

**World Congresses on Basque Communities: Centre proposals; Basque Government plans;
and evaluation of the results**

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1. INTRODUCTION

It is Law 8/1994 that establishes that a periodic meeting of the World Congress on Basque Communities is to be called every four years; an organ regulated by the Decree 234/1995 destined to its regulatory development. Three congresses have been held, in 1995, 1999 and 2003.

One must also remember as historical precedent the World Basque Congress (Paris, 1956), called by the Basque Government in exile. Likewise, before the said Law came into effect, during the eighties two events were held that can be considered as immediate precedents: the 1st Congress of Basques of America (1982) (held in the Basque Country) and the 1st World Congress of Basque Centres (1989). A summary of the historic picture of these events follows:

Distant historic precedents	
<i>World Basque Congress</i>	Paris, 1956
Close precedents	
<i>1st Congress of Basques of America in the Basque Country</i>	San Sebastián, 1982
<i>1st World Congress of Basque Centres</i>	Bahía Blanca, 1989
CMCV (World Congress on Basque Communities) after Law 8/1994	
<i>1st World Congress on Basque Communities</i> 1995	Vitoria,
<i>2nd World Congress on Basque Communities</i> 1999	Vitoria,
<i>3rd World Congress on Basque Communities</i> 2003	Vitoria,

The paper's objective is to present a balance of the world congresses, paying special attention to the plans resulting from them and their subsequent realization. Therefore, I will attempt to contrast three central elements: 1) The proposals presented by the Basque Centres at the congresses; 2) The plans, programmes, proposals and other activities brought about by the Basque Government; and 3) The evaluation of the results obtained.

Since this text will attempt to be easy to read, I will not mention the materials or bibliography employed nor will I use footnotes. Nevertheless, the report has documentation to prove and support the data, reports, Basque Government and Euskal Etxeak documentation, congresses, etc. As a basic reference, I will point out my investigation *Report on the Basque Government's Office of Relations with Basque Communities Overseas (1980-2005)* (Vitoria-Gasteiz, Basque Government, Urazandi Collection, number 18, 2007).

2. WORLD BASQUE CONGRESS (Paris, September 1956)

Organization: Basque Government in exile, José Antonio Aguirre Basque President.

Attendance: Basque President and Government Ministers; Government delegates from several countries; members of the Advisory Council, Managing Council and the Resistance Council; ex-ministers of the Government; ex-members of parliament, ex-members of the provincial parliament and ex-mayors; representatives from political parties, labour unions, and the International League of Friends of the Basques; directors of some euskal etxeak; Basque citizens in a private capacity; and invited observers.

Objectives: Treat the "Basque problem as a whole, studying the factors that restrain our national life", trying to call together Basque delegations from all nuances, ideologies, classes and professions, "whether they currently live in the homeland or in any other country of the world", to "contrast" all types of "experiences" and "obtain useful conclusions".

Reports: Report by Basque President Aguirre (*Twenty years of management by the Basque Government, 1936-1956*) and the debate of four reports. One referred to as "Basques in the world".

Results (referring to the communities)

- 1) A calling was made to the Basques scattered throughout different countries asking for help and collaboration so that the Basque people may recover the freedom suppressed by the Franco regime.
- 2) Basque-American representatives from Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Venezuela delegates constituted the Confederation of Basque Entities (CEVA) with headquarters in Caracas made good use of the event. Made up by the Federation of Basque Entities of Argentina, Federation of Basque Entities of Chile, Caracas Basque Centre and Montevideo Euskal Erria Basque Centre. Among its

planned aims were to “Maintain the Basque status in America”, while boosting activities to “create a spirit of fraternity between the Basque and American people”. Its first Congress took place in Buenos Aires in 1960. Subsequently, CEVA disappeared.

3. 1st CONGRESS OF BASQUES OF AMERICA IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY (San-Sebastián, September 1982)

Organization: Department of Culture.

Attendance: 203 delegates from 9 countries: 86 from Argentina; 14 from Venezuela; 9 from Chile; 8 from the US; 5 from Uruguay; 4 from Canada; 3 from Colombia; 3 from Mexico; and 2 from Peru. One observer from the Philippines.

Proposals: The work was carried out in 6 committees with resolutions submitted in full session:

Committees	Proposals
<i>Institutionalize community relations / Basque Country</i>	- pay more attention to the foreign communities - establish the necessary organizations to assure relations
<i>Grants</i>	- Basque teacher training - academic education of youth and investigation grants - subsidized trips for cultural exchanges
<i>Means of communication</i>	- Permanent and effective exchange system - news by telex, reports, radio programs... - creation of a magazine
<i>Cultural exchange</i>	- strengthen cultural ties in all its facets - promote Basque: material and teaching aids for its promotion
<i>Trade relations</i>	- creation of trade organizations in America
<i>Sports</i>	- preserve and develop indigenous sports

Assessment of the Congress:

1) This is the first time a meeting of these characteristics is held, showing the Basque Government’s interest in reviving relations with the communities abroad.

