



The new Government of the Basque Country

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euskal etxeak

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GREETINGS FROM THE LEHENDAKARI



INTERVIEWS NEW BASQUE GOVERNMENT



NEWS IN BRIEF



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Lehendakariaren agurra

Greetings from the lehendakari



Patxi López, Lehendakari

Ohore bat da niretzat Eusko Jaurlaritzara iritsi nintzenetik argitaratutako Euskal Etxeak aldizkariaren lehenengo ale honetan zenbait lerro idatzi eta agur bero bat helaraztea gure mugetatik kanpo bizi diren euskaldun guztiei. Garaia hurbil dugula eta, aukera baliatu nahi dut Gabon zoriontsuak izan ditzazuela eta 2010 urteak zuen nahi guztiak bete ditzala opatzeko.

Euskal etheen sarea eta, orokorrean, munduan zehar sakabanatutako euskaldunen kopuru handia dira Euskadin ditugun aberastasun handienetakoak. Gure kanpoko enbaxadoreak zarete, eta zeregin horretan egiten duzuen ahalegin hori —euskaldunen harrotasunari eustekoa, ohiturak gordetzekoa eta gure kultura eta gure hizkuntza txoko urrutietan zabaltzekoa, hain zuzen— ez dizuegu inoiz behar beste eskertu.

Nire iritzian, pertsonen identitatea gaztelu bat eraiki behar den zabalgun bat da. XXI. mendeko gizon-emakumeok ez gara toki batean landatutako zuhaitzak. Gure sustraiak gauden lekuetan, egon garenetan eta egongo garenetan errotzen dira. Identitate modernoak hautabideek eta norberaren hautuek apurka osatzen dituzte, eta horien bitartez osatzen dugu gure izaera eta gure tokia munduan.

Euskarazko esaera zahar batek dio: "zenbat buru, hainbat aburu". Pertsonak beste iritzi ditugu. Eta hori gure gizartearen ondarea da. Euskaldun bakoitzak bere erara pentsatzen du eta bere era du identitatea ulertzeko; eta hori zaindu behar dugun ondasuna da.

Aniztasun hori kanpoan bizi diren euskaldunengan ere islatzen da. Horregatik, nire asmoa da euskal etxeek zehatz isla dezatela euskaldunen iritzia; Jaurlaritzaren lankide izan daitezela Euskadiren benetako irudia zabaltzen; mendetako usadioak eta euskara gorde ditzatela, eta aldi berean, euskaldunen adierazpide kultural berriak luze-zabalean bil ditzatela.

Guztion lehendakaria izan nahi dut. Eta nire gobernuak ez du bereizketarik egingo euskaldunen artean, jatorria edota nazio sentimendua direla eta. Euskadi lur honetan bizi eta lan egiten dugun guzti-guztiok osatzen dugu. Baita urruti egon arren sustraiak ahazten ez dituzten eta herri honekiko maitasunari bizirik eusten dioten euskaldunek ere.

Eusko Jaurlaritzak baliabide natural agortezin hori sustatu nahi du. Ahalik eta gehien estutuko ditugu kanpoan dauden euskaldunekin ditugun harremanak. Ahalegina egingo dugu Euskadiren zati bat norberaren barrenean izan nahi dutenek guk eman diezaiekegun laguntza guztia izan dezaten. Ildo horretan, euskal etxeek gure kanpoko erreferenteak izango dira, munduan zehar barreiatutako borondatezko euskaldunen bilguneak.

Garai berria ireki dugu Euskadin, eta zuok guztiok, kanpoko euskaldunok, behar zaituztegu erronka horretarako. Izan ere, gure arteko diferentziak alde batera utzita, helburu berak batzen gaitu guztiok. Izan ere, urruti egon arren gure artean lokarri bat dago bereiztezinak egiten gaituena.

Patxi López
Lehendakaria

It is an honor from me to send you this greeting as Lehendakari through this, the first issue of the magazine Euskal Etxeak published since my appointment as President of the Basque Government. I should like to extend my greeting to all Basques who read this publication beyond our frontiers. As the New Year will soon be upon us, I take this opportunity of wishing you a Merry Christmas and hope that all your expectations will be met in 2010.

The Euskal Etxeak network and, in general, the large number of Basques scattered all over the world, is one of the greatest assets of the Basque Country. You are our ambassadors abroad and as such your pride as Basques and all the work and effort you dedicate in order to uphold our traditions and to disseminate our culture and language in the four corners of the world has never been fully appreciated.

I understand that the identity of a people is like a large open area on which to build a castle. The men and women of the 21st-century are not trees rooted to a specific place. Our roots lie in each and every one of the places where we have been in the past and where we will be in the future. Modern identities are a set of personal options and choices which shape our identity and our place in the world.

As the old Basque saying goes: "zenbat buru, hainbat aburu", there are as many options as people. And this is part of our heritage as a society. Every Basque thinks differently and has a different way of understanding identity. This is an asset that we must seek to hold on to.

This sense of plurality can also be seen in those Basques who have chosen to settle abroad. For this reason, I want the Euskal Etxeak to be a reflection of the feelings of all Basques; I want them to collaborate with the government in projecting the real image of the Basque Country; I want them to keep up their secular traditions and the Basque language, and to incorporate the new cultural manifestations of the Basque people, wherever they may be.

I want to be the Lehendakari of all Basques. My government will not make distinctions between Basques according to their origins or nationalist sentiments. We all form part of the Basque Country and each and every one of us lives and works in this land. The same can be said of those Basques who have not forgotten their roots and keep their love for this country alive despite the distance.

The Basque government wishes to encourage this inexhaustible natural resource. We are going to maximize our links with Basques abroad. We will endeavor to ensure that those persons who wish to keep a little bit of the Basque Country inside them receive whatever assistance we are capable of giving them. The Euskal Etxeak will continue to be a reference model for this government abroad, a meeting point for Basques scattered throughout the world.

We have started a new era in the Basque Country and we would like to have the collaboration of Basques living abroad in order to meet this challenge. Because we all share the same aims. Because in spite of the distance, we all have something in common that makes us inseparable. The Basque Country

Patxi López
Lehendakari



Guillermo Echenique,

KANPO HARREMANETAKO IDAZKARI NAGUSIA SECRETARY-GENERAL OF FOREIGN ACTION

How important are the Euskal Etxeak for the new government?

Today there are more than 160 Euskal Etxeak, distributed in 20 countries. From Argentina to Shanghai. Their importance is vital. Their members represent a diverse range of people from many different walks of life, with deep roots in the Basque Country. They can be considered the true ambassadors of the Basque Country.

How would you like the Basques and the Basque Country to be seen abroad?

My main objective is to project a vision of the real situation of the Basque Country: a modern, highly competitive, technologically advanced society; a caring society with a unique culture, a supporter of a united Europe and a society that repudiates violence because it has experienced this problem first-hand. The foreign action policy of the Basque Government will be one of the key instruments to discredit ETA.

How is the Basque Autonomous Community presented abroad?

I present the Basque Country as the most decentralized community in Europe and with the broadest range of powers and as the most singular autonomous region in the world.

Will the present government keep in touch with the Euskal Etxeak and monitor their activities?

Of course. Basque clubs abroad are the greatest ambassadors of Basque culture. They maintain and promote Basque traditions in their different forms. We visited Reno, one of the 45 Basque clubs in the U.S. There we found an enormous desire to collaborate, a deep feeling of being Basque, which we want to preserve, and an in-depth knowledge of the Basque Country of today. The Director and specialists of the Department for Basque Citizens and Communities Abroad have also visited Argentina and France. Of course, we have also renewed contacts with the Euskal Etxeak in Spain. Our intention is to continue fostering relations with all of them,

to listen and be listened to. We are going to support them in their work, which I consider to be essential for the world to know the real image of the Basque Country.

What changes will there be in the foreign action policy of the new government?

What we are not going to do is to focus the foreign action of the new government on questions of identity and symbolism. Our policies will be developed within a more universal context. We wish to pursue a policy of foreign action in a broader sense. It will be an umbrella that covers each and every one of the fundamental points of a first level policy.

What does that policy consisted of?

First, we are going to raise the political level, to pursue major policies in the areas of culture, economics, tourism and linguistics, etc. A real foreign action policy, a model of a European region with a broad, decentralized but always loyal self-government.

Will Basque clubs continue to be financed?

In essence, yes. We will continue providing support for investments, cover the costs of their activities and assist people who find themselves in an impoverished or difficult situation. This may amount to around 1.7 million euros.

What are these communities like?

