

On December 16, we said goodbye to the Guggenheim Urdaibai project, and in doing so the main objective of this platform was fulfilled. Now, with the greatest threat Busturialdea has ever faced gone, it is time to take steps towards the future.

We have always said that the platform would not help the Provincial Council of Bizkaia remove Astilleros de Murueta SA from the land it occupies in order to place a museum there, and even less so if that eviction were the result of a purchase and sale process paid for with public money.

We have always said that the shipyard should no longer be there and that the land it occupies, which forms part of the wetlands, must be vacated and restored, without any pre-conditions.

In March 2024, the Ministry for Ecological Transition acknowledged that the concession obtained by the shipyard in 1943 had expired, and in 2025 the Contentious-Administrative Chamber of the National High Court acknowledged that the company has expanded its facilities over the years, disregarding any concession title or permit related to the maritime-terrestrial public domain.

In light of these acknowledgements, the platform hired the Cantabrian engineering firm ADRA to prepare a technical report with a twofold objective:

1. To take into account the boundary currently in force, to determine what surface area corresponding to the maritime-terrestrial public domain is being occupied by the shipyard (including areas outside the 1943 concession).
2. To determine whether the land linked to the activity of the Murueta shipyard (facilities and warehouses) consists of land that, if not protected by artificial means, would be naturally floodable, and, if so, to review and correct the coastal boundary currently in force.

The platform received the report on December 9, and the conclusions set out in it could not be clearer:

- Of the 10,902 m<sup>2</sup> occupied by the shipyard in 2024, 56.69% corresponds to facilities and/or extensions of pre-existing ones carried out since the very origins of the shipyard, outside any concession or license.
- All land assigned to the activity of Astilleros de Murueta (facilities and warehouses) is naturally floodable land. Flooding is artificially prevented; therefore, in accordance with the Coastal Law, it forms part of the maritime public domain.

For all these reasons, the platform has pursued two parallel courses of action before the Coastal Authority:

1. On the one hand, it has requested a review of the coastal boundary currently in force (2004) in order to recognize the public-domain nature of all the land affected by the

shipyard facilities.

2. On the other hand, it has demanded the recovery of the maritime-terrestrial public domain invaded by Astilleros de Murueta and the restoration of its original physical characteristics and natural elements, as it has been occupied without any legal title whatsoever and lacks even a title of ownership that would grant the possibility of claiming any right of occupation or use.

By taking these steps, once again it is the citizens who are assuming the responsibility that institutions should be assuming, and who are driving the protection of the Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve.

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