2) The debates and proposals involved the compilation of a catalogue of demands that, without much order, the representatives of communities gave the Basque Government in a time when the Basque Administration was starting up and it did not have a plan or the means to fulfil them.

3) Suggestions approved at the Congress hardly materialized, some of the ideas were subsequently taken into consideration, both in plans that were put into practice during the second half of the eighties as well as more elaborate programmes emerging in the nineties.

Basque Government Measures:

- Apart from some contacts and trips, initiatives did not begin to be adopted until the mid eighties.
- The appointment of the “Basque Government Advisor in relation with Basque communities and Centres” (1985). Regular contact is re-established and certain financial aids are granted.
- Creation of the “Relations with Basque Centres Service”, assigned to the Department of Culture (1986)
- The exchange of information is normalized; the first cultural acts are established; trips to the Basque Country are provided for the elderly and youth; an initial financial aid system is implemented at the Centres (1988); and the Euskal Etxeak magazine is published (1989), among other activities.

4. 1st WORLD CONGRESS OF BASQUE CENTRES (Bahía Blanca, November 1989)

Organization: Relations with Basque Centres Services.

Attendance: With the right to voice and vote: 24 people representing Centres in 11 countries: 4 people representing Argentina, the remaining countries each had 2 from Uruguay, Chile, Venezuela, Peru, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, the US, Australia, and Spain.

Objectives: To know in detail the situation of the communities, as well as exchange opinions on the outlook of the future and the Basque Administration’s role. The euskal etxeak had previously answered a questionnaire (situation; objectives; subject matters involving the organization, economic, social, legal, youth...). The responses corroborated assessments that were already well known: diverse situations in the Centres and infrastructure, organizational ability, social impact, activities, etc. The true ambitions, objectives and focus with respect to the relations with the Basque Government and the problems they considered most urgent were revealed.

Proposals:

Reports:	Proposals
<i>Institutional</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - create federations and a confederation - improve relations with the Basque Government - relations with the Navarra Government and institutions in the Northern Basque Country (France) <p>* “Declaration”: aspirations of integrating the Historic Territories into the nations and peoples accord</p>
<i>Means of communication</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - organize a professional media apparatus - foster the <i>Euskal Etxeak</i> magazine - journalistic competition on Basque themes - exchanges between EITB and local media
<i>Education and culture</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - boost the teaching of Basque - increase academic and university cooperation - foster cultural and folk activities - promote pelota - support the International Mus Federation
<i>Economy and tourism</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - create “trade offices” or “associations of business managers”, whereby the Centres contribute to their infrastructure, resources, knowledge of the country...
<i>Social action</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - preparation of the registry of native Basque people and descendants - information on legislation of social assistance in the Basque Country - programme for possible return - adoption of a regulation for pensions, retirement... - overcome difficulties to regularize sons/daughters born abroad
<i>Special report</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Resolution: claim the Basque people’s historic rights, condemn violence and support the Ajuria Enea Pact * Resolution: embodiment of the legislation to institutionalize relations between the Basque Government and euskal etxeak

Assessment of the Congress:

- 1) Better preliminary preparation and reflection by the Basque Government and those responsible for the euskal etxeak. Because of this, the problems were better identified, as well as the possible measures and actions.
- 2) A truer representation of the Centres: clear congress regulations and delegation system.

- 3) The preliminary questionnaires and the Congress created a panoramic view of the communities' situations, their plans, needs, etc.
- 4) Ideas from the 1982 Congress were reintroduced and new ones appeared. Part of the responses were feasible; although others were too ambitious or difficult to carry out (in the case of demands that were not in the Basque Government's power or by budget limitations).
- 5) They became aware that in the future there was a need to hold periodic congresses to consolidate relations between the Government and Centres and plan a strategic vision.
- 6) The Government committed itself to the definitive institutionalization of the relations by adopting a specific law, in addition to studying the creation of a "Department" that coordinates the activities.

Basque Government Measures (1990-94):

- Since 1990 part of the proposals presented in Bahía Blanca began to be incorporated into the Government's programmes and plans, at least within the areas the Basque Government's powers and in function of its budgetary potential.
- The annual subsidies to the Centres are consolidated, with the assigned budget being increased slowly and increasing the range of actions being supported.
- When the position of General Secretary of Foreign Action was created (1991), one of its Offices assumes the relations and attention to the communities. This step is of a qualitative nature and permits the definite improvement of Government-euskal etxeak relations.
- The incorporation of Basque-American institutes and foundations is actively supported.
- The organization and aid of Basque classes at the Centres is managed jointly with HABE, especially the "Argentinan Euskaraz" Programme.
- The process so that the approval of Law 8/1994 of Relations with Communities and Basque Centres Outside the Basque Autonomous Community by the Basque Parliament is carried out.

5. 1st WORLD CONGRESS ON BASQUE COMMUNITIES (1995) AND 1st FOUR YEAR INSTITUTIONAL PLAN OF ACTION (1996-99)

Organization: Office of Relations with Basque Communities overseas.