They are organizations made up of a broad cross-section of society. Emigrations have taken place at very different moments in time. In Latin America, emigration was higher for political reasons as a consequence of the Civil War and the advent of the Franco regime. The emigration to the United States derived mainly from economic reasons at first. There, for example, a deep love of everything Basque and everything American has been cultivated. I was there, and they gave me a "pin" with the American and Basque flags. They demonstrated that it is possible to combine a love of more than one country.

What is the opinion of ETA in the Basque Diaspora?

If there is something that Basques resident abroad hate it is the vision of the Basque Country as a place where terrorism thrives. They repudiate terrorism just like Basques living here. Is there a minority of people who feel some affinity? There may be a few, but no more than here.

The Diaspora welcomes Julian Celaya, new Basque Communities Director



Julian Celaya was received at the Fronton of the Basque Cultural Center of San Francisco

Since his appointment as Basque Communities Director, Julian Celaya has been involved in a round of high-level contacts with the Basque Diaspora. After sending an introductory letter to all the Euskal etxeas throughout the world, the new director began the job of getting to know each one of them personally. In mid July, after welcoming delegates to Gaztemundu 2009, Julian Celaya travelled to the United States together with the new Secretary-General for Foreign Action, Guillermo Echenique, and Basque Government officials Andoni Martin and Benan Oregi to get a first-hand understanding of the situation of Basques living throughout the world.

Visit to the United States

Guillermo Echenique, Secretary-General for Foreign Action, attended the inauguration of the new Basque Studies Center of the University of Nevada in Reno. He also attended celebrations held to mark the 50th anniversary of the First Basque Festival in the United States. Later, he took part in the annual convention of NABO (North American Basque Organizations) to elect a new President and to discuss the Argentinean proposal for the creation of a World Basque Centers Confederation.

Julian Celaya has taken advantage of his first few months as the new director to get to know the situation of the Basque Diaspora first hand

In San Francisco, which is the home of the most important Basque communities in California, Julian Celaya and Guillermo Echenique had meetings with Basque institutions based in the city: Basque Cultural Center, Basque Club of California, and Anaitasuna. They also presented the latest volume of the Urazandi collection, published by Lehendakaritza with the invaluable collaboration of the Basque community of San Francisco.

Together with the two Basque Government specialists, Julian Celaya continued their journey to meet the directors of the Basque clubs of Ontario (Oregon) and Homedale, Mountain Home and Gooding in Idaho.

Boise, capital of the state of Idaho and a point of reference for Basques living in North America, afforded the delegation a cordial welcome.



With the directors of Eusko Etxea - Casa Vasca of Chile



Julian Celaya together with Hervé Trinquet

At the Basque Center, discussions were held on a project for a new building for the Basque community. At the Basque Museum, they monitored progress of the exhibition to be organized at Ellis Island. Preliminary contacts were established with the Jaialdi 2010 Committee and the Basque Studies Center of the University of Boise. The Cenarrusa Foundation and the Boise Ikastola were visited. The delegation also had the opportunity of attending the San Ignacio festival, the most important event in Boise.

Basque residents in Chile receive the new director

At the end of October, the new director travelled to the Southern Cone on the occasion of National Basque Week 2009. Before going to Argentina he took advantage of his trip to visit the Basque community of Chile. In the Chilean capital, Julian Celaya and the Basque Government specialist Andoni Martín visited the Vicuña MacKenna installations, headquarters of the Euzko Etxea of Santiago, where they had a meeting with the management committee.

On the occasion of their visit to the Southern Cone, in Chile they were received by the communities of **Santiago and Valparaíso.**

Celaya and Martín also visited the Euskal etxea of Viña del Mar-Valparaíso, where a reception was held. The president of the Eusko Etxea de Viña-Valparaíso, Archibaldo Uriarte, used the visit to announce the project to publish a new addition of the book "Arrojos, dichas y nostalgias. Vascos en el Valparaíso del siglo XX", by Rubila Araya Ariztía, on the occasion of celebrations to mark the bicentenary of Chile.

Trip to the French Basque Centres

From November 9 to 11, the Basque Communities Director and two specialists from the Department went on a fact-finding mission to the French Euskal etxeas. In Pau, they visited the Laguna eta Maita association, which has been working since 1967 to keep Basque culture alive in Bearn. There, they had a meeting with the centre's management committee formed by Jean Pierre Urrutia, Pantxoia Challet and Edouard Cami to discuss the future recognition of this Basque centre by the Basque Government.

After stopping over in Pau, they visited the Eskual Etxea in Bordeaux. There, they had a meeting with Mixel Salagoity, President, David Mugica, Vice-president and Marie Pierre Roy, Secretary, who provided an overview of their projects to refurbish the building that has housed the Basque centre since 1967.

Accompanied by specialists from their department, they have also visited Basque centres in France.

In Paris, they were received by the president of the Pariseko Eskual Etxea, Hervé Trinquet and by Arlette Ocafrain, secretary of the centre, accompanied by dantzaris and representatives of all the entities that make up the Euskal etxea. There, they visited the new installations of the Euskal etxea in Saint Ouen. The move from its former headquarters in Paris was motivated by a need for more space to extend their activities.

Rodolfo Ares: Minister of the Interior

Zero tolerance to ETA and its supporters

Rodolfo Ares became the first non-nationalist Minister of the Interior on May 9. Born in the province of Ourense 55 years ago and resident in Bilbao, Ares has had a long political career in Bilbao City Hall, the Provincial Council of Bizkaia and the Basque Parliament.

Since he took office, Ares has proposed that the Basque police or Ertzaintza should take a greater role in the fight against terrorism. His aim is to strengthen the presence of police officers on our streets to ensure public safety. The Minister has entrusted Commissioner Jose Antonio Varela with this dual responsibility. This appointment has also marked a milestone in this department as he is the first Basque policeman to occupy the position of director of our police force.

The decision to increase the struggle against ETA on all fronts has taken the form of a number of actions. These include the creation of a new antiterrorism division, which, when it comes into full operation, will have a staff of about 500.

Other examples include the move to forbid gatherings organized in order to defend or justify terrorist activities and the activities of illegal organizations that support and justify ETA, as well as the zero tolerance policy for those members of society that act with impunity. The removal from the streets and squares of the Basque Country of all kinds of graphical expressions in support of terrorism or to eulogize terrorists can also be seen within this context. The Ministry of the Interior has signed a collaboration agreement with the Basque Municipalities Association, EUDEL, to strengthen inter-institutional coordination in this field.

These and other actions have been drawn up in order to defend the right to remember, dignity and justice of those who have suffered most directly from terrorist violence, in compliance with the Victims of Terrorism Recognition and Reparation Law. In the same way, the Basque council that will channel the participation of victims in all those matters that affect them will be set up in the near future. The Memory



Map of all those places in the Basque country where tributes have been paid to assassinated persons and a space has been prepared in their memory, has also been put into operation.

The new recruiting campaign for the Basque police or Ertzaintza, in order to make up the quota of 8000 officers assigned to our police force, will allow it to strengthen the presence of ertzainas in public places. This measure has been designed to meet the long-standing demands of the unions and to establish the basis for a progressive renewal of our police force.

Besides the struggle against ETA, the Ministry has set a number of other objectives of great importance. It has created a new Department to Assist Victims of Gender Violence, which coordinates all the policies of the Basque Government designed to help women who suffer from the terrorism of male chauvinists, based on a zero tolerance policy with the aggressors.

Isabel Celaá: Minister of Education, Universities and Research

A long career in the world of Education

The Minister of Education, Universities and Research of the Basque Government, Isabel Celaá Dieguez, was born in Bilbao in 1949. Graduate in English Philology and in Law, she also has the Euskara-ren Gaitasun Agiria qualification, which reflects her knowledge of the Basque language.

Besides a professorship in English Language and Literature, her academic CV also features experience as the director of a high school in Bizkaia. Member of the Basque Parliament since 1998, Celaá is responsible for the social policies of the Socialist group. She has also held important positions on the Committee of the Basque Parliament and a number of ministerial positions in the Basque Government.

Responsible for a team with a great deal of experience in the world of education and in which there are a large number of people without any political affiliation, Celaá has close links to Irish culture. Married and the mother of two daughters, the new Minister of Education tries to combine her passion for politics with her family life, lyrical poetry, the sea and long walks.

Isabel Celaá does not conceal her aim to make Basque education the best letter of presentation of the Basque Country. For this reason she has promoted a number of different plans of which the most important include programs to promote research and science, both at a university and pre-university level, and has shown her firm commitment to education in values that respect human rights.



The Education Minister has also put into motion an ambitious program to modernize the education system at a technological level and has announced measures to foster trilingual education programs that ensure that Basque students have an adequate knowledge of Basque, Spanish and English by the time they complete the compulsory education.

