



Euskadiko Lehendakaria

El Lehendakari de Euskadi

Vitoria-Gasteiz, December 2019

Kanpoan bizi zaren euskaldun estimatua,

Now that Christmas and New Year are approaching, I would like to share what has been done in 2109 with you. The year has once again shown the ability of a Diaspora that always carries Euskadi in its heart and contributes to **disseminating what it means and feels to be Basque** all over the world.

This year we celebrated the second edition of the Day of the Basque Diaspora on 8 September and we organised the 7th World Congress of Basque Collectives Abroad. The theme “**saregintzan**” (**weaving networks**) has shown Basque society that our Diaspora is a global Community that makes us proud as a People and helps us with its commitment.

Europa is going through a major migration crisis and it is necessary that the countries that make it up, both big and small, should take measures to welcome and not receive with hostility, people who are looking for a better life for themselves and their children.

Throughout history, Basque emigration has had its problems, but Basques were **warmly welcomed** in the countries they settled in. We should not forget that “we all have an uncle in America”, as Pierre Lhande said in 1910, but we also have “children or nephews” who are emigrating now and going to other countries in Europe or Asia to live an international experience.

Having said that, we note that, unfortunately, we are not insensitive -quite the contrary- to situations in other countries in America suffered by thousands and thousands of citizens.

Humanism and solidarity are part of our values, which is why we advocate a unitary and positive response to the global challenge of migration, which involves a commitment to “**offer what we would like to receive**”.

Looking to the future, we are taking the first steps towards the creation of the **Archive of the Basque Diaspora**, a space that will disseminate the history of our People’s migration and serve as a reference for descendants of Diaspora. We are also making progress in the consolidation of the virtual network of Basques around the world and links with the existing Euskal Etxeak.

The forthcoming approval of a **Four-Year Plan** will open up new lines of work and opportunities, with special emphasis on younger people and those most disadvantages in the collective. For the definition and materialization of these project we have a great asset: the Basque Community that is present and integrated all over the world, and always loyal and committed to Euskadi.

At Christmastime many of you -both individuals and families- return to Euskadi while others enjoy the festive season in your countries of residence. I would like to share the warmth and happiness of your family get-togethers here and convey **Basque society’s recognition** of your efforts, together with my best seasonal wishes and for the New Year 2020 too.

Gabon zorientsuak eta Urte berri on!

Iñigo Urkullu Renteria