



EUSKADI DECLARATION

The chairmen and chairwomen who participate in the 12th Conference of the European Legislative Regional Assemblies that has taken place in the Basque Country on the 3rd & 4th November

(List of the signatories of the Basque Country Declaration)

have approved the following Declaration:

Treaty of Lisbon

1. The CALRE hopes that the problems that have arisen in the ratification process of the Treaty of Lisbon will be solved and that the Treaty of Lisbon will come into effect as soon as possible.

Text agreed by the Standing Committee, which substitutes the amendments of Baden Wurttemberg and Vorarlberg.

2. The CALRE expresses its support to the position expressed by the European Council in June and October 2008 to continue with the ratification of the Lisbon treaty.



EUSKO LEGEBILTZARRA
PARLAMENTO VASCO

3. The institutional reform of the European Union (EU) is necessary today more than ever before in order to guarantee the adequacy of the decision-making procedures to a structure that is made up of 27 member states and that needs to go into depth regarding the requirements of transparency, efficiency and participation in harmony with policies of the 21st Century.
4. In the same way, it is essential to consolidate the invaluable contributions in the Common Foreign Security Policy as well as in “the Europe of Laws” that establishes the mentioned Treaty in particular the decisive advances in the field of the area of freedom, security and justice and in the recognition of the judicial efficiency of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.
5. The chairmen and chairwomen consider it essential that future agreements maintain those provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon that imply the reinforcement of parliamentarianism at a regional, national and European level.
6. The CALRE feels there needs to be an in-depth reflection which is open and participative regarding the future of Europe. First, the Dutch and French rejection of the Constitutional Treaty followed by the Irish rejection of the Treaty of Lisbon clearly show the reticence on behalf of the European citizens on the way Europe is being constructed.
7. The presidents of the CALRE feel that this reflection must re-focus the European construction model towards new ways of doing politics that the present society is asking for. We must construct from the bottom to the top, guaranteeing transparency in the whole process and ensuring efficient social participation mechanisms which are permanent and binding that ensure that the Europe which is being built responds to the needs and demands of the society that it serves.
8. In this respect, the regional parliaments constitute the one of the most adequate levels to channel citizen participation in this process of European construction. Our proximity and the knowledge of the demands of the social setting makes us an essential strategic element to approximate Europe to the citizens that compose it and ensure that the European project benefits from the largest possible consensus amongst its citizens.
9. Because of this, the CALRE urges the European Council to work in order to reach an agreement that will break the deadlock in the reform process of the EU and make all the European institutions establish permanent mechanisms for the active participation of the European



EUSKO LEGEBILTZARRA
PARLAMENTO VASCO

regions in all the decisions and projects that are initiated in order to reflect and/or deal with the reform of the EU.

Control of the Principle of subsidiarity.

10. The legislative regions in Europe find themselves faced with the major historical challenge of actively taking part in the control of one of the basic principles that regulate the running of the EU.
The active and permanent participation that the new protocol of subsidiarity annex to the Treaty of Lisbon confers us is one of the claims that were at the origin of the CALRE twelve years ago and constitute the recognition on behalf of the EU of the European legislative framework as integral and integrating part of European politics.
11. Our participation in this control procedure of the principle of subsidiarity is essential to guarantee optimal levels of transparency and efficiency in the European decision-making process. In other words, democracy. The CALRE and the presidents that are members have faced this challenge with satisfaction due to the enormous support that this recognition means for regionalism within the EU.
12. The delays in the application of the Protocol of Subsidiarity and Proportionality caused by the difficulties that have come about with the process of ratification of the Constituting Treaty in the first place and the Treaty of Lisbon afterwards, have suspended the application of the new provisions relating to the control procedure of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.
13. The CALRE feels it is essential to adopt the Inter-institutional agreement within the EU aimed at guaranteeing the application of the procedures contemplated by the Subsidiarity Protocol annex to the Treaty of Lisbon.
14. The presidents urge the European Commission to continue informing the national parliaments of the initiatives that are taken in matters of shared competence with the member states and adopt de facto revision criteria of its initiatives established by the new subsidiarity protocol.
15. The CALRE takes note of the conclusions of the *9th Annual Report: Development in the EU and Relevant Procedures and Practices for Parliamentary control* approved by the COSAC in May 2008 and regret that in the chapter regarding the consequences for the national parliaments derived from the application of the new protocol of subsidiarity those derived from the consultation of the regional



EUSKO LEGEBILTZARRA
PARLAMENTO VASCO

parliaments contemplated in the protocol have not been taken into account.

16. For that reason, the CALRE urges the national parliaments to develop information procedures, consultation and to take into consideration views that can be put to them by regional parliaments regarding the appropriateness of European initiatives to the principles of proportionality and subsidiarity within its competences.

Reform of the European Cohesion Policy

17. Regarding the reform of the European Cohesion Policy, the CALRE takes note of the preliminary conclusions of the 5th Report on Social and Economic Cohesion presented by the European Commission last June and it congratulates itself on the large participation of the European regions in the consulting process enabled by the European Commission for the elaboration of this report.
18. The CALRE reacts favourably to the fact that there is good will on behalf of the European Commission to continue with the cohesion policy until 2020 and invites the Commission to specify which sectors and fields of economic and social development will be included in the cohesion policy between 2013 and 2020.
19. In the same way, the CALRE reacts with satisfaction to the measures aimed at promoting the transparency of the system of allocation of economic resources to the European states and regions and urges the European Commission to go into more depth in this field by carrying out studies and reports aimed at establishing the effectiveness of the European cohesion policy in place until now.

La co-operation with the Council of Europe

20. The presidents are pleased with the co-operation agreement set up between the CALRE and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. They consider that this agreement benefits parliamentarianism within Europe, Inter-institutional co-operation and the development of Regional Democracy, all of which are key issues of the principles of the CALRE and of the Parliamentary Assembly.
21. The CALRE commits itself to analysing the possibilities of establishing similar co-operation agreements with other agencies of the Council of Europe and in particular with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.



EUSKO LEGBILTZARRA
PARLAMENTO VASCO

22. The presidents of the CALRE are ready to encourage and promote the ratification of the European Regional Democratic Charter by its respective states and to work together with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in order to attain the necessary consensus regarding this fundamental tool for the development of regionalism and democracy within Europe.

Other European fields of inter-institutional co-operation

23. The Presidents reiterate once again their desire to co-operate with institutions and European agencies, in the first place with the European Parliament, the Commission, the Committee of the Regions, the COSAC and the Council of Europe in order to reinforce democracy within Europe.

24. The proximity to the citizen that the European regional parliaments enjoy constitutes an invaluable asset in the present context of elections of the European Parliament and the uncertainty regarding the future of Europe. This privileged position and our legitimacy as voice receptors of a large majority of European citizens is the major asset that the regional parliaments with legislative competences possess and that we offer European institutions and all those that work to build a strong and united Europe abroad and a more cohesive and supportive Europe within it.