Carlos Aguirre, Minister of the Economy and Treasury

Common agreement and initiatives to combat the crisis

In June 2009, Carlos Aguirre was appointed one of the independent government ministers. A graduate in Business Studies, he held a number of positions in governments formed by the PNV-PSE coalition, specifically in Planning and Economic Affairs. With the prestige gained during his time with the Government and in a number of public companies, in recent years, Aguirre has been in charge of the Human Resources Department of the Basque Energy Board.

Sportsman, lover of the sea, and as he defines himself, a "longstanding member" of the Athletic de Bilbao football club, this strict, dedicated man, committed to his family and friends, has been given the responsibility of undertaking one of the most complicated challenges and in one of the most demanding departments: Economy and the Treasury.

When he joined the government, he was greeted with an economic crisis, in spite of the forecasts of the previous government that the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country would not enter a period of recession. Indeed, the Basque Country was not an island in the context of the generalized economic crisis. The crisis brought with it a drop in tax revenue of about 20% during 2009.

Carlos Aguirre has had to take urgent but, at the same time, carefully considered decisions. Thus, during the first month of the legislature, he promoted measures to provide self-employed workers, SMEs and large companies with working capital to prevent closures. Now he has managed to submit for parliamentary approval a number of the most broadly-backed budgets in recent governments. As he likes to stress, these are indeed austere budgets but they do address the question of social expenditure. From the very beginning, Aguirre was involved in the defense of the Economic Agreement, holding meetings with representatives of the Ministry of the Economy and taking part in a number of forums. His defense of the Economic Agreement led to the approval by the Congress of Deputies of the processing of the proposal to strengthen the Agreement.



The Urgent Budgetary Measures Law, a package of extraordinary measures to fight against the crisis is another of the initiatives formulated by the Department. And against the background of the drop in tax revenue, it has been necessary for the three Provincial Councils and a number of government bodies such as the Basque Finance Council, Inter-institutional Committees and the Tax Coordination Office to reach agreement. This has led to a strengthening of fiscal harmonization in all three Territories and a number of measures to reduce the fall in tax revenue. Consensus, social policies and strategies to ensure that our economy is in a better position when an end to the crisis comes than when the present government came into power, are some of the aims that characterize the policies of his Department.

Idoia Mendia

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

Modernize government

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Iñaki Arriola

Minister of Housing, Public Works and Transport

The high-speed train network is key to our progress



The Minister of Housing, Public Works and Transport, Iñaki Arriola, was Mayor of Eibar for 15 years and as of 2008, was Secretary-General of the Gipuzkoa Socialists.

Since he was appointed Minister, Arriola has promoted the railway as an efficient, convenient and modern transport system. His aim, therefore, is to modernize and improve an obsolete railway network through the removal of level crossings, the installation of additional tracks to double the frequency of trains and reduce travelling times and the building and modernization of stations.

Within this context, through the use of the present-day Euskotren underground railway, the government has decided, to build the Donostialdea Metro, as was done some time ago in Bizkaia. It is estimated that this will have 25 million users. The Minister also intends to continue developing the Bilbao Metro, together with the Provincial Council of Bizkaia. This will take the form of an extension of Line 3 of the Metro (Etxebarri-Matiko). A study has been commissioned to plan and design Line 4, which will join Moyua and the district of Rekalde-Irala and work has been renewed on the study of the Metro that is to run as far as Galdakao.

The development of the Basque "Y" high-speed railway network is an absolute priority for the Department and the Government. For this reason, renewed impetus has been given to this strategic project, which will receive further backing over the coming years.

The Spanish Government has commissioned the Basque Government with the construction of the high-speed railway in Gipuzkoa. Until a short time ago, only a short section of 1.8 km was under construction in this province. By December 2010, it is expected that 60% of the Gipuzkoa section of the railway will be either contracted or under construction.

With regard to housing, the government has undertaken to put 40,000 government protected dwellings on the market during this legislature. Of these, the intention is to offer at least 40% for rental. This represents a substantial increase in the number of dwellings offered for rental as, until now, this had amounted to only 23% of the total number of dwellings on which work had begun.

Bernabé Unda, Minister of Industry, Innovation, Commerce and Tourism



ELKARRIZKETA: EUSKO JAURLARITZA BERRIA

Fostering innovation and internationalisation

Bernabé Unda has worked for many years in the world of shipyards and naval construction. This engineer, born in Bilbao, is one of three independent ministers in Patxi Lopez's Government. He intends to contribute to the government his business experience in the management of work teams.

He has joined the Industry, Innovation, Commerce and Tourism department at an extremely difficult time, in the middle of an economic crisis. For that reason, he intends to concentrate on two main areas: help businesses deal with this situation and, on the other hand, introduce a number of mechanisms to ensure that, when the crisis comes to an end, Basque producers find themselves in the best possible situation with regard to their competitiveness, innovation and international presence.

Bernabé Unda is also resolute in his determination to secure an increase in the mutual confidence between the public and the government. One of the maxims of the Minister is "to help people to help themselves". In other words, the government is ready to provide companies with support, but these, in turn, must also do their bit and adopt a proactive attitude in order to promote and develop Basque society.

Gemma Zabaleta: Minister of Employment and Social Affairs



Vigorous promoter of social services

Gemma Zabaleta (Donostia, 1957) joins the Employment and Social Affairs Department following a long career in management and in the Basque Parliament, where she was spokesperson on subjects relating to social matters. From her position in the shadow government, she was the main architect of major agreements in this field with the Basque Government, directed by the tripartite government. The Social Agreement was drawn up as a result and during the last few months of last year she became involved in efforts to secure the passing of the Social Services Law, a vital element of the Welfare State. The development of this law will convert the social services into one of the four pillars of the Welfare State together with education, health and pensions.

Professor of Spanish Language and Literature, in her political activities since she took office, Zabaleta has pursued a policy of dialogue and consultation with institutional and social agents. Her aim is to bring about initiatives for social change through dialogue. She is holding talks with the provincial councils in order to reorganize expenditure and with agents and groups from the services sector in order to channel a process of social dialogue. Her department is talking with trade unions and employers' associations

to ensure that the process of social dialogue leads to agreements and is negotiating with the Employment Ministry to take authority for active employment policies.

The integrating policy pursued by the Department also aims to rethink the social services provided by institutions and the need to integrate these with employment services. This is a new way of understanding social-employment inclusion relates more to providing jobs for those who require these than taking the role merely of a manager of government services and subsidies. For this reason, in order to promote social inclusion, negotiation is underway to transfer powers in the field of active employment policies so as to ensure that the future Lanbide-Basque Employment Service is closely related and integrated with social inclusion services. Lanbide will not become a mere mediator between the offer and demand for employment of workers and companies, but must be an active agent in the struggle against social exclusion.

The development of the Social Services Law is another of the major milestones of the Department. This development will allow for the creation of the new Basque Social Services System.

Rafael Bengoa, Minister of Health and Consumer Affairs

Care for chronically ill patients and prevention are priority concerns



The new Minister of Health and Consumer Affairs of the Basque Country was born in Caracas 57 years ago. He is also the son of a doctor, Jose Maria Bengoa, who was member of the historic first Basque Government presided over by Jose Antonio Aguirre. Rafael Bengoa graduated in medicine from the University of the Basque Country and later specialized in Health Management in England. In 1990, he was co-author of the well-known "Abril Report", coordinated by the former vice president of the central government, Fernando Abril Martorell. The report established the bases for remodeling the Spanish health system. Later, between 1991 and 1995, he was director of Planning of the Health Department of the Basque Government with the Minister, Iñaki Azkuna, currently the mayor of Bilbao. During that time, he drew up the "Osasuna Zainduz" report on remodeling the Basque health system.

He has worked for the World Health Organization on two occasions and for a total of 15 years. The last of these was between 1998 and 2006, when he was director of Health Systems. At that time, the care of chronically ill patients had become the main focus of his attention. After leaving the WHO, Bengoa directed the Kroniker Observatory, an independent organization engaged in the analysis of trends in world health with the aim of improving health systems.

Independent of any political group, Bengoa has proposed a change in the healthcare policies of the Basque Country. Five fundamental ideas guide his strategy. The head of Health and Consumer affairs has begun to design a care model based on the care of chronically ill patients, improvements in patient safety and the continuity of care. The project he is leading also gives a greater role both to health professionals and the public, who will take an active part in the fight against disease. "We are faced by a genuine epidemic of chronic illnesses. Rather than merely attending to cases of myocardium infarction", he declares graphically, "We must think about a kind of care that avoids cardiovascular pathology and treat those who suffer from this illness throughout their life".

