



NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'OTAN

THE SECRETARY GENERAL
LA SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRALE

057 CIR 22 E

28 February 2022

TO SECRETARIES OF DELEGATION FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ALL MEMBERS

Dear Member,

I am profoundly saddened to inform you that NATO PA Vice-President Marietta Giannakou of Greece passed away yesterday after a month-long struggle in intensive care to recover from a severe hematoma caused by a fall.

Marietta was one of the most experienced and highly respected political figure in Greece. A medical doctor by training, Marietta quickly became active in politics. She was a founding member of the youth organisation of the New Democracy party and a member of its Executive Board. She rose quickly through the ranks of the party to become member of its Executive Committee and Political Council and Secretary for International Relations.

Marietta was elected to the European Parliament in 1984, serving three terms from 1984-1990, from 1999-2000 and again 2009-2014. She was Greece's Minister of Health, Welfare and Social Security from 1990-1991.

Marietta also served three terms in the Greek parliament from 1993-99, from 2000-2007 and again since July 2019. In the Hellenic Parliament, she was a member of the Standing Committee on National Defence and Foreign Affairs, the Standing Committee on Public Administration, Public Order and Justice, the Special Standing Committee on European Affairs and the Constitutional Revision Committee.

Among her many achievements, Marietta represented the Hellenic Parliament on the Convention on the Future of Europe. She was also National Coordinator of Greece in the EU for combating drugs and chaired the European Parliament's Inquiry Committee on the Drugs problem in the Member States.

Marietta Giannakou has been honoured by Chile, France, Germany, Italy and Poland for her work.

Marietta joined the NATO PA in September 2019 as Head of the Greek delegation and member of the Political Committee and Mediterranean and Middle East Special Group, bringing both her vast European experience and a profound sense of commitment to the transatlantic relationship. She was elected Vice-President of the Assembly in November 2020. Marietta in fact hosted our online annual session in 2020 and was due to host the Standing Committee for its spring meeting in April 2022.

Besides her political insights and experience, her friends in the NATO PA will miss her courage, resolve and kindness.

Our thoughts are with Marietta's daughter Zoe, her sister, relatives and loved ones.

I will let you know as soon as possible where messages of condolence can be addressed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruxandra Popa'.

Ruxandra Popa

