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Former Italian President G. Napolitano sadly passes away

With deep regret and sadness, we announce that the Former Italian President (2006-2015) Giorgio Napolitano, father of the Member of the European Group of Public Law, Giulio Napolitano, passed away on September 22, 2023 at the age of 98 years.

Giorgio Napolitano honored the EPLO by signing the Treaty establishing the EPLO on behalf of the Italian Republic.

He was born in Naples and since 1942 as an undergraduate he joined a group of young anti-Fascists and in 1945 he joined the Italian Communist Party, of which he was a militant and then a leader until the Democratic Party of the Left was established.

During the 1980s his activity focused mainly on international and European policy issues, both as a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies (from 1984 to 1992 and from 1994 to 1996) and of the Italian delegation to the North Atlantic Assembly, and also through manifold political and cultural initiatives. As far back as the 1970s he was an active lecturer abroad, visiting International Policy Institutes in the UK and Germany and many US Universities (Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Chicago, Berkeley, SAIS and CSIS in Washington).

From 1989 to 1992 he was a Member of the European Parliament. From June 1999 to June 2004, he chaired the Constitutional Affairs Committee of the European Parliament.

On September 23rd 2005 he was appointed life Senator by the President of the Republic, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi. On May 10th 2006 he was elected President of the Republic with 543 votes.

In recognition of his dedication to the cause of Parliamentary democracy and his contribution to the *rapprochement* between the Italian Left and European Socialism, in 1997 he was awarded the Leibnitz-Ring International Award in Hannover for his "lifelong" commitment. In the field of the "march towards democracy" he was awarded the 2010 Dan David prize in Tel Aviv, for his contribution to the strengthening of the values and of the democratic institutions in Italy and Europe. He received various academic awards *honoris causa*. He undertook an intense publishing and editorial activity.

The EPLO sends its most sincere condolences to his son and family.