

ACT XX/2026, OF [DAY] [MONTH] 2026 ON THE BASQUE DIASPORA.

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XXX

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PRELIMINARY TITLE: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Purpose.

The purpose of this Act is to promote, coordinate and strengthen relations between the public institutions of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country and Basque society in general with the Basque diaspora, as well as to establish the legal and strategic framework to foster such relations.

Article 2. Scope of application and the concept of "diasporising".

1. This Act applies to the individuals and organisations that make up the Basque diaspora:

a) Basque citizens living abroad:

- 1) Basques residing abroad, as referred to in Article 7.2 of the Statute of Autonomy of the Basque Country, as well as their descendants up to the fourth degree in the direct line of descent, provided they submit an application to a Spanish Consulate or a Basque Government Delegation abroad, and provided they retain or acquire Spanish nationality.
- 2) People who were evacuated as a result of the Spanish Civil War, as well as their descendants, up to the fourth degree, who reside abroad and who retain or acquire Basque political status.
- 3) People who retain their Basque civil residence status but habitually reside outside the Basque Country, or even abroad, provided that, in the latter case, they submit a request to a Spanish consulate or a Basque Government office abroad.
- 4) Those who, having previously held the political status of Basque and, as a result of exercising their right to freedom of movement, subsequently register as residents in a municipality outside the Basque Country or abroad.

b) Basque communities abroad:

- 1) Groups of people formally established in accordance with the legislation of each country and officially recognised by the Basque Government, in accordance with this Act.
- 2) Virtual Basque communities: informal groups of people who interact and communicate via computer, telematic and technological networks and platforms, with the aim of maintaining and strengthening their ties with the Basque Country.
- 3) Basque communities abroad include people who do not hold Basque political status and do not have Basque origins, but who express their affinity with the Basque Country.

2. The Basque diaspora: comprising Basque citizens living abroad and Basque communities abroad.

3. The global Basque community: the community comprising the citizens of the Basque Country and the Basque diaspora.

4. The concept of "diasporising": a set of public and private initiatives designed to raise awareness among Basque society and all the institutions of the Basque Country of the human, cultural and socio-economic potential held by the Basque diaspora, with a view to both their own future and mutual enrichment. When designing and implementing their policies and strategic plans, the Basque Public Authorities may adopt a Basque diaspora perspective.

Article 3. Principles governing the Basque Diaspora strategy.

1. The following are general principles:

- a) The public authorities of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country shall, within the scope of their powers and subject to budgetary constraints, promote the achievement of the objectives of this Act, under the coordination of the Basque Government's Department for External Action.
- b) The Basque Country considers the Basque diaspora to be a human asset and an essential part of its historical, political, cultural and socio-economic heritage due to the fact that it promotes its distinctive characteristics and national brand, and is a driving force for the Basque Country abroad in the aforementioned areas.

2. The following are specific principles:

- a) Leadership.
- b) Cross-cutting approach and alignment with other public policies.
- c) Medium and long-term vision.
- d) Non-partisanship.
- e) Participation in political, social, cultural and economic life.
- f) People-centred action.
- g) Rights-based approach.
- h) Adapting public policies to the different types of Diaspora.
- i) Governance based on effectiveness, efficiency, transparency and ongoing evaluation.
- j) Equity and inclusion.

Article 4. Objectives.

The objectives of this Act are:

- a) To build a global Basque community.
- b) To identify and connect the people and organisations that make up the Basque diaspora.
- c) To foster stable channels of communication and collaboration between the Basque diaspora and the Basque Country.
- d) To strengthen the ties between the Basque diaspora and the public authorities of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country.
- e) To develop appropriate policies to foster and strengthen relations with the Basque diaspora.

- f) To promote and facilitate the participation of Basques living abroad in the social, cultural, economic and political life of the Basque Country.
- g) To contribute to the strengthening of Basque communities abroad by fostering their internal cohesion and the effectiveness of their community activities, supporting generational renewal and promoting gender equality in all areas of political, community, cultural, social and economic participation.
- h) To assist and protect members of the Basque diaspora within the remit of the Basque institutions.
- i) To promote the Basque Country's international image, its unique identity, awareness of the Basque language and culture, and an understanding of its economic, tourism and commercial potential, in collaboration with the Basque diaspora.
- j) To foster political, economic, social and cultural relations between the Basque diaspora and the host society, its institutions and stakeholders from various sectors.
- k) To promote the work of the Basque diaspora and ensure that it is taken into account and recognised.
- l) To promote international mobility among Basque youth.
- m) To promote the flow of talent, thereby contributing to the mobility of the global Basque community.
- n) To make it easier for members of Basque communities living abroad who so wish to transfer their residence to the territory of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country.
- o) To make progress in digitalisation and adapt public policies and relations with the Basque diaspora to new technological opportunities.
- p) Any other matters that may be provided for under the applicable regulations.

