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#### 30 years EFA

The European Free Alliance: The voice of nations and peoples of Europe







## 30 years EFA!

For more than one reason I, as president of the European Free Alliance (EFA), am very happy today.

There are many reasons to celebrate. First of all, I am particularly proud to pay tribute to our European political party EFA, which has borne fruit over its 30 years of life. Secondly as a history professor, I feel it is also my duty to bring to your attention the 60 years preceding EFA. During 2011 fifteen of our member parties celebrate important anniversaries. Finally I believe whilst we celebrate our 30th anniversary, holding our breath and reviewing the progress, the steps forward, the acknowledgments of our political family, we also have to look forward to the future.

#### 1920-1980

Our story starts in 1920, the year of the poppy, the year Maurits Coppieters was born. He became the first EFA Member of the European Parliament. 1920 is a landmark for peace and for EFA. One of EFA's cornerstone principles has always been peace and peaceful political action. In 1921, our oldest EFA member party the *Partito Sardo d'Azione* (the Sardinian action party) was founded. This year they celebrate their 90th anniversary.

During the period 1920-1980, nearly half of our current members started as political parties, which preceded our European political party. *PLAID Cymru* was founded in 1925; and in 1931 *ERC*, (which celebrates 80 years in 2011) together with the *SNP* in 1934.

Right after the Second World War, these were followed by the German Minority party in Danmark (*Schleswig Partei*) in 1945 and the Danish minority party in Germany (*Südschleswigscher Wählverband SSW*) in1946; the *Bayernpartei* was also set up in 1946 and also celebrates 65 years in 2011. All of them have become EFA members in recent years.

In 1951 *Mebyon Kernow* was founded, they celebrate 60 years of political action this year. *Volksunie*, the Flemish nationalist party, was founded in 1954 and was the most important motor and catalysing factor before EFA was created and thus continued for its first two decades of action.

In the sixties it was the turn of the Fryske Nasjonale party (FNP) in 1962, Union Démocratique Bretonne (UDB) in 1964 and the Partido Andalucista (PA) in 1965 to be set up and in the seventies parties like the Movimento Autonomist Occitanno in 1970 (later VVAP and Partit Occitan - POC), the Mouvement Region Savoie (MRS) in 1971, (it enjoys its 40th anniversary this year), Enotna Lista and Slovenska Skupnost in 1975, PSM (Mallorca) in 1976 (35th Anniversary this year), UPC (later Partitu di a Nazione Corsa – PNC) in Corsica in 1977.

Together, some of these 18 parties created a discerning group, in the run up to the first direct European elections in 1979 and began forming the European Free Alliance. In 1979, the European Parliament, which for decades had remained a consultative assembly with no legislative powers, became one of the most powerful legislatures in the world. During the following 30 years, EFA would invest in that political space and would become an active part of this crucial European political arena.

#### 1981-2011

EFA fundamentally fights for the freedom of peoples and nations. We also strive for the equality of nations, cultures and languages. EFA has fought for freedom for 30 years, real freedom for all peoples of Europe, and is deeply committed to fight for another 30 years more. Of course, EFA's activity and political involvement did not start in Parliament. One of EFA's driving principles is self-determination. We promote the emergence of truly constructive interactions between Europe's Nations, peoples, communities and citizens, by claiming collective rights, more autonomy and very often full independence.

Such cohesion is only possible if such internal diversity is itself governed by the same demands of tolerance, recognition and solidarity that EFA is externally advocating.

This idea began to take shape over 30 years ago and politically crystallized when EFA's fundamental principles were first expressed and synthesized in the 1979 Declaration of Bastia, eloquently stressing its attachment to a Europe of Peoples... not actual States, Peoples! This historic declaration also emphasised the importance of protecting the collective rights and dignity of these hitherto unrecognized, and often to various degrees, repressed Peoples.

