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IN MEMORY TO

**Professor Nikos Katsaros (1938–2022)**

On January 19, 2022, our dear colleague, and friend, Professor Nikos Katsaros passed away. He worked at the “Demokritos” Natural Sciences Research Center and was the former President of the Association of Greek Chemists (AGC, EEX).

Nikos Katsaros was born in Gimari, Corfu, in 1938, lived and grew up in Athens. He studied at the University of Athens, where he was admitted 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Department of Chemistry out of 750 candidates and received his B.S. degree in chemistry in 1961. He completed his studies at the University of Massachusetts, USA, wherefrom he received an M.S. in 1967 and a Ph.D. in 1968. He then served as a Visiting Research Fellow at Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY, USA. In 1969, he joined the University of Georgia, USA, as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry. In 1970, Nikos was appointed Researcher at the “Demokritos” Nuclear Research Center. In 1972, he served as Visiting Research Fellow at Imperial College London, United Kingdom. From 1976 to 2004, he worked as a Principal Researcher at the National Center for Natural Sciences Research (EKEFE) “Demokritos”. Also, in 1983–1998, he served as Visiting Professor of Chemistry at the University of Maryland, USA.

From 1989 to 1993 he served in the Hellenic Ministry of Industry, Energy and Technology, as Secretary General for Research and Technology and in 2004–2005 as President of the Hellenic Food Organization (EFET). Professor Katsaros served for four terms as President of the Association of Greek Chemists (AGC) and twice as its Vice-President. He was also a member of the Chemistry Europe Fellow and was honored in 2020 for his services. He was the Honorary Member of the Serbian Chemical Society.

His research interests included inorganic biochemistry, food chemistry, food safety, radiochemistry, environmental chemistry, and toxic waste management. He published over 200 scientific articles and texts on these subjects. Prof. Katsaros was the member of Editorial Board of the Journal of the Serbian Chemical Society.

The field of education has always been at his heart and therefore he had unceasing activity either in organizing and participating in Postgraduate Programs of Greek Universities (Ioannina, Patras and National and Kapodistrian University of Athens), or in teaching at private colleges such as Deree College and New York College, where he worked until recently as Head of the Department of Human Nutrition and Life Sciences.

Nikos Katsaros was distinguished for his intelligence. He was an emblematic president of the EEC, AGC. He had distinct qualifications, which he used in his studies, in research, in his scientific activities and in his social struggles. In the context of the activities of the Association of Greek Chemists, he had the initiative of organizing many Panhellenic Chemistry Conferences, Greece–Cyprus Chemistry Conferences and the establishment of the institution of the Panhellenic Student Chemistry Competitions.

As part of European and Western Balkan community, he, as president of the Association of Greek Chemists, was founder and main driving force of series of International Conferences of the Chemical Societies of the South-Eastern European Countries (SEEC). As a consequence of this visionary approach the conferences brought together and interconnected SEEC chemists into close partnership where from the scientific collaboration on many bilateral and multilateral projects emerged.

While being president of AGC in spring 1999 he, and complete AGC leadership, made a self-organized visit to Serbian Chemical Society bringing dioxin standards and HPLC/MS spare parts to our institutions analyzing the toxic chemical effects after NATO bombing of Serbia. Also, the AGC management insisted, and visited freshly bombed HCl, ammonia and chlorine production sites at Petrohemija, Pančevo, and bombed oil refinery in Novi Sad. This friendly gesture of Nikos, and AGC, will be kept in Serbian chemists' hearts forever.

We, your colleagues, your friends and associates say goodbye today to Nikos Katsaros, a worthy scientist, family man, visionary and useful social worker.

Have a nice trip, kiss Nikos, dear colleague, and late partner.

May your memory be eternal.

Prof. Panayotis P. Siskos  
Prof. Bogdan A. Šolaja  
Prof. Branislav Nikolić