Attendance: 60 representatives from 14 countries: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, El Salvador, Spain, the United States of America, France, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Objectives: Analyze the situation of the Centres and communities; study the formulas to increase the ties between them and the Basque Country, both with the administration and Basque society; and open a new phase of programmes and actions based on the then recently approved Law 8/1994 (precisely the event’s motto, “Nora goaz”, emphasized this objective).

The communities’ basic requests: During the interventions, it was evident that various questions worried them:

- 1) Assure the social life and Centre activities for the future, while facing some serious problems: economic difficulties; and scarce youth participation.
- 2) The urgency of improving the receipt of information about the Basque Country, requesting to establish adequate communication mechanisms.
- 3) Measures relating to social and public health programmes in cases of extreme need.
- 4) Plans in the educational and university spheres for young people from the communities.
- 5) Promote activities related to the Basque culture in all its facets, especially those plans to maintain and recuperate the use of the Basque language in communities.

Furthermore, the Congress approved a “Final Declaration” related to the “commitment” with “the Basque cause” and with “the challenge to maintain the Euskal Etxeak alive”, among other things mentioned.

Assessment of the Congress:

- 1) The 1st CMCV was key to the evolution of the communities once it was carried out in accordance with Law 8/1994, better organized, larger representation from those assisting and preparation of the topics.
- 2) It served to achieve the two basic objectives proposed: standardize a meeting and exchange forum; and make progress in the drawing up of an immediate and long term action plan.
- 3) It took effort to bring the Centre’s activities up to date, as William Douglass said, to adapt themselves to, “the new realities”.

1st Four Year Plan: Adopted by the Advisory Council on Relations with Basque Communities.

1st Four Year Institutional Plan of Action (1996-1999)	
Basic issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Help to maintain the structure and infrastructure of the Centres 2) Promote the Basque identity, culture and language

	<p>3) Information and communication channels between Centres / Basque Country</p> <p>4) Achieve the incorporation of younger generations at Centres</p>
Sectors	Measures
<i>Material aid to Centres</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - help in organizing Centres' regular activities and cultural events - Resources to improve Centres' infrastructure (giving priority to TICs) - lines of credit (bank guarantee) to purchase buildings or remodelling
<i>Culture, sports and youth</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - send books and lists of titles to enrich the Centres' libraries - publishing aids (books, magazines, audiovisual...) for Centres - boost Basque teaching (courses, teacher training, methods of learning) - establish <i>Euskararen Nazioarteko Eguna</i> (International Basque Day) - collaborate in cultural expressions, musicals... - sports equipment, pelota instructors, promote rural sports... - study the creation of "International Association of Basque Sports" - foster the creation of bonds between youth and the Basque Country
<i>Communication and information</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - use TICs in the relation between Centres and Basque Institutions - Award contest for the investigation and spreading of community histories - EITB project to broadcast television and radio via satellite
<i>Education</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promote the exchange of teachers and students, including the education of university and postgraduate students in the Basque Country
<i>Economy and foreign trade</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increase trade missions to countries with communities - technical and legal assessment for Basques in foreign countries to introduce businesses in the Basque Country or favour business exchanges
<i>Tourism</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - count on Centres in promotional campaigns for foreign tourism - aid Centres interested in taking tourist groups to the Basque Country
<i>Social Aid</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - experimental assistance system in situations of extreme need - formulate a specific Voluntary Welfare plan - support to partially defray costs of a return trip for returnees - temporary visit programme in the Basque Country for people over 65
<i>Health</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - temporary medical care for visitors and definitive for returnees - professional internship in the Basque Country for health workers of Basque origin
<i>Housing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measures for returnees to access social housing

Basque Government Measures (1996-99):

The greatest efforts in the 1996-99 phase were directed at two basic aims: structurally support the Centres' existence; and improve their communication with the Basque Country.

- The recognition and registration of the Centres and Federations is initiated in 1995.
- Consolidation in the support fund's budget for Centres' infrastructures and activities: an annual budget increase and a larger number of benefiting Centres.
- Guarantors for bank loans devoted to the purchasing or remodelling of buildings, an operation backed by the Government in 1998 (given the economic crisis in Latin America, the Government made a financial effort to take charge of almost all the loans).
- Since 1996 the computerization of the Centres and internet connections are made possible.
- In 1997 EITB-SAT-Canal Vasco initiated and later expanded its broadcasting via satellite of the public communication group Euskal Irrati Telebista (EITB).
- Books and publications (in no systematic manner); and material to study Basque are sent.
- Support for the "Argentinan euskaraz" is increased, along with the HABE competition, and Basque classes begin to spread to Centres in other countries.
- Initiation of the "Gaztemundu" Programme in 1996.
- In the economic-trade field, the Basque Government's Department of Commerce and Tourism signed collaboration agreements with Basque-American institutes and foundations.
- Activities promoting tourism in Argentina, Mexico and Venezuela.
- In the sectors assisting in welfare, health and social housing, the Basque Government responded to the demands received (although the number was much lower than expected).
- The annual "Andrés de Irujo" award in historical investigation was established.