This vision and programme for Europe arose from a constant, dynamic and thorough groundwork of militants, on which the EFA of 2011 can still rely. EFA's success is a clear expression of the quality of the work achieved by our European mosaic of militancy. This is constantly fed and updated by dynamic youth movements, who ensure that our vision, aims and work always stay up to date, relevant, accurate, and fully connected to the best vibrations of this fantastic European continent, its immediate surroundings, and the rest of World, to which Europe is and should always be linked to in full solidarity and rich interdependence.

EFA itself is diverse. EFA members interpret a rich manifold of European collective realities, backgrounds, real power, and hopes. It has always been important for every EFA member to ensure internal cohesion among members and partners. Such cohesion is only possible if such internal diversity is itself governed by the same demands of tolerance, recognition and solidarity that EFA is externally advocating. EFA's success in doing so has made its lasting and active presence possible in the whole European political arena.

It is also a clear sign of maturity that EFA can now count on the forward looking expertise and analysis provided by the Foundation Centre Maurits Coppieters (CMC). The CMC is a 'Political Foundation at European Level' and has been recognized by the European Parliament since 2007. The CMC works in close cooperation with its member organizations and the European Free Alliance as a platform for new ideas. As such, this young and dynamic foundation is ensuring that EFA will always be linked to the best, most groundbreaking and stimulating visions, whose implementation EFA remains responsible for.

To conclude, EFA could not neglect the fact that, while EFA is

looking back over its 30 years of life and looking forward to the next 30, other Peoples near to Europe are *literally fighting*, taking on the ultimate danger possible which could mean losing their own lives, to enjoy political and personal freedom, by democratically living together and taking decisions. The ineffectiveness, a tragedy in itself, of repression and regime driven brutality is in effect showing what constant and lasting energy is displayed by people and Peoples fighting for emancipation, rights and true democracy.

The next 30 years in the future will be described as a time, where through powerful basic democratic movements, new states within the current European borders of 2011, emerged and gained independence. EFA promotes this democratic wave and develops what we call Europe's internal enlargement even further, which at the same time is a true strengthening of the European Union.

It would be neither decent nor clever at the end of a turbulent 2011, to mention the journey of our own Peoples' emancipation, without sparing a thought for our Palestinian, Kurdish, Tibetan,... brothers and sisters, who have courageously chosen such a harsh political journey, and an even steeper and much more perilous path towards their emancipation.

> Eric Defoort, President of EFA, The European political party

**H**<sup>1981</sup> 2011

European Parliament, Brussels 9th of November 2011 The answer to difference is to respect it! Therein lies a most fundamental principle of peace: diversity.

> John Hume, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize 1998

#### the years preceding EFA



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Bayernpartei **Maurits Coppieters Eerste plaats Volksunie** 





#### **FAISONS**



Hanes Sefydlu Plaid Genedlaethol Cymru 5 Awst, 1925

#### L'OCCITANIE AUTONOME

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12	13	14	15

1 Poster of PSM from 1976 2 Election campaign FNP; 1966, Balk 3 Demonstration in Galiza against nuclear energy; 1977 4 Demonstration for the Sardinian language; 1975 5 Posters of campaign for the Galician statute of 1936 6 Poster of campaign of ERC; 1936 7 Election Poster from 1920 8 Foundation of Enotna Lista under the motto 'eknako pravno' (equal rights); 1975 9 Poster of 'The Poppy'; 1920 10 Maurits Coppieters. First on the list for Volksunie for the European elections of 1979 11 Electoral poster of the Bayern Partei (BP); 1949 12 Fishermen protest in Prenzance, Cornwall; 1978 13 Plaid Cymru poster on 'The six men of Pwllheli'; 1925 14 Poster of 1980 demanding the Autonomy for Occitania 15 'Vor danske fremtids vej' (The way to our Danish future). SSW's poster from the 1950's

SNP candidate Winnie Ewing, in the campaign for the European elections in 1979

# Je serai VOTRE Député Européen

Maurits Coppieters, 1979, Bastia, Corsica









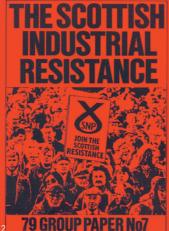
1 Strasbourg, 9th of July 1981, Foundation of EFA with 9 Partners signing 2-3 Brussels, 8-10 January 1981, EFA study days with fltr J. Cevaer, Yann Fouéré, F. Clavelly; fltr F. Clavelly, M. Coppieters, Y. Fouéré

