



Motion nr. 1

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

On behalf of the party: Eusko Alkartasuna

**Motion:** Situation in the Basque Country

Euskal Herria has a twofold problem, in addition to the problems resulting from the economic, social and political crisis that we are experiencing in our societies; the deadlock imposed by France and Spain on the Basque Peace Process, and the will expressed by the social and political majority in Euskal Herria to exercise the right to decide upon their own future.

Euskal Herria faces a unique situation in the world.

On 20th October 2011, ETA put an end to all its activities and since then it has issued several press statements expressing its complete readiness to establish peace, including the decommissioning of weapons and to contribute to peaceful coexistence. Nonetheless, neither the French Government nor the Spanish Government have taken any step towards the political normalisation of the country.

Both governments fully endorse and welcome the steps taken by the Government of Colombia to end 50 years of violence, but they themselves fail to resolve the Basque conflict in their own countries.

Secondly, and in line with the legitimate aspirations of Catalunya for its independence, Euskal Herria defends the right of the peoples to choose their own path and the negotiated solutions, but if there is no other way, Euskal Herria claims unilateralism to democratically exercise the right of the Peoples to independence.

Hence, The European Free Alliance;

1. Requires Governments and Institutions mentioned in the Declaration approved on 17.04.2015 in EFA's General Assembly held in Bautzen, to fulfil without any further delay the measures included in it.
2. Acknowledges and supports the involvement of the European Parliament's Friendship group and other MEPs in the resolution of the Basque political conflict.
3. Acknowledges and welcomes the steps taken by local authorities, civil society organisations and victims of the violence, be it from ETA or from the Spanish State, in order to establish the foundations of a peaceful coexistence.
4. Acknowledges and welcomes the steps taken by the Basque Political Prisoners' Collective "EPPK" both in France and in Spain to contribute to the political normalisation in Euskal Herria.
5. Supports the work done by the International Contact Group and by the International Verification Group and makes itself available to help in whatever it may be needed.

6. Requires the Governments of Spain and France to immediately kick-start the initial phase of the Basque peace process. 4 years have already elapsed and it is neither ethical, nor reasonable, nor responsible to delay any further the situation.
7. Requires the Government of Spain and the Government of France to take the necessary steps to comply with international law and with the case law of the European Human Rights Court in order to transfer Basque prisoners to prisons close to their place of origin and to release the seriously ill.
8. Requires also the Government of France, for humanitarian and political reasons, to take on its responsibilities and to take the initiative in all matters related to the resolution of the Basque political conflict.
9. Given the absence of action from France and Spain, strongly supports the efforts made by the Basque civil society and in particular by the Social Forum to address the Peace Process across all its dimensions, not the least, decommissioning.
10. Welcomes the fact that Arnaldo Otegi received back his freedom after 6 years of unfair and vindictive imprisonment for the sake of peace-making and requires both the Spanish and the French authorities not to hinder the full exercise of the rights belonging to him as free citizen, that is, to participate in political life freely and to exercise his democratic right.
11. Advocates for a transparent Peace Process with the involvement of civil society so as to build the necessary confidence and to establish a culture of peace both personally and collectively.
12. Keeps insisting, being a European problem and for political accountability, on 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.

Explanatory note: