hour-long work days. The artistic team are Basque and the technical team, Catalanian, but the director is particularly pleased with the lead role played by Nagore Aramburu. She describes the actress

as the "absolute protagonist" of a story that begins with her release from a Barcelona prison and follows her as she struggles with the emptiness and hardships of reentry into society. "Her bus journey home is a metaphor for her journey in life," said Aitzpea Goenaga.

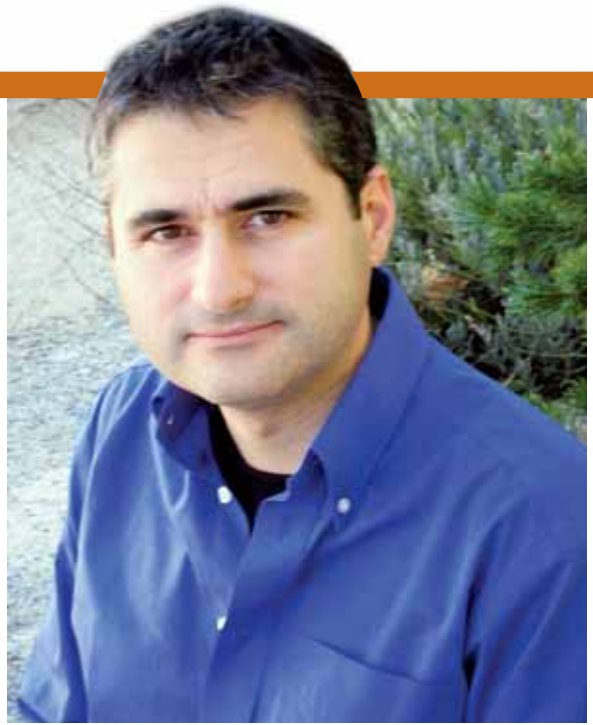
The film received financial backing from Spanish Television and TV3 (Catalonian public television) and contains a mixture of three languages: Catalan, Euskara and Spanish.

While waiting for its commercial debut, "Zeru horiek" will be screened at the Human Rights Film Festival in Donostia, and at the Malaga Film Festival.

## PEDRO OIARZABAL

*Graduate in History*

**Agustín eta Pedro Oiarzabalek “Euskal nortasun munduan” liburua idatzi dute; bertan, hainbat adinetako eta baldintza sozialetako euskaldunen iritziak bildu dituzte. Euskaldun horiek hogeit hamar herrialdetan bizi dira, baita Euskal Herrian ere, eta mundu globalizatuan euskalduna izatea zer den azaltzen dute.**



## The Oiarzabal brothers analyze Basque identity in 20 countries

**A**gustín and Pedro Oiarzabal are the authors of “La identidad vasca en el mundo” (The Basque Identity in the World), a book that contains the opinions of Basques of different ages and social backgrounds in twenty countries, including Euskal Herria, who define in their own words the meaning of being Basque in a globalized world. The two authors graduated from the University of Deusto, Agustín in Political Science and Sociology, and Pedro in History. Their connection with the Basque community abroad dates back to 1996, when they were in charge of the Gaztemundu program sponsored by the Basque Government. Both have lived outside Euskal Herria for twenty years in the Netherlands, Ireland and the United States, an experience which has helped them to better understand the different interpretations of “Basqueness.”

“The diaspora as a research topic,” explained Pedro “not only interests us from a historical point of view, but also as a tool for understanding the Basque culture and identity being developed inside

Euskal Herria. In short, it’s an extraordinary element for understanding what it feels like to be Basque today. We placed ourselves in the watchtower of globalization to observe the meaning of Basque identity as a whole, for Basques of the diaspora and Basques in the homeland. We saw all Basques as a symbolic universe that is constantly being reshaped, while at the same time taking into consideration the different socio-economic contexts that determine the situation of different Basque communities around the world.”

