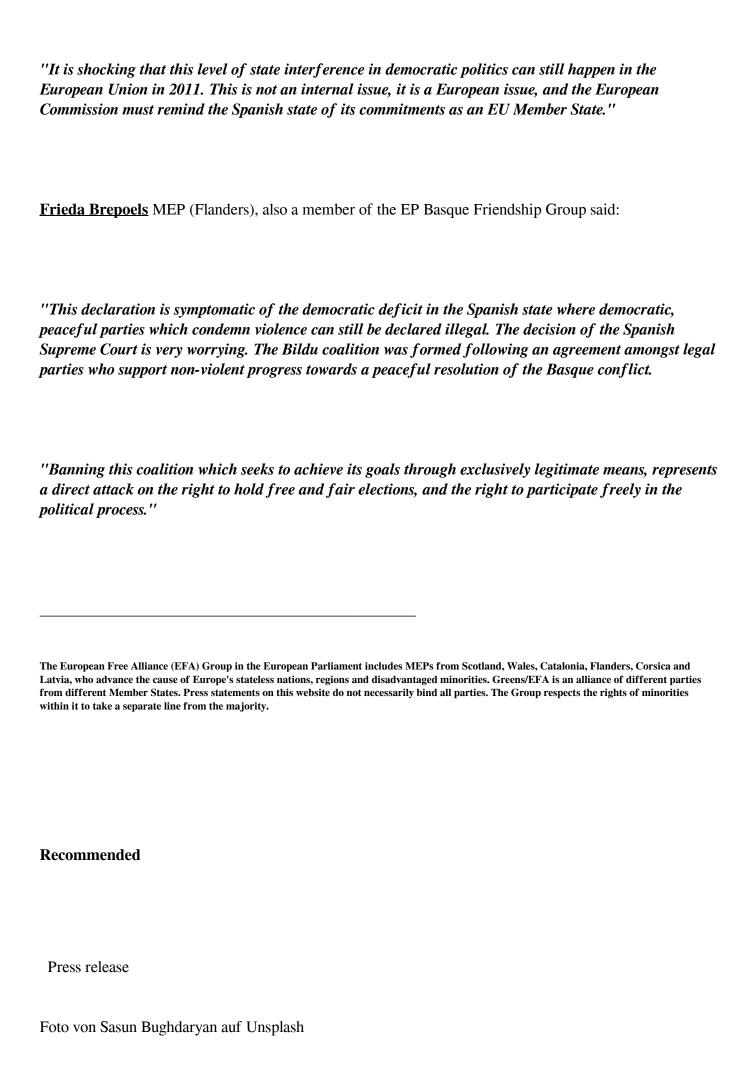
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Press release 03.05.2011
MEPs outrage at Spain's banning of Basque parties
EFA press release
MEPs from the European Free Alliance group in the European Parliament have expressed their outrage at the decision of the Spanish authorities to prevent certain peaceful, democratic parties from participating in forthcoming elections.
The MEPs condemned the decision as wrong in principle, undemocratic and contrary to the core values of the European Union. They question whether Spain is in breach of its democratic commitments as an EU member state if the decision is confirmed.
On Sunday the Spanish Supreme Court decided to ban the Bildu coalition from standing in forthcoming local and provincial elections in the Basque Country on the pretext of alleged links to extremists. Yet the coalition includes democratic parties committed to a peaceful resolution of the Basque conflict and who have previously condemned violence.
Corsican MEP <u>François Alfonsi</u> , a member of the European Parliament's Basque Friendship group said:
"This decision risks depriving Basque voters of a truly democratic choice at the forthcoming elections

and could jeopardise a fragile peace process. We are talking about parties who are committed to

democratic principles and to a peaceful resolution of the Basque conflict.





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Press release

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Contact person



Steven Cornelius

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