#### PARTITO SARDO D'AZIONE QUADORDI SARDISTI Acre dia Fotoraleo Distribute di Sasari



Contributi alla conoscenza della dottrina del sardismo e delle sue finalità

Anno II n. 2





 1 Sassari, Cover of Quaderni
 Sardista from PSd'Az, Contribution to the knowledge on the doctrine of Sardism and its finality
 2 Edinburgh, The Scottish industrial resistance, 79 group, nr7, with introduction by
 A. Salmond 3 Riazor, A Coruña, foundation meeting BNG



1 Brussels, Press Conference, J Vandemeulebroucke and Y. Fouéré 2-4 Saint-Vincent, Aoste, 6th round table on Regionalism, Yann Fouéré 3 Brussels, EFA visit to the Belgian Parliament, J. Vandemeulebroucke

1983



1 Vitoria-Gasteiz, re-election C. Garaikoetxea as Lehendakari 2 Cornwall, publication Mebyon

Kernow, Making our own decisions 3 Ljouwert, FNP vision on Europe

#### making our own decisions

2

Mebyon Kernow Policies for Cornwall 1984





Strasbourg, visit of FNP with R. Falkena to EFA group with J. Vandemeulebroucke and W. Kuijpers



Saragossa, Foundation of Chunta Aragonesista, National assembly

#### **EFA** liket striidorganisaasje foar in oar Europa te wurden

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### 1987



1 Ljouwert, article Leeuwarder Courant on EFA General Assembly and 25 years FNP 2 Basque Country, Carlos Garaikoetxea giving a speech



Brussels, EFA General Assembly with among them H. Gourmelin, G. Alirol, B. Lasagabaster, J. Evans, P. Kylan, D. Williams, M. Simeoni, F. Moschenross



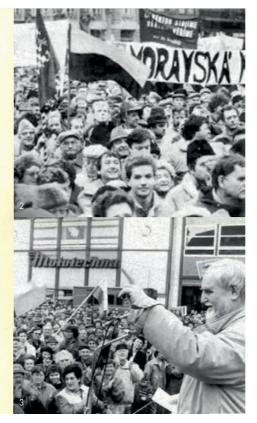
1 Perth, SNP Conference, Scotland's future - Independence in Europe 2-3 Brno, mass demonstration in favor of Moravian identity, speech of Boleslav Bárta

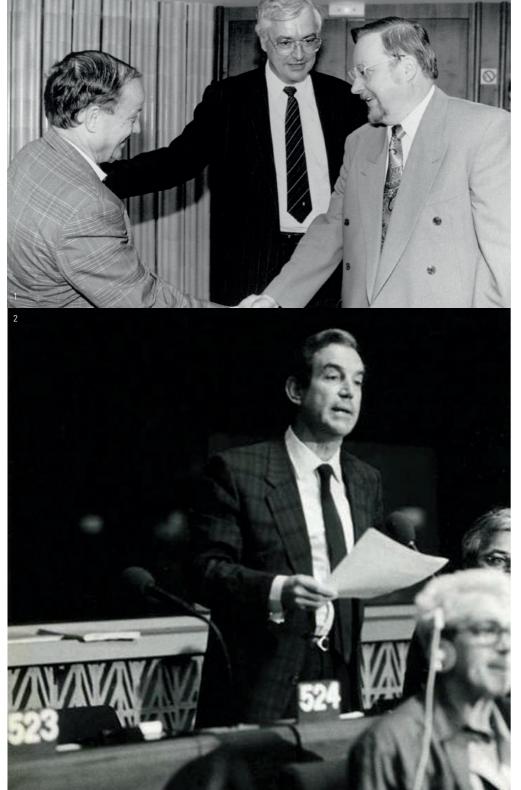
#### Scotland's Future – INDEPENDENCE IN EUROPE



56th Annual National Conference 19-22 September 1990 City Hall, Perth

#### **Scottish National Party**





1 Brussels, EFA meets Lithuanian President Landsbergis, J. Vandemeulebroucke and M. Simeoni 2 Strasbourg, European Parliament, speech Carlos Garaikoetxea





group meeting and Conference on the Construction of the European Union



1 Santiago, BNG group in the Galician Parliament, Xosé-Manuel Beiras (in the middle) 2 Cardiff, EFA General Assembly, G. Alirol, B. Bro, K. Gyonvarch and B. Staes 3 Cardiff, EFA GA, group picture

1993



EUROPE The voice of th Macedonian minority in Greece

1 Scotland, European election campaign, Winnie Ewing 2 Corsica, UPC book on Internal autonomy for the Corsican people 3 Lerin, Athens finally recognizing Rainbow-Vinozhito party, Macedonian minority 4 Saragossa, dia Aragonese, National day

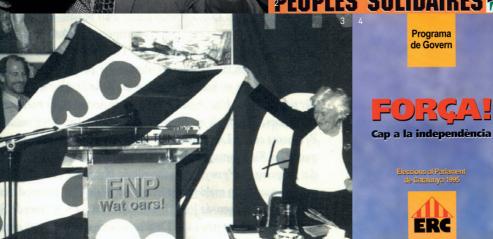




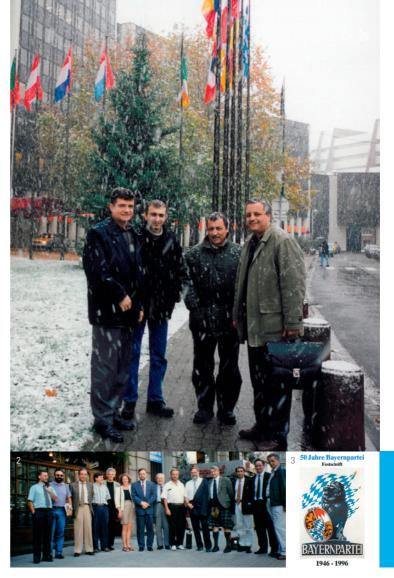




1 Sararagossa, election night 2 Foundation Régions et Peuples Solidaires R&PS, posters with flags of regions 3 Revelation of FNP election program by Winnie Ewing 4 ERC governmental program, 'Force, towards independence'

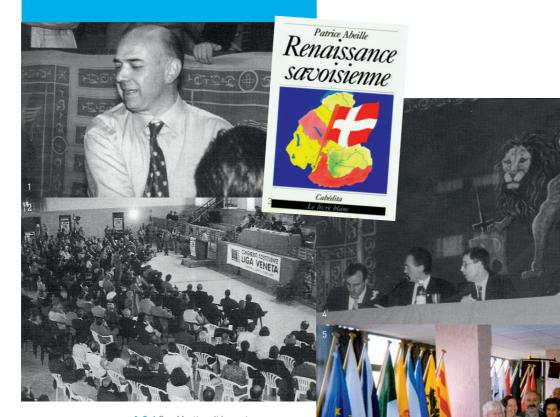


 Strasbourg, R&PS delegation, among them G. Alirol, J-C. Angelini, F. Alfonsi
 Barcelona, General Assembly EFA, group picture 3 Poster of the 50th Anniversary of BayernPartei





1 Scotland, Yes campaign for a Scottish parliament 2 YES YES campaign for more powers 3 Yes for Wales 4 Map with results of the YES vote in the Welsh referendum



1-2-4 San Martino di Lupari, Foundation Congres of Liga Veneta (currently Liga Veneto Repubblica), Fabrizio Comencini and Praesidium fltr Roccon, Morosin, Serrena, Signorini and Mafroi
3 Savoy, Renaissance savoisienne, Patrice Abeille, le livre blanc
5 Cardiff, EFA General Assembly, among others: Winnie Ewing, Jill Evans, José-Luis Linzazasoro, Roelof Falkena, Nelly Maes and Neil Fergusson

