

Beyond Knowledge: Wisdom, Values and Ethics for Europe

George N. Christodoulou

President of the Congress

In an era characterised by unprecedented scientific advancement, accumulation of knowledge alone is no longer sufficient to address the complex challenges humanity is facing.

We must move beyond knowledge, towards guidance of knowledge by values-informed and ethics-informed wisdom.

Within this context, I suggest defining wisdom as a frame of mind shaped by values and ethics. Values referring to one's moral attitude on a personal level and ethics referring to the person's moral attitude on a social level (towards others).

In the spirit of the Hippocratic tradition, healing can become harmful if ethical boundaries are ignored. This ethical reservation became central in modern bioethics especially following the abuses of Medicine like the medical experimentations, eugenics etc during the 20th century and the abuse of Psychiatry that followed.

However, unethical use of scientific information is by no means limited to Medicine. Any discipline can potentially become subject of abuse.

A case of catastrophic use of knowledge is when modern technology is utilised to make armed conflict more "effective". Abuse of Artificial Intelligence is likely to expand this problem to unprecedented dimensions.

For the above reasons, the EAPE has produced a Position Statement for Preservation of Peace (July 2025) (in line with the Athens anti-war Declaration, 2016) the main points of which I will summarise here:

War steals life, health and hope. It destroys economy, nutrition and ecosystems

It produces enormous human suffering (PTSD, depression, anxiety) and emotional disregulation, disruption of attachment and behavioral problems in children

Destroys societies from within

The trauma of war persists through transgenerational transmission and thus robs future generations.

In view of the above

We, the members of the EAPE declare the following:

We perceive it as an ethical obligation to raise our voice to condemn war and appeal for peace

Our appeal is not motivated by political or ideological considerations

We call for an immediate cessation of all wars in every land, under every flag, by all sides

We urge all leaders to act

Conclusion

In the name of human dignity

In the name of logos (reason)

In the spirit of shared responsibility

For the sake of generations to come

WE, THE PROFESSORS EMERITI OF EUROPE CALL FOR PEACE NOW

Given in Athens, 25 July 2025

References

EAPE Position Statements

<http://europemeriti.org>

Athens Anti-war Declaration (2016).