All the objectives set out in this Act shall be pursued in accordance with the principle of equality between women and men, ensuring its cross-cutting application in the political, social, cultural and economic spheres.

TITLE I. THE BASQUE DIASPORA

CHAPTER I: BASQUE CITIZENS LIVING ABROAD

Article 5. Rights and benefits for Basque citizens living abroad.

In general, the following rights and benefits are granted to Basque citizens living abroad, subject to the terms and conditions set out in the relevant legislation. Furthermore, such citizens shall enjoy, on an equal basis, the following rights:

1. Social rights.

- a) to social participation and the exercise of active citizenship, as well as, specifically, participation in public policies that directly affect them.

- b) to information of interest on political, institutional, socio-economic and cultural matters relating to the Basque Country.
- c) to social and employment information in the Basque Country and access to the programmes run by Lanbide – the Basque Public Employment Service.
- d) to online training programmes at various educational levels.
- e) to access public healthcare services during their temporary stays in the Basque Country.
- f) to equal opportunities and non-discrimination.
- g) to submit a request and appeal to the Ararteko.
- h) to access initiatives promoting gender equality.
- i) to support services for victims of gender-based violence.
- j) to participate in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.
- k) to participate in the programmes and initiatives set up to facilitate their return to the Basque Country.
- l) Any other matters that may be provided for under the applicable regulations.

2. Rights in the cultural sphere.

- a) to access Basque language courses.
- b) to access contemporary cultural production.
- c) to the visibility of the cultural expressions of the Basque diaspora.
- d) to the promotion of cultural events and festivals tailored to each segment of the diaspora.
- e) to institutionalisation through the establishment of diaspora advisory committees.
- f) to the use of digital technologies to keep the diaspora connected with various cultural aspects, and in particular the Basque language.
- g) to the inclusion of alumni networks in cultural programmes.
- h) to take part in campaigns involving visits to the Basque Country and genealogical research, aimed in particular at members of Basque communities.
- i) to engage in cultural life with the aim of raising awareness within the diaspora regarding strategies and opportunities that will facilitate the members' greater involvement and a possible return.
- j) to take part in initiatives aimed at promoting the Euskadi brand abroad.
- k) to ensure that the cultural participation of the Basque diaspora takes place on equal terms for women and men, ensuring balanced representation and the elimination of all forms of discrimination.
- l) Any other matters that may be provided for under the applicable regulations.

Article 6. Virtual platform.

To facilitate the realisation of these rights and benefits, digital platforms will be set up to encourage ongoing interaction between the Basque diaspora and the Basque Country.

CHAPTER II: BASQUE COMMUNITIES ABROAD

Article 7. Classification of Basque communities abroad.

1. For the purposes of this Law and pursuant to the provisions of Article 2.1.b), the Basque

Communities abroad include the following entities:

a) Euskal Etxeak – Basque Centres and their Federations

Non-profit organisations based outside the Basque Country, which have legal personality in the territory in which they are established and are officially recognised by the Basque Government in accordance with this Act, and whose purpose is to pursue the objectives and aims set out in Articles 4 and 8 of this Act.

b) Other non-profit organisations.

Organisations and bodies made up of members of the Basque diaspora whose primary objective, as set out in their statutes, is the study and dissemination of the reality, contribution, history and distinctive character of the Basque diaspora, and whose registered office is located outside the Basque Country, as well as Basque study centres or similar bodies linked to other institutions.

c) Virtual Communities.

Networks created using information and communication technologies with the aim of promoting connectivity and interaction within the Global Basque Community, in accordance with the objectives and purposes set out in Articles 4 and 8 of this Act.

d) Any other entity as may be specified by regulation.

Article 8. Objectives of Basque communities abroad.

