

## Basque Friendship towards a peace process in the Basque Country

### **Urgent release on ETA cease-fire 11/01/2011**

MEPs welcome declaration of permanent, general and verifiable cease-fire.

Basque Friendship, the MEPs support group for a peace process in the Basque Country, has welcomed the ETA declaration declaring a permanent and general cease-fire which will be verifiable by the international community.

We have been working since 2005 to promote a solution to the Basque conflict and we understand that the decision of ETA is a huge and hopeful step in that direction. It responds positively and comprehensively to both the Brussels Declaration and the Gernika Agreement.

This courageous step by ETA clears the way for Basque citizens and for social and political actors to agree the way forward for the Basque Country. The Spanish government should respond positively and commit itself to resolving the conflict.

In October 2006 the European Parliament called on the Commission to take appropriate action to promote peace in the Basque Country. Now is the time for the EU to act.

The Friendship will hold a press conference during the European Parliament plenary session in Strasbourg next week (17th - 20th January) regarding the political situation in the Basque Country.