

**SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE *EUSKO IKASKUNTZA*  
CONSTITUENT ACT OF THE *JAKIUNDE*  
(Academy of Sciences, Arts and Humanities)**

**Donostia-San Sebastian 25-10-2007**

Honourable Lehendakari of the Basque Government  
Honourable Minister of Education of the Government of Navarre (representing the President of the Government of Navarre)  
Honourable President of Gipuzkoa  
Honourable Authorities  
Distinguished Members of *Jakiunde*  
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of *Eusko Ikaskuntza* –The Society for Basque Studies, I welcome you to this constituent act of the *Jakiunde* (Academy of Sciences, Arts and Humanities), which begins its journey today, in the hope that it will prove fruitful for Society.

Just as In 1919 and as an initiative by *Eusko Ikaskuntza*, *Euskaltzaindia*, the Basque Language Academy was born, of which we are all very proud, today sees the birth of a new project. This new project is adapted and in line with the needs of society, located in a historical period marked by the profound transformation of its structures and driven by advances in science and technology. *Eusko Ikaskuntza* complies therefore with its vocation as a promoter, with the hope that this new entity will have a long and fruitful journey.

This event today is the beginning of the **CONSTITUENT PERIOD** which based on the original regulations that have helped to shape the composition of *Jakiunde*, will develop into its own entity and will exercise from now on this function with full autonomy until such time as its charter and its own legal status is fully constituted. The elected members themselves will shape and define the content and style that *Jakiunde* should acquire to fulfil this important mission. The role of *Eusko Ikaskuntza* is to support and encourage this initial period and then establish its relationship as an "advisory body" to support and promote their activities.

Those selected to become the initial members of *Jakiunde* are award-winners with a top-class preparation. This new institution is formed by members who have received the *Eusko Ikaskuntza* Award, The Euskadi Research Award and the *Príncipe de Viana* Award. Furthermore, the *Eusko Ikaskuntza* academic and excellence committees have selected members with a proven and excellent track record. They are members of international renown in their respective areas of work and therefore can address the problems with solutions based on complementary perspectives

I am deeply thankful to the appointed members and in particular to Mr Etxenike, for having accepted to take part in this project with such enthusiasm. I am equally thankful to those appointed by the Regulation as full members and in particular to the University Deans, for their support and collaboration throughout this setting up period and for their contribution to the integration of *Jakiunde* into academic and scientific fabric.

As the father of Lazarillo de Tormes told his son: "I have raised you, and put you with a good master, avail yourself of it". This phrase signifies the independent life of the new institution, but who knows it has the support of EI-SEV, especially in this constituent phase.