For the purposes of this Act, the objectives of the Basque communities abroad are considered to be:

- a) To help strengthen the Basque community abroad, promoting its internal cohesion and the effectiveness of its community activities.
- b) To preserve and reinforce their ties with the Basque Country, so that people from these Basque communities can continue to uphold, nurture and pass on their own values.
- c) To foster an understanding of the social, cultural, linguistic, economic and institutional realities of the Basque Country by organising outreach and promotional activities aimed at members of the entity, as well as by highlighting its potential within its socio-economic context.
- d) To foster relations, particularly social and cultural ones, with the various regions where Basque communities are present, with their institutions and with their various social stakeholders, in coordination with the Basque Government's regional offices, where these exist.
- e) To help, support and assist, to the best of their ability, members of the Basque diaspora within their geographical area of operation.
- f) To promote awareness and use of the Basque language and contribute to the promotion of Basque cultural creation and production, both among members of Basque communities and in host societies, in collaboration with Etxepare Euskal Institutua and the Basque Country's overseas offices located within their geographical area of operation.
- g) To preserve, promote and disseminate the cultural heritage created by the Basque diaspora throughout its history.
- h) To encourage young people to participate and become involved in Basque communities abroad, ensuring access to Basque culture, language and society, and

promoting their active and balanced participation, particularly within coordination and management bodies.

- i) To promote the effective participation of women in the community life of Basque communities abroad, particularly within coordination and management bodies, and to promote the values of equality in the activities and programmes to be carried out.
- j) To promote initiatives that further the achievement of their objectives, making use of the opportunities offered by information and communication technologies.
- k) To help, support and facilitate the integration of the Basque diaspora into the societies in which they live.
- l) To assist members of the community who wish to return to or move to the Basque Country.
- m) Any other purpose that the Basque communities abroad deem appropriate and which is consistent with their objectives and the provisions of this Act.

Article 9. Rights of members of Basque communities abroad.

In general, the following rights and benefits are granted to members of Basque communities abroad, in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the relevant regulations. Furthermore, these individuals shall be entitled, on an equal basis, to the following:

1. Social rights:

- a) to be informed of any provisions and resolutions adopted by the public authorities of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country in matters specifically recognised as being of interest to the Basque diaspora, in accordance with the objectives set out in their respective statutes.
- b) to share in Basque social life and help promote it within the local area where they are based.
- c) to collaborate with public institutions in promoting social welfare and healthcare initiatives for people living abroad, in accordance with their policies and regulations.
- d) to participate, as leading organisations, in initiatives undertaken by the Basque Government outside the territory of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, within the geographical area in which they are established, provided that the activity is related to the organisation's statutory objectives.
- e) to participate in matters of social interest to the Basque diaspora, in a deliberative and advisory capacity, through the representative bodies of the Basque communities.
- f) to ensure that all social initiatives relating to the Diaspora are carried out on the basis of equality between women and men, ensuring balanced participation and the elimination of all forms of discrimination.

The exercise of these rights and the participation of Basque communities in social initiatives aimed at improving the Basque Country and the lives of its people will be established by regulation.

2. Rights in the cultural sphere

- a) to contribute to the understanding and study of the various aspects of Basque culture.
- b) to raise awareness and promote the Basque language within their communities.
- c) to information about and access to the cultural development of the Basque Country, and to participate in the formulation of initiatives to promote Basque culture.
- d) to access libraries, resources and archives in the Basque Country.
- e) to collaborate with and participate in the social media and publicly owned media of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country.
- f) to help promote cultural activities and performances aimed at preserving and promoting the use of the Basque language, as well as Basque culture and traditions.
- g) to promote and publicise, in accordance with the policies and regulations of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, the region's tourism potential and act as promoters of these opportunities.
- h) to exchange experiences and knowledge in the field of information and communication technologies. To this end, the Basque Government will provide the necessary structures for the exchange of information and knowledge through digital platforms specifically designed for the Basque diaspora.
- i) to preserve and disseminate Basque heritage within their territorial area.
- j) to participate in matters of cultural interest through the representative bodies of the Basque communities abroad.
- k) to ensure that the cultural participation of the diaspora takes place on equal terms between women and men, ensuring balanced representation and the elimination of all forms of discrimination.

3. Rights in the economic sphere:

- a) to receive information about the economic situation of the Basque Country.
- b) to maintain contact with economic and social stakeholders in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country.
- c) to work alongside the Government and economic stakeholders in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country to promote economic and business activities that foster economic development and the international economic projection of the Basque Country.
- d) to promote economic ties between the Basque diaspora and businesses operating in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country.
- e) to take part in economic forums and develop initiatives that contribute to the development and progress of the Basque Country and to its international economic projection.
- f) to participate in matters of economic interest through the representative bodies of the Basque communities abroad.

Article 10. Benefits for members of Basque communities abroad.

1. In the social sphere:

- a) Measures to support the establishment of new Basque communities abroad.

