

## **AMA**

AMA (Asociación por el medio ambiente y contra el cambio climático) is a not-for-profit organisation. Its mission is mainly to raise awareness among the public on the issues of **climate change**, **sustainable mobility**, and **energy** through the promotion of bicycle, raising awareness marches, conferences, and participation in alternative fairs.

### **Climate change**

It all started in 2008 when a small group of people concerned with the environment and climate change decided to undertake a protest march on bicycle from Valencia, Spain, to the world Climate Change Conference (COP 15) in Copenhagen, Denmark, and bring their demand there.

Then AMA became an official association and started to organise other bicycle marches. The second COP march targeted the COP 21 in Paris in which over fifty persons participated.

AMA takes the opportunity of the journey to make press conferences and contacts with local people and organisations. At the COP 21, after a month-long march, a petition to call the Spanish government and Parliament to pass a bill on the energy transition including clear measures and the necessary budget to implement the bill as soon as possible was handed over to the Spanish representatives at the COP.

AMA also organised marches to the COP 22 in Marrakech, Morocco, and COP 25 in Madrid, Spain, every time with more participants and supporters.

On its way to Marrakech, AMA took contact with an orphanage in Tétouan and offered them second hand bicycles and clothes.

In 2019, when it was suddenly decided that the COP 25 would not take place in Santiago de Chile but in Madrid, AMA organized a march to the capital and participated with other organisations in a huge demonstration across the capital.



COP15, Copenhagen, 2009



COP15, Copenhagen, 2009

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Comunidad Valenciana

### 1.800 kilómetros en bicicleta para pedir medidas contra el cambio climático

● Un centenar de activistas viajan de Valencia a París para exigir soluciones contra el calentamiento global en la Cumbre del Clima

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Los ciclistas en la Estación del Norte de Valencia antes de salir hacia París.

Valencia, 2015, leaving for Paris on bicycles, communication with the media

06/09/15

Vienne - Poitiers - Environnement

### Halte à Poitiers pour une quarantaine de cyclistes espagnols en route vers la COP 21

06/12/2015 17:38

Une quarantaine de défenseurs de la bicyclette étaien à Poitiers ce week-end. Particulièrement : ils sont Espagnols et relient Madrid à Paris à l'occasion de la COP 21. Ces [membres d'une dizaine d'organisations espagnoles](#), ont été hébergés à la Maison de quartier de Saint-Eloi (SENE). L'occasion d'échanger avec des jeunes qui prévoient de partir en Espagne à vélo l'été prochain, de rencontrer les associations Petit Plateau et Vélocités 86. L'occasion surtout de faire passer leur message auprès du plus grand nombre. « La COP 21 est l'unique opportunité de changer le climat. Nous emmenons une pétition qui a réuni 10 000 signatures, mais nous voulons surtout sensibiliser tout le monde à cette nécessité de sauver la planète », explique un des organisateurs. Leur périples et leurs pancartes sont plutôt bien perçus. « On a eu des crâmes pour le passage de la frontière, mais ça n'est fait sans problème. » Ils sont accueillis dans les communes ou par des organisations. A Poitiers, pas d'accueil par la municipalité mais des militants de la poste nous relayent leur message. « Il faut dire que le vélo est un moyen de locomotion bon pour la santé et la planète ».

Laurence Mondon Samit



Les cyclistes espagnols, accueillis par des cyclistes poitevins, ont fait une balade dans Poitiers et diffusé leur message pour promouvoir la bicyclette et la nécessité de sauver la planète.

### Communication with French media during the march to the COP21



COP21, Paris, 2015



Valencia, 2016, departure by the city-hall to the COP22, with the mayor present

Tétouan, on the way to COP22, Marrakech, offering bicycles and clothes to an orphanage



*COP25, Madrid, 2019*

## Sustainable mobility

Travelling by train with a bicycle is not easy in Spain. The number of bicycles is extremely limited in most local trains and always subject to the ticket inspector's kindness, and it is not possible to travel with a bicycle in long distance trains unless wrapped and the front wheel apart to make the "luggage" small. Furthermore the train network in Spain is dramatically shrinking.

AMA regularly runs on its own and/or with other associations – like users, disabled persons, railway union members and sometimes even with local mayors – demonstrations to demand that local lines be preserved and correctly maintained, that trains run more frequently, and that carriages be adapted. AMA also organises bicycles trips to promote the use of bicycles as a way of transport which does not produce CO<sup>2</sup>, whether in urban areas or to travel during holidays.



*Alcoy, a university city, only 110km away from Valencia, but more than two hours and a half from Valencia by train and with only two trains per day.*



*Cuenca, only 200km from Valencia, one hour with the fast train, but four and a half for passengers who want to travel with a bicycle, with one or two trains per day, and only nine bicycles per train.*



*Valencia, demonstration in front of the station for local trains*

## Energy

**Anti-fracking demonstrations.** AMA is concerned by contaminating energies. In this regard it organised, with other associations, several demonstrations against a fracking project, Castor, located off the Castellon city shore. After works started several small earthquakes occurred. The project has been suspended in 2014.