Pilar Unzalu, Minister for the Environment, Territorial Planning, Agriculture and Fisheries

For the green revolution



Pilar Unzalu has a great deal of political and parliamentary experience, both in the General Councils of Alava, in the Basque Parliament and in the Congress of Deputies. In fact, Unzalu, who was born in the mountain village of Iturrieta, in Alava, was spokesperson of the Industry and Energy Committee of the Spanish Parliament during the present legislature until she decided to join Patxi Lopez's government.

The current economic situation obliges strict controls in the administration of public resources employed in the areas managed by this large department, in which Pilar Unzalu has given her decided support to strengthening investments in innovating projects that will allow us to look at the future as an opportunity and to get out of the current crisis as soon as possible and under the best conditions.

The idea implemented throughout the department and transversely in the Government as a whole of promoting the "green revolution" proclaimed in the EcoEuskadi 2020 plan to consolidate a new model of economic, social and environmentally sustainable development, has been developed in line with this strategy. Pilar Unzalu is convinced that this policy requires a commitment to innovation in all areas, including, logically, the primary sector, in which the guiding principle and differentiating element must be quality.



Blanca Urgell, Kultura sailburua

Euskal kultura plural baten alde

Blanca Urgell Patxi Lópezek Eusko Jaurlaritzan egindako fitxaketa independeteetako bat dugu. Doktorea da Euskal Filologian, eta irakasle titularra EHUko Hizkuntzalaritza eta Euskal Ikasketak Sailean; euskarak gaur egun duen filologo ospetsuenetako bat. Literatur testu klasikoen edizioetan espezializatuta dago, eta Añibarro, Larbizabal eta Axularren edizioak apailatu ditu. Lankidea izan zen Koldo Mitxelenaren Orotariko Euskal Hiztegia erredaktatzeko lanean, eta euskararen historia, hiztegi gintza eta filologiarekin loturiko artikulua ugari idatzi ditu, ikerketa-proiektu askotan parte hartzeaz gainera.

"Julio de Urquijo" Euskal Filologiako Mintegiaren kidea, Anuario de Filología Vasca "Julio de Urquijo" urtekariaren idazkaritza arduraduna da, bai eta "Sancho el Sabio" aldizkariaren aholku-batzordekidea ere. Euskal Editoreen Elkarteak plazaratutako "Klasikoak" euskal testu klasikoen bilduma koordinatu zuen hainbat urtetan, Patxi Altuna, Ibon Sarasola eta Joseba A. Lakarrarekin batera. Joan den urtean euskaltzain izateko hautagai izan zen, azkenean Euskaltzaindiak izendatu zuen Patxi Uribarrenekin batera.

Haren izendapena zeharo ustekabekoa izan zen, baita berarentzat ere, artean ez baitzuen behin ere ez

jarduera politikorik ez kargu publikorik izan. Hala ere, soslai politiko hutsetik urruti egoteak sendotasun profesionala ematen dio hizkuntza-politika bezalako gai labain bati ekiteko. Lehendabiziko agerraldian bertan garbi utzi zuen bere asmoa zein den: Kultura Sailak euskal gizartearen pluraltasuna bideratzeko kultura-politikak garatzea.

Urgellek ez du ezkututzen euskarari dion maitasun eta atxikimendu berezia, baina euskal gizarte berrantolatuaren alde dago.

Eusko Legebiltzarrean egindako lehenengo agerraldian honela hitz egin zuen: "Gure helburua ere haxe da, herritarrak ez dezan inolako mugarik eduki hizkuntzarekiko harremanean. Hitzen balioa eta hitzetan egindako inbertsioa errentagarriak dira, guztiz, epe luzera, eta ez gaude horiei uko egiteko".

Euskal kulturaren ikuspegi global baten argitan, lehenengo hilabete hauetan hizkuntza-politikaren inguruko oinarritzeko adostasuna bermatzeko lanean ibili da sailburua, kultura-ondarea hobeto babestu eta kudeatzeko bideak aztertzen, bai eta kultura-industria eta kontsumoa suspertzeko ekimen berritzaileak abian jartzen.

BASQUE IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES

...*"From Ellis Island to the whole world"*...



Ellis Island Museum and venue of the exhibition

The exhibition "Hidden in Plain Sight: the Basques" will be inaugurated in February 2010 at the Immigration Museum, Ellis Island, New York, and will run until April. The aim of the exhibition, housed in a location visited by thousands of tourists on a daily basis, will be to present the language, customs and values of the Basques, as well as to explain the reasons why they emigrated to the United States. Therefore, the exhibition aims to give visitors an idea of the influence Basques have had on the history of the world.

The choice of Ellis Island as the location for this exhibition is not an accident. The history of this island in New York is closely linked to the history of migration. This was the entry point for more than twelve million immigrants who had left the old world in search of the golden future America offered during the period 1892–1954. The story told on Ellis Island is one of separations, struggles, pain and hope, in memory of all the immigrants who brought their language and culture to the New World. This is a unique place, where both sides of the Atlantic converge in a location which was the destination dreamt of by thousands of men and women throughout the world.

It is estimated that a visit to this six-room exhibition will take an average of 30 minutes. Those interested in visiting the show will find narrative texts on several subjects dealing with Basque history and culture, audiovisual recordings, photographs of yes-

teryear and today, historical artifacts, Basque art and an interactive section for children.

At the beginning of the exhibition, visitors will learn about the Basque men and women who left the Basque Country behind to go to the United States. The oral testimony of Lucy Garate, a Basque emigrant who arrived at Ellis Island in 1920 and who currently lives in Boise, will be a major feature of the exhibition. Visitors are then offered the possibility of gaining an in-depth knowledge of the Basque language, its magical sounds, history and culture, followed by a carousel of memorabilia, traditions and art of Basques in the world. Arriving now at the heart of the exhibition, this switches from a personal view of the Basque people to a more a universal perspective. Visitors can admire the world the Basques left behind them and see for themselves the terrible consequences of the Franco dictatorship depicted in disturbing images of the bombing of Gernika. There is also a reproduction of the work that Pablo Picasso painted as a tribute to the victims of the bombing. Lastly, visitors will enjoy the images and photographs of Basques in the United States, as well as an exhibition of contemporary photographs and artefacts of the Basque Country.

Those who do not have the opportunity to enjoy this exhibition, the only one of its kind in the world, should know that it will be on show during the Jaialdi of the United States in Boise, Idaho, during the summer of 2010.



SIX MONTHS

In November, the new Basque Government completed its first six months in office and has used this moment to take stock of this new era that has opened in the history of the Basque Country. Marked by an absence of the tension that has characterized previous periods, the main features of this six-month period include the struggle against terrorism, the measures taken to deal with the crisis, the search for consensus within the Basque Country and the desire to come to an understanding with the central government and our neighboring communities.

Six months have passed since the new Basque Government was set up following the elections held on March 1. During this time, Basque society has initiated a new stage in its political development. This has occurred in an atmosphere of complete normality and like any mature society, the inhabitants of the Basque Country have accepted that changes of government are an inherent possibility of all democratic systems. Contrary to some catastrophic forecasts, our citizens knew that the change was not going to involve a break with everything that has been achieved in the Basque Country since we recovered our Statutes of Autonomy and created our own institutions, 30 years ago.

Today in the Basque country, people talk more, seek ways of reaching agreement - something which did not happen before

Just the opposite. What characterizes this Government is its capacity to bring people together, overcoming the old dynamics of confrontation which typified other periods in our history. The government has shown its capacity to conserve much of the good that has been done over the years and to promote new policies at the same time so that both the Basque

Country and Basque society can continue making progress. Far from endangering the signs of identity of this country, the new government has emphasized their value and strengthened them, vindicating our best traditions of agreement and highlighting at all times everything that brings the Basques together rather than what separates us.

From the very first moment, the government has tackled the threat to the liberties, security and citizens rights of all Basques with policies of zero tolerance and by promoting the maximum democratic unity, i.e., the terrorism of ETA and those who still provide support or fail to condemn it.

Today in the Basque Country, people talk more to each other, seek ways of reaching agreement and this is something that did not happen before. People do things better because they act with humility, they listen to people and act in a more transparent and self-critical manner, without fear of acknowledging any errors they might have committed and rectifying these when required. For this reason, although brief, this period has been intense and fruitful, full of very positive accomplishments.

+ Euskadi 09 is an anti-crisis program provided with 388 million euros, which, it is hoped, will create 10,000 jobs

A process of social dialogue with trade unions and employers' associations has begun. The aim is to tackle the crisis through agreements reached between the main players and to discuss subjects of mutual concern and find common ground. At the same time, against this background, the government has put into motion its first package of measures, the + Euskadi 09 program, provided with 388.76 million euros, to tackle the economic crisis. It is hoped that 10,000 jobs will be created through this program. Among other measures, the program aims to a) secure contracts for 7000 unemployed persons or in danger of social exclusion, through town halls or other entities, b) create direct subsidies for self-employed workers for a total of 3 million euros, which will benefit around 4000 persons, c) "renove" plans in sectors such as real estate, d) subsidies for the creation of employment in small retail businesses and e) an extraordinary fund of 50 million intended to help town halls to deal with the difficult situation they are going through due to the drop in tax revenue.

