



Andoain, Basque Country
7 November, 2011

Dear Sir or Madam

Kontseilua, the Council of Social Organizations working in favour of the Basque language, is a non-profit-making and public interest organization. Kontseilua is made up of 40 social organizations of all kinds that work towards the normalisation of the Basque language: immersion schools, Basque language academies, cultural associations, professional associations, companies, publishing houses, media...

All these organizations decided to create a meeting place in order to pave the way for a macro organization that would fulfil their needs. Moreover, apart from being a meeting place for the most important organizations that work in favour of the Basque language, Kontseilua is also used as the mediator among other social or institutional promoters. Those procedures that cannot be carried out by a single company are done by means of Kontseilua.

Thus, Kontseilua is made up of 40 organizations and, therefore thousands people are indirectly members of Kontseilua and this, in fact, is the greatness of our organization. However, the main objective of Kontseilua is to promote and stimulate the normalisation process of the Basque language. Despite improvements that have been done in the development of our language, we must continue the work done by social agents and institutions so that we can leave the current situation of inferiority behind.

However, if we compare the situation of the Basque language with that of other global languages, even though our language has fewer speakers, it has prevailed despite the developments of the modern world. In fact, there are thousands of living languages but unfortunately, 90 % of them have no space in the Internet. The Basque language, however, has an honourable space in the web. We have succeeded in making many resources in the Internet available in our language, and the Basque language does not want to fall behind in a world where everything moves so quickly.

In 2005, ICANN approved the first domain related to language and culture communities, and that fact opened up new opportunities to our language according to Kontseilua. We could foresee that our language and culture would have a chance to have their own stamp in the Internet and that is why we decided to join the initiative to obtain a .eus domain.

Related to that, we would like to bear in mind that UNESCO has underlined the importance of culture and language pluralism: *Languages, with their complex implications for identity, communication, social integration, education and development, are of strategic importance for people and the planet.* Moreover, according to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions 2005, *cultural diversity, flourishing within a framework of democracy, tolerance, social justice and mutual respect between peoples and cultures, is indispensable for peace and security at the local, national and international levels.*

Therefore, in 2005, the ICANN association began to make its way in order to guarantee the balance between language and culture, and both the Basque language and Basque culture want to take advantage of this opportunity.

For these reasons, on behalf of Kontseilua, a meeting place of more than 40 associations that work in favour of the Basque language we wish to emphasize and underline the importance of starting up the domain. eus and we also want to show our support for the Foundation PUNTEUS, because, amongst other things, it represents in an important way the Basque language and the Basque cultural community.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Bilbao-Sarria
Secretary-General

Contact:

E-mail: pbilbao@kontseilua.org
Telephone : +34 943 59 12 00

MEMBERS OF KONTSEILUA

AEK www.aek.org / www.korrika.org
Co-ordinating committee teaching Basque and literacy in Basque to adults in over 100 centres
ANTZERKI TALDE AMATEURREN BILTZARRA
Association of amateur theatre companies
ARTEZ www.artez.net
Company offering planning, advice and support for the standardisation of Basque
EGAN
Literature magazine of the Association of Friends of the Basque Country
EHE www.euskalherrianeuskaraz.org
Association working in favour of Basque
EHIGE www.ehige.org
The association of parents of the Basque Country
EIRE www.eireka.org
The Basque Association of University Teachers
EIZIE www.eizie.org
The Association of Translators, Correctors and Interpreters of Basque Language
ELHUYAR FUNDAZIOA www.elhuyar.org
Association linking science and Basque language
ELHUYAR AHOKULARITZA www.elhuyarahokularitza.net
Enterprise offering services that will lead to improvement on the basis of participation and equality by working on the collective building of many spheres of society, with little used languages being taken into consideration especially
ELKAR www.elkar.com
Publishing and distribution house.
EMUN www.emun.com
Organisation designing plans for the normalisation of Basque in companies.
EUSKAL EDITOREEN ELKARTEA www.editoreak.com
The Basque Language Publishers Association.
EUSKAL HERRIKO BERTSOZALEEN ELKARTEA www.bertsozale.com
Association with the intention of guaranteeing the future and the transmission of a great part of that intangible Basque culture known as bertsoaritza (ad-lib verse singers).
EUSKAL IDAZLEEN ELKARTEA www.idazleak.org
The Association of writers writing in Basque language.
EUSKAL KONFEDERAZIOA www.deiadar.org
Association of 40 organisations working for the Basque language in the North of Basque Country.
EUSKAL KULTUR ERAKUNDEA www.eke.org
Basque cultural association in the North Basque Country.
BERRIA www.berria.info
The only fully Basque language newspaper
EUSKO IKASKUNTZA www.eusko-ikaskuntza.org
Association of Basque studies
GAIK www.gaiak.net
Publishing house

GEREDIAGA www.gerediaga.com
Association promoting Basque Culture in the Durango area.
GOIHERRIKO EUSKAL ESKOLA
Cultural association for the promotion of Basque language in all the fields.
HAU PITTU HAU www.haupittuhau.org
Basque-speaking parade group of Bilbao
HIK HASI www.hikhasi.com
Basque education magazine.
HITZEZ www.hitzez.com
Language school in Donostia-San Sebastian
IBERBA www.iberba.ws
Organisation designing plans for the standardisation of Basque in companies
IKA www.ikanet.net
Association of centres teaching Basque and literacy in Basque to adults.
IKASTOLEN ELKARTEA www.ikastola.net
Founding body of the ikastolas (Basque immersion schools) movement, grouping together more than 100 centres.
ILAZKI www.ilazki.com
Basque language school.
JAKIN www.jakingunea.com
Magazine on cultural issues in Basque language.
KARMEL www.karmelaldizkaria.com
Magazine in Basque language of the Carmelites of the Basque Country.
MAIZPIDE www.maizpide.com
Basque language school and boarding house.
MENDEBALDE www.mendebalde.com
Association promoting the Biscayan dialect.
OEE www.oegunea.org
Organisation promoting the use of Basque in the Health Service
SORTZEN-IKASBATUAZ www.sortzen-ikasbatuaz.org
Basque-speaking public schools association
TOPAGUNEA www.topagunea.org
Association of 96 local organisations and 40 local media promoting Basque
UDAL EUSKALTEGIETAKO LANGILEAK
Association of the staff of Basque language schools of the Basque Autonomous Community
UEMA www.uma.org
Association of towns-council working with and communicating in Basque language.
UEU www.ueu.org
Academic body for the promotion and guidance of studies at Basque Universities
URRATS www.urrats.com
Basque language school