The Autonomous Community of the Basque Country will encourage and provide support and advice for the establishment of new entities outside the Basque Country in areas where Basque people have settled and where there is a demand for such entities.

- b) Individual social welfare benefits

The Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, in accordance with its policies and regulations, will put in place appropriate measures to provide individual and exceptional assistance to people living outside the Basque Country in cases of extreme need or risk of social exclusion.

- c) Support for welfare initiatives of Basque communities abroad.

The Autonomous Community of the Basque Country will determine the support measures to be provided to Basque communities and collaborating centres for Basque people residing within its jurisdiction, paying particular attention to older people, women—in recognition of their greater vulnerability in certain contexts—and those in situations of extreme need or at risk of social exclusion.

- d) Support measures for social activities promoted by Basque communities abroad.

The Autonomous Community of the Basque Country will determine the support and cooperation measures for initiatives promoted by Basque communities abroad that aim to improve the integration and participation of their members in the territory where they reside.

- e) Initiatives in the field of gender equality

The Autonomous Community of the Basque Country will promote equality between women and men living abroad and will establish support measures to this end.

- f) Service provision agreements.

The Autonomous Community of the Basque Country may enter into cooperation agreements with Basque communities abroad that are recognised as such for the provision of services, provided that their competence, experience in collective affairs and dynamism are established in relation to the subject matter.

2. In the cultural sphere:

- (a) Support and promotion measures in the linguistic and cultural fields.

The Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, in collaboration with Etxepare Euskal Institutua, will organise educational and audiovisual services designed to promote an understanding of the language, culture and traditions of the Basque Country.

b) Editorial fund.

The Autonomous Community of the Basque Country will make its publications available to the Basque community abroad in order to promote awareness of the history, art, language and social reality of the Basque Country.

c) Training.

Within the scope of the powers of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, the Basque Government will promote knowledge and education in the Basque language, history and culture in the territories where the Basque community abroad is established.

d) Media in the Basque communities.

The Autonomous Community of the Basque Country will encourage media organisations within its territory to develop information and outreach initiatives aimed at the Basque diaspora, and will support communication initiatives carried out by Basque communities abroad.

e) Exchanges.

The Autonomous Community of the Basque Country will promote interaction and educational and cultural exchanges aimed at the Basque diaspora, with a view to fostering an understanding of the social, economic and cultural reality of the Basque Country.

f) Technology platform.

The Autonomous Community of the Basque Country will provide the Basque Community Abroad with a technology platform to facilitate communication, share information and exchange knowledge between its members. It will also promote the use of computer applications for the management, administration, accounting and communications of Basque communities abroad.

g) Measures to safeguard and protect cultural heritage

The Autonomous Community of the Basque Country will assist in the preservation and conservation of the cultural heritage of Basque communities abroad and will ensure its proper allocation in the event of their dissolution.

Where permitted by law, this cultural heritage—and in particular documentary, audio and intangible heritage—which must be preserved in the Basque Country for conservation purposes shall be transferred, as appropriate, to the Basque Diaspora Archive, which will ensure its conservation, cataloguing and dissemination.

3. In the economic sphere:

- a) The Basque Government will promote and foster relations between Basque businesses based in the Basque Country and those based abroad, through plans and initiatives designed to harness the entrepreneurial, economic and business potential of the Basque diaspora.

- b) The Autonomous Community of the Basque Country will promote the organisation of forums, trade fairs and other programmes of activities to raise awareness of the Basque Country's economic situation, its internationalisation and its development.
- c) The Autonomous Community of the Basque Country will promote, in cooperation with Basque communities abroad, formal, vocational and continuing education for Basque citizens living abroad.
- d) The Autonomous Community of the Basque Country will facilitate the participation of the Basque diaspora in its financial initiatives.

Article 11. Obligations of Basque communities abroad

- a) To contribute to the plans and programmes promoted by the public authorities of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country.
- b) To encourage participation in electoral processes held in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country for Basque citizens living abroad who are eligible to vote.
- c) To contribute to efforts to raise awareness in the Basque Country of the situation of the Basque diaspora, through the media and existing platforms.
- d) To encourage young people to become actively involved in order to ensure the continuity of the associative movement.
- e) To play an active part in the plans, programmes, missions and delegations organised by Basque institutions.
- f) To help preserve and promote Basque culture among their members.
- g) To disseminate the information received from the Basque Government and other Basque public institutions among their members.
- h) To play an active role in promoting the Basque Country's international profile.
- i) To carry out an inventory of documentary, intangible and movable heritage for the purposes of identification, conservation and dissemination.

