



STATEMENT

on Recent Developments in Greek Universities

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The European Democrat Students call for a National Student Council and open Universities.

On Behalf of European Democrat Students we express our deep concerns about the new Greek Law on the field of higher education, and the direct and indirect consequences currently playing out in the Greek student community as a result.

We declare our support for the right of the student communities to express their worries, or even objections to parliamentary decisions. It is one of the core aims of EDS to encourage students and young people to systematically state their opinions about any issues they face with their systems of higher education. On this regard, we fully support our full member DAP-NDFK's proposal on creating a National Student Council of Greece.

Greece is the only country among the 40 Members of the Council of Europe that has no representation in ESU (European Students Union) and the only State in the EU of 27 that has no student representation in the EU Ministerial Summit of Education. The creation of a National Student Council has been blocked for many years despite the calls of DAP-NDFK towards the other Organizations, and we believe it is time to end this irresponsible lack of action.

We strongly condemn any actions which result in complete or de facto closing of universities during the academic year, as we believe that students have a right to receive education in the institutions where they are enrolled in. Furthermore, it is our strong belief that student ideas can be expressed best, and their requests taken into the consideration by the rest of the society only when the universities operate normally. Therefore we support the role of DAP-NDFK being the only Organization with a clear will to open all Universities.

We are deeply alarmed by the September's occupation of a large number of universities in Greece. We do not recognise the legitimacy of any actions which restrain the fundamental right of free access to higher education. Thus we urge all students concerned to realise that the only group harmed by their actions are the students themselves.

We urge the whole academic community focus on this unwarranted situation and to give their best efforts in convincing the students responsible to immediately cease any occupations and other activities preventing universities from continuing their normal operation. Furthermore, we call the academic community, the Greek State and the Greek Justice System to follow all the legal procedures in order to protect rule of law, human rights and democratic values upon these difficult times.