An initial agreement has been reached with the central government concerning the transfer of powers in the area of active employment policies

The Basque Government has also reactivated its plans to develop the Statutes of Autonomy and has already reached an agreement with the central government concerning the transfer of powers in the area of active employment policies. At the same time, it has succeeded in reaching a broad stability agreement with the main Basque political parties for all the institutions in the Basque Country. Government, Provincial Councils and Town Halls.

But there have also been a number of other major events, the common denominator of which is a desire to reach a level of understanding. These include a renewal of talks at an institutional level with the province of Navarre and other neighbouring Autonomous Communities, and the major political agreement reached in the Basque parliament to provide the Economic Agreement with a higher level of legal protection. This agreement was subsequently ratified by the Congress of Deputies in Madrid.

Unlike at other times in our recent history, there is less tension and a greater feeling of normality; the nervousness of the past has been replaced with a desire for peaceful coexistence

In short, the last six months have seen a greater capacity to find common ground as a formula to build a country for everyone, without the unilateral impositions typical of a party in power. For that reason, unlike at other times in our recent history, there is less tension and a greater feeling of normality; the nervousness of the past has been replaced with a desire for peaceful coexistence. That is, precisely, the aspect that will guarantee our future as a political community, based on freedom, equality and across-the-board agreements.



Julian Celaya and Elvira Caetajarena at Basque Week in Bahia Blanca



Julian Celaya together with the president of FEVA, Felipe Eyheraguibel. In the background, Marta Aberrategui and Ricardo Basterra, Secretary and Treasurer of FEVA

First official visit by Julian Celaya Loyola to Argentina

Three months after taking office, the new director of relations with Basque Communities, Julian Celaya Loyola, attended National Basque Week held in Bahia Blanca, Argentina. He also visited Basque-Chilean communities and had meetings with several representatives of Euskal etxeak and federations from all over the world.

Before travelling to Bahia Blanca, he had the opportunity of meeting the management team of Laurak Bat in Buenos Aires. In Bahia, he met representatives of the North American (NABO), Uruguayan (FIVU) and Argentinian (FEVA) federations as well as the directors of the Euskal etxeak of Mexico, Sao Paulo and Quebec. He was accompanied by Elvira Cortajarena, Delegate of the Basque Country in Argentina and the Foreign Action specialist, Andoni Martin, at all the meetings.

tary-General for Foreign Action, Guillermo Echenique, had made before the Basque Parliament at the request of political representatives. Of special interest was his request that representatives of the Basque clubs disseminate among their members a vision of the Basque country as an open, modern and advanced society, which upholds democratic principles, rejects unambiguously any manifestation of violence and repudiates terrorism.

Before travelling to Bahia Blanca, he had the opportunity of meeting the management team of Laurak Bat in Buenos Aires

In addition to introducing himself to the Basque community and setting out his plans for the future, including the 2009 subsidies, Julian Celaya read out to the assembly of the FEVA the speech that the Secre-

Julian Celaya urged FEVA to disseminate the true situation of the Basque Country

Julian Celaya's presentation to the Basque-Argentinian community addressed relations not only at an institutional level but involved numerous contacts with business, cultural and media sectors.

BASQUE COUNTRY DAY

GUZTION EGUNA



The Lehendakari addressing his audience

Mexico, the businessman Jose María Aldekoa, the journalist Iñaki Gabilondo, the mountaineer Edurne Pasaban and the politician Juan María Bandrés were presented with the highest awards in the Basque Country, during a ceremony held on October 25 at the Lehendakaritza on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Statutes of Gernika.

On October 25, the Basque Government commemorated the 30th anniversary of the Statutes of Gernika at a solemn ceremony held at the Lehendakaritza, attended by hundreds of political, cultural and social representatives of the Basque Country. The event sought to pay tribute to the document that established the Basque Country as a political community in 1979, providing it with a level of self-government never experienced until then.

Mexico received the Lagun Onari award for providing a haven for thousands of Basques during the Civil War

The Basque Government used the occasion to present the Basque Country's highest accolades, the Lagun Onari and Lan Onari awards. The Laguna Onari award was presented to the United States of Mexico, and the Lan Onari awards were given to the president of the Corporación Mondragón, Jose María Aldekoa, who the Lehendakari praised for his determination in "consolidating and developing this world model of cooperativism", the journalist Iñaki Gabilondo, the mountaineer Edurne Pasaban and the politician Juan María Bandrés, who was not able to attend due to ill health. The award was collected by his friend Alberto Aguirrezabal, who said that Bandrés felt "honored, deeply moved and thankful".

The "Lagun Onari" prize is awarded to those individuals or entities who, although not being Basque, have contributed significantly to



the interests, economic promotion and dissemination abroad of the history and culture of the Basque Country. Former recipients of the awards have included the Argentinean Republic, the State of Idaho, the ex-president of Czechoslovakia, Vaclav Havel, the Italian Francesco Cossiga, the historian William A. Douglas, the President of Chile Eduardo Frei and the Uruguayan Julio María Sanguinetti.

The Lehendakari defined the Statutes as "an agreement between different Basques who decide to live together"

On this occasion, Mexico was presented with the award for the fraternal relations this country has maintained with the Basque people for centuries and for the solidarity shown by its institutions at a humanitarian level during the Spanish civil war, when thousands of Basques were given a safe haven in that country. The Mexican ambassador in Spain, Jorge Zermeño Infante, was given the job of collecting the award. During his speech, he highlighted the fact that the history of the Basque Country has close links with that of Mexico and recalled that many Basque emigrants gave their support "in the struggle for independence" of that country. After mentioning the welcome given to 25,000 Civil War exiles, "including 2000 Basques", the Ambassador declared that "today we continue to enjoy close ties with the Basque community with deep roots in Mexico, where more than 150 Basque companies have set up business".

The Lan Onari awards are given to Basques who have distinguished themselves for their dedication, steadfastness and spirit of initiative in the development of their professional activities. The highlight of the presentation ceremony was the emotional address by Eurne Pasaban and the speech by Iñaki Gabilondo, the San Sebastian-born journalist who presented a passionate defence of the Statutes and recalled that they had brought Basques together following their abolition during the Franco dictatorship. "Will we have to wait until the Statutes are withdrawn again for Basques to get together once more?" he asked.



Guests at the ceremony

Lehendakari Patxi Lopez was the next to speak. He defined the Statutes as "an agreement between different Basques who decide to live together, an agreement that respects these differences and resolves our problems with the tools made available to us through the terms of our self-government". Lopez rejected making a "stubborn vindication of a specific document", but defended "that way of understanding and securing the coexistence between different citizens with equal rights".

The Lehendakari ended his speech by making three wishes for the future. "We want liberty in order to be free. We want freedom of choice so that each person can decide his or her own future. And we want tolerance so that we can coexist in peace".

"Will we have to wait until the statutes are withdrawn again for Basques to get together once more?" Gabilondo wondered.

During the ceremony, a video was shown which paid tribute to those persons who made the approval of the Statutes of 1936 and 1979 possible and to those who have taken part in its development and growth over recent years. The song "Mendian gora haritza", composed by Imanol with words by Xabier Amuriza, was played over black and white images of key personalities in the recent history of the Basque Country, such as Jose Antonio Aguirre, Ramon Rubial and Carlos Garaiokoetxea and ended with the swearing in of Patxi Lopez in Gernika.

The band of the Basque Police, Ertzaintza, which had played the hymn of the Basque Country at the beginning of the ceremony, brought this to a conclusion with the "Gernikako arbola". This was the climax of an event in which the walls of the Lehendakaritza were festooned with photographs of the men and women who, from Lehendakari Aguirre until today, have worked for the Basque Country and for its self-government.

MORE AND BETTER COOPERATION IN TIMES OF CRISIS

A third of the official aid for development provided by the Basque Government is channelled to Latin America. The government of Patxi Lopez is firmly committed to cooperation for development, an area which will not go unattended in spite of the crisis. Eloquent proof of this is the future Basque Cooperation Agency, which will develop programs already in existence and be responsible for planning, coordination and communication.

There can be no conditioning factors in the struggle against poverty and the international economic crisis cannot be allowed to delay efforts to reduce poverty and marginalization throughout the world. Moreover, in times of crisis, there must be an even greater commitment to the development of persons in a situation of poverty because we are witnessing a truly humanitarian crisis, which is also, therefore, a crisis for humanity. According to the United Nations, the current economic crisis caused more than 46 million people to fall into a situation of extreme poverty. 1000 million people are already under the threat of starvation.

