

The Truth about the Bosch Report

The myth of the 571 million grants to bulls





The Truth about the Bosch Report

Introduction

As a preamble, it should be noted that bullfighting, as a legal cultural activity, is entitled to receive subsidies from public administrations.

According to the Law for the Regulation of Bullfighting as Cultural Heritage, “as a cultural heritage, public authorities will guarantee the conservation of bullfighting and promote their enrichment.”

Bullfighting is, however, systematically and unjustifiably neglected in the allocation of public subsidies towards other cultural manifestations.

Despite this fact, since 2007 the anti-bullfighting “lobby” has tried to shift the distorted idea that bullfighting annually receives hundreds of millions of euros in subsidies.

The report on which this extravagant statement is based is entitled “Bulls & Taxes”, was published in 2013 and is signed by Deputy Alfred Bosch and his party Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya (ERC).

This document, also known as the “Bosch Report”, continues to present itself in different areas despite being contradicted by studies based on data, such as the report “Los Toros en España: a great economic impact with minimum subsidies” commissioned by ANOET and directed by Juan Medina García-Hierro with the collaboration of Mar Gutiérrez.

This report aims to expose in a simple and didactic way the inconsistency of the data manipulated without intellectual modesty by the animalistic propaganda.

Alfred Bosch:

“Without the subsidy of 571 million euros, the Fiesta would not be possible”

ERC only gives documentary evidence of 0.16% of the alleged aids

The document speaks openly about 571 million euros of annual subsidies to the bullfighting festivities, happily rounded up to 600 million in public presentations.

However, although the Administrations budgets are public, ERC only identifies items worth 30 million euros, corresponding to the period between 2006 and 2012. Therefore, “Bulls & Taxes” identifies the equivalent of 2.5 million grants per season, only 0.44% of the figure of 571 million that they try to transmit.

First conclusion: only 0.44% of the amounts denounced in the Bosch Report have real data backing. Everything else, that is, 99.56% of the data, is based on mere assumptions. And this, we insist, although much of the data are public and were at all times available to ERC if they had wanted to do serious work and not simple propaganda.

But even the falsity of the numbers that the Bosch Report manages to prove is also very clear.

Indeed, a significant part of those 30 million euros that do come backed by real data in “Bulls & Taxes” actually correspond to works of renovation and maintenance of publicly owned places, whereas only 936,000 euros are identified for bullfighting festivities (350,000 euros in Vitoria, 321,000 euros in Cordoba, 180,000 euros in Valladolid and 85,000 euros in La Coruña).

One of the errors of the Bosch Report is to confuse these maintenance items with subsidies.

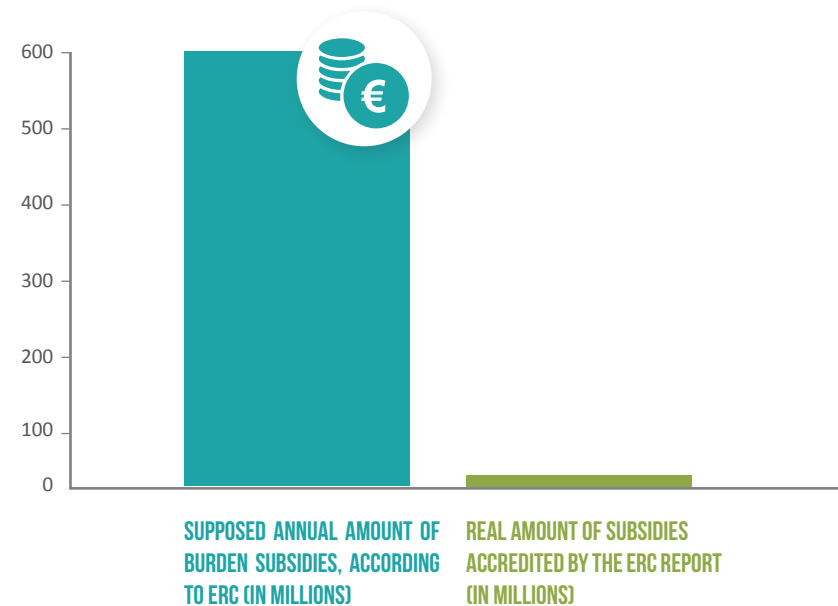
Therefore, those 936,000 euros are equivalent to just 0.16% of the 571 million, which are supposedly annually injected in the bullfighting festivities.