Having lived in different countries has given the Oiarzabal brothers a broader view of what it means to be Basque. “When all of a sudden you begin to wonder whether you belong in Bilbao, Maynooth, Belfast or Reno, the diasporic experience of being from there or from here takes over. You feel like you’re from all of those places and that they’re part of you. You find yourself at home in a diverse and heterogeneous community made up of thousands of Basques who feel

the same way you do, who’ve lived through the same things, who identify with different parts of the world and who are interrelated by an emotional and cross-generational commitment between themselves and Euskal Herria. The book is unquestionably a product of our own experience. That’s why it’s so successful, because Basques living in and outside Euskal Herria are seeing their own interpretations of what it means to be Basque.”

A blend of literary essay and scholarly study, the first part of the book address the different schools of theory which analyze the phenomenon of identity, while the second part takes a look at the survey results. “For us there are two points that sum up the book. The first is that there is no Basque identity hierarchy. In other words, a person is no more Basque for having been born in Euskal Herria. The second point is that there is nothing to lead us to believe that Basque identity today is in decline or that it has been watered down in a mixture of other identities. From our perspective globalization has served to strengthen the identity of smaller groups like the Basques, and thanks to technologies like the Internet Basque identity is more present than ever.”



### OLIVIA BIDAURRETA ANTJUSTEGI

*Student*

European History, although the latter is taught in English since, in her words "I'm still not good enough in the other languages." For the time being, she gets along better in Spanish than Euskara, even though she spoke Euskara at home when she was little. She explains that her parents continued to speak Euskara at home, but when she started school it fell by the wayside. "The structure is harder for me. It's a lot different from Spanish or English," she said.

**Olivia Bidaurreta is a USAC student (University Studies Abroad Consortium). The program in Donostia, offered in cooperation with the University of the Basque Country, was one of the USAC pioneers. Students with the program are typically from Basque ancestry interested in learning Euskara and Basque culture, or are have an interest in foreign languages or linguistics.**

#### **Barnetegi in summer**

But she's ready to give it everything she'd got. Her university classes end in mid-May, and afterwards she plans to enroll at a *barnetegi*. "I think that the language is an important part of the culture," she said. "I don't want the Basque culture to be lost. Besides, my relatives in Bizdaia and Iparralde speak Euskara, so if I manage to learn it I'll feel closer to them. If I can reach an intermediate level, it'll be easier to study from the U.S. on the Internet using a system like Boga."

**«I think that the language is an important part of the culture»**

She's 22 years old and wears tracksuits and baseball caps. She looks like your typical American student, but beneath it all lies her Basque ancestry, which she decided to get to know a little better. Olivia has been here since August 2005 as part of a program organized by USAC at the Public University of the Basque Country, where she shares the campus with some sixty students from around the world, although most of them are from the United States. "The teachers are great. They really get involved and give us whatever support we need," explained Olivia Bidaurreta.

Olivia's father was born in Behe-Nafarroa, and settled in the U.S. some forty years ago; her mother is

from Idaho but of Bizkaian ancestry.

"They met at a Jaialdi and now we live in a really nice town where there are a lot of Basques about an hour away from San Francisco. Ever since we were young, my parents wanted my brother and I to get to know Euskal Herria. We still have family here and have visited several times; the last time I came I was 17." Olivia makes herself understood in Spanish, with a special accent that is a blend of her high school Spanish and what she has picked up here.

Olivia is a psychologist and when she goes back to the U.S. she plans on pursuing a post-graduate degree. "But I'm in no hurry." At the University of the Basque Country she studies Spanish, Euskara and

The USAC program offers students the opportunity to live with a family – which is Olivia's case – or share an apartment with other students. Part of the experience also includes exchanges with other young Basques to improve language skills. To earn a little money on the side, Olivia also helps a few little girls with their English.

At the same time, to reinforce their European history, Olivia and some of her friends take advantage of special offers from travel agencies to get to know other parts of Europe. She has already been to London, visited Dublin in mid-March, and is planning a trip to Milan over Easter vacation.

## NABO leaders visit Euskadi invited by the Directorate for Relations with Basque Communities

From January 9th through 11th Mary Gaztambide, President of the North American Basque Organizations (NABO), and active member John Ysursa held a series of meetings at the Office of the Basque President in Gasteiz to promote relations with the Basque Government. During the course of the meetings it was made clear that the federation is experiencing a period of great activity, new ideas and improvements in programs already in motion.