6. 2nd WORLD CONGRESS ON BASQUE COMMUNITIES (1999) AND 2nd FOUR YEAR INSTITUTIONAL PLAN OF ACTION (2000-03)

Organization: Office of Relations with Basque Communities overseas.

Attendance: 74 representatives from 125 Centres and Federation from 18 countries: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cuba, El Salvador, Spain, the United States of America, France, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, the United Kingdom, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Objectives: A joint reflection was considered on the relations between the Government and the communities from the perspective of new internationalization trends and the challenges that come along with it (recognizing the Basque reality in the world, creation of international networks, commitment to youth...). A revision of breakthroughs, the options to deal with undeveloped tasks and adopt new performance guidelines was conducted. That focus was summarized in the conference's motto: "Euskadi Munduan Eraikitzen".

The communities' basic requests: 6 great objectives were taken, detailed in concrete suggestions, from the proposals:

- 1) Boost programmes directed at youth within the communities and Centres.
- 2) Assistance programs aimed at people in situations of extreme need.
- 3) Consolidation of the programs around several social aids.
- 4) An ample range of performances and programs aimed at promoting the Basque culture and language.
- 5) Boost university exchanges.
- 6) Back programmes in economic, business and tourist promotion.

Two declarations were approved: one backing the Basque society, Basque Government and other Basque institutions in their endeavour to pursue the peace process; and the other in which they voice their "commitment" with "the Basque Country to maintain the euskal etxeak alive" and its character of "joint responsibility with respect to its national and international future", while requesting "the respect for the Basque Country's individual and collective rights and the support of the decisions that Basque society can assume with respect to the future".

Assessment of the Congress:

- 1) The 2nd CMCV established the relations between the Basque Government and the Centres, assuming the continued direction taken in the 1st CMCV.
- 2) Because of the experience acquired and the need to adapt requests with real possibilities and proposals, almost all the communities' proposals were considered in the second Plan.
- 3) Round tables were held with exchanges on two crucial questions: the past and present of the euskal etxeak; and the lines of financing coming from the Basque Government.
- 4) In addition to exhibitions by those responsible of various governmental departments that affected the communities, the actions in specific areas were announced (UPV/EHU international contacts, EITB International's plans, HABE's activities...).

2nd Four Year Plan: Adopted by the Advisory Council on Relations with Basque Communities (a summary reflecting the most important actions and governmental responsibilities).

2nd Four Year Institutional Plan of Action (1999-2003)	
Sectors	Measures
<i>Youth</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - consolidate programmes aimed at youth: Gaztemundu, Basque... - information on grants, employment, competitions... in the Autonomous Region - grants to carryout professional internships (Euskal Herrirantz Programme)
<i>Assistance for the needy and extreme situations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information on requirements for social assistance (social improvements, emergencies) - the possibility of specific assistance through subsidy notifications
<i>Other social aids</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - medical care for Centre members who are in the Basque Country - technical/legal assistance to obtain dual citizenship - trips for senior citizens to visit relatives in the Basque Country
<i>Basque culture</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reinforce the Basque teaching plan promoted by HABE - participation in cultural weeks and other events - celebrate International Basque Day - continue publishing investigations and personal stories about the Basque presence around the world (Andrés de Irujo Award) - plan to compile the Centres' histories, testimonies of emigrants and those in exile (Urazandi Book Collection) - teach pelota instructors
<i>University exchanges</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basque culture reading program at universities - internet course on Basque institutional history
<i>Economic and tourism programmes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - take into account each country and Basque collective when planning trade and economic missions - attention and study economic actions presented by the Centres aimed at promoting bilateral relations between the Basque Country and the host country - search for Basque members to develop business projects - participation in Basque weeks (gastronomy, art, sports, films, businesses...) - annual financing of scholars in Basque-American institutes
<i>Special requests</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ask the Basque Government and Parliament for an important budgetary increase in the Relations with Communities Programme - carry out a contemporary sociological study in relation to the communities, so

as to define policies - issue euskal etxeak members ID cards

Basque Government Measures (1999-2003):

- Maintain those programmes that assessed to be positive in the previous phase; development of the actions already approved but for several reasons had not materialized; and adopt new initiatives in different fields.
- The Centre assistance programme is altered so as to improve technique and respond to the Four Year Plan. In 2003 part of the actions are split to satisfy specific programmes.
- Since 2003, 3 new programmes are organized: Help in educating youth in the Latin American communities; Welfare aid to people in foreign communities in states of extreme need; and Subsidies for cultural tours.
- Since 2001, the *Euskal Etxeak Virtual* electronic bulletin has been published weekly.
- “Euskaldunak munduan” (2000) y “Urazandi” (2002) book collections.

7. 3rd WORLD CONGRESS ON BASQUE COMMUNITIES (2003) AND 3rd FOUR YEAR INSTITUTIONAL PLAN OF ACTION (2004-07)

Organization: Office of Relations with Basque Communities overseas.

