



## **EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSORS EMERITI**

### **ATHENS DECLARATION ON THE ETHICAL MISSION OF THE EUROPEAN ACADEMIC COMMUNITY**

The motto of the three previous Congresses of the European Association of Professors Emeriti has been "The Capital of Knowledge", a concept in harmony with the desired role of Emeriti Professors as Mentors and perpetuators of Knowledge. However, at a time of rapid technological advancement, facilitated and fortified by artificial intelligence, the amount of acquired knowledge has become enormous. This basically positive development hides potential risks. To which direction will this knowledge be used? This is the crucial question to answer. Are decisions informed and guided by values (on a personal basis) and ethics (on a social basis)? This question that has haunted scientists for many years is by no means part of an intellectual exercise. It is realistic, threatening and imminent. Will knowledge be

used for the preservation of Peace or in the service of War? Will pseudoknowledge be used to impose restrictions or even forced termination of academic freedom and autonomy?

We feel it is the obligation of the European Academic Community to provide clear answers to these and other questions pertaining to matters of Ethics. Europe's academic tradition shaped by the humanism of classical antiquity, by the revival of civilization achieved through the Enlightenment and by its democratic commitment has contributed decisively to the progress of humanity. It is time for Europe to take the lead again and resist aggression, abolishment of academic freedom, dehumanization and other potentially catastrophic developments. Wisdom guided by values and ethics is our answer to these questions.

Given in Athens, 12th June 2026.