

Professor Yannis G. Valinakis

Professor Yannis G. Valinakis is currently President of the Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence at the University of Athens and a member of the Academic Council of the W. Martens Centre for European Studies in Brussels.

Academic Career

Born in Athens in 1955, Yannis Valinakis studied Law at the University of Athens and Political Science at the University of Heidelberg. He completed postgraduate studies at the University of Sorbonne - Paris I (DEA in International Politics, DEA in Defense Policy, DEA in History of International Relations) and received his Ph.D. (with honours) from the same University, in 1981. He became Assistant Professor at the University of Thrace Law School in 1983, Professor of International Relations at Athens University in 1992, Jean Monnet Professor in European Diplomacy in 1996, Dean of the Law School at Neapolis University in 2013, Jean Monnet Professor Ad Personam in 2013 and Visiting Professor, Law School, Nicosia University (2014-2015).

Professor Valinakis has also taught at the National Defense School, the Centre for Diplomatic Studies, the National School of Public Administration and at various Greek and foreign universities (London School of Economics and Political Science, Neapolis University etc). He has published widely in five languages in the fields of European and International affairs and Strategic Studies. His major works are: "Greece's EEZ", (forthcoming 2017); "Exiting the Crisis; Realistic Proposals", Papazisis Publ., Athens, 2014; "Greece's European Policy Making", London, LSE European Institute, 2012; "Greek Foreign and European Policy", Athens, Sideris 2010; "With Vision and Planning; Foreign Policy for Greece", Athens, Paratiritis, 1998; "International Relations and Strategy in the Nuclear Age", Thessaloniki, Paratiritis 2001; "The Black Sea Region: Challenges and Opportunities for Europe", Paris, Western European Union Institute for Security Studies, 1999; "Greece's Security Policy in the Post Cold War Era", Ebenhausen, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, 1994; "International Negotiations", Athens, 1998, etc.

Research-Related Positions

Professor Valinakis served as Director of Studies and General Director (1988-1997) of the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) and Director General (2000-2004) and President of the Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence at Athens University (since 2010). He has also served as Member of the Executive Board of the Centre for European Studies in Brussels (2008-2017) and as a member of the Editorial Board of the "European View" journal (since 2005), Resident Fellow at the Institute for East-West Studies in New York (1982-1983), Senior Fellow at the Institute for Security Studies of the European Union (Paris 1997-1998), Visiting Senior Fellow at the European Institute (London School of Economics (2011-2012), and at other prominent research institutions.

He has also worked as a senior consultant to international organizations (such as the EU, the WEU and BSEC) and to Greek and other governmental bodies. Professor Valinakis has also served in international Commissions, such as the International Expert Committee of the Fondation Chirac in Paris (2011-2014) and as a Member of the Planning Staff of the Greek

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1991-93) and as an Advisor to the Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs (1983-86).

Political Career

Professor Valinakis followed a Europe-related political career for more than a decade. First in the opposition, as Advisor for European and International Affairs to the Nea Demokratia Party leader Kostas Karamanlis, and as Secretary of International Relations and European Affairs of this Party (1998-2004). He was elected member of the Political Bureau of the European People's Party (EPP), member of the Executive Committee of the European Democrat Union (EDU) and member of the Executive Committee of the International Democrat Union (IDU).

After the national election of 2004, Yannis Valinakis became Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (2004-2009), responsible for Political and European Affairs, and Member of Parliament (2004-2009).

As Deputy Minister he served as Greece's chief negotiator in all major European multilateral negotiations, including on the European Constitutional and (later on) Lisbon Treaty (2004-2008), the EU 2007-2013 Budget, and the Union's enlargement and association negotiations.

In his ministerial capacity, he participated in more than 30 EU ministerial meetings (GAERC - General Affairs and External Relations Council) and in more than 30 Ministerial Meetings of NATO, The Council of Europe, OSCE, Black Sea Cooperation Council, South East European Cooperation Process, Mediterranean Forum; he substituted for the Foreign Minister or the Prime Minister as head of the Greek delegation in a large number of Ministerial meetings / Heads of State-Government summits including the EU-GCC, EU-Asia, EU-ASEAN, EU-Latin America, EU-Africa and Southeast European Cooperation Process.

As European Affairs Minister, Prof. Valinakis also initiated the "Olive Group" and participated (in more than ten) informal ministerial Meetings of the EU's 12 Mediterranean Member-States; he co-initiated the Group of 18 like-minded countries in the framework of the Financial Perspectives 2007-2013 negotiation, Meetings of the European Affairs Ministers on EU Maritime Policy, the informal Group Friends of the German Presidency to support efforts towards a new EU Treaty, etc. He also participated in more than 20 ministerial Meetings on "Communicating Europe". Finally, he negotiated and signed on Greece's behalf the Accession Treaties to the EU of Bulgaria and Romania and several SAA and other international Agreements of the Union.

Decorations and Distinctions

In 2013 he was honoured by the European Commission with the "Jean Monnet Chair ad Personam", in 1995 with the Jean Monnet Chair in European Diplomacy and in 2000, 2010 and 2017 with the "Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence". Yannis Valinakis also holds numerous international state decorations (including by the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, China, Denmark, Norway etc) and distinctions.

Languages

Yannis Valinakis is fluent in English, French and German and has a working knowledge of Spanish, Italian and Russian.

He is married to Supreme Court lawyer Christina Haratsari and is the father of a daughter, Christianna, lawyer (LLM Queen Mary University of London).