These shocking figures urge us to join forces and pursue with greater efficiency common international objectives designed to eradicate poverty, promote sustainable human development and respect and protect the human rights of men and women.

- **According to the United Nations, the current economic crisis caused more than 46 million people to fall into a situation of extreme poverty.**

According to these clear principles, the Basque Government is promoting cooperation aimed at sustainable human development based on overall, long-term strategies. The government intends to prioritise those areas with high poverty and social exclusion rates, to remove the threat to human dignity and to use the untapped resources and capabilities of millions of people.

Basque solidarity is channelled through a number of different cooperation entities, non-government organizations for development and local governments in the south. This has led to the establishment of firm relationships of commitment and exchange with different cultures and to the participation in social transformation experiences on the five continents.

Central and South America are some of the priority areas for Basque cooperation. A third of the total official development aid of the Basque government is allocated to Latin America. The reasons for this are the special cultural, social and economic links forged over a number of decades in the region where there are also large Basque communities.

- **Central and South America are some of the priority areas for Basque cooperation.**

As a result of this constant and committed presence, a number of important strategic alliances, networks and development processes have been developed in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, Cuba, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, the priority countries of the Basque Government's program of cooperation for development. A number of different agreements with local entities and governments in Argentina, Uruguay and Chile have also been promoted.

The situation of poverty, inequality, extreme vulnerability and exclusion experienced by African men and women has led to an increase in the efforts being

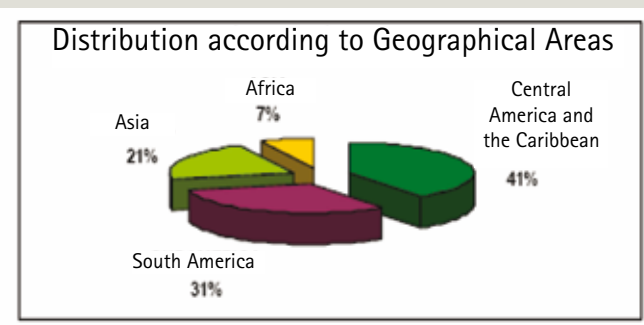
made to strengthen links with Africa. A number of projects are underway in different locations in Angola, Ivory Coast, Ruanda, Mozambique, the Congo and the refugee camps of the Sahrawi Democratic Arab Republic. India and Palestine are the priority locations on the Asian continent.

- **The Basque Cooperation Agency will come into operation in 2010 with the aim of consolidating the links and alliances forged over the years through Basque cooperation**

Shared responsibility is one of the signs of identity of the Basque cooperation. The leading role played by non-government organizations in the development of this area is well-known. As is the case of voluntary workers, they are the visible face of our cooperation, the best ambassadors of our solidarity in the world. Thanks to the commitment of volunteers, professionals and also of public administrations, Basque cooperation for development is becoming more and more established and recognized.

In the 90s, Basque society began to demand that the government allocate 0.7% of its budget to foreign aid, and the first voluntary workers who took part in the initial cooperation projects undoubtedly made an important contribution to this situation. Missionaries were already there at that time. Special mention should be given to their pioneering work.

Today, the Basque government is reaping the benefits of that experience and encouraging a kind of cooperation based on the progressive principles of solidarity, equality and the fostering of individual freedom. It is part of the government's public policy to extend personal rights, to broaden the concept of citizenship and to promote integrated and cohesive communities and it will continue to do so over the coming years.



The challenges to be faced by the future Basque Cooperation Agency, which will come into operation in 2010, include the consolidation of the ties and alliances forged over the years through Basque cooperation. It will therefore embody a concept of cooperation based on the strengthening of existing experiences, increasing their impact and providing them with more consolidated capacities of planning, coordination and communication. This represents an opportunity to consolidate a public policy through the efficient incorporation of new players and instruments to maximize existing capacities.

SUPPORT THE IGNACIO ELLACURIA PRIZE

As of 2008, the Voluntary Worker Prize granted by the Basque Government was changed to the Ignacio Ellacuria Prize as a tribute to his humanitarian work and in particular, in recognition of the work of Father Ellacuria in El Salvador. Last November marked the 20th anniversary of his murder and, for this reason, the prize was presented in the city where he was born, Portugalete, against the background of a series of parallel activities to disseminate the importance of this figure and his legacy. During the ceremony, the words of Father Ellacuria who, just a few days before his murder, said that "this civilization is seriously ill and in order to prevent a fatal and tragic ending, we must try to change it", were remembered.

The Basque Government is committed to change: may the solidarity of the Basques with international projects allow us to bring about change according to the principles of equality and social justice.

EUSKADI 2009 LITERARY PRIZES

The headquarters of the Basque Television Company EITB was the scenario chosen for the presentation of the Euskadi Literary Prizes given by Culture Department of the Basque Government every year. On this occasion, the winners included Xabier Lete in the Basque literature category, Luisa Etxenike in Spanish, Ruben Ruiz in children and young adult literature, Elena Odriozola in illustration and Antton Olano in the translation category

Lete was awarded the prize by the jury for his firmness and discursive richness, for his dialogue with tradition, authenticity, bitterness and joie de vivre with a sustained rhythm

The last book of poems by Xabier Lete, 'Egusentziaren esku izoztuak' obtained the Euskadi Literature Prize in Basque at this year's event. He received the award at a ceremony held on November 24 at the headquarters of EITB. The Euskadi Literary Prizes are presented on an annual basis by the Culture Department of the Basque Government.



It is a "tribute to those who went away", in which the last years of this poet are reflected with nostalgia, love, tenderness, affliction, death and the dream of reunion. The jury decided to give the prize to this work for its firmness and discursive richness, for the dialogue with tradition, authenticity, bitterness and joie de vivre with a sustained rhythm.

Xabier Lete was an active member of the Ez Dok Amairu group, a cultural current of Basque men and women of letters, artists and singers, during the Franco dictatorship, including, among others, Benito Lertxundi, Jorge Oteiza and Mikel Laboa. Lete has dedicated his entire life to culture, publishing poems and recording discs. His work in the world of song writing is an important feature of our popular culture. Following a period when he dedicated himself to the poetry of protest and campaigned against injustice, he went through an existentialist stage and this represents the background to the prize-winning book of poetry.

Etxenike's book of poems deals with the son of a bodyguard murdered by ETA when saving the life of a politician under his protection

The winner in the Spanish category was Luisa Etxenike for her novel 'El ángulo ciego'. This, the sixth book of this writer from San Sebastian deals with the son of a bodyguard murdered by ETA when saving the life of a politician under his protection. This is an intense, illuminating and audacious novel which manages to combine



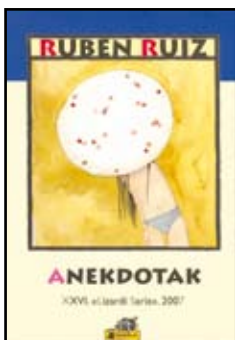
two narrative planes (desire and reality) through an introspective, poetic prose and a starkness that is full of strength, rhythm and depth. It is a serene reflection and denounces irrational violence and its consequences. The action focuses on moments following the burial of the bodyguard and reflects the emotions of the victims at the climax of their pain and suffering.

Translator and regular columnist of the El País newspaper, Luisa Etxenike has written stories and published novels entitled 'Los peces negros' (2005), 'Vino' (2000), 'El mal más grave' (1997), 'Efectos secundarios' (1996) and the collections of short stories 'Ejercicios de duelo' (2001) and 'La historia de amor de Margarita Maura' (1990). In 2007, she received the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres award from the French government.

Children and Young Adult Literature

In 'Anekdotak', a child of 8 years of age relates a series of anecdotes and offers a poetic view of life and the world

'Anekdotak', by Ruben Ruiz, won the Euskadi Prize in the category of children's and young adult's literature. In this work, an 8-year-old child, Ane, relates a series of anecdotes and offers a poetic view of life and the world. The book contains 30 well-structured short stories written by the main character, in a format similar to a diary. It is an intimate and minimalist work, which reminds us of well-known authors in children's literature, such as Mariasun Landa and Juan Kruz Igerabide, but constructs its own particular universe.



This is not a type of literature suitable only for children. It speaks to persons of all ages, both young people and adults. The plays on words, the poetic witticisms and amusing remarks, and the special logic of the way Ane looks at the world, makes this book a very attractive read. According to Ruben Ruiz, "The writer must spy on life and this is the attitude I adopted while I wrote this book. There is always something in one's life, its small details and anecdotes that inspire you to write".

