



Euskadiko Lehendakaria
El Lehendakari de Euskadi

Vitoria-Gasteiz, December 2025

Euskal herritar eta adiskide maiteok,

It's a pleasure for me as Lehendakari, president of the Basque Country, to address all of you in the Basque diaspora once again, as the end of the year approaches, giving us the chance to recall everything the year has brought us and plan our aspirations for the future.

2025 was crucial in the Basque government's strategic goal of responding to the challenges of the 21st-century Basque diaspora to structure a Global Basque Community, **Euskadi Globala**: The Basque Diaspora Act.

The Basque government is firmly committed to this bill, which we are looking forward to eagerly and trust will be passed with a broad consensus in the Basque parliament in 2027.

As part of the process of drawing up the bill, a **seminar on the Basque Diaspora Act** took place at Lehendakaritza. International experts took part in this, and they underlined the pioneering nature of this new act, encouraging us to continue on this path to build up a strong, united Global Basque Community.

I was delighted to hear that the event was widely followed online and generated great enthusiasm and high hopes in the Basque community abroad. The new act is certainly essential. It will be the "umbrella" for new schemes to construct the Global Basque Country in the coming years.

As this project is crucial, in 2025 we took many other steps to foster our diaspora. I would like to highlight the most important of these here:

- Holding International Basque Diaspora Day on 8th September. More than 1,000 people came to Markina for the occasion, to recognise and pay homage to the international projection of the Basque *pelota* community, the predecessor of a Basque Country that is a global player.
- Participation in Spanish and international forums; the postgraduate course in the diaspora; organising exhibitions; starting up the "Etxez Etxe" pilot programme of artistic performance, starting in Barcelona and moving on next year to other cities; National Basque Week in Argentina, this year held in Tandil; meetings to relaunch our online networks and communication strategy; and the gender equality school.
- Continuation and updating of measures already in place, such as the programme of subsidies for the Euskal Etxeak, the programme of assistance for people in circumstances of extreme need and the Gaztemundu training programme for young people.

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All these are steps forward in our mission: **to offer the Basque diaspora opportunities for everybody to make their contribution to a Global Basque Country** from wherever they live, keeping alive our Eighth Herrialde.

We want to build a team inside and outside the Basque Country, to carry on explaining who we are, as well as spreading our ways of being and doing things globally, in particular the places around the world where Basques live abroad.

I would like to conclude by expressing my special affection and deep gratitude for the warm welcome I have received from you all during the meetings I have held with you throughout this year: the successful celebration of Jaialdi 2025 in Boise, in which I had the pleasure and honour of participating for the first time as Lehendakari; and the very pleasant meetings I had with you during the visits and receptions we held at the Euskal Etxeak in Brussels, New York and Paris. All these occasions are essential to go on reinforcing, wherever we live, our sense of community and belonging to our nation, Euskadi, the Basque Country. A nation with strong roots, but at the same time open to a global world.

I address you at Christmas time, in the hope that you will continue to contribute to the construction and projection of our country; and as Lehendakari of the Basque Country, I send you my warmest regards and best wishes for the new year.

Gabon zoriontsuak igaro ditzazuela eta Urte berri on!

Imanol Pradales Gil