Attendance: representatives from 150 Basque Centres from 19 countries: Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Chile, El Salvador, Spain, the United States of America, France, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, the United Kingdom, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Objectives: Various basic subjects were set to be dealt with: the Basque country's world image and its contribution to the communities; youth education; the Basque People's recognition in the international sphere; and reflection on what has been accomplished up to now by the communities, euskal etxeak and Government to lay down solid lines of action for the future. The event's conception showed a clear will of renewal, as the motto states “Aurrera goaz”

The communities' basic requests:

Delegation Proposals

General aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reiterate “two times the feeling of identity and belonging” for “the Basque Country, Euskadi or Euskal Herria and the host country” - main objective: achieve the Centres’ survival and strengthening, setting assessable objectives and growth strategies - consider the diversity of Centres and their different situations
Subject Matter	Suggestions
<i>Strengthen inter-institutional relations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - boost ties between Centres and their environment, with public and private institutions from the Basque Country and others on an international level - update the member databases individually - update the Governments data files on residents abroad - gain true participation from youth and women in the communities in the executive organs of Centres - greater development of regulations and social assistance programs for residents abroad in situations of extreme need. - definition and registration of the “Zortzigarren Herrialdea” name - establish the Basque “Diaspora Day” - retake the international “Association of Friends of Basques” idea
<i>Foreign image and communication</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improve communication channels: within each Centre; and between the Centre and its social surroundings, local media, institutions... - make internet communication between the Basque Country and communities easier - redesign the <i>Euskal Etxeak</i> magazine and the <i>Euskal Etxeak Virtual</i> bulletin - a call to Basque media to increase news coverage relative to the communities - improve EITB's (ETB Sat-Canal Vasco) foreign programming
<i>Culture, language and Basque identity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - continue compiling communities’ history, digitize the material, create a museum on Basque emigration - education on traditional and contemporary culture, include Centre libraries on the Basque library system, organize events and centre exchange networks. - adapt the “Argentinan Euskaraz” programme to the rest of the countries, means for virtual classrooms, classes for universities in the vicinity... - celebrate “Basque Day” - promote the participation in indigenous sports and other types - make an effort in children’s programmes in Centres (special spaces and leadership openness), improve the Gaztemundu Programme... - continuity of the youth education grants in the Basque Country - Free Basque Thinking Classes at the Universities in the vicinity - use of the TICs, web pages, information portals...

Assessment of the Congress:

- 1) The 3rd CMCV can be considered the definitive resolution of this policy. The euskal etxeak have also made a qualitative jump during the course of the last two decades.
- 2) Greater participation was confirmed by the Government Departments, presenting a balance of its collaboration in fields under their power and suggesting proposals for the future.
- 3) Exchanges dealing with concrete experiences (studies on youth in Argentinian and American Centres, Udaleku in the US, NABO and FEVA's work, Basque programmes...).
- 4) The "Basques residing outside the Basque Country" report was presented, to have a framework (country of birth and residence, age nationality, languages, profession, etc.).
- 5) Specialists exhibited the experiences relating to various diasporas (Armenian, Irish and Jewish) and there was a conference on stateless people and nations within the European Union.

Period of reflection: In order to draw up a new Four Year Plan, the Advisory Council on Relations with Basque Communities and the Office on Relations with Basque Communities decided to open a period of reflection. In summary, the following issues were considered:

Reflection Document (2004)	
General considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - after having been in force for 10 years, Law 8/1994 sets to diagnose the future situation and ramifications - considering that, despite the breakthroughs, the resources available are limited and must be used efficiently - the number of recognized Centres and associations continued to increase - the basic aim is to assure the future of the euskal etxeak, located mainly in places without a Basque migratory flow - measures must be taken that favour generational relief - the euskal etxeak must draw up diagnostics of their situation and plans for their activities and situation in the next years - those Centres that can guarantee their future will be given priority in aid
Basic questions	Reflections
members of the communities who are not Centre members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - people residing abroad and descendants (not being members of Centres) are also members of the communities - they live in places where there are no Centres or, if there is a Centre, have not become members. It is necessary to reach these people
Phenomenon of those who emigrated to new destinations	- temporary emigration of a youth population because of studies or work. They do not go to traditional destinations, but European countries or new destinations (i.e. China)

	- groups of Basques wish to come together. The traditional model of euskal etxeak does not address these new realities. Boosting a new associative model is considered
Process of returnees	- the aids for returnees have been applied on an individual basis (boys and girls who were evacuated during the Civil War and who are now elderly, have returned) - now, a return of young people from 3 rd , 4 th and even 5 th generation communities is being considered, who are moving to the Basque Country from America - to deal with this phenomenon a Basque Government interdepartmental plan would have to be studied for administrative procedures and aid.

3rd Four Year Plan: Adopted by the Advisory Council on Relations with Basque Communities.