CHAPTER III. RECOGNITION AND REGISTRATION OF BASQUE CITIZENS LIVING ABROAD AND BASQUE COMMUNITIES ABROAD

Article 12. Recognition of Basque citizens living abroad.

Basque public institutions recognise Basque citizens living abroad as the beneficiaries of their governance and public policies, in accordance with the powers conferred on the autonomous communities by current legislation. This recognition means that Basque citizens living abroad are considered rights holders in the territories falling under the jurisdiction of Basque public institutions.

Article 13. Register of Basque citizens living abroad.

1. A Register of Basque Citizens Living Abroad is hereby established, in which the persons referred to in Article 2.1.a) may register on a voluntary basis.
2. The Register of Basque Citizens Living Abroad will be attached to the department of the General Administration of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country

responsible for external action, which is responsible for its regulation, establishment and maintenance.

3. This Register, which will be duly publicised, will serve to identify and connect Basque citizens living abroad, to develop support and communication initiatives and programmes, as well as initiatives related to their return, in order to uphold the rights to which they are entitled under this Act.
4. This Register will comply with the applicable personal data protection legislation.

Article 14. Recognition of Basque communities abroad.

1. The recognition of Basque communities abroad shall be granted by resolution of the department responsible for external action, following a request from said communities, in accordance with the procedure established by regulation for that purpose.
2. In order for an entity referred to in Article 7 to be recognised as a Basque community abroad and to be eligible for the benefits and provisions set out in this Act, it must demonstrate that it meets the following requirements:
 - a) Valid constitution under the legal system in force wherever it is located.
 - b) The organisation of sufficient human and material resources for the performance of its activities, in accordance with the relevant regulations.
 - c) Inclusion among the basic statutory objectives and in the expressed will of the members, of maintaining cultural, social or economic ties with the Basque Country and with the wider Global Basque Community.
 - d) A democratic internal structure, organisation and functioning that guarantee and ensure the balanced participation of members in decision-making and the management and coordination bodies.
3. Recognised Basque communities abroad shall comply with the provisions of this Act in their activities.

Article 15. Withdrawal of recognition of Basque communities abroad.

The department responsible for external action may revoke the recognition of Basque communities abroad by means of a decision issued following the initiation of the relevant administrative proceedings, in the event of:

- a) Failure to comply with the objectives and requirements of this Act.
- b) Prolonged inactivity.
- c) A final court ruling declaring that the information or documents contained in the registration are false.
- d) The revocation or lapse of the mandatory authorisations originally granted by the competent authorities for their valid incorporation.
- e) Committing acts or omissions that contravene the applicable subsidies legislation.
- f) The involvement of individuals associated with their management and/or coordinating bodies in legal proceedings that could damage the entity's image and reputation, without the entity taking steps to remedy the situation.
- g) Failure to update the required details in the Register of Basque Communities Abroad.
- h) Dissolution.
- i) The entity's own initiative.

- j) Others as may be established by regulation.

Article 16. Register of Basque communities abroad.

1. The Register of Basque Communities Abroad, which shall be public in nature, shall provide for the ex officio registration of the entities recognised in Article 14 of this Act.
2. Furthermore, the virtual Basque communities referred to in Article 2.1.b) 2) may be subject to registration, in accordance with the provisions laid down in the regulations.
3. The regulation, establishment and maintenance of the Register shall be the responsibility of the department of the General Administration of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country responsible for external action.
4. The organisation and operation of the Register shall be determined by regulation.

TITLE II. COORDINATING BODIES

Article 17. Advisory Council on Relations with the Basque Diaspora.

1. In order to fulfil the objectives set out in this Act, the Advisory Council on Relations with the Basque Diaspora is hereby established as an advisory body to the Administrations of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, attached to the department responsible for external action.
2. The responsibilities of the Advisory Council on Relations with the Basque Diaspora are as follows:
 - a) To draw up the five-year strategy for the Basque diaspora.
 - b) To propose the enactment or amendment of provisions relating to the Basque diaspora to the institutions of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country.
 - c) To commission the preparation of reports by departmental and geographical areas.
 - d) To assess the implementation of the provisions contained in this Act.
 - e) To approve the planning and implementation of annual programmes.
 - f) Any others that may be attributed to it by law.
3. The Advisory Council on Relations with the Basque Diaspora will be composed of:
 - a) The Lehendakari of the Basque Government, or their delegate, in their capacity as Chair of the Council.
 - b) The person responsible for external action, or their delegate, such as the Vice-Chair.
 - c) The person responsible for Diaspora relations, or their delegate, such as the Secretary.
 - d) Two members of the Basque Parliament, appointed by the Plenary of the Chamber.
 - e) Two independent individuals, experts on the Basque diaspora, appointed by the Lehendakari.