In any case, it should be noted that these figures are completely out of date, since nowadays the Fairs of Vitoria, Córdoba, Valladolid and La Coruña do not receive municipal subsidies anymore.

As a corollary to this section, we can say that the Bosch Report only provides documentary support for the 0.16% of the 571 million that it says bullfighting receives.

We believe that society deserves a minimum of rigor and thoroughness of its public representatives.

THE BIG LIE OF 571 MILLION GRANT TO BULLS



The trap of inflating costs

We have already seen that ERC hardly documents a very small part of the aid to the bulls that it intends to uncover. His report speaks of 571 million, but the actual expenditure collected in his work scarcely details 936,000 euros per year, 0.16% of the figure announced in the headlines (although today's reality would be even lower considering the suppression of subsidies previously mentioned).

But then, what does "Bulls & Taxes" do to get to such bulky numbers?

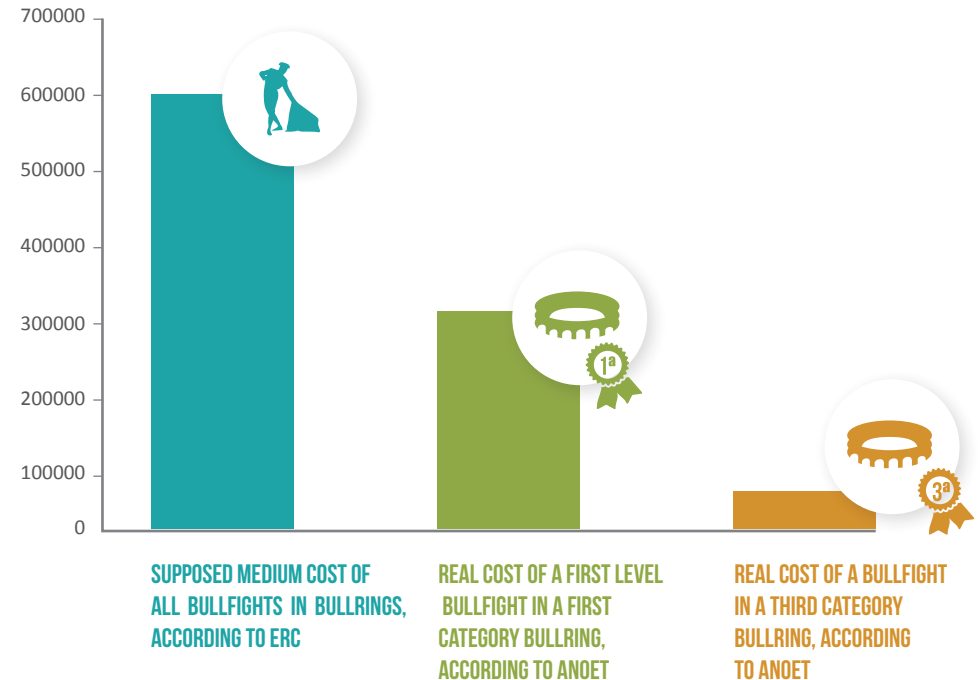
The key to manipulation rests on two traps:

- On the one hand, ERC assumes completely free of charge that every bullfighting celebration in Spain receives a subsidy of 33%. We do not know which is the reason ERC decides to use such blatant data false, and why they choose to use that percentage and not another one.
- On the other hand, the report disproportionately inflates the costs of bullfighting festivities, pointing out that a show in a bullring supposes 600,000 Euros and a popular celebration has a cost of 60,000 euros.

It is not very rigorous to assume an average subsidy of 33%, without providing any study, what is even more insulting is the figure of 600,000 euros of average cost of organizing the festivities in the bullring.

In fact, the report "Economic Analysis of the Fiesta", published by ANOET in 2013, clarifies that the average cost of organization of a first level bullfight in a first category bullring amounts to 320,000 euros. This figure is almost half of the 600,000 euros that ERC uses in its calculations.