3rd Four Year Institutional Plan of Action (2004-07)	
General objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Update the Centres' infrastructure and equipment 2) Develop and adapt the social assistance programmes 3) Strengthen the institutional framework of the communities 4) Publicize the current Basque Country in those countries with communities 5) Boost the continued education of Basques abroad 6) Reflect on the Basque culture and identity abroad
Sectors	Measures
<i>Infrastructures and equipment in headquarters</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - update the registry of owned and rented buildings - study the situation of each building that is owned - finance remodelling and maintenance of buildings - up to date computers and TIC acquisitions - infrastructure and equipment will go to a "limited number" of Centres (concentrating the effort)
<i>Social assistance in extreme cases</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - measures to reach the most grave cases (detected by "Atzeus") - measures to help members of the communities who are not Centre members - establish a package of systemized measures and assistance - implicate the Government's Departments or competent institutions
<i>Strengthen the institutional framework of the Centres and</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - diagnosis of each Centre and its future scope (prime task) - update Centre databases and draw up strategy reports - priority (in the future) will be given to Centres that have drawn up a start-up

<p><i>Federations</i></p>	<p>and growth project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - adapt the regulations on recognition and registering of entities abroad to Basque groups residing in new destinations - boost the federations from the Centres - communication networks and organize events between neighbouring Centres - viability to create a comprehensive program for returnees to the Basque Country
<p><i>Foreign communication policies</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contribution by the communities to the improvement of the foreign image - facilitate the presence of internet in all the Centres - changes in the SGAE publications - use of TICs in social and cultural life - greater representation in local media - special assistance for those Centres that assure their presence in the network
<p><i>Continuing education policies</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - education on Basque culture - leader and instructor preparation for specific activities - bibliographic and tourism packages - make participation in internet courses on Basque themes easier - address Basque migration in school curriculums - collaborate with universities (free classes, Basque studies...)
<p><i>Culture and Basque identity</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basque educational programmes - cultural exchanges between Centres - visits with families in the Basque Country - comprehensive programme to boost folklore abroad - participate in the main cultural expressions of each country - transfer Basque and culture teachers and instructors for camps - boost the cultural tour programme - participate in the “Basque Culture Plan” - study the creation of a Basque Emigration Museum and document collection programmes
<p><i>Other lines of action</i></p>	<p>boost cultural and ludic activities directed at children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contact with other Autonomous Communities to exchange ideas on programmes directed at communities - possible contest on ideas about the logo for the diaspora - viability study on issuing Centre member IDs - greater openness of Government Delegations to the local environment

Basque Government Measures (2004-07):

- The funds destined to the Centre and Federation Subsidy Programme are increased.
- Consolidation of the new (established in 2003) Assistance Programme for the education of youth; Welfare aid; and Subsidies for Cultural tours.
- Since 2004-5, Strengthening the extent of Basque classes in new countries and establishing the “Euskara-Munduan” Programme in collaboration with HABE.
- Digitalization of the periodical Basque-American publications “Urazandi Digital” (2004).
- Start-up of the “Basques in American Press” Programme (2005).
- First studies and contacts to prepare the creation of the future Basque Emigration Museum.
- Boost travelling exhibitions and other cultural samples of work.
- Support in finalizing collaboration agreements of linguistic and cultural material with universities and academic centres by the Department of Culture.
- Technical meetings on communities abroad with other Autonomous Communities (Galicia and Catalonia) and incorporation to the Association of European Migration Institutions (AEMI).
- Initiation of the remote processing mechanism for procedures between the Government and Centres.
- Request the Centres to work on plans of a strategic nature to set medium and long-term lines of action.

8. GENERAL OVERVIEW

It can be concluded that:

1) The contemporary Basque Government’s attention to the Communities has changed greatly over the years: reintroduction of contacts and first actions (the eighties); strengthening of this policy from the organizational, legal, budgetary and programme creation perspectives (the nineties); and development based on previous experience and the need to respond to new challenges (first years of the 21st century).

2) It is not easy to present a univocal assessment, since one must take into account numerous factors of a political nature (orientation of successive governments), organizational, competition (limitations to act with more decisiveness in certain areas), budgetary (as in all public policy the funds available are critical), etc. In addition, each type of player involved (Basque Government, euskal etxeak and communities -noting its cross section of people who are in different situations-, other associative entities, people of the communities...) will logically analyze the diverse aspects in

function of their position, needs and perspective. It is convenient to admit that there are numerous nuances in the evaluation, although they coincide with the general overview. Remembering Professor Gloria Totoricagüena at the previous congress pointing out, in reference to the future of the communities, that, “It will not be a straight line, and there are many paths that lead to the same objective”.

3) From an academic perspective (dispassionate and not committed to the specific aims of the major figures), one can assert that this policy of focusing on the communities and relations with the euskal etxeak, within the foreign action framework, is now completely consolidated. It is not a problem to admit (just as those responsible for the Government) that it needs to continue developing and, above all continue to face some challenges that still have not been totally overcome, despite the effort (true long-term viability for the Centres, genuine participation from the youth sectors and women in management, incorporation of non-traditional ways of association and sites in new host countries - something that is strategically important), and other challenges that come from life in today’s world. Even after more than a decade of validity, in my absolute personal opinion, we should probably start thinking about making some changes to Law 8/1994 that permit us face up to the previously mentioned challenges with new instruments.