The Directorate for Relations with Basque Communities decided to provide NABO with a full-time staff person released from his or her regular duties to boost and coordinate all of the projects launched by the Basque Government, and to try to serve as a bridge between the thirty-five centers based in the United States. The work agenda included such items as updating member lists; identifying needs for the forthcoming years; participation by U.S. clubs in annual grant announcements and calls for entries; the possibility of organizing cultural tours between centers in the country and with centers in bordering areas (Mexico and Canada); upcoming volumes of the Urazandi collection (San Francisco); and the possibility of launching a new call in 2007 for young people from the United States to spend time in Euskadi.

NABO pledged to create two new websites - [www.basques.us](http://www.basques.us) and [www.euskara.us](http://www.euskara.us) - both of which are now operational and under the responsibility of John Ysursa, and to create an online newsletter, *Astero*, with news in



John Ysursa, Josu Legarreta, Mary Gaztambide and Benan Oregi

English about Euskadi and the Basque diaspora for a readership of 700.

Josu Legarreta, Director of Relations with Basque Communities, and Pantxoa Etxegoien, Director of EKE (Euskal Kultur Elkarteak), proposed that by early 2007 NABO adapt the *Kantuketan* exhibit on Basque song to make it more mobile. The exhibit has been highly successful in Euskal Herria, and this way most of the Basque clubs would have the opportunity to host the exhibit.

"*Jokoa eta Jolasa*" is the title of a new piece of work written in English which aims to transmit Basque identity through games, and which will undoubtedly be very useful to the U.S. Basque community. In the United States, NABO recently published "*Hi ere Dantzari*" and "*Hi ere Kantari*", as well as a book on *bertsolarismo* called "*Shooting from the Lip*." The Boise *Ikastola* and *Goizeskola* in San Francisco will most likely be the major destination for these materials, as well as the highly successful *Udaleku* program

sponsored by NABO since the 1970s.

A new campaign will soon be under way to recruit new members and spread information about the Basque federation. Basque presence at the university level may increase to include initiatives in California (in addition to the Center for Basque Studies at the University of Nevada and the program at Boise State University). And at the request of the NABO delegates, pelota classes will be organized, as will a course on Basque cuisine offered through one of the Basque clubs, possibly in Bakersfield. NABO also informed those present at the meetings of the launch of a kind of North American federation through which their own organization could support Basque centers in Canada and Mexico.

Josu Legarreta promised to attend the February 18th NABO meeting in San Francisco. Following the meetings at the Office of the President, the NABO representatives also met with representatives from HABA and the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa.

## A delegation from the Department of Justice, Employment and Social Security visits Argentina, Uruguay and Bolivia

A delegation from the Basque Department of Justice, Employment and Social Security, headed by Basque Minister Joseba Azkarraga, visited Argentina, Uruguay and Bolivia between February 23rd and March 4th to hold a series of meetings and formalize cooperation agreements in the area of social and economic justice.

A collaboration protocol was signed with the Ministry of Production of the Province of Santa Fe, Argentina, to carry out joint activities in the area of social justice, and with the Ministry of Government, Justice and Education in the area of juvenile justice.

In the area of cooperation, the delegation visited the "Casa

Cooperativa" and the Cooperative Institute for Higher Education (ICES), where there were welcomed by Raúl Colombetti, head of Casa Cooperativa de Provisión Sunchales Ltda. and Sancor Seguros. At the "Floreale Gorini" Cultural Center for Cooperation, Azkarraga gave a talk on the Basque cooperative movement and the role of social economy in the development of Euskadi.

In Rosario a meeting was held with the rector of the National University of Rosario (UNR). At the Faculty of Political Science and International Relations, the Basque Minister gave a lecture entitled "On the verge of peace in Euskal Herria," which he offered again at the National University



**Joseba Azkarraga, Minister of Justice**

of La Plata (UNLP) and at the "Euskal Erria" Basque club in Montevideo. In Buenos Aires, Azkarraga met with Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Adolfo Pérez Esquivel.

