

HELLENIC PARLIAMENT

**THEODOROS V. ROUSOPOULOS**

**MP for B1 North Athens Electoral District – New Democracy Political Party  
Former President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe**

Athens, 16 March 2026

Dear President, *Dear Julie,*

I hope this message finds you well.

The occasions on which we met after your election as President of the German Bundestag remain particularly memorable, during the period when I had the honour of serving as President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Our conversations always took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere, something that has been greatly appreciated.

In the same spirit of friendship, this letter is addressed to you today in my capacity as a long-standing member of the Hellenic Parliament and as someone who had the privilege, for many years, of chairing the Greek-German Parliamentary Friendship Group.

It has recently come to attention that the Greek service of Deutsche Welle may be discontinued. Such a development is a matter of concern to many people in Greece.

For Greeks, Deutsche Welle has never been merely another international broadcaster. It forms part of our democratic memory. During the years of the military dictatorship, when freedom of expression was suppressed and independent information was scarce, its voice reached Greek citizens as a source of reliable news and as a sign of democratic hope.

For more than six decades, the Greek service has also served as an important bridge between Germany and Greece. Through its journalism it has contributed to mutual understanding between our societies while also addressing the large Greek community living in Germany.

Having worked in journalism for twenty years before entering politics, the quality and credibility of the reporting offered by the Greek service of Deutsche Welle can be particularly appreciated from a professional perspective.

It is also encouraging that a public petition has already been launched on the Bundestag platform calling for the preservation of the Greek service. The mobilisation around this initiative shows how strongly its role continues to be valued.

I would therefore like to ask you personally, if possible, to look into this matter and see whether a way might be found to preserve the Greek service of Deutsche Welle.

Preserving this voice today would honour a remarkable historical legacy and would be deeply appreciated by many Greeks.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TR', written over a vertