



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
THE PRIME MINISTER

Athens, 31 December 2025

Dear President,

Dear Roberta.

On the occasion of the establishment of the European Order of Merit, I have the honour to submit the nomination of Giannis Antetokounmpo, a world-renowned basketball player, global humanitarian and European cultural ambassador.

One of the most decorated champions in NBA history, Antetokounmpo has won consecutive NBA Most Valuable Player (MVP) awards. Moreover, he has received nine NBA All-Star selections, including being chosen as an All-Star captain in 2019, 2020, 2023 and 2024. In recognition of his sporting achievements, the Hellenic Olympic Committee designated him as one of the Greek flag bearers for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Through sport, Giannis has brought international attention to European excellence, demonstrating that European athletes and institutions can compete at the highest global level. His success has strengthened Europe's cultural influence and visibility in world sport.

Giannis Antetokounmpo is one of Europe's most influential global figures, whose life story, public leadership and humanitarian commitment embody the core values of the European Union: human dignity, equality, social inclusion, multiculturalism and opportunity.

Giannis was born in 1994 and raised in Athens by Nigerian immigrant parents who lived without citizenship, reflecting the challenges faced by immigrant communities across Europe. In 2013, he became a Greek citizen, not by heritage alone but by civic belonging—embodying the principle that Europe is built on shared values rather than ethnicity. His journey reflects the success of European integration through opportunity, fairness and social mobility. As a world-renowned athlete, Giannis is a symbol of modern European identity: diverse, resilient and united.

***H.E. The President of the European Parliament
Ms. Roberta Metsola***

Furthermore, through his international platform, philanthropic initiatives and public advocacy, Giannis promotes European values worldwide while inspiring millions across the continent. As an Ambassador of European Values, he consistently advances anti-racism, immigrant inclusion, youth opportunity, mental-health awareness and respect across cultures. His story is frequently cited in schools, the media and public institutions as an example of how Europe can succeed when it invests in human potential.

In addition, Giannis and his family have launched multiple charitable initiatives in Greece and Africa, including the construction of youth sports facilities in underserved neighbourhoods, the funding of education programmes for refugee and immigrant children, and disaster-relief donations following wildfires and floods.

Giannis Antetokounmpo is not only a sporting icon; he is a living example of European integration in action, representing the success of multicultural Europe, the power of inclusion, the dignity of opportunity and, above all, the global strength of European values. By honouring Giannis Antetokounmpo, the European Order of Merit would recognize the triumph of the European idea itself.

I am confident that this nomination is fully aligned with the objectives of the Order and with the European Parliament's intention to honour individuals whose achievements have meaningfully advanced European values.



Kyriakos Mitsotakis