

OFFICIAL TRIP TO WALES

SIGNATURE OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Speech of the President of the Basque Country

Wales 12-07-2018

I would like to thank the First Minister of Wales, Mr Carwyn Jones for his warm welcome and for so kindly making time for us.

Today we sign an agreement that will bring greater structure to a partnership we have built up over recent years in the area of economics and mobility, in the social and cultural field and in public services and governance.

Our idea is to develop this partnership gradually, starting by getting to know each other better and looking for complementary areas in which we can make further progress.

We have a long list of issues of mutual interest. We share the same goal of extending bilateral relations on transport infrastructures, innovation, offshore energy, the agrifood industry, education, fiscal policy, social policies and the fight against climate change. We are fully aware of the new context that Brexit will bring and we agree on the need to analyse new challenges and new opportunities.

Gales lehentasunezko lurraldea da gure Nazioartekotze Estrategian. Gure helburua da hainbat arlotan harremanak sendotzea, hala nola: azpiegiturak, berrikuntza, itsasoko energiak, elikaduraren industria, zerga politika, hezkuntza, gizarte politikak edo klima aldaketaren aurkako konpromisoa. Bizi dugun eszenatoki berrian gure bi Nazioen arteko harremanak indartu eta areagotu nahi ditugu.

The Basque Framework Strategy for Internationalisation to 2020 specifically identifies Wales as one of our strategic partners because of its geographical proximity, because of the multi-sectoral ties between the two countries and because, like the Basque Country, Wales has a tradition, culture and identity of its own.

We also share the objectives of the Welsh Government's "Prosperity for All" strategy. In the Basque Country too, we are committed to fostering the social, economic and environmental dimensions of Sustainable Human Development;

we are working to promote education and high-quality employment and to project our own culture and language. This shared vision provides us with a solid foundation for working together.

With this agreement, Wales becomes part of the Basque Country's Network of Strategic Partnerships, alongside seven leading regions across the world: Quebec, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Bavaria, Flanders, Querétaro, Jiangtsu and Cundinamarca.

The Basque Country is honoured that Wales has now agreed to join our Network of Strategic Partnerships.

Wales and the Basque Country also share the ambition of greater collaboration in the European framework.

Indeed, we share a strategy with great scope for the future; the governments of Wales, the Basque Country, Brussels-Capital, Flanders, Navarra, Piemonte and Salzburg have submitted a formal recommendation to the European Commission to strengthen the role of regions with legislative powers and national realities.

The seven regional governments have called on the European Commission to adopt the necessary decisions to introduce an effective model of multi-level governance.

Europako zazpi lurraldeak elkarlanerako proposamen berri bat adostu dugu eta Europako Batzordeari luzatu egin diogu. Lurralde horiek honako hauek dira: Gales, Flandes, Nafarroa, Salzburgo, Brusela, Piemonte eta Euskadi.

Zazpiak bat egin dugu lege eskumenak ditugulako eta gure lurraldeen berezko Nazio izaera defendatzen dugulako. Gure helburua da etorkizuneko Europaren eraikuntzan zuzenean parte hartzea eta, era berean, gure Autogobernua indartzen eta areagotzen jarraitzea.

Our joint proposal proposes two initiatives:

-First: The establishment of a convention on multi-level governance that takes up the findings of the European Commission's task force on subsidiarity; particularly the Lamassoure report on the figure of the Associated/Partner Region.



-Second: to set up a working group to analyse the institutional framework of reinforced and structural cooperation, with greater recognition and institutionalisation of the concept of the Associate/Partner Region.

In the Basque country we defend a social and federal European Union based on multi-level governance.

We have made our contribution to the debate on the future of Europe and today we announce this new proposal, signed by seven nations who believe in Europe and want to play a part in its future decision-making.