Born in Alava, Ruben Ruiz currently lives in Navarra where he works as a teacher. He did Teacher Training and Psychopedagogy and is the coordinator of the children's and young adult's literature magazine "Behinola". He is also member of the Galtzagorri Association.

Odriozola: The publishing company gave me a gift; they gave me the text by Cortazar and told me: "Do what you want"

In the new category of illustration, the Euskadi Prize this year has been granted to Elena Odriozola for 'Aplastamiento de las gotas'.

In this book, illustrated for adults, Odriozola tries not to be servile to the powerful and well-known text by Julio Cortázar, included in his work 'Historias de cronopios y famas'. Raindrops are the main characters in this intimate story by



Cortazar, which the illustrator, through her drawings, intermingled with a couple's feelings as they fall in and out of love, and infected by the melancholy of the situation in which they are immersed.

The jury awarded this prize to Elena Odriozola for her brave and risky interpretation, which allows us to reflect on melancholy with an overpowering simplicity and subtlety. The images speak for themselves and are an example of the fragile frontier that separates the aesthetics of a child and adult reader. In the words of the author, "the publishing company gave me a gift; they gave me the text by Cortazar and told me: "Do what you want" I have really enjoyed myself and I believe that is shown in the book".

Elena Odriozola studied art and decoration and began to work in advertising as a layout artist and art director.

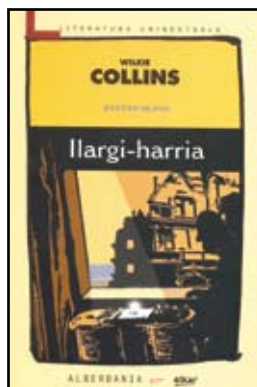
The Basque translator resident in Catalonia, Antton Olano, has been awarded the prize for the Basque version of 'La piedra lunar' by the English writer, Wilkie Collins

The Basque translator, resident in Catalonia, Antton Olano, has been awarded the literary translation prize for his translation into Basque of 'La piedra lunar' by the English writer, Wilkie Collins.

This work is considered to be the first detective novel in English literature, one of the most important works of the 19th century and precursor of the modern mystery novel.

The jury commended the translator for his successful expression in Basque of the numerous registers used by Wilkie Collins in his book 'Ilargi-harria'. Olano's translation "reflects in the best possible way and with great sense of equilibrium the general tone of the work of Collins, the wealth of registers of narrators of history, as well as his personal and social characteristics. This translation represents a major contribution to contemporary Basque literature, and merits all the praise and acclaim it has received".

After spending several years as a Basque professor, Antton Olano studied translation at the Martutene Translators School. Between 1992 and 2000, he formed part of the editorial team of the Lur Encyclopedic Dictionary.



News brief

laburrak noticias



Reception given by the Lehendakari to participants in Gaztemendu 2009



MAY

The Basque Parliament votes in Patxi Lopez as the new Lehendakari

On May 5, the Basque Parliament held a plenary session for the investiture of the new Lehendakari. Patxi Lopez became the first Lehendakari of the Socialist Party, with the votes of his party, the Partido Popular and Unión Progreso y Democracia, with a total of 38 votes. Lehendakari Ibarretxe, who also presented his candidature, obtained 35, the sum of the votes of Partido Nacionalista Vasco, Aralar and Eusko Alkartasuna.

Patxi Lopez was sworn in as Lehendakari under the Tree of Gernika

Lehendakari Patxi Lopez was sworn in in the historic town of Gernika. Under the old oak tree and with his hand on a copy of the Statutes of Gernika, instead of the traditional Bible. The ceremony was attended by a large number of institutional and social representatives.

JUNE

Elections to the European Parliament

On June 7, elections took place to the European Parliament with gains throughout Europe for the Popular European Group and the triumph in Spain of the Partido Popular led by Jaime Mayor Oreja. In the Basque Country, the Partido Nacionalista Vasco won 28.75% of the votes, followed by the Partido Socialista with 27.98% and Partido Popular with 16.15% respectively.

The Court of Strasbourg considers that the dissolution of Batasuna did not breach the European Human Rights Agreement

The European Court of Human Rights of the Council of Europe issued its verdict on the appeal filed by Batasuna against the Kingdom of Spain, relating to the banning of this party by the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court. The Court of Strasbourg decided unanimously that the decision of the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court to ban Batasuna and Herri Batasuna did not represent a breach of freedom of expression or freedom of meeting and association, pointing out that the dissolution of the plaintiff political parties corresponded to "an urgent social requirement".

JULY

Idoia Mendia inaugurates the "Crisis in Europe" seminar within the framework of the Summer Courses of the University of the Basque Country

In her speech, the spokesperson of the Basque Government emphasized the firm support of the new government for Europe, and its desire to obtain a greater presence for European politics in the Autonomous Community, to develop and apply Community law, to continue working in order to secure the official status of the Basque as a language of the European Union and to promote transnational networks of economic, social and cultural cooperation. In order to eliminate the boundary effect.

Gaztemendu 2009 finishes with a reception given by Lehendakari Patxi Lopez at Ajuria Enea for all those who have taken part.

The Lehendakari, Patxi Lopez, received the young participants in the Gaztemendu 2009 program at Ajuria Enea. Gaztemendu is organized on an annual basis and aims to enable young people from the Basque Diaspora to discover the land of their ancestors for a few days and to receive training on a number of subjects. Participants were presented with a diploma from the Lehendakari, who was accompanied by the Director of Relations with Basque Communities Abroad, Julian Celaya.



AUGUST

EUDEL and the Basque Government will coordinate work to prevent the extolling of terrorism

The Department of the Interior and the Association of Basque Municipalities, Eudel, collaborate fully in an atmosphere of mutual understanding. They have agreed to strengthen the Local Security Councils and to improve their work in the fields of prevention and coordination. The meeting was attended by a delegation from Eudel led by its president Jokin Bildarratz, and a delegation from the Department of the Interior led by the Minister, Rodolfo Ares.

Ares defends the professionalism and restraint of the Basque police (Ertzaintza) in their recent actions in the field of public order

The Minister for the Interior of the Basque Government, Rodolfo Ares, has made a positive evaluation of the actions of the Basque Police to guarantee public order and in compliance with the law during the festivities held in the Basque Country. Ares has commended police chiefs and has asked Basque town halls to collaborate in the work of preventing the presence of radicals in those locations where festivities have been held. In this sense, the Minister has called upon town halls to make it more difficult to set up open-air bars during festivals and refuse permission for those who manifest their support for ETA.

SEPTEMBER

Kaiku wins the La Concha Flag in San Sebastian

Kaiku's "trainera" racing boat, 'Bizkaitarra', savored victory once again in La Concha, 27 years after the last time it won the race. The rowers trained by Jose Luis Korta completely dominated the race of honor in which they beat Castro's team by 17 seconds. After the brilliant victory, the town of Sestao, in Bizkaia, exploded in a sea of green and black.

The 57th Donosti Zinemaldi closed

The San Sebastian International Film Festival was held during September 18-26. Brad Pitt and Quentin Tarantino were some of the celebrities of the international film industry that walked the red carpet. The Concha de Oro for the best film was given to "City of Life and Death", by the Chinese director Lu Chuan.

OCTOBER

2009 Narrative Prize of Spain for Kirmen Uribe

The Basque writer, Kirmen Uribe, won the 2009 Literature prize in the narrative category for his work 'Bilbao-New York-Bilbao'. This prize, awarded by the Spanish Culture Ministry and worth 20,000 euros, is given to a work written in any of the official languages of the State.

The Lehendakari defends the validity of the Statute of Gernika as a guarantee of our right to decide

The Lehendakari, Patxi Lopez, defended the validity of the Statutes of Gernika on their 30th anniversary as the "guarantee of our right to decide" and the "framework of coexistence" that enables Basques to enjoy "liberty, democracy and self-government". He also added that "this is a day to reaffirm the value of the Statutes as a framework of democratic coexistence, because they define a Basque Country in which there is a place for everyone".

NOVEMBER

November 25: Campaign for the International Day against violence to women

This campaign was organized by Eudel, Emakunde and the Gender Violence Victims Department of the Basque Government. Under the slogan "Beldur barik / Without fear", the campaign sets out to help young Basque persons detect the existing violence against women and to provide them with resources to prevent and combat this.

The "Alakrana" tuna fishing boat freed after 47 days in captivity

On November 17, the 36 crew of the Bermeo tuna fishing boat were freed after 47 days in captivity, kidnapped by Somali pirates. Back in the Basque Country, some of the crew have spoken about the poor treatment and complicated situations that they experienced during their captivity in the Indian Ocean. The judge of the National Court, Santiago Pedraz, is currently hearing the case.

