

Dimitris Tsatsos Prize 2016

The Boards of Directors of the Centre for European Constitutional Law-Themistokles and Dimitris Tsatsos Foundation (CECL) and the Dimitris-Tsatsos-Institut für Europäische Verfassungswissenschaften (DTIEV) have decided for the following reasons to award the Dimitris Tsatsos Prize to the former President of the Italian Republic Giorgio Napolitano.

I. Throughout his entire long political career Giorgio Napolitano proved to be deeply committed to the idea of European integration and influenced considerably its implementation in the political process:

- member of the former Italian PCI from 1945 until the foundation of the “Partito Democratico” he strongly contributed to the European orientation of this party, known as “Eurocommunism” and, with a minor interruption, member of the Italian Camera dei Deputati from 1953 until 1996, he was a key actor promoting the emergence of a European political left;
- in particular since the 80ies, already chairing the parliamentary group of his party, he dealt with issues of international and European policy; e.g. chairing the Camera’s committee on foreign affairs in the period preceding and during the negotiations on the Treaty of Amsterdam;
- holding highest offices – President of the “Camera” (June 1992- April 1994) – Minister for Home Affairs in the government Prodi (May 1996 – October 1998) he was also active in the Italian section of the European Movement of which he was the President as from 1995;
- having already served as Member of the European Parliament between 1989 and 1992, he was re-elected to it in 1999. From July 1999 until May 2004 he chaired its committee on constitutional affairs which at that time inspired and monitored the proceedings of the Convention on Fundamental Rights and the Constitutional

Convention; as a rapporteur he particularly dealt with the delicate issue of relations between the European Parliament and national Parliaments;

- Subsequently to the expiry of his European mandate the then President of the Italian Republic appointed him Member of the Italian Senate at lifetime;
- Elected President of the Italian Republic on 10 May 2006 the conduct of his Presidency was highly respected inside and outside Italy and was exemplary in serving the interests of his country while always placing them in the wider context of an economically and politically integrated Europe.

II. Giorgio Napolitano's intellectual capacity and his personal integrity have been highly appreciated by the founder of our institutes, Dimitris Tsatsos:

- During the electoral period 1999-2004 Tsatsos held important responsibilities in the committee chaired by Napolitano. As one of EP's representatives at the Nice Intergovernmental Conference he needed to cooperate closely with him;
- Amongst many other publications and public statements, Giorgio Napolitano contributed to the public awareness of the European constitutional process by publishing in 2002 a book with the title "Europa Politica";
- The mutual esteem is demonstrated by the fact that the edition in English of D. Tsatsos' book "European Sympolity" is prefaced by Giorgio Napolitano.

III. In conclusion, on the grounds of his lifetime work Giorgio Napolitano is an outstanding authority on European affairs, both intellectually and politically, who in the accomplishment of his duties has successfully promoted the European cause and defended it against its detractors, a valid example for the generations to come.