

European United Left • Nordic Green Left



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

GUE/NGL

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Co-Presidents of the GUE/NGL Group in the European Parliament

Dimitrios Papadimoulis

Vice-President of the European Parliament, Head of the Greek Delegation in the GUE/NGL Group

To the attention of:

Mr. David Maria Sassoli

President of the European Parliament

Mr. Klaus Welle

Secretary General of the European Parliament

Paris, Berlin and Athens, 2 April 2020

Subject: Request to name an appropriate meeting room (ASP 1G2) in the European Parliament after the late Manolis Glezos, a historic figure of resistance against fascism and a former MEP.

Dear President D.Sassoli,

Dear Secretary General K.Welle,

With this letter, we would like to request, on behalf of the GUE/NGL political group, to name an appropriate meeting room, in the European Parliament after the late Manolis Glezos, a historic figure of resistance against fascism and former member of the European Parliament. This room could be the ASP 1G2, which is used by our Group for its meetings.

Given that the customary practice is to name Parliamentary conference rooms after eminent personalities, with long-standing achievements based on European and democratic values, who gather broad political support, we strongly believe that our proposal fully meets the above-mentioned criteria.

Manolis Glezos, who died on 30 March at the age of 97, was a Greek resistance hero fighter, who at 18 years old famously tore down swastika from Acropolis, in 1941. He was a pillar of the international fight against repression and inequality, a symbol of resistance against fascism, a politician respected by all democratic political forces and a former member of the European Parliament. For many decades, he was politically active at European, national and local level. He was also an active journalist and writer.

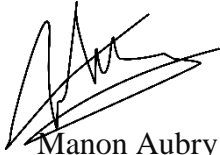
You can find attached a brief biographical note and recent publications of international media on the occasion of his death.

Throughout his life, Manolis Glezos was an inspiration and an example of struggle for freedom, democracy and social justice, appreciated and respected by all democratic forces both in Greece and in Europe.

Yours sincerely,

The Co-Presidents of the GUE/NGL Group

The Vice-President of the European Parliament



M. Schirdewan

Manon Aubry and Martin Schirdewan



Dimitrios Papadimoulis

MANOLIS GLEZOS

Brief Biographical Note

Manolis Glezos, who died on 30 March 2020 at the age of 97, was a Greek resistance hero fighter, who at 18 years old famously tore down swastika from Acropolis, in 1941. He was a pillar of the international fight against repression and inequality, a symbol of resistance against fascism, a politician respected by all democratic political forces and a former member of the European Parliament. He was also an active journalist and writer.

After the WWII, he was imprisoned and still being in prison was elected in 1951 for the first time as member of the Greek Parliament with the United Democratic Left (EDA). He was re-elected in 1961. After the military coup d'état in 1967, he was imprisoned again by the military dictatorship. It is characteristic, that until 1974, when democracy was re-established in Greece, Manolis Glezos served almost 12 years in prison and 5 years in exile and was convicted and sentenced to death three times!

During all these years many international personalities openly supported and campaigned for his freedom and release, such as Pablo Picasso, Jean Paul Sartre and Charles de Gaulle.

Afterwards, he continued his political activism and participation, at European, national and local level. He was elected as Member of the European Parliament, as EDA leader cooperated with the Panhellenic Social Movement (PASOK) in the Socialist Group in 1984-85 and with SYRIZA in GUE/NGL in 2014-2015. He was a Member of the Greek Parliament from 1981 to 1987 with EDA/PASOK and from 2012 to 2014 with SYRIZA. Believing in local and grassroots democracy, he was also active in local governance, becoming in 1986 the President of the Apyranthos Commune in Naxos Island, a political movement with both substance and symbolism. He was also candidate for the Attica Prefecture in 2002.

Indicative links of international media on the occasion of his death on 30 March

<https://www.lefigaro.fr/flash-actu/grece-mort-de-manolis-glezos-premier-resistant-d-europe-selon-le-general-de-gaulle-20200330>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/30/former-greek-nazi-resistance-fighter-and-mep-manolis-glezos-dies-aged-98>

<http://www.ekathimerini.com/251147/article/ekathimerini/news/greek-president-offers-condolences-over-death-of-glezos>

<https://elpais.com/internacional/2020-03-30/manolis-glezos-heroe-de-la-resistencia-griega.html>

<https://www.dw.com/en/greek-anti-nazi-resistance-hero-manolis-glezos-dead-at-97/a-52959404>

<https://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2020/03/30/world/europe/ap-eu-greece-obit-glezos.html>