

# UDALBILTZA<sup>®</sup>

## INSTITUTIONAL DECLARATIONS 2001



EUSKAL HERRIKO UDAL ETA UDAL HAUTETSIEIEN BILTZARRA

## **IN THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF LANGUAGES**

**6th of April 2001**

UDALBILTZA, on the 6th of April 2001, in the European Year of Languages, wishes to state its concern with regard to the situation faced by Euskera and Basque culture in Nafarroa.

UDALBILTZA, the National Institution of Municipalities and municipally-elected Councillors of Euskal Herria, wishes in the European Year of Languages to declare its concern about the situation being faced by Euskera and Basque culture in Nafarroa:

1. Euskera is an inheritance from thousands of years ago which has reached us from generation to generation. It is the oldest known language in Europe, the Basques' own language and a cultural treasure and linguistic heritage of all citizens of Euskal Herria.

2. All languages are a sign of cultural plurality. Furthermore, they constitute the most important vehicle for communication among human beings. To this end, it is the basic duty of democratic authorities to guarantee and protect the linguistic rights of citizens and, in particular, promote policies encouraging minority languages. In Euskal Herria, the language which is in the weakest situation is Euskera, in comparison to Castilian and French. Consequently, authorities must make a special effort in favour of the development of Euskera. Because they must guarantee and support its learning and appropriate use by all those who wish to do so.

3. In this sense, we are deeply upset and concerned about the most recent actions on the part of the authorities of the Government of Nafarroa against the promotion, normalization and use of Euskera. In addition to attacking the Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights, it is acting against its own Law governing Euskera: by denying the citizens of Nafarroa the right to be recognised as members of a linguistic community, by making it difficult for it to be used in public, by reducing the right to mix and associate with other members of the Basque linguistic community and by impeding the exercise of the right to preserve and develop its own culture.

4. In addition to acting against a language and culture, these decisions go against the citizens of Nafarroa, because they attempt to create social and political divisions, when this society has on more than one occasion shown a clear commitment to bilingualism and social coexistence.

5. To this end, we ask all social, cultural and economic agents, all institutions, and all political parties, especially taking into account the citizens of Nafarroa and Iparralde, to take responsibility for defending the right of citizens to know and use Euskera and to take the measures required in the interests of pursuing this objective; they should take some real steps towards the normalization of Euskera that may guarantee its learning and promote its use.

6. We encourage all citizens and institutions in Nafarroa to make a firm commitment in favour of Euskera and Basque culture. In this new millennium, in a globalized world, all languages and cultures must have their place. Ours, Euskera, too. Linguistic and cultural plurality is enriching for everyone.

7. Euskera, a historic heritage of Euskal Herria, belongs to all and it is the duty of all of us to safeguard, promote and develop it.

In Euskal Herria, 6th of April 2001

## **INSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION, BEFORE THE ACTION OF THE PP**

**4th of April 2001**

Institutional declaration for which UDALBILTZA asks the PP to stop threatening, manipulating and lying to the citizenship.

The president of the Council of UDALBILTZA's Direction (EAJ-PNV-EA) and mayor Beasain, Jon JAUREGI, before the manifestations realized yesterday by Jaime Mayor Oreja and the Mayors' Committee of the PP, to the effect that UDALBILTZA tries to submit the Basques and to attack and to make eliminate the town halls in Euskal Herria, wants to demonstrate the following thing:

1.-We demand Major Oreia and the PP that they stop threatening, manipulating and lying to the Basque citizenship concerning UDALBILTZA's nature. UDALBILTZA is a project legitimate and democratic and based on the free adhesion of the citizens and the respect and defense of the human rights of all the citizens.

2.-The mayors and councilmen that we form a part of UDALBILTZA we have been chosen democratically also by the citizens and these manifestations constitute a lack of respect and an absolute scorn on having been sorry and to seem of these citizens.

3.-UDALBILTZA tries to give response to an undeniable reality, since it is Euskal Herria's existence and the will of a majority of citizens to relate, to know and to stimulate the elements of common identity, from the freedom and the mutual respect and in the frame of an Europe and a society in constant evolution towards opened and natural spaces over state artificial borders.

4.-UDALBILTZA wonders if to help, for example, to the promotion, impulse and use of the Basque in Iparralde and in Nafarroa are so illegitimate and illegal aspects for Major Ear and the PP. Of what is afraid Mr Mayor Oreja of the PP? With attitude they demonstrate authentic nature that is not other one that of trying to restrict the progresses and consensuses of the citizens creating social artificial divisions.

5.-UDALBILTZA tries to construct and does not want to destroy anything.

UDALBILTZA has condemned and will condemn any conciliation of the human rights. The break of the ceasefire was AN ETA'S responsibility, but Major Ear would do well in explaining all the efforts that realized in order that was finishing and to drown the hope of the Basque society, whereas others we did the possible thing for consolidating and to support a situation of peace, expansion and freedom for all the Basque citizens.

In Euskal Herria, 4th of April 2001