The visit ended in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, where the Minister took part in the International Seminar on Autonomy organized by the UPSA Faculty of Law with a presentation entitled "Autonomy: the history of a process."

## The Minister of Education meets with academic authorities in the U.S.

This past February 26th the Basque Minister of Education, Universities and Research, Tontxu Campos, began a seven-day trip to the United States.

Accompanied by another two members from the department, Campos visited Philadelphia, Washington DC, and Reno.

The purpose of the trip was to make contacts with education authorities and to share experiences in this area. Book lending, school violence, immigration, the use of technology in the classroom and school funding were the main items on the agenda. Meetings were held with a number of academic authorities, who welcomed the Basque team with cordiality and interest.

In Reno, the Basque Minister met with the affiliates, promoters and teaching staff of the University of Nevada Center for Basque Studies. The center carries a great deal of academic prestige in the United States;

Gloria Totoricagüena was recently named Director replacing anthropologist Joseba Zulaika.

The overall outcome of the trip was very positive, with U.S. authorities pleasantly surprised at the quality of education and the autonomous Government's investment in the Basque people.



EUSKAL ETXEAK



Basque Minister Javier Madrazo during one of his visits.

## Javier Madrazo visits schools and signs an agreement with Venezuela Public Television

Mirentxu Egiguren –recipient of the 2003 Basque Volunteer Award– served as guide to Basque Minister Javier Madrazo in his visit to the Bolivar neighborhood of Caracas. He also visited “ Instituto Universitario Fe y

Alegría Jesús Obrero” and in Valencia “Obra Social Calasanz” run by Escolapian Fathers. The Basque Government subsidizes all of these centers.

The Minister and Blanca Eekhout, CEO of Covetel S.A./Vive,

Venezuelan Public Television, signed a cooperation agreement aimed at instituting a documentary creation unit. Under the agreement 200,000 euros will be earmarked to train the entire staff.

Madrazo also took part in a meeting with representatives of other organizations including Igor Irigoyen, Director of Cooperation; Liliana Ortega, Executive Director of Cofavic – an NGO for the protection and promotion of human rights, which will receive nearly half a million euros; José Virtuoso, President of Centro Gumilla; and Luis Ugalde, Rector of the Andrés Bello Catholic University. To wrap up the visit, the Basque Minister gave a talk on the right to decide, the peace process, political normalization and cultural coexistence in Euskadi, presented by Izaskun Etxearte, Director of Eguzki, the Basque-Venezuelan Institute for Cooperation, and Itziar Rodríguez, Director of the Eusko Etxea in Caracas.



## Healthcare cooperation agreement between Chile, Peru and Euskadi

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Peru, Peruvian and Chilean Ministers of Health, Pilar Mazzetti and Pedro García, and the Basque Minister of Health, Gabriel María Inclán have signed a three-way Cooperation Protocol aimed

primarily at tackling the main challenges in healthcare in Peru. This is the first of its kind to be signed by the Basque Government.

More specifically the project, based on the cooperation experiences in healthcare

management and designing public health policy carried out for years by Chile and Euskadi, fits within the Peruvian Government’s strategic plan for the health sector until 2012.

The Basque Department of Health will contribute to achieving these goals basically by providing advice in the area of public healthcare management, sending skilled technicians to Peru to perform particular projects, and bring Chilean and Peruvian technicians to Euskadi to train them in specific areas.

The Chilean Ministry of Health is prepared to collaborate technically based on the cooperation experience with the Basque Country, and as a link to coordinate the implementation of this project.