THE INFLATED COSTS OF THE "BULLS & TAXES" REPORT



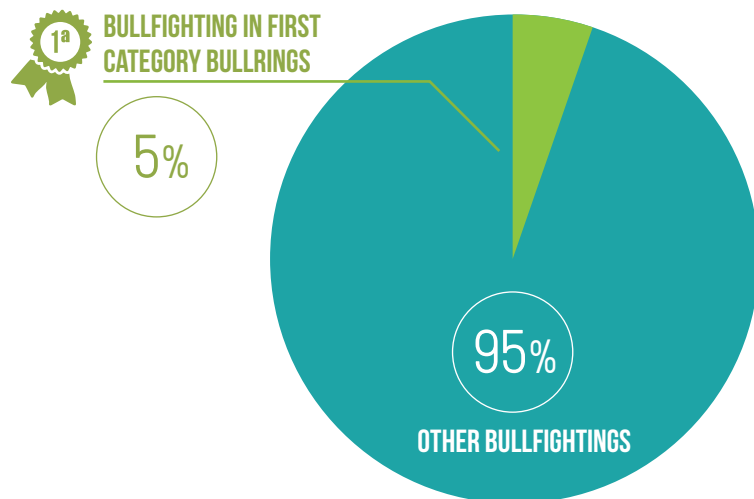
Source: ANOET, Economic Analysis of the Fiesta
https://laeconomiadeltoro.files.wordpress.com/2013/11/imagenes_fotosdeldia_4050_informe_de_anoet_analisis_economico_de_la_fiesta.pdf

Obviously, this data only applies to the most expensive shows, which are bullfights organized in first category bullrings. This selected elite represents only 91 of the 1,858 major festivities organized in Spain during the 2013 season. Therefore, we speak of only 5% of the shows organized in the bullrings throughout the year.

It should also be noted that the cost of 320,000 euros consumed entirely by the manager of the bullring do not even refer to all 91 bullfights in first category bullrings that were organized in 2013, but there are exclusively reflected the cost of the first level events within this type of spectacles (bullfights with the highest figures of the bullfight, of more bulky budget than the rest).

Source: Bullfighting Statistics 2009-2013, Culture Ministry
http://www.mecd.gob.es/servicios-al-ciudadano-mecd/dms/mecd/servicios-al-ciudadano-mecd/estadisticas/cultura/principales-estadisticas/Estadistica_de_Asuntos_Taurinos_2009-2013_Sintesis_de_Resultados.pdf

BULLFIGHTINGS IN FIRST CATEGORY BULLRINGS VS REST OF BULLFIGHTING CELEBRATIONS IN BULLRINGS



The rest of the festivities, that is, 95% of the festivities, carry considerably lower costs. ANOET figures in 80,000 euros the expense of organizing a bullfight in third category bullrings, in 90,000 euros the cost of celebrating a bullfight with young bulls and novice bullfighters in a first category bullring and in 50,000 euros the expense linked to organize a bullfight with young bulls and novice bullfighters in a third category bullring.

These three types of festivities represented a total of 288 shows in 2013 and their weighted cost of organization was, according to ANOET reference data, 20.9 million euros.

However, assuming ERC's unrealistic costs, these 288 shows would have cost 172.8 million euros, eight times more than the real figure!

The magnitude of the falsity of the data provided by the Bosch Report in terms of production costs is so obvious, that it is difficult to understand how some media have been able to give the least credibility to them.

