



Declaration nr. 6 **Unanimously approved** by the EFA GA on 17 April 2015.

Name of the person introducing the declaration: Lorena Lopez de Lacalle Arizti

On behalf of the party: Eusko Alkartasuna

Declaration: Situation in the Basque Country

Having regard to ETA's determination, expressed more than 3 years ago, to open the way to peace and coexistence in Euskal Herria, putting a definitive end to its armed activity,

Taking into account that there is no other situation in which an armed organisation having decided to lay down their arms finds no counterpart to deliver them,

Having regard to the willingness of the majority of the Basque society, and across the political spectrum in Iparralde (North Basque Country), to move forward in that matter,

Having regard to the "Euskal Bidea" proposal (The Basque Way) whose aim is to open a wide participatory process, extending beyond the "abertzale" community (Basque nationalist community) on the future that all citizens want both from the perspective of peace and building togetherness and the political and social model for Euskal Herria.

Having regard to Civil Society initiatives such as "Gure Esku Dago" (It's in Our Hands), mobilised for the right of the Basque People to decide their own future.

Having regard to the steps made by ETA prisoners invoking the provisions laid down by the Spanish legislation,

Having regard to the efforts made by different conflict victims to foster a climate of rapprochement and communication such as the "GLENCREE" experience and more recently the "Orereta Seminar" or other gatherings on the occasion of attack anniversaries,

Having regard to the work done by "Lokarri", the "Social Forum" and "Bake Forua" (Peace Forum) with civil society, international experts and international political leaders in order to deal with the conflict and promote peace and coexistence,

Having regard to the ongoing involvement of the international verifiers and the "International Contact Group" for the Basque Country chaired by Brian Currin,

Having regard to the continuing support received since the last EFA General Assembly for the "Aiete Declaration" from Argentina, Uruguay, Mexico and Ecuador,

Grateful for the work done by EFA over all these years, for its constant support for the Basque cause,

Eager to set up again the "Friendship group in the European Parliament" and hoping to go on adding new members of the European Parliament from different countries and political affiliations,

The European Free Alliance Condemns:

The vindictive policy of the Spanish State institutions that use the judicial system to promote mass arrests of lawyers and Basque militants committed exclusively to political action who are subsequently released without charge, or with charges but without sound evidence nor clear legal basis, and who are obliged to appeal to higher courts to protect their rights, up to the Spanish Constitutional Court and the European Courts.

The attitude of the Spanish “Audiencia Nacional”, a special Court, heir to the “Public Order Court” of the Franco era that still today rules on the basis of political retaliation criteria.

The noncompliance of the European Human Rights Court’s rulings denying ETA prisoners release because their imprisonment years spent outside the Spanish State are not taken into account in their final calculation of imprisonment years.

The non-remission of sentence for the members of “Bateragune”, Arnaldo Otegi among others, convicted for their political work to end violence, which has been appealed by the prisoners themselves to the European Human Rights Court of Strasbourg.

The constant denial of transfer of prisoners to prisons close to their place of origin which represents a further punishment imposed on their families and friends as to their visiting rights,

The total inaction and lack of political will of the Spanish State authorities to resolve the Basque political conflict,

The hypocrisy of the Spanish State that expresses its will to contribute from its seat in the UN Security Council to the resolution of the Palestinian conflict but remains in absolute blindness and total lack of respect for what it happens in its own territory in the way it handles the rest of nationalities that at the moment live in it,

The inaction of the French State authorities, yielding to the dictates of the Spanish State,

Hence, The European Free Alliance calls,

The Spanish Government, both the current one and the newly elected after the Spanish general elections, the French Government and the European authorities to commit themselves to resolve the Basque political conflict ensuring democratic respect for the will of Basque society, expressed in a democratic and peaceful way, to decide upon its own future,

The current Spanish Government and the newly elected after the Spanish general elections to be actively involved in the resolution of the consequences of the violent acts of the Basque political conflict applying humanism and respect criteria to facilitate a lasting solution as it is being the case in other parts of the world such as Colombia,

The French Government to take the lead in the peace and disarmament negotiations not least because, probably, much of ETA’s arsenal is located in French territory,

The European authorities and in particular the President of the European Council, the President of the European Parliament, the President of the European Commission, and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to work together, and if need be with third parties, to find a settlement to the Basque political conflict and to set a specific PEACE programme for peace and reconciliation in Euskal Herria.

We demand that the Spanish Government puts an end to political appointments of the judiciary, applies the principle of the separation of powers and stops resorting to vindictive policies that whip up hatred in its own community.

DECLARATIONS.

EFA General Assembly. Bautzen, 16 – 18 April 2015.

We demand that the Spanish Government repeals the recently passed legislation which opens the way to life sentence and constitutes, with the excuse of fighting against terrorism, a new reduction in civil liberties for its own citizens.

Basque Society is charting its own course: Peace, Coexistence and Nation building.

Let's hope that 2015 is the beginning of a better future for Euskal Herria.