- f) A representative from the university sector.
 - g) A representative of Euskaltzaindia.
 - h) A representative of Eusko Ikaskuntza.
 - i) A representative of Emakunde.
 - j) A representative of Eudel.
 - k) One representative from each of the following departmental areas: culture, tourism, education, social welfare, employment and work, housing, finance and industry.
 - l) Five members of the Basque communities abroad, in accordance with the regulations governing this body.
4. Working groups may be set up within the Advisory Council to facilitate the proper exercise of its powers.
 5. The Advisory Council will meet at least once a year.
 6. The organisation and functioning of the Advisory Council on Relations with the Basque Diaspora shall be determined by regulation.

Article 18. World Congress of the Basque Diaspora.

1. With the aim of fostering interaction and collaboration among the individuals and organisations that make up Basque communities, Basque institutions and Basque society in general, the World Congress of the Basque Diaspora will be held at least once every five years.
2. The organisation and operation of the conference shall be governed by the relevant regulations.
3. A document setting out the conclusions of the conference will be drawn up and forwarded to the department responsible for external action of the General Administration of the Basque Country, so that it may be taken into account in the development of the strategic framework for policies relating to the Basque diaspora. This strategy must ultimately be approved by the Governing Council of the Basque Government.

Article 19. Executive Committee of the Basque Diaspora.

1. The Executive Committee of the Basque Diaspora is established to coordinate the technical management and ongoing monitoring of the programmes.
2. The Executive Committee of the Basque Diaspora will meet either online or in person at least once every three months.
3. Those taking part will include the programme coordinators, technical staff and experts, as well as representatives of the Basque diaspora.
4. Its composition and operation shall be determined by regulation.

TITLE III. PROMOTING THE BASQUE COUNTRY ABROAD

Article 20. The human, social, economic and cultural capital of the Basque diaspora.

1. Public institutions in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, and in particular the General Administration of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, shall promote the recognition and dissemination of the values present

within the Basque diaspora, such as unity among all Basques, diversity and the many ways of expressing one's Basque identity.

Furthermore, through the principle of cross-cutting approach, public institutions in the Basque Country will highlight both the historical contribution and the current reality of the Basque diaspora, as well as the potential it represents for the Basque Country.

2. To this end, the General Administration of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country will promote various initiatives aimed at:
 - a) Identifying, connecting and engaging the Basque diaspora with the future of the Basque Country on a human, social, economic and cultural level.
 - b) Fostering and promoting exchanges between the Basque Country and the Basque diaspora.
 - c) Proposing that the Basque university sector include the study of the phenomenon of Basque emigration in its curricula and teaching programmes.
 - d) Collecting, preserving and promoting the tangible and intangible heritage of the Basque diaspora.
 - e) Working with returnee associations existing in the Basque Country.
 - f) Connecting and facilitating interaction between Basque society and its institutions and the Basque diaspora through the use of information and communication technologies.
 - g) Promoting and disseminating research and public outreach work on the Basque diaspora.
 - h) Any other initiative that contributes to bringing the Basque Country and its diaspora closer together and fostering mutual understanding.

Article 21. Historical archive of the Basque diaspora.

1. The Basque Diaspora Archive is hereby established within the Basque Country Archives, in accordance with the provisions of Act 5/2022 of 23 June on Comprehensive Document Management and the Documentary Heritage of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country. It will serve to collect, preserve and disseminate the tangible and intangible heritage of the Basque diaspora, its history, its contributions, its various expressions and its distinctive character.
2. The dissemination, circulation and promotion of its content will be carried out by the department responsible for external action of the Basque community abroad, in collaboration with the department responsible for culture.
3. The historical archive of the Basque diaspora will be supplemented, among other sources, by donations from various natural and legal persons linked to its field of activity.

Article 22. Migration Interpretation Centre.

1. The Migration Interpretation Centre is hereby established as a centre for study, research and outreach for the Basque people.
2. It will be a centre open to the public, showcasing both the history of Basque emigration and the current mobility of the population, as well as the reality of the

Basque Country as a historical and contemporary destination for migrants. It will serve as a centre of reference, particularly for the thousands of descendants of Basque emigrants scattered across the globe, as well as for the general public, whose family histories are linked to migration.

3. The centre will form part of the European network of centres of this kind.

Article 23. International Basque Diaspora Day.

