

MEETING WITH ENEKO ANDUEZA

Yesterday, on October 3, the **Guggenheim Urdaibai Stop** citizens' platform held a meeting with **Eneko Andueza**, the Secretary General of the Socialist Party of the Basque Country (PSE-EE).

We are grateful that he agreed to this meeting, which was requested by the Platform.

As a broad and diverse citizens' platform, we receive numerous concerns and fears from local residents about the **Guggenheim Urdaibai project**. Likewise, we have heard various statements about the project from representatives of different administrations.

We approached this meeting with a sense of responsibility and a clear intent to obtain the most precise information possible about the project.

Our objectives were clear:

1. To provide a brief introduction of the Platform and clarify our goal: **to definitively set aside the Guggenheim Urdaibai project**.
2. To place on the table all the **questions and concerns** this project raises.
3. And finally, to **understand the position** of the political party that Eneko Andueza represents regarding this project.

The concerns can be summarized as follows:

- The **impositional style of governance** surrounding the project.
- Acting **against the goals of Biosphere Reserves**.
- The project **not being the result of any proper diagnosis or study**.
- The **lack of transparency** regarding the existence and details of the project.

- The fact that it is planned **within a Special Conservation Zone (SCZ)** of the **Natura 2000 network**, in an area of **great vulnerability**.
- Clear **evidence of overdevelopment in the estuary**.
- A disregard for **planetary boundaries**. ENEKO ANDUEZAREKIN BILERA Atzo, urriaren 3ean, Guggenheim Urdaibai Stop herri plataformak Euskadiko Alderdi Sozialistako idazkari nagusia den Eneko Anduezarekin bilera izan zuen En
- **Misuse of public funds for private interests**.
- The museum **does not meet the region's actual needs**.
- The attempt to **manipulate citizens by linking the future of the Biosphere Reserve** to the project.
- The launch of **tokenistic, whitewashed participation processes**.
- The **threat to local culture and heritage** that the project represents.

In this particular case, to all these general concerns, we must add the **worry caused by the Socialist Party's public ambiguity** on the matter.

On this last point, we've heard **conflicting opinions** from different Socialist Party representatives regarding the project:

At the regional level, some have spoken **against the Murueta site** (which would be part of the project), or have **called for and offered more transparency** due to the lack of information.

On the other hand, certain administrations in which the Socialist Party participates have shown **support for the administrative steps needed to push the project forward**, and the party has **signed a government agreement** to form the Basque Government that **includes the Guggenheim Urdaibai project**.

For the general public, it is difficult to identify a **clear stance** from the party on this project.

In the meeting, they expressed **lack of knowledge about the project** and a **lack of information**. They acknowledged the **need to learn more** about it in order to make an informed assessment and define their position. **However, in the meantime, they are in favor of continuing to move forward with it.**

As they've stated publicly, they need to understand the full scope of the project, and it must **respect existing laws**. The **€40 million obtained from the Spanish**

Government is seen in this context: for **restoration and recovery of the Biosphere Reserve**.

They said their **main source of information** is currently the **Guggenheim Foundation**, and they are awaiting a meeting with the **incoming director** who will succeed Juan Ignacio Vidarte.

From our point of view, it is extremely worrying that the main source of information is the **Guggenheim Foundation**, because it places the future of the region in the hands of a **private entity**.

The **interests of the Foundation's board of trustees** are unlikely to align with the **needs of local citizens**.

Moreover, **agreeing to move forward** with this project also concerns us deeply:

All these steps—**modifications to municipal land-use plans (HAPOs), reduction of public coastal land protections, amendments to Partial Plans, and changes to the Biosphere Reserve's Management Plan**—have one single objective: **Not the well-being of citizens, but the construction of a museum**.

We asked for **responsibility and caution** on these issues, because even if they claim not to know the project well, all these actions are **publicly documented**.

In our view, **the public administrations** that are currently **pushing this project forward** and **spending public funds** to make it viable, are the ones who should **provide the information** and **be held accountable**.

As a party, they said their **priority is to develop a comprehensive plan** that responds to the **real needs of the region**, and in that regard, **we are in agreement**.

They also expressed **willingness to share accurate information** with the Platform once they have access to it, and we are grateful for that.

However, this meeting **has not changed our view** of the project—not in the slightest.

In fact, we are now **more convinced** than ever that this project is just a **spur-of-the-moment idea, proposed without any solid analysis**, and that **laws and regulations are being bent and reshaped step by step** to make it viable. Meanwhile, **disinformation prevails**—or at least, that seems to be the desired outcome.

Guggenheim Urdaibai Stop
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