4) Making note of the above (and not entering into detail for reasons of space) if one compares and monitors what is exhibited in this report (congresses, community applications, four year plans, Basque Government programmes...) I believe it is reasonable to say there is a *double general overview: the Basque Government’s level of response to demands expressed has been satisfactory; and the level of compliance with the four year plans can be evaluated to be very high*. At least in general terms and in the main subjects and areas, important programmes have been started and have carried out the relevant actions. Having said this, as in all public policies, there is always room to improve what has been carried out from different levels (political, legal, financial, organizational...).

As a summary, here is a table with the main facets (structure, Basque Government and legal regulation organisation) and areas or subjects (subsidies, youth, culture, Basque...). The main measures and actions and the year they were adopted are noted, as well as, in some points, a brief mention of the results obtained.

Organizational Structure
1984/6: <i>Advisory of the Basque Government for relations with the Basque communities and Centres</i>

<p>1986/91: The Department of Culture's <i>Relations with Basque Centres Service</i></p> <p>1991: creation General Secretary of Foreign Action</p> <p>1991/95: <i>Office for Relations with the Diaspora and Cooperation with Development</i> of the SGAE</p> <p>Since 1995: <i>Office of Relations with Basque Communities Overseas</i> of the SGAE</p> <p>Since 1995: <i>Advisory Council on Relations with Basque Communities</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">> 3 councils have been named successively</p> <p>Since 1995: periodical convening of the <i>Congress of Basque Communities</i></p> <p>2005: the Basque Government adopts the <i>Foreign Action Strategy of the Basque Autonomous Community</i>: the attention to communities is one of the fundamentally "characteristic foreign policies"</p>
<p>Basic legal aspects</p>
<p>1979: <i>Autonomous Statute</i> (little references to foreign actions and communities)</p> <p>1994: <i>Law 8/1994 of Relations with Communities and Basque Centres Overseas</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">> objective: "support and the intensification of the Basque Country, Basque society and its institutions' with the Basque communities and Basque Centres</p> <p>Decree 318/1994 and Decree 106/1996: <i>Recognition and registration of Centres</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">> until 2006: 106 Centres and Federations from 21 countries recognized</p> <p>Decree 234/1995: organ regulations: <i>Advisory Council; and Community Congresses</i></p> <p>Being studied: response to the new Basque associative characteristics abroad</p>
<p>Subsidies to Centres and Federations</p>
<p>1988-90: Department of Culture and Tourism orders</p> <p style="text-align: right;">> Centre infrastructure expenses, activities to spread the Basque culture, Basque, historical investigation grants, book publishing, trips for seniors and youth</p> <p>1991-94: Annual Decrees from the Presidency</p> <p style="text-align: right;">> Since 1992 assistance for construction and improvements of Centres and equipment improvement</p> <p style="text-align: right;">> Since 1993 distinction: chp. 4 (current expenditures, organization of programmes and activities) and chp. 7 (investments in infrastructure and equipment)</p> <p>1995: Decree 235/1995 (first in keeping with Law 8/1994)</p> <p>1996-99: Decree 94/1996</p> <p style="text-align: right;">> Since 1996: 3 types of expenses: Infrastructure and equipment; Common (maintenance, operation and personnel); and Annual Programmes and activities</p> <p>Decree 287/1998: concession of financial institution loans with Basque Government guarantee</p> <p style="text-align: right;">> 1,505,222 Euros to 16 Centres (around 90% was paid by the Basque Government in 2003)</p> <p>2000-02: Decree 97/2000</p> <p>Since 2003: Decree 124/2003</p> <p style="text-align: right;">> Modifications in the scale's criteria (i.e. view of group in programmes)</p>

>>> *Complete help 1988-2006*: 17,541,398 Euros, distributed among 150 entities in 22 countries

Culture and education

Since end of 80s: support of Basque weeks and cultural events

Since end of 80s: financing of musical, bertolaris and sports performances in Basque weeks and events

Since end of 80s: financing travel of lecturers, teaching staff, etc.

Since end of 80s: support of selected acts (i.e. Monument to Basque Shepherd Reno)

Since end of 80s: university contacts and agreements (Boise, Nevada, Argentinian universities...)

1988-92: participation in *Amerika eta Euskaldunak Programme* (investigations, book publications, congresses, exhibitions...)

Contribution to specific actions (i.e. since 1998 support of Ikastola de Boise)

Support for studies in Basque (masters, doctorate...)

Since 2003: Cultural tours programme (Decree 186/2003)

> 2003 to 2006: backing of 33 proposals of people and groups, utilizing 278,000 Euros

Travelling exhibitions (immigration, historical memory, photographs...)

