

UDALBILTZA[®]

INSTITUTIONAL DECLARATIONS 2005



EUSKAL HERRIKO UDAL ETA UDAL HAUTETSIEIEN BILTZARRA

RESPONSE TO THE POLITICAL DECISION

UDALBIDE Elkarlan Elkarteak is a Cohesion Fund that works in favour of the national construction of Euskal Herria. "Let he who is able be the provider" even more so if he who should provide does not have the will to do so. The central theme of UDALBIDE is, exclusively, the promotion and strengthening of Euskera, Basque culture and its identity. Without looking any further than its connection with the world of Euskera and Basque culture, it had never taken into account whether whoever happens to be asking for assistance was a political activist or was a card-carrying member of any political party. Its aim goes far beyond party interests: to ensure all rights of all citizens without exception with the utmost dignity, of this Euskal Herria that has its sights set on Europe.

For this reason, in the opinion of UDALBIDE Elkarlan Elkarteak, decisions regarding grants should be free of confrontation between political parties. In the plenary session of the Basque Parliament, if EHAK and Aralar had voted in favour of the consignment destined for UDALBIDE, this would have gone ahead. However, they decided otherwise. What kind of a paradox is that! – condemning the budgetary shortage destined for national construction and rejecting a consignment destined for such purpose! We should like to highlight the irresponsible nature of these two parties, the attitude and decision of whom has meant that the UDALBIDE budget has been reduced by a third. This, whether we like it or not, will have consequences on the association's work. Despite this and as the Executive Board of UDALBIDE has decided, it shall channel all its efforts into finding other sources of funds, so that most of its activities or at least the most important ones may be carried out, albeit not all of them.

Each and every one of us is responsible for our actions and consequences. Those of us who form part of UDALBIDE are clear as to what our stance and responsibility is with regard to national construction and, over and above all restrictions, we shall continue working in a responsible and consequential manner.

The Executive Board of UDALBIDE Elkarlan Elkarteak

ZORIONAK IBARRETXE JAUNARI

UDALBILTZA, the assembly of *abertzale* (Basque nationalist) councillors of Araba, Bizkaia, Gipuzkoa, Nafarroa and Iparralde, wishes to express our satisfaction with the appointment of Juan José Ibarretxe as *Lehendakari* (Basque President), and should like to convey to him our most sincere congratulations and good wishes in his third term of office at the helm of the Basque Government.

We at this assembly of municipally-elected councillors wish to highlight the importance of the appointment of an *abertzale Lehendakari* at the helm of the Basque Government – an institution that, together with the provincial and city councils, is a driving force behind the process of recovery and promotion of our institutions, of Basque language and culture and also a reference point for Basques overseas.

UDALBILTZA also wishes to express its support and adherence to the proposals for the pacification and normalization of Basque society by offering its collaboration and work on a municipal level in such a complicated yet necessary business.

Julian Eizmendi
President

Jesús M^a Agirrezabala
Vice-President