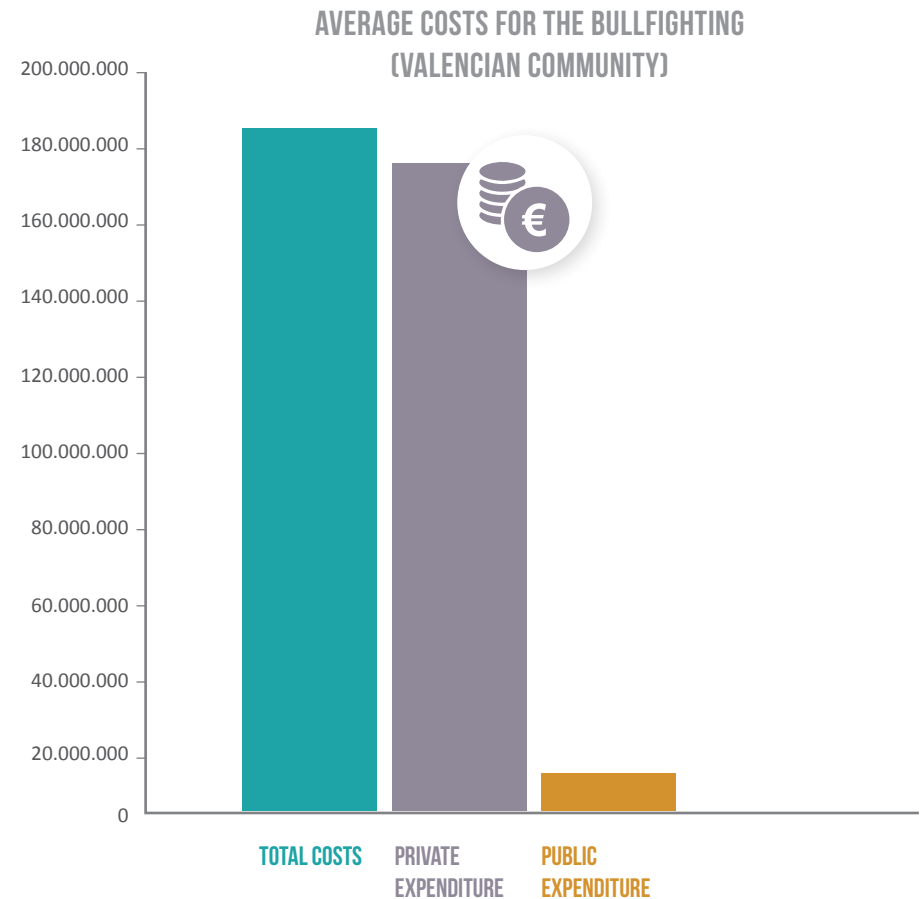
Source: ANOET, Economic Analysis of the Fiesta.
https://laeconomiadeltoro.files.wordpress.com/2013/11/imagenes_fotosdeldia_4050_informe_de_anoet_analisis_economico_de_la_fiesta.pdf

Something similar happens with the popular festivities and smaller shows. According to “Bulls & Taxes”, the average cost of these bullfighting celebrations is 60,000 euros. The reality is very different and, once again, reflects figures clearly lower than those used by ERC for its report.

To clarify this point, we will go to the Federation of Bullfighting Clubs of Bous al Carrer, based in the Valencian Community. In 2013, this region welcomed 44.4% of all popular bullfights celebrated in Spain, with 6,139 events out of a total of 13,815, according to bullfighting statistics of the Ministry of Culture.

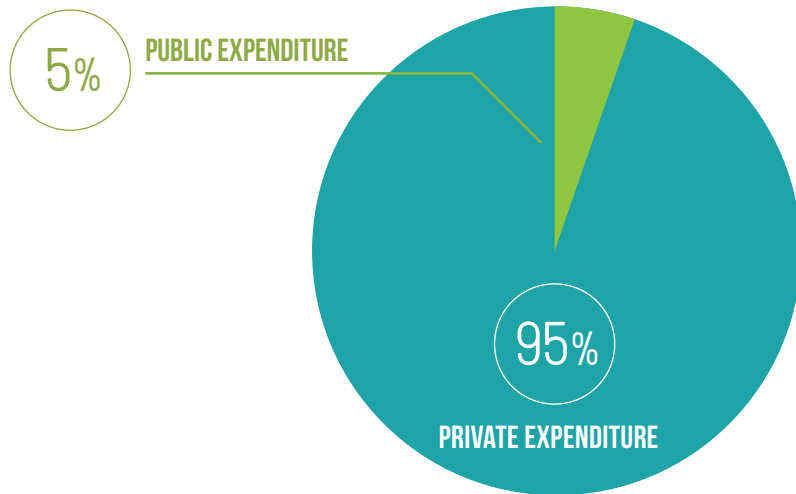
Well, the Federation reports clarify that the average cost of organizing a popular bullfighting festival is around 30,000 euros. Once again, we find figures much lower than those handled by ERC, as “Bulls & Taxes” assumes an average cost of 60,000 euros for each popular bullfighting festival.