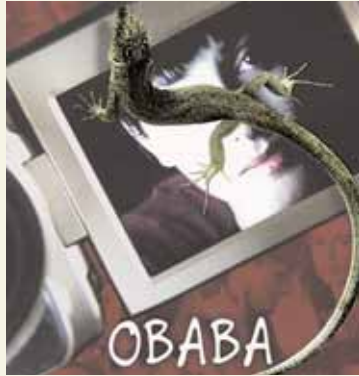


## Basque spirit in Havana

In February several events took place in Havana relevant to the Basque community: The first was the official recognition of the Basque center, and the second, the celebration of a day-long event dedicated to Basque culture as part of the 15th International Book Fair of Havana. The novel "Obabakoak" was present at the fair, as was its author, Bernardo Atxaga, and other figures in the world of Basque literature and music.

The Cuban Government approved the Havana Basque center as a non-profit organization under the name "Asociación Vasco Navarra de Beneficencia," at which point the Basque Government granted it official recognition and entered it in the Register of Basque Centers.

On February 6th the all-day Basque event began with a conference at the Faculty of Arts



and Letters of the University of Havana, with Joxe Mari Iturralde giving a talk entitled "Basque language and literature." Bernardo Atxaga presented the Cuban edition of his novel "Obabakoak." 5,000 copies of his book will be printed thanks to the publishing house Arte y Literatura. The cultural event was held at Fortaleza San Carlos de la Cabaña. Atxaga granted Cuba the publication rights to his book,

which has already been translated into twenty languages and won awards including the Euskadi Silver Award and the 1989 National Literature Award.

Bernardo Atxaga also gave a reading of his book in a hall named after José Lezama Lima, the deceased Cuban writer with whom Atxaga claims to be forever in literary debt. The reading was accompanied by singer-songwriter Ruper Ordorika, many of whose songs are based on writing of Atxaga. The day came to a close with a screening of the film adaptation of Atxaga's book "Obaba," directed by Navarra-born Montxo Armendáriz. Organized by ICAIC (Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Art and Industry), the movie was shown in the La Rampa theater. After the film there was an open colloquium with participation by Bernardo Atxaga.

## Andrés de Irujo Award goes to Chilean journalist Rubila Andrea Araya

The book "Arrojos, dichas y nostalgias, Vascos en el Valparaíso del siglo XX" (Bravery, happiness and nostalgia, Basques in 20th century Valparaíso) by Chilean journalist Rubila Andrea Araya Ariztia took the 2005 Andrés de Irujo Award, created by the Basque Government to promote an awareness of the Basque diaspora.

The young journalist - who comes from a Basque family that immigrated to Chile eight generations ago - based her work primarily on the oral testimony of a group of Basque men and women who came to Valparaíso in the 20th century. Through interviews the author looks at how the Basque people came to the region, what they did in the way of work and social activities, and how

they maintained ties with other people living far from their homeland.

The idea for the book, slated for publication by the Basque Government, came from the author's contact with the Valparaíso Euskal Etxea. The Basque center helped the author contact its eldest members and gave her access to its books and photograph collection. The work points out how the most of the Valparaíso Basques in the 20th century were engaged in commerce. The opened bakeries, shoe stores, stores selling assorted sundries and a wide variety of businesses. Today most of the people who founded the Basque community of the 20th century are approaching their eighties. " The



trend in today's world," said Rubila Andrea Araya "leans toward interaction, and the younger people tend to be more open rather than belonging to closed groups; but there is still a great deal of interest in understanding the culture of one's parents or grandparents, in learning Euskara and in visiting the Basque Country.

Founded over sixty years ago, Araya underlines the role of the Valparaíso Basque center. It is a link to the Basque Country, a place where Basques born in Euskal Herria or of Basque heritage come together to take part in activities, and an organization which maintains strong ties with Euskadi.

EUSKAL ETXEAK

# Photo album



This is a picture of Maiteder, Jon, Irantzu, Joseba, Anton Mari and Koro taken at Los Chaguaramos, in Caracas, Venezuela. Part of the legacy of my *aitas*, Andoni Barriola and Manolita Damborenea, in their adopted country.

ANTON MARI BARRIOLA

**DO YOU HAVE A PICTURE TO ADD TO THE ALBUM?**

If you do and would like to see it published here, send it by e-mail to the following address: [euskaletxeak@ej-gv.es](mailto:euskaletxeak@ej-gv.es)