Viewing of shorts form the *Kimuak Programme* and other film samples

Collaboration in agreements of a cultural nature, teaching, etc., with other Basque Government Departments (Dept. Culture, Dept. Education, Universities and Investigation) (i.e. CBS of the University of Nevada, Boise State University, Cenarrusa Center for Basque Studies, UNAM Mexico, Chilean universities...)

Since 2007 (Dept. Culture): *Etxepare Basque Institute* (cultural diffusion abroad) (Law 3/2007)

Basque

Since end of 80s: subsidies to centres provide assistance to Basque classes

Since 1990: support for the *Argentinan Euskarax Programme*

Since 1992: initiation of the collaboration with HABE for classes in Centres

Since mid 90s: spread Basque classes to numerous Centres

Improvements in HABE's means (educational material, computers, *Hezinet* system, *Habenet* educational support, *Irakaslearen gunea* virtual platform, *Boga* method by Internet, *Ikasbil portals and Lingu@net Europe*)

Since 2004-05: *Euskara-Munduan Programme* (Basque development plan course for adults)

Since 2006-07: HABE meeting specifically for euskal etxeak courses (195,300 Euros)

> Actually: Basque classes to some 2,200 people at euskal etxeak in 13 countries

Youth

Since end of 80s: support visits to the Basque Country

Since 1996: *Gaztemundu Programme* (actually Decree 316/2003)

> 1996-2006: participation of 451 youths from 14 countries

Professional training: *Euskal Herrirantz Project* (2002)

<p>Since 2003: Support in the training of Basque-Latin American youth (Decree 125/2003) > 2002-03 to 2005-06 courses: 220 recipients of grants, expense of 2,021,585 Euros</p> <p>Since 2003: Specialization grants in the sphere of the communities (Decree 221/2003)</p>
<p>Support and Welfare</p>
<p>Since end of 80s: support of visits to the Basque Country of seniors (family reunions)</p> <p>Since the 90s: support contemplated in the subsidies to Centres</p> <p>Since 2000: support to people in situations of extreme need is foreseen in subsidies to Centres</p> <p>Selected Actions (in 1999 aid to people in the Basque-Venezuelan community victims of the floods; in 2002 basic necessities aid to Basque-Argentinian families)</p> <p>Since 2003: Welfare aid to people in extreme need (Decree 222/2003) > 2003 to 2006: support for 307 people residents in 7 countries, expense of 470,000 Euros</p>
<p>Information and communication</p>
<p>Since end of 80s: consignment of books, audio, audiovisual, radio programme recordings...</p> <p>Since 1989: <i>Euskal Etxeak</i> Magazine (restructured in 2004) > Up to 2006: 75 editions. Present print run: 36.500 copies (31,750 in Spanish and 4,750 in English)</p> <p>Collaboration with the public broadcasting group EITB</p> <p>1996: international television broadcasts in collaboration with Galician and Catalan television</p> <p>1997: broadcasts via satellite of ETB Sat</p> <p>2000: creation of Canal Vasco for America</p> <p>Since 2001: <i>Euskal Etxeak Virtual</i> Electronic Bulletin > sent to some 9,000 e-mail addresses</p> <p>Collaboration in ETB series and reports (“Basques in River Plate”, “Baskonia Americana”...)</p>
<p>New technologies</p>
<p>1996: extraordinary funds for computer equipment and internet connection (240,000 Euros)</p> <p>Since end of 90s: customary annual subsidies to purchase computers</p> <p>Since 1998: Institutional web of the Basque Government (www.euskadi.net), foreign action and Basque communities site</p> <p>Since 2006-07: remote processing system (applications, meeting application forms...) between Basque Government and Centres (Decree 238/2006)</p>
<p>Economic-trade relations and promotion</p>
<p>Office network of SPRI and promotional trade missions abroad</p> <p>1993: support in the creation of Basque-American institutes and foundations</p> <p>Collaboration with Basque Government Delegations (Brussels, Mexico, Santiago, Buenos Aires, Caracas)</p>

Since 2003: Collaboration with Itourbask (Basque Network of Tourism Offices)

Historical memory and publications

Since the 80s: publication of books by the Basque Government and financial aid in the publication of others

1991-93: books of the “Amerika eta euskaldunak” Programme

Since 1999: *Andrés Irujo Award* in historical investigation (Decree 98/2000)

> 1999-2006: 7 investigations published (and various presented works published)

Since 2000: world project by stages of *recovery of the Basque emigration historical memory* from the 19th century to date

Since 2000: *Euskaldunak munduan* book collection (7 books)

Since 2002: *Urazandi* book collection (20 books)

2004-07: Digitalization of periodical publications *Urazandi Digital* (Publish DVDs “A century of Basque-American periodical publications”. To present, some 250,000 digitalized pages)

Since 2005: *Basques in American Press Project* (in 2006 Agreement between Basque Government, UPV/EHU, FEVA y National University of the South of Argentina)

Basque Emigration Museum Project (first studies, visits to other museums, incorporation in AEMI, Association of European Migration Institutions)