# aire fresc

Eleccions al Parlament de Catalunya 1999

del programa

#### As the oldest member, it fell to her to open parliament.



1 Edinburg, Winnie Ewing and Sean Connory, scene from Documentary, as the oldest member she was to re-convene the Scottish Parliament 2 Barcelona, 'Aire Fresc' (Fresh wind), ERC program for the Catalan Parliament 3 Edinburgh, Scottish parliament 4 Edinburgh 4 Cahier du Peuple Breton, 'La Bretagne, j'y crois! Je lui donne du pouvoir, Un statut politique pour la Bretagne'

Resum

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### 1999

# 2000

1 Brussels, 9 November, First Summit of EFA ministers, party leaders and members of Parliament. Presentation of EFA Declaration of Brussels. Among them: Neil MacCormick, Gorka Knörr, Jose-Luis Linazasoro, Nelly Maes, Carod Rovira and Gustave Alirol 2 Cardiff, Plaid Cymru Towards 2000, Programme for Wales in Europe





support a

# 2001



WWW.N-VA.bo



### Peter Lynch



1 Barcelona, EFA Conference on the Rights of Peoples in the New Europe, Nelly Maes, EFA President (1998-2010), Gorka Knörr (EA) 2 Edinburgh, SNP, The history of the Scottish National Party, Book of Peter Lynch with among them Alex Salmond, Angus Robertson and John Swinney

2002





### 2003

1 Brno, EFAy meeting Diversity is richness, among them EFAy President Jonas Dutordoir, EFAy coordinator Eva Mendoza and future EFAy coordinator Eva Bidania 2 Cornwall, Mebyon Kernow candidates prepare the campaign **3** Brussels, Manifestation with CHA delegation 4 Sevilla, Andalucia says: No to the war (in Iraq), Partido Andalucista **5** Brussels, Conference of EFA: 'New impuls for Europe's linguistic diversity' 6 Strasbourg, EFA group, MEP's and staff and assistants 7 Aland islands, Alands Framtid presenting its candidates for the first election campaign

1-3-4 Brussels, First General Assembly of EFA as a recognized European political party, European Parliament; EFA delegations from Veneto, Triëste, Südtirol, Sardinia with Comencini, Stoka, Klotz, Piretta; Praesidium: fltr Eva Mendoza, Günther Dauwen (EFA co-directors), Nelly Maes (EFA President), lan Hudghton (EFA Vice-President) 2. Riga, manifestation of students in favor of Russian language education





### 2005

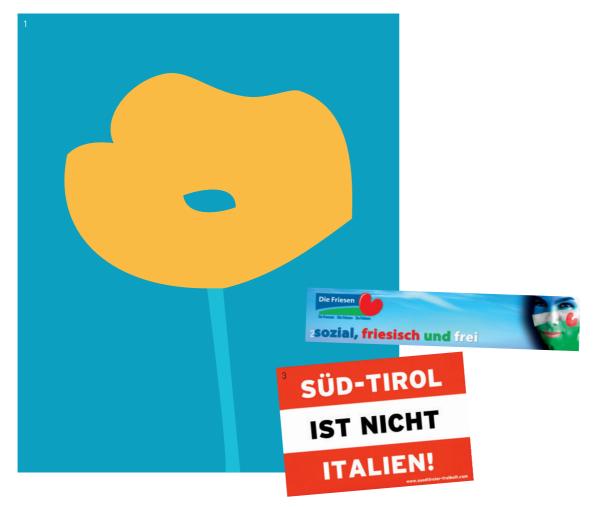
1 Perpignan, Cartoon from Unitat Catalana and CDC, Septimania no existeix 2 Corsica, Days of Arritti with Fabiana Giovannini, Nelly Maes and François Alfonsi 3 Rennes, EFA General Assembly in the Regional Assembly of Bretagne, Jill Evans, Nelly Maes, Gustave Alirol and Günther Dauwen 4 Nant Gwrtheyrn, visit to Welsh language centre, lan Hudghton, Jill Evans, and President Carl Clowes 5 Brignogan, Summer university Régions et Peuples Solidaires in Bretagne, among them Kristian Guyonvarch, Nelly Maes, Janet Davies and Yves Jardin



A NACIO STREET, STREET 3

### 2007

1 Brussels, logo with poppy (peace symbol) of the new 'Centre Maurits Coppieters', European political Foundation connected to EFA 2 Aurich, Die Friesen banner: Social, Frisian and free 3 Bozen, sticker campaign of the newly founded Südtiroler Freiheit, South Tirol is not Italy!





