



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSORS EMERITI

January 2026

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Happy New Year!

I wish you all Health (on an individual and family level) and Peace (on a global level)!

Our EAPE is progressing and we look forward to continuation and expansion of this progress in the future. Let me remind you of our 4th EAPE Congress to take place in Athens, 11-13 June 2026. Please visit our website (<http://europemeriti.org>) and submit your proposals.

On behalf of the Board I have pleasure in forwarding to you a Position Statement of our Association, on Academic Freedom. I think it is timely and much needed. Please feel free to disseminate it.

With warmest wishes to you and your families,

GEORGE CHRISTODOULOU

President, EAPE



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSORS EMERITI

POSITION STATEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSORS EMERITI ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The European Association of Professors Emeriti (EAPE) considers that it is our right but also our duty to defend Academic Freedom.

1. Drawing on our long academic experience, we, Professors Emeriti of Europe, firmly consider that we have the responsibility to defend this principle that has survived throughout ages and to support the rights of members of the academic community to freely express their opinions even if these opinions are not in line with the prevailing ideology.

2. We object to undue interference, restriction or intimidation of academics, being confident that researchers are fully aware that Academic Freedom carries with it responsibilities like respect for evidence, intellectual honesty and adherence to ethical values and practices. It is the responsibility of the relevant academic institutions only, to safeguard that these responsibilities are observed.

3. At a time when political, ideological and economic pressures threaten open enquiry, the obligation to preserve Academic Freedom becomes an absolute priority for the academic community and especially for us, Professors Emeriti of Europe, a continent with consistent tradition of free thinking and other civil liberties.

4. In line with the above considerations, the EAPE calls upon Governments, Universities, International Organizations and Civil Society to safeguard the Autonomy of academic institutions to select their research orientation and set their educational priorities.

With warmest wishes to you and your families,

GEORGE CHRISTODOULOU

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