It is true that there can be some celebrations which cost of organization is 60,000 euros, but are only some of the most expensive, never the average cost of organization.



But the thing does not end here. The Federation has also verified that around 90% of the popular bullfights celebrated in the Valencian Community is financed entirely by the clubs of each locality. In addition, in the remaining 10%, public funding only covers half the cost, while the clubs contribute the difference. As a result, 95% of the expenditure is privately financed (174,961,500 out of a total of 184,170,000 euros) and only the remaining 5% (9,208,500 euros) comes from public expenditure.

PRIVATE EXPENDITURE AND PUBLIC EXPENDITURE IN POPULAR BULLFIGHTING CELEBRATIONS (VALENCIAN COMMUNITY)



Crazy figures

In addition to all of the above, it should also be stressed that the same headline of the ERC report should have raised the suspicion of any well-informed person about the budgetary magnitudes that are handled in the cultural field.

It is not necessary to be an expert in the bullfighting economy to know that the data of the 571 million aids is absurd.

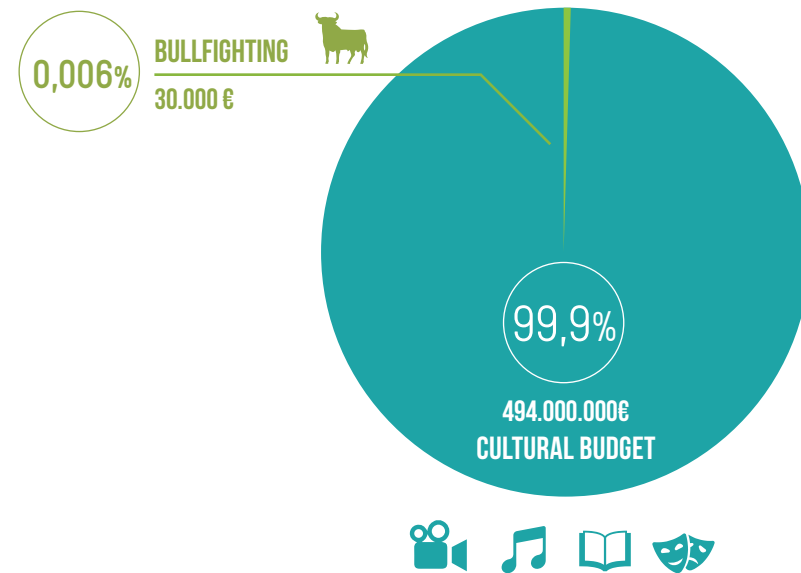
To verify this we will go to the different levels of the Public Administration. First of all are the European institutions. Between 1999 and 2014, the European Commission has answered more than 50 questions in the European Parliament on public funding of bulls. In each and every one of these answers, the Community Executive has clarified that the budgets of Brussels do not include any aid to the celebration of bullfights.

Source: European Parliament: in <https://laeconomiadelatoro.wordpress.com/2014/10/22/en-mas-de-50-ocasiones-la-ue-ha-explicado-que-no-subvenciona-la-tauromaquia-y-que-jamas-actuara-contra-la-misma-por-ser-una-tradicion-cultural/>.

