

Former Egunkaria workers meet to create a new Basque daily

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Four months after the closure of the Basque daily Egunkaria by the Spanish Police, a new newspaper in Basque is expected to be launched in June thanks to an initiative of former Egunkaria workers who have created the company that will be in charge of the new journal.

Following a meeting in Andoain (Gipuzkoa) held last Friday, workers discussed the creation of a new company called 'Euskarazko Komunikazio Taldea SA'. The new company has initial capital of 60,350 euros, and a media campaign asking for donations was launched yesterday.

Speaking to EuroLang, Mikel Arrieta, PR manager for Egunkaria's former workers, stated that 'our aim is to increase capital up to five million euros. We want everybody to participate in our project but it is not our intention to control or own the daily.'

When asked about what the new daily would look like Arrieta said that 'Egunkaria achieved a very high level of writing and news content. Our commitment now is to maintain this level and improve on it. However, we have to deal with the creation of a new administration board.'

Currently, Egunkaria's representatives are looking for a new administration board that includes people from different backgrounds and political affiliations. Arrieta added that, 'hopefully in June we will launch the new daily and by October we will be employing 90% of Egunkaria's former staff.'

Meanwhile, in Barcelona a series of discussions and conferences on the closure of Egunkaria start today in Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. The conferences will focus on the Basque language and the judicial aspects of the closure of Egunkaria. Martxello Otamendi, director of the closed daily, and Joan Mari Torrealdei, director of Egunkaria's editorial board, will be speaking at the event. (EL)