1. International Basque Diaspora Day is celebrated on 8 September.
2. To mark this annual commemoration, the Basque migration experience will be highlighted at both institutional and public levels in recognition of the Basque presence around the world.
3. To this end, various activities and initiatives will be promoted by institutions and entities in the Basque Country, fostering collaboration with institutions, entities and civil society within the Basque diaspora.

TITLE IV. COMPREHENSIVE RECEPTION STRATEGY

Article 24. Content.

The comprehensive reception strategy will cover both the return of Basque citizens and that of other persons referred to in Article 2 of this Act who have established or are in the process of establishing their residence in the Basque Country.

The comprehensive reception strategy will be implemented in accordance with the regulations.

Article 25. Return of Basque citizens living abroad.

1. For the purposes of this Act, 'return' is understood as the transfer of the persons referred to in Article 2.1.a) of this Act, as well as their spouses and descendants, to a municipality in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, in order to establish their permanent residence.

The general, regional and local authorities of the Basque Country, within the scope of their respective powers, will facilitate the return of Basque citizens living abroad—should they so wish—to establish their residence in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country; they will also be able to participate in the development of the comprehensive reception strategy, which will be led by the Basque Government.

2. In general, Basque citizens living abroad who return to the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country will be eligible for benefits on the same terms as residents of the Basque Country, without having to demonstrate a prior period of residence, provided they meet the requirements set out in the relevant programmes and the following conditions:

- a) They must have resided abroad for a continuous period immediately prior to their return, equal to or longer than the prior residence period required of non-emigrants.
- b) They must be registered on the municipal register and maintain effective residence in a municipality of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country.

3. Where necessary, personalised support will be provided throughout the return process.

Article 26. Rights and benefits.

Basque citizens living abroad who return to the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country will have the same rights as those residing in this territory.

Basque public institutions will maintain their links with Basque citizens living abroad and will provide support and assistance from the moment they decide to return.

Furthermore, through the comprehensive reception strategy, the necessary programmes and services will be organised in the areas of social welfare, employment, housing, education and any other areas required for integration into Basque society.

And, specifically:

It calls for the allocation of social housing, individuals who hold Basque citizenship abroad and have returned to the Basque Country will not be required to provide proof of any prior period of residence or registration on the municipal register, provided they meet the other requirements of the call for applications.

When providing assistance to particularly vulnerable people, including victims of gender-based violence, housing and social services programmes and benefits may recognise the status of returnee as a merit for the purposes of assessing applications.

They will be able to access educational support schemes to prevent any potential educational inequalities arising from the return. They are also entitled to receive advice regarding the possible recognition of official university and non-university qualifications and courses from the relevant country as equivalent to the official qualifications and degrees of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, in accordance with current regulations.

The Basque Government will guarantee Basque citizens living abroad who have returned access to existing social benefits and services, such as schooling for their children, public housing, healthcare services, basic income, residential care places and others, on equal terms with other citizens residing in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country.

In general terms, returnees will be able to access these social benefits without having to prove prior residence or registration in the municipal register in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country in cases where this is required, provided that they meet the other necessary requirements and have resided outside the Basque Country for a continuous period immediately prior to their return that is equal to or longer than the prior residence period required of non-emigrants.

Lanbide – the Basque Public Employment Service – will ensure that Basque citizens living abroad have access to information that enables them to seek employment and improve their employment prospects within its area of competence.

The General Administration of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country will provide Basque citizens living abroad with technical and legal advice on investing and setting up businesses in the Basque Country.

Article 27. Establishment of residence in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country.

1. In view of the special ties they maintain with the Basque Country, the Basque public authorities shall facilitate the inclusion of the persons referred to in Article 2 of this Act in social, labour, cultural and educational life, as well as their proper integration into Basque society.
2. Members of Basque communities abroad who wish to take up legal residence in the Basque Country and those that do not meet the definition set out in Article 2.1. a) of this Act shall be entitled to, in all cases, the rights and benefits which, depending on their nationality, the legal system grants to foreign nationals residing in the Basque Country.
3. The comprehensive welcome strategy may establish specific sector-based programmes relating to the exchange of talent—defined as individuals with innate and developed skills who engage in activities that motivate them and through which they bring distinctive value to the region.
4. The General Administration of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country will facilitate contact between returnees and returnee associations existing in the Basque Country.

Article 28. Virtual reception.

Basque public institutions will promote initiatives that foster the transfer and acquisition of knowledge, making use of the opportunities offered by information and communication technologies, whilst maintaining close links with the Basque diaspora at all times.