DECEMBER

International Basque Day

On December 3, International Basque Day was held to coincide with the San Francisco de Xabier Festival. This day was institutionalized by the Basque Government and the Royal Academy of the Basque Language in 1995 and has a long history. Some of the most important events in its history included a number of seminars organized by the Basque Studies Society and the Euskaltzaleak Association in times of the Second Republic. Likewise, the activities of the Euskaltzaleen Biltzarra association in Iparralde, which held its first Basque Day in 1949, deserve special mention.

Myriam Otaola Allende

Graduate in Economic Law from Deusto University,
Foreign Action Grant Holder of the Basque
Government, member and activist of Amnesty
International



"I should like to take my commitment to Human Rights one stage further"

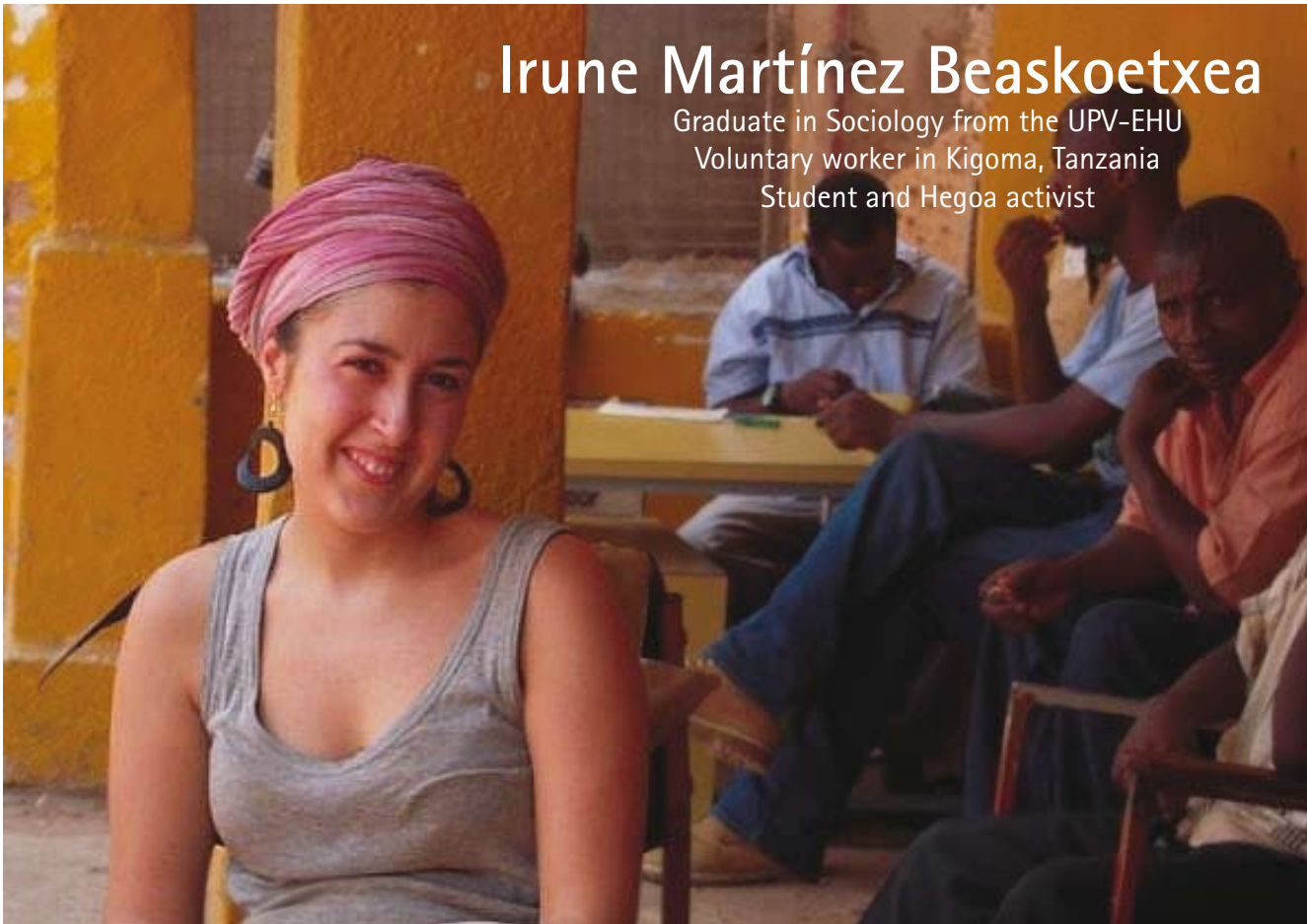
I completed my university studies in 2008. My interest in Community and International Law began during my time at university, where I realized that these areas were becoming more and more important and in some countries they have become more important than their own internal laws. In order to delve into and specialize in these subjects, which continued to interest me, I went to Paris with an Erasmus scholarship, thanks to which I enjoyed a year studying at the Sorbonne. This experience was not only exciting academically but was also extremely rewarding at a personal level. I learnt how to live in the multicultural ambiances of a big city, took full advantage of the French university methodology which is oriented more towards practical work than to theory, and I was able to benefit from the infinite cultural and leisure activities of a city like Paris!

Back home (although I studied in Bilbao, I was born in Vitoria), and on completing my last year at university, including an internship in Bilbao, I began a doctorate course in international patrimonial relations and applied for a training and specialization grant in European Affairs from the

General Secretariat for Foreign Action of the Lehendakaritza, which I was lucky enough to obtain.

It was then when I joined the group of Amnesty International activists in Vitoria and realized that I could and should place my training at the service of a social improvement project. The philosophy of Amnesty International, which is based on international law instruments ratified by countries to demand their compliance, suited my training and outlook down to the ground.

Thus, for one year, I combined my doctorate studies with this training scholarship and my work as an activist, and in this way I have tried to combine my professional and personal interests. The grant is already coming to an end and I have benefited a great deal from it. Among other things, it has reinforced my wish to continue in the field of Community Law or International Law, as I have had the opportunity of learning more about it from the inside, but I would like to take my commitment to Human Rights still further and do voluntary work before I get bogged down with professional obligations.



Irune Martínez Beaskoetxea

Graduate in Sociology from the UPV-EHU
Voluntary worker in Kigoma, Tanzania
Student and Hegoa activist

"Where there are no resources there is abundant creativity"

During my university course, I had the opportunity of travelling to Columbia for three months with a Basque Government grant for "Young Basque voluntary workers". This experience turned my attention towards cooperation and I was encouraged to do a Masters in International Cooperation and Development.

Born in Bilbao, I am currently living in Kigoma, Tanzania, working on a hydrosanitary project which aims to provide adequate water supply and sewage treatment systems, as well as improvements in hygiene, water and sewage treatment conditions.

In Tanzania, 80% of diseases treated are due to poor water and sewage treatment conditions. These diseases contribute to approximately 30% of deaths every year. This problem affects children especially, as, according to the World Health Organization, in 2008, 1.87 million children of under five years of age died of diarrhea.

The common cause of disease in this area is the consumption of contaminated water and inadequate hygiene. In order to deal with this problem, it is necessary to secure a source of drinking water and combine this with an efficient program of health and hygiene education. The project in which I took part dealt with prevention and focused mainly on promoting hygienic practices.

Taking part in this project is a unique opportunity and an unbelievable experience. Living in a rural environment in Tanzania opens one's mind, and increases one's capacity for adaptation and creativity. When you arrive on site, you are confronted by new, unpredictable difficulties, but the resourcefulness of the local population and of the professionals who dedicate their lives to development work is astounding. In the end, everything turns out okay. Here, you begin to value the importance of human capacity and teamwork. Where there are no resources there is abundant creativity.

Tanzania is a country full of opportunity where people do not lose hope or their ability to smile. In my case, it has been a real challenge. I was very afraid when I arrived and I will be very sorry to leave, but very happy about everything I have learnt both as a personal and professional level. The world of voluntary work is very idealized and may sometimes be treated in a frivolous manner, with images of so many Angelina Jolies saving the world! However, voluntary work means doing a professional job with many difficulties and even fewer means, but what you get from it is much more gratifying.

Images to remember



From Montevideo, Uruguay I am sending you a photo of my mother. On the top of Mount Uzturre (Tolosa) - 1952 - Together with the not to be missed txistu and the trophies "100 mountains competition 1946-1952" obtained. From left to right, we can see the sisters: Isabel, Lierni, Julene and Arantxa Bastarrica Usandizaga (my mother), Tolosarras through and through.

I would love to see some of these photographs published in the "Photographic Mementos" section of the prestigious magazine "Euskal Etxeak".

Agur bero bat
Mirentxu Saralegui Bastarrica

DO YOU HAVE ANY PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMENTOS?

If so, and you would like to see it published in this section, send it to us at the following address:
euskaletxeak@ej-gv.es

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