Secondly there are the national budgets of culture, which emanate from the government of Spain. These items collect exclusively a sum of 30,000 euros linked to the bulls, specifically the National Bullfighting Prize. This is a fraction of the budget of the Ministry of Culture, which in 2013 included 494 million for cinema, music, theatre and other disciplines. To be precise, the 30,000 euros delivered to the bulls represent barely 0.006% of the cultural budget of the Spanish government. This allocation is the only item that has remained in the budgets of 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Source: General State Budgets for 2013

CULTURAL BUDGET OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT



Thirdly, there are the cultural promotion expenses that the autonomous communities finance. Here are included the same disciplines that receive support from the central government: cinema, music, theatre... Throughout 2013, the sum of these 17 autonomous budgets came up to 405 million euros. This bulky figure contrasts with the barely 1.4 million that were managed in 2013 by the Centre for Bullfighting Affairs of the Community of Madrid. Madrid is the only Community that maintains a permanent budget dedicated to bullfighting issues, although it should be noted that the 1.4 million in 2013 were easily paid with the 2.3 million paid by the management company of the bullring Plaza de Las Ventas in concept of levy. Even if we ignore this important point, the figure of 1.4 million means that only 0.3% of the cultural expenditure of the autonomous communities goes to the bullfighting sector.

This data is maintained in 2014, 2015 and 2016, since Madrid is the only region with a permanent budget dedicated to bullfighting matters.

In any case, it is important to note that 57% of the budget of the Centre of Bullfighting Affairs of the Community of Madrid is destined to staff and common costs of the centre, not to subsidize any celebration. On the other hand, it is also worth pointing out that the management fee of Las Ventas will rise to 2.8 million from 2017, so that the positive fiscal balance that the bullfighting put in the budgets of the Community of Madrid will expand in the future, for the benefit of public budgets.

Quelle: Budgets of the Autonomous Communities for 2013.
https://laeconomiadeltoro.files.wordpress.com/2013/11/imagenes_fotosdeldia_4050_informe_de_anoet_analisis_economico_de_la_fiesta.pdf

Finally, the local administration remains pending. According to the budgetary data of the municipalities, the expenditure paid in popular festivals and festivities (understanding that most parties are not bullfightings) throughout 2013 was close to 400 million euros. This figure, which is already lower than the 571 million that ERC intends to show, includes the accounts of more than 7,500 municipalities, but the bullfighting activity only took place in 2,205 localities, reason why the magnitudes are even more disrupted.

Quelle: Budgetary Data of the Local Entities, available in the Virtual Office of Financial Coordination of the Ministry of Finance and Public Administration.
<http://serviciostelematicosex.mihap.gob.es/SGCAL/entidadeslocales/BDatosPL.aspx>

ANOET, Economic Analysis of the Fiesta.

Conclusion

The report “Bulls & Taxes” is of a shocking intellectual and scientific poverty even within the animalistic propaganda, which is so used to the value judgment and the slogan and not to the rigor of the data.

It is an insult to the citizens that from the tribune of the Congreso de los Diputados (lower house in Spain) this continues being used as an element of attack to the bullfighting.

The disagreement and fight against bullfighting is an absolutely legal and legitimate option. But there should never be used lies and deception, or reports with scientific appearance but with absolute disregard for the least contrast with the data, being the vast majority of them public and accessible.

In any case, from the Fundación del Toro de Lidia we claim the right of bullfighting to receive public subsidies like any other legal cultural activity in Spain, being an obligation of public administrations to promotion.

The Report in 10 lies:

1. Bullfighting, legal cultural activity, has the right to receive public subsidies.
2. The report “Bulls & Taxes”, signed by Alfred Bosch (ERC), states that bullfighting receives 571 million euros but only documents 0.16% of the alleged aid.
3. The report only documents 0.16% of the alleged aid despite the fact that most of the data is public and accessible.
4. To reach 571 million euros, the report has made up that all bullfighting activity receives a subsidy of 33% and also multiplies by eight the actual costs of bullfighting.
5. The European Union has answered in more than 50 occasions that “the budgets of Brussels do not include any aid to the celebration of bullfights”
6. The bulls represent 0.006% of the cultural budget of the Government of Spain. € 30,000 out of the € 494 million.
7. The report that is so often used in the Congreso de los Diputados in order to attack bullfighting is not based on data. It is a mere propaganda document based on assumptions and invented data.
8. The report confuses inexplicably items of maintenance of bullrings of public ownership, grouping it all under the category of subsidies.
9. Opposite to what the report says, 95% of the cost of the popular festivities is assumed by private clubs.
10. The Fundación del Toro de Lidia claims its right to receive subsidies and the obligation that the Public Administrations have to promote it.



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