Article 29. Unified reception office.

The General Administration of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country will establish a unified reception office, attached to the Department of External Action, to assist Basque citizens living abroad who wish to return.

TITLE V. GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND EVALUATION

Article 30. Governance model.

1. The governance of relations with the Basque diaspora will be based on the Basque diaspora strategy documents and the comprehensive reception strategy, which will be drawn up every five years in accordance with the principles set out in Article 3 of this Act and will be approved by the Governing Council of the Basque Government.
2. The Basque Diaspora's five-year strategy will set out the priority objectives, as well as the measures, services and programmes to be implemented, with their objectives and indicators to be assessed annually; it will define the role of public institutions—whether as implementers or facilitators—in each case, as well as the decision-making and programme evaluation processes.

Article 31. Interdepartmental Commission on the Basque Diaspora.

An interdepartmental body will be established to monitor the implementation of this Act; it will meet annually to assess the strategies and programmes developed to implement this Act.

Its composition and operation will be governed by regulations.

Article 32. Contribution to funding.

The Basque Government, through the department responsible for external action, will contribute to the funding of programmes aimed at the Basque diaspora through annual programmes included in its budget, which will be geared towards achieving the objectives of this Act and the five-year strategies approved for its implementation.

Article 33. Management of Diaspora policies.

1. Diaspora policy professionals are individuals who are involved in the research, design, management, implementation or evaluation of plans, programmes or projects aimed at members of the Basque diaspora, working within public administrations and the network of associations, within the framework of diaspora policies.
2. The public authorities responsible for diaspora affairs should ensure that the professionals working in the field of diaspora policy have access to ongoing training—both basic and specialised—to guarantee they possess sufficient theoretical and practical knowledge of diaspora issues.
3. Minimum and specific training on diaspora matters shall be provided to all professionals or persons involved in diaspora policies, in accordance with the provisions of this Act and other applicable regulations.

Article 34. Preservation of the heritage of the Basque diaspora.

The Basque Government will ensure the preservation of the heritage of the Basque community abroad, as well as the preservation of the historical memory of Basque emigrants, through the following measures:

- a) Cataloguing and inventorying of Basque heritage abroad, particularly that of Basque entities, centres and federations.
- b) Establishing measures to protect and promote those Basque centres of particular significance.
- c) Promoting and showcasing the tangible and intangible heritage of Basque emigration through the creation of a virtual network and initiatives to raise awareness.

TITLE VI. COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

Article 35. Cooperation agreements with other autonomous communities.

The Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, within the scope of its powers, may enter into cooperation agreements with the Autonomous Community of Navarre and the Euskal Hirigune Elkargoa or its equivalent body, to advise and assist the Basque diaspora, as well as Basque and Basque-Navarrese centres, Euskal Etxeak, Maison Basque or

similar entities.

Article 36. International Agreements and Treaties.

1. The Autonomous Community of the Basque Country may request the State Government to conclude and, where appropriate, submit to the Spanish Parliament for its authorisation, the treaties or agreements referred to in Article 6, section 5, of the Statute of Autonomy, with a view to safeguarding and promoting Basque culture and, in particular, the Basque language abroad.
2. The Autonomous Community of the Basque Country may enter into cooperation agreements with those States where there is a Basque diaspora, with a view to promoting the Basque language and culture, strengthening their ties with the Basque Country, and facilitating the exercise of the right of return for their members.

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS.

First Transitional Provision. In all matters not inconsistent with this law, the Euskal-Etxeak/Basque or Basque-Navarrese Centres recognised and registered in the Register of Basque Centres established pursuant to Act 8/1994 of 27 May on relations with Basque Communities and Centres outside the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country shall not have their recognition and registration affected by the new Register of Basque Communities Abroad provided for in this Act.

Second Transitional Provision. Pending the adoption of the regulations governing the Advisory Council on Relations with the Basque Diaspora, the composition of the Advisory Council on Relations with Basque Communities Abroad prior to the entry into force of this Act shall remain in force.

Third Transitional Provision. Until the first World Congress of the Basque Diaspora is held following the adoption of this Act, the appointment of representatives of Basque communities abroad to the Advisory Council on Relations with Basque Communities shall be made by the Lehendakari.

SOLE REPEALING PROVISION

Law 8/1994 of 27 May on relations with Basque communities and centres outside the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country is hereby repealed.

SOLE FINAL PROVISION

Upon the entry into force of this Act, the Governing Council shall issue the necessary regulations to ensure proper compliance with the provisions therein.