

CADE

<http://www.voiesnouvellestgv.webou.net/accueil.htm>

The opposition to the TGV in the French Basque Country

The opposition to the TGV in the Basque Country started in 2006, during the holding of a public debate, and this opposition has grown from year to year.

The TGV project is a section that will link the city of Bordeaux to Spain and, in a European perspective, Paris to Madrid.

The reasons to oppose this TGV project are many, and often summarized with three words describing the project: **unnecessary, costly and destructive**.

In the Basque country, the opposition is organized by many local associations, which are coordinated through a collective called CADE (*Collective of Associations for the Defence of the Environment of the Basque Country*).

So there are a lot of local initiatives in villages, and some more across the Basque Country.

CADE organize in the villages affected by the project many public meetings, referenda, demonstrations, and in January 2010 they hosted the signing of the Charter of Hendaye.

We have prevented the soil drilling campaign that should technically validate the route chosen by RFF (*Réseau Ferré de France, which owns the railways in France*) by establishing a system of citizens' vigilance and alert to be triggered when machines were in sight. The prefect has temporarily suspended the surveys.

Since the beginning of his struggle, CADE has sought to establish that the information about TGV was built on falsified data (*existing traffic had doubled, and the assumption of its increase was surreal*) and to think about the dangers of high speed.

Our main slogan is "**Neither here, nor anywhere else**", and it emphasizes that our struggle is not linked to a plot, but to our refusal to see the development of the TGV. Today, our ideas have made their way, and the "TGV model" begins to be questioned by the project proposers themselves.

Specifically, in the Basque Country the latest announcements of the State recognizes that the existing railways are not saturated, and that the project would be delayed until 2035.

But we have learnt to be suspicious ...