



**Group of the Progressive Alliance of  
Socialists & Democrats  
in the European Parliament**

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Brussels, 23 June 2021

***David Sassoli***  
***President of the European Parliament***

Dear President,  
Dear David,

We are writing to you to share a proposal with a view to naming a meeting room or a space in one of our buildings in the European Parliament's buildings in Brussels or in Strasbourg after the former Prime Minister of Greece, Andreas Papandreu.

We are sending you this request especially on 23 June 2021 as it is special day marking the 25th anniversary from the death of Mr. Andreas Papandreu.

Andreas Papandreu was born in Chios Greece on 5 February 1919 and died in Athens on 23 June 1996.

During his long and significant political career at national and European level, he greatly contributed to the restoration of Democracy in Greece, the fight against social inequalities, the establishment of a social welfare, the promotion of women's rights and the advancement of the European Project.

While he was Prime Minister (1981-1989 and 1993-1996), Greece held three times the Presidency of the Council of the European Economic Community (EEC) (1983, 1988 and 1994). Thanks to his initiative the Integrated Mediterranean Programs (IMPs) were established in 1985 for a period of 7 years in order to help 'the southern regions of the present Community' – defined as the whole of Greece, parts of southern France and most of southern Italy – 'to adjust under the best conditions possible to the new situation created by enlargement'. In addition, Papandreu pushed for introducing the concept of cohesion into the EEC Treaty by the Single European Act in 1987. Existing "structural" policies of the Community were reviewed and re-organised, and levels of financial support through the Community were increased substantially. The IMPs were financed by a contribution from the structural funds, a special line in the annual Budget and a loan facility from the European Investment Bank (EIB). They were not renewed, but Greece,

Portugal and Spain were able to benefit from the new European Cohesion Fund from 1993 onwards.

In addition was his government that put forward the institution of the European Capital of Culture (City of Culture at that time) to bring Europeans closer together by highlighting the richness and diversity of European cultures and raising awareness of their common history and values. It was believed that at the time, culture was not given the same attention as politics and economics and a project for promoting European cultures within the member states should be pursued. The European City of Culture programme was launched in the summer of 1985 with Athens being the first title-holder.

In his final European Council Meeting as Chair, in Corfu in June 1994, the Accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden was finalised with the signing of the respective Acts of Accession, an important step in European Integration process.

In addition to his European Policy, as Prime Minister he was responsible for enhancing the legal status of women, abolishing the dowry system, legally guarantying the right of equal pay for equal work and legalising abortion. He also tried to heal the wounds of the Greek Civil War (1946-1949) by facilitating the repatriation of political refugees from that era and legally recognising the left wing organisations of National Resistance during the Nazi occupation.

Andreas Papandreou was an historic figure for Greece and Europe. He was the longest serving Prime Minister during the Third Greek Republic and the third longest serving in general. He played a significant role in the transition to and the establishment of Democracy in Greece following the fall of the military Junta in July 1974.

As already mentioned, this year we commemorate the 25th anniversary of his death, we strongly believe that this is the most appropriate momentum to honour the outstanding work of this eminent European figure as Mr Papandreou was, by naming a meeting room or a space in one of our buildings in the European Parliament.

We thank you in advance for your kind consideration of our request and sincerely hope that we can count on your support.

We remain at your disposal for any further information you may require and look forward to the pleasure of hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Iratxe GARCIA PEREZ  
President  
S&D Group in the EP

Nikos ANDROULAKIS  
Head of the Greek Delegation  
S&D Group in the EP