

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MARIO P. CHITI*

Dear friends and colleagues,

IN my long academic career I have received various institutional and scientific awards, however today's *laudatio* particularly touched me. It was decided by the EGPL, an association that brings together the best jurists of European Public Law; the two *laudationes* presented by colleagues Elisenda Malaret and Barbara Marchetti examined with affectionate completeness and depth my scientific activities of the last sixty years. My thanks and gratitude to the Group and to the two dear colleagues.

I have dedicated the majority of my scientific activity to the construction of European Public Law since the beginning of the nineties; above all due to the stimulus of Masters such as Sabino Cassese and Jürgen Schwarze. On this path I met the best scientific youth of the time with whom I achieved a fruitful interaction, which still continues; also through our students.

The European Group of Public Law, in which I have participated since its foundation, has played an important role in this path towards a new European Public Law, perhaps even more relevant than the hopes of us founders. Despite the progressive creation of other associations, research groups, joint projects, the EGPL remains the main network in Public Law; today even beyond its initial strictly European dimension.

All this was possible due to a feeling progressively shared among many colleagues in Public Law which led to overcoming the purely

* Emeritus Professor at the University of Florence

national approach that had long characterized our discipline. First with the “discovery” of comparative Public Law, then with the construction of a common Public Law.

In concrete terms, despite this underlying trend according to which the time was ripe since the 1980s, the EGPL would not have established itself in such a rapid and vast way without the work of dear Spyros Flogaitis, our “*miglior fabbro*”.

To him, as in the memory of his Master Epaminondas Spiliotopoulos who was my mentor when I arrived in Greece as a young professor (at the time with the Chair at the University of Cagliari), the most grateful gratitude.

Despite my “venerable” age, I understood this *laudatio* not as a reward for a career that has now ended; although, above all, as a stimulus to continue my studies, Good willing. This is my commitment that I make with the colleagues and the young scholars today gathered.

Ad maiora dear friends!