



Der Vorsitzende - The Chairman - Le Président

Mr David Sassoli
President of the European Parliament

Brussels, 9 February 2021

Subject: Sophie Scholl Building of the European Parliament in Brussels

Dear President Sassoli,

On behalf of the EPP Group, I hereby would like to share a proposal with a view to naming the building of the European Parliament located at Rue Wiertz 30-50, in Brussels, after Sophie Scholl.

Sophie Scholl was a German student and anti-Nazi political activist. As a young student, she fought for a free, democratic, and peaceful Europe. Because of her democratic and pro-European resistance against the NS regime, she was executed in 1943.

Sophie Scholl was born in Forchtenberg, Baden-Württemberg, Germany, and studied at the University of Munich. She was one of the most active members of the "Weiße Rose". The group conducted an anonymous leaflet and graffiti campaign that called for active opposition to the Nazi regime. Their activities started in Munich, in 1942, and ended with the arrest of the core group by the Gestapo in 1943. Sophie Scholl was executed together with her brother and friends four days after their arrest, on the 22th of February 1943.

Sophie, who was inspired by her Christian beliefs, exposed the Nazi regime's crimes and oppression, and called for resistance. The "Weiße Rose" openly denounced the persecution and mass murder of the Jews. Sophie Scholl's dream, which she eventually paid with her life, was a free and democratic Europe. The "Weiße Rose" wrote:

"The imperialist idea of power must be disarmed, whatever side it comes from, for all time. [...] Only with generous cooperation between the peoples of Europe will it be possible to create the ground on which a new construction is possible. Freedom of speech, freedom of confession, protection of the individual citizen from the arbitrariness of violent criminal states - these are the foundations of the new Europe".

For her outstanding democratic, pro-European commitment and her remarkable civic courage, I kindly request to name "Sophie Scholl" the building of the European Parliament located at Rue Wiertz 30-50 in Brussels.

I thank you in advance for your consideration and I look forward to your positive response to the request.

Yours sincerely,

Manfred Weber

cc: Secretary-General Klaus Welle