



**POLITICAL DECLARATION**

**GALEUSCAT, A POLITICAL ALLIANCE  
FOR A PLURINATIONAL STATE**

Madrid, January 25, 2006



## 1. - History.

The Alliance between Basque, Galician and Catalan forces has a long history: our common project has covered a long distance towards the definition of a shared strategy and unified action, with the aim of achieving the legal-political recognition of our national realities.

In the early 18<sup>th</sup> century a model of Spanish state was established based on centralism and uniformity, this was consolidated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, resulting in a serious deterioration of our pluricultural, plurilingual and plurinational realities.

Faced with the practical denial of our national realities, a feeling of identity arises in Euskadi, Galiza and Catalunya: prestigious associations and cultural entities are created, citizens movements in favour of national languages and culture, political associations, trade unions, etc. with a nation-building vocation.

In this context, nationalist forces in Galiza, Euskadi and Catalunya begin to work together in the search for an agreed strategy:

- ✓ On September 11, 1923, *Día Nacional* (National Day) of Catalunya, the **Triple Alliance Pact** was signed in Barcelona, backed by Francesc Maciá, Nicolau d'Olwer, Ventura Gassol and Antoni Rovira i Virgili representing Catalunya; Manu Egileor, Eli Gallastegi, Uribeetxebarria and Manu Robles Aranguiz representing Euskadi and Alfredo Somoza and Francisco Zamora in representation of Galiza.
- ✓ Ten years later, the **Compostela Pact** was signed in the Pazo de Fonseca in Galiza, creating **Galeuzca** with the participation, among other relevant nationalists, of Batista i Roca, Nicolau d'Olwer, Castelao, Suarez Picallo, Alonso Rios, Irujo and Rezola.
- ✓ The Galeuzca Alliance was cut short by the military uprising in 1936. The war, defeat and the interminable dictatorship did not do away with the commitment of that generation of people in their struggle for democracy and freedom. Even during the years of exile, the *Lehendakari* (Head of the Basque Government) Agirre, Castelao and Pi y Sunyer worked to uphold the agreement, and above all the memory of the national realities of Galiza, Euskadi and Catalunya alive.

For this reason a feeling of brotherhood and solidarity between the societies of Galicia, the Basque Country and Catalonia has endured and is still alive today. And there is also a certain social and political complicity that was maintained even in the darkest years of Franco's regime, proof that the democratic tenacity and aspirations of the people has greater strength than the negation of individual and collective rights and unjust aggression on freedom and culture.

In July 1998, **the Declaration of Barcelona** was subscribed by the Bloque Nacionalista Galego, Convergència Democràtica de Catalunya, Unió Democràtica de Catalunya and Euzko Alderdi Jeltzalea-Partido Nacionalista Vasco, taking up and



renewing the old and permanent objective of working, through coordinated action, to achieve the legal-political recognition of our national realities.

The **Declaration of Barcelona** is the beginning of a new era, a **new opportunity for coordinated work, in a very different scenario than that of the old Galeuzca, a scenario conditioned by Europe in the process of economic and political articulation and which, in the mid-term, progresses towards a redistribution of political power.**

Today, almost eight years later, we still claim its validity, and for this reason:

- We call on Spanish society to discuss a new political culture and promote collective awareness of its plurinational nature.
- We offer Europe and the world our proposals in defence of diversity, in the conviction that positive and creative coexistence is possible.
- We are also committed to collaboration between the most active sectors of citizenship in the intellectual, cultural, educational, professional and business spheres, with the aim of creating a dialogue about our proposals and disseminating them.

We take on these commitments from a necessary position of respect for the specific nature of each of our nations and from the respect for the strategic decisions that each party adopts, according to their diagnosis, analysis and political ideology.

## **2. The political challenge of GALEUSCAT: a time of crossroads, a time of opportunities.**

The full recognition of the nationalities of Euskadi, Catalunya and Galiza implies the creation of a complex network of political agreements and a scrupulous democratic respect for the people's decisions.

At this crossroads, the Spanish State represents for the political parties in GALEUSCAT both a threat and an opportunity:

- On the one hand, the Spanish State is the institution that denies our existence as nations, ignoring our national rights. It is a state that does not believe in diversity and does not accept, in practice, pluralism –plurinationality- even if it declares that it does rhetorically, and tries to interpret it according to its own exclusive political perspective.
  - The State is, at the same time, the main political space for our joint action.



The strategy followed by the main political forces in the State with reference to our national rights is well designed. Some examples are:

1. Promoting the artificial homogenization of the autonomic system trying to hide and dilute our national institutions and realities.
2. Presenting our democratic demands as extravagant or privileged, with the resulting delays and/or statutory deadlocks, creating an image of “insatiable” nationalism.
3. A discourse to socially discredit nationalism in Spain as a whole (violence en Euskadi, economic pressure in Catalonia, promoting the false view that progress in Galiza is unviable without the solidarity of the Sate, etc.).
4. A refusal to permit the direct participation of our national institutions in the EU and international forums in general, directly affecting the development of the national projects of Euskadi, Catalunya and Galiza.

Faced with this situation, our decision to definitively strengthen and consolidate the joint political action of GALEUSCAT implies the following commitments and tasks:

1. To promote the relations with other political forces that consider the recognition of plurinationality as a democratic value and consider nations as living realities that must be recognised as such by States.
2. To work on analysis, permanent adaptation and joint action of the programmes that support the most coherent policies with the plurinationality of States.
3. To disseminate our political ideas to society as a whole, and take the initiative, in a joint and proactive manner, to overcome hostile political attitudes.
4. To deepen in the relations with civil society, organised as a means of communication, exchange of knowledge and collaboration and also promote the relationships between them.
5. To progress in the political coordination in the *Congreso de los Diputados* (Spanish Congress) and the *Senado* (Senate) and in the joint promotion of reforms in the institutional organisation of the State.

The GALEUSCAT alliance of BNG, CiU and EAJ-PNV is the only political alternative to the idea of Nation-State. All together, we are the third political force in the State. From this conviction, we are committed to act from sincere and loyal reflection on the priorities and the effectiveness of our action and to have a progressively greater presence in the social and political life not only of Galiza, Euskadi and Catalunya, but also in State and European politics.



The history of the Spanish state shows us that the advances in recognition of the diversity of nations that it is comprised of and greater quality democracy always went hand in hand.

From this conviction, the main nationalist forces of Galiza, Euskadi and Catalunya offer our contribution to prove that a different model of State is possible and that the political offer of GALEUSCAT means advancement in coexistence between the different peoples that compose the Spanish State, in the deepening of democracy and the modernisation of the state structures.\_

The new scenarios and new challenges we face in our nations highlight the fact that our objective of building a real **Plurinational State** is more modern and has more sense than ever before and justifies the respective statutory reforms that have been initiated.

In this context, 2006 should be a definitive year to consolidate our common commitment to project and promote a plurinational model of State in Spain even further, a third alternative path between the centralist model of the PP and the neo-autonomic model of the PSOE.

This is a tough but beautiful task that we take on with no complexes. We are a political alliance with a vocation and decisions for the future. We are convinced that we are going to progress in our objectives, deploying the three indispensable actions to do so:

- ✓ Consolidation of the joint action of CiU, BNG and EAJ-PNV.
- ✓ Dialogue, debate and agreement with the other political forces, above legitimate party interests.
- ✓ The implementation of the GALEUSCAT 2006 action programme.

We owe this to the people who, in more difficult times than today, were able to create and sustain GALEUSCAT. And finally, we owe it to the citizens of Galiza, Euskadi and Catalunya.

Madrid, January 25, 2006