*Anti-fracking, making the purpose of the march visible.*



*Anti-fracking demonstrating in Castellon: "There are treasures that money can't buy"*



*Demonstrating in Castellon*



**Returning empty bottles.** Another way to reduce the consumption of energy is to return empty bottles to the store so they can be washed and reused. This old system does not exist any more in Spain. AMA organised an action simulating the return of bottles in front of a Lidl supermarket to raise awareness among the customers about waste contamination and the unnecessary use of energy, put pressure on the packaging industry which is strongly opposed to it, and reopen the debate in the local media.



*Demonstrating on bicycles across the city to the Lidl supermarket*



*Simulating the return with a cardboard machine*



*A Lidl truck unsuccessfully trying to disturb the action*

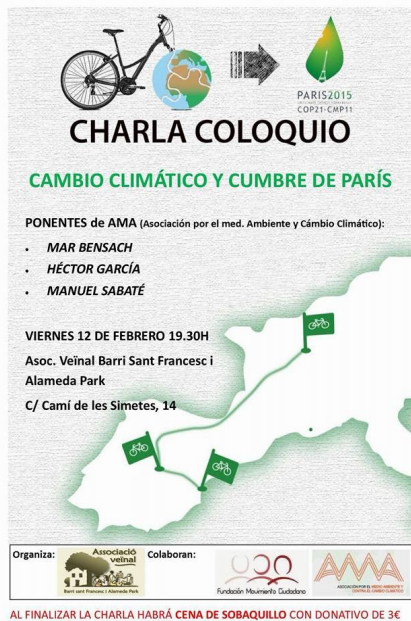


*Article in the local press*

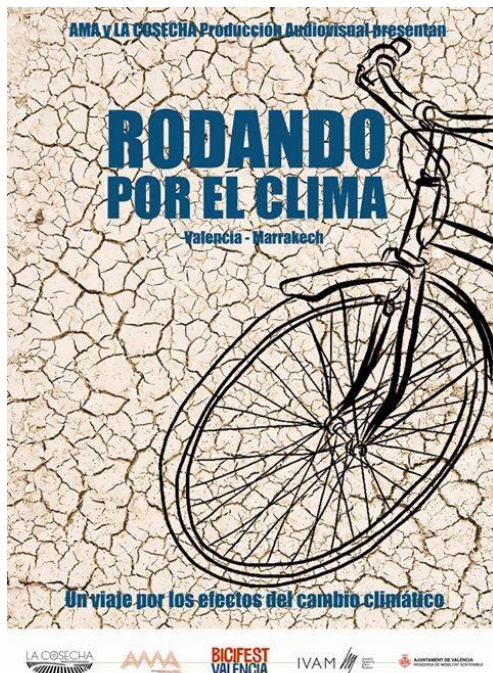


## Conferences and alternative fairs

Bicycle marches are not the only way AMA tries to reach out the general public. Since its inception it has participated in public conferences and debates. During the march to COP22 in Marrakech, AMA produced a documentary film which resulted in a good number of invitations by city halls, associations, secondary schools, and universities in many cities in Spain.



Poster announcing a conference in Valencia



Poster of the documentary presenting the march to Marrakech, COP22



*Conference at the University of Alicante*



*Conference-debate in collaboration with the association ATTAC*

## Soterranya

Soterranya is a not-for-profit organisation. Its mission is to make citizen think in a critical way about their environment and become involved to change it and make it fairer, and more sustainable and human. It develops its activities in Torrent, a city nearby Valencia.

### The premises in El Xenillet

Soterranya works with children in premises provided by the city hall in a disadvantaged area of Torrent. There, volunteers develop activities every afternoon for children who would otherwise stay out in the street, help them with their homework, have them draw and play games to socialize peacefully. From time to time they also go out to the zoo or beach, where the children would never go with their parents.

In 2018 Soterranya started a small library in the same space, Armansallé, with donated and collected books with the aim of using it as a learning tool for the children and making the space more attractive to adults. There are books in Spanish, Valencian, English, French and even Russian.



*Performing activities with the children in El Xenillet*



*The library Armansallé*

## Inclusive bicycles

Thanks to the financial assistance from various organisations Soterranya could implement this project which consisted in buying several adapted bicycles with the aim to giving greater mobility to people with physical disability and senior people. As a consequence they can enjoy a better social inclusion. These special bicycles are available to both individuals and associations. The project is to acquire more of these bicycles so that more people can be included and have access to sustainable mobility.



*Showing how it works*

## **A coordinated project AMA-Soterranya: *Bici para todas* – bicycles for everybody**

*Bici para todas* is project coordinated by several associations (Soterranya, AMA and Sant Joan de Déu Serveis Socials). It consists in fixing donated old bicycles and offering them for free to disadvantaged persons at risk of social exclusion who need a bicycle as a way of transport to find a job or to go to work and who do not have the means to buy one. The people who need these bicycles can contact one of the organisations in charge through a form, then their file is examined to see if they match the selection criteria. So far more than 800 bicycles have been given out. The organisations are also in contact with people who want to donate bicycles.

On the one hand this project aims at fostering solidarity among people and the use of a sustainable way of transport. On the other hand, it gives a second life to hundreds of bicycles with their kilos of material which would otherwise end up in municipal dumps in the best case.



*The workshop where bicycles are fixed*



*Teaching children how to fix a bicycle*