MORAVANE

2008

Prague centralism

Parliament 3 Cornwall, unitary? No! Cornish Assembly? Yes! Mebyon Kernow action 4 Caraglio, Footbal poster, Occitania versus

Monaco 5 Brno, Moravana poster against



# 2009

1 Brussels, investiture hearing in EFA-Greens group with Barroso on his second mandate in the European Commission, with Jill Evans 2 Eupen, ProDG candidates elected in the regional elections 3 EFA group with 7 members, new in the EFA group Oriol Junqueras, Frieda Brepoels and François Alfonsi 4 Brussels, demonstration (10.000 Mil a Brusseles per l'autodeterminacio) for Catalunya 28th member state in the EU 5 Madrid, Europa de los Pueblos agreement, joint list for EP elections, Ana Miranda, Oriol Junqueras, Iñaki Irazabalbeitia, Pura Peris, Miguel Martinez, Sabin Intxaurraga



1 Santiago de Compostella, mass demonstration in favor of Galician language 2 Brussels, EFA party and EFA group presidents Nelly Maes and Jill Evans meeting President of the EU Council Herman Van Rompuy **3** Perth, EFA fringe meeting 'Talking Independence' in SNP Conference 4 Bozen, Südtiroler Freiheit campagne on double nationality **5** Brussels, EFA group Conference on Independence, European Parliament 6 Venice, Press Conference of Nord Est, Fabrizio Comencini 7 Riga, Campaign of the party For Human rights in a united Latvia

VOTA 

> DIE ÖSTERREICHISCHE STAATSBÜRGERSCHAFT



European Free Alliance

INDEPENDENCE IN EUROPE nations

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for

Equality

in century

09:30-13:00 and 15:00-18:30 European Parliament, Brussels, Room PHS 7C50 Simultaneous interpretation: CA, CY, EN, ES, FR, GL, NL









1 Edinburgh, electoral tsunami in Scotland, SNP winning 69 seats and an overal majority, central Alex Salmond 2 Llandudno, Plaid Cymru President Jill Evans in Conference after winning the Welsh referendum for more powers **3** Brussels, Conference of the EFA group, 'From Nations to Member States' 4 Barcelona, new ERC executive with new President Oriol Junqueras 5 Bilbao, election meeting of Bildu 6 Basque Country, Bildu Logo 7 Logo campaign Yes for Wales 8 Barcelona, end of Referendum Campaign on Independence, 10 April

Cultural & rights, linguistic rights, self-determination, nation building & state building are central to our ideology and the EFA political action.

> EFA President Eric Defoort, 2011

# Stopportugical Stoppo

After Winnie Ewing in 1967 saying 'Stop the world, Scotland wants to get on'

