

*Council of Europe*  
*The Secretary General*

Strasbourg, 17 October 2023

Dear President,

It is with great sadness that I have learnt of the death of the former President of Finland and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Martti Ahtisaari.

He will always be remembered in Europe for his tireless efforts to end military conflict and to promote dialogue and understanding among people and nations.

We fondly remember Mr Ahtisaari's attachment to and involvement in our Organisation, in particular for his participation in our debates on European identity in 2013 and the many occasions he addressed our Parliamentary Assembly. His example will continue to teach us how important it is to never abandon our endeavours to resolve peacefully even the most bitter of conflicts. This lesson remains, now and in the future, one of utmost relevance.

I would like to offer you my sincere condolences, both personally and in my capacity as Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and I should be most grateful if you would also transmit my condolences to his family, the Finnish people and authorities for their loss.

Yours sincerely,



Marija Pejčinović Burić

Mr Sauli Niinistö  
President of the Republic of Finland