

ABERRI EGUNA 2000



UDALBILTZA[®]
EUSKAL HERRIKO UDAL ETA HAUTETSIEEN BILTZARRA

BUILDING EUSKAL HERRIA

On the 23rd of April, UDALBILTZA appealed to the town halls of the whole of Euskal Herria to hold a unitary celebration of the Aberri Eguna Day.

Today, Sunday the 23rd of April, is the Aberri Eguna Day. Since 1931, our people have been celebrating the peaceful and collective affirmation of our nation, as occurs in many other countries. The aim of this day is to bring together all Basques to proclaim our identity and show our will to continue being a people. We are a nation and, as such, we are accorded certain political rights. UDALBILTZA is today proclaiming those rights.

Our aim is to advance and develop as a people, as a nation, given that the challenges we have to face in the 21st century are considerable ones. In fact, we are immersed in the phenomenon of globalization and culture. This globalization has a profound affect on the economy, on the culture, language and society of peoples such as ours. And in order to face up to this phenomenon of uniformity, it is necessary to define and clarify the political, institutional, economic and cultural instruments on which our people relies. That is the reason why we are calling Basque citizens to take part in the celebration of the Aberri Eguna.

That is what we are involved in, studying the democratic national conscience of Euskal Herria in depth, by setting instruments in motion so as to advance as a people. When facing these challenges, our people is facing obstacles which are difficult to overcome, its being our aim to do just that - overcome them, in order to pave the way for a democratic debate among all Basques, by studying our relationships in depth and guaranteeing our political, cultural, economic and linguistic future in a climate without violence and demands.

For all the aforementioned reasons, we firmly proclaim that Euskal Herria as a nation can only be built on the free will of all Basque citizens, by means of democratic and political debate without prior conditions attached or restrictions. We are taking on the commitment to work in favour of a democratic and peaceful scenario in which all

existing political projects may have their space, by respecting the plurality of citizens and their ideas.

The call for the Aberri Eguna has been based on these thoughts; in other words, on the reaffirmation of our responsibility with regard to democratic construction, taken on by this municipally-based Basque national institution. Today is a day of fiesta, but is also a day of commitment, because we wish to build the future for Basque society through peace, justice and freedom. Today we proclaim the will to continue along the path embarked on in the day-to-day building of Euskal Herria.

For all the aforementioned reasons, the Aberri Eguna this year makes a special appeal to national, free and democratic construction, based on our social and political plurality, without any type of demand or coercion, and starting off with the notion of being open to the whole of society. By considering the definitive solution to the political conflict and its painful consequences; in other words, the acceptance of a Euskal Herria whose rights of sovereignty and territoriality may be recognised. Consequently, Basque social cohesion is the duty of all and we are all needed in carrying out this task.

That is what Udalbiltza is declaring: the future is in the hands of Basque citizens, in the hands of national and democratic construction. To this end, we are calling all Basque citizens to jointly and festively celebrate the Aberri Eguna.

In Euskal Herria, on the 23rd of April 2000