## EFA works for and with its members

Government; and Eric Defoort, president of EFA

5:00 - 15:10

Att tä är att tär är s

EUROPEAN FREE ALLIANCE

1 Günther Dauwen and Eva Bidania, campaign for AF (Alands Framtid). 14 April 2011, Mariehamn, Åland 2 5th Autonomy March in Silesia. 16 July 2011, Katowice 3 EFA-CMC Conference on Tax Autonomy. fltr: Danko Švorinić, Denis Pesut, Günther Dauwen, Tatjana Zdanoka, Frieda Brepoels, Dan Milosevic. 18 February 2011, Rijeka 4 EFA Group external meeting. fltr: Tatjana Zdanoka, Ian Hudghton, Jill Evans, Joan Puigcercós, François Alfonsi, Frieda Brepoels, Oriol Junqueras. June 2011, Barcelona 5 FNP Campaign for regional election on 2 March 2011. Hendrik Ten Hoeve (left) and Douwe Bijlsma (right) 6 Jong N-VA and N-VA protests against the illegalization of Bildu. 5 May 2011; Spanish Embassy, Brussels 7 EFA stand in the European Parliament's Open door day. Antonia Luciani (left) and Emma Arrighi (right) 8 May 2011, Brussels 8 'La Sovranitá dei Popoli in Europa' Conference. Fltr: Marc Hendrickx, François Alfonsi, Fric Defoort, Giovanni Colli, Sebastian Colio, Ana Luisa Bouza. 30 April 2011, Cagliari 9 EFA and EFAy representatives in the demonstration for a Free Tibet. 6th October, 2011, Brussels

EFA General Assembly, 15th April 2011, Mariehamn, Åland



EFAIS the Party of the emerging new states in Europe, its peoples and nations and the voiceless in the world'

# EFA parties celebrating Binthogy



1 Unser Land (UL) Demonstration '2011: Création du Parlement d'Alsace 1911'. 21th of May 2011, Strasbourg 2 80th Anniversary of ERC. Fltr: Anna Simó, Jordi Carbonell, Joan Puigcercós, Victor Torres, Heribert Barrera, Joan Ridao, Jordi Portabella. 19 March 2011, Barcelona 3 60th Anniversary of Mebyon Kernow (MK). Dick Cole (left) and Ann Jenkin (right). 22 January 2011, Camborne 4 25th Anniversary of CHA. 26 March 2011, Zaragoza 5 Logo of the 25th Anniversary of PSM (2001). On 12 March 2011, PSM has celebrated its 35th Anniversary in Algaida, Mallorca 6 Protest demonstration of Ligue Savoissienne (LS) on the 150th Anniversary of the annexation of Savoie to France 7 Unser Land cartoon for autonomy 8 Logo of the 25th Anniversary of 1936. 25 June 2011, Santiago 10 25th Anniversary of Unitat Catalana (UC). Toni Strubell, Brice Lafontaine and Anna Arqué (centre), together with UC's board members. 3 July 2011, Perpignan 11 11th Anniversary of Lista Za Rijeku (LZR). Danko Švorinić (front) with LZR activists. 31 August 2011, Rijeka 12 90th Anniversary of Partito Sardo d'Azione (PSd'Az). 8 May 2011, Cagliari

10th Anniversary of N-VA. N-VA president Bart de Wever addressing N-VA activists. 11 September 2011, Bokrijk, Flanders Som un. , nosaltres decidim

> 'We are a nation, we decide' Action against the rejection of the Catalan statute 2006

### EFA prepares the future

1 Campaign for the referendum on more powers for the Welsh Assembly, leuan Wyn Jones and Jill Evans (centre). 5 March 2011, Wales 2 2011 EFA president Gernika agreement. 'Gernika Agreement' event. Eric Defoort addresses the audience. 28 February 2011, Donostia 3 Banner Partido Andalucista 4 Logo Autonomie Liberté Participation Écologie (ALPE) 5 MRS and ALPE representatives in the second summit of 'Mont Dolent'. 26 November 2010, Gignod, Vallée d'Aoste 6 Slovenska Skupnost press conference on the abolition of the electoral act. 12 September 2011, Gorizia 7 Omo Ilinden Pirin gathering for Yane Sandanski. 17 April 2011, Melnic 8 SNP Conference. Winnie Ewing and Eric Defoort. 16 October 2010, Perth 9 CMC Bureau. Fltr: Alan Sandry, Josep Vall, Günther Dauwen, Xabier Macías, Miguel Martínez Tomey, Roccu Garoby, 16 September 2011, Lerin 10 Marek Chelchowski (left), representative of Lausitzer Alliance (LA) and Jurijs Petropavlovskis (right) representative of PCTVL/FHRUL at EFA GA. 15 April 2011, Mariehamn, Åland

5th Autonomy March in Silesia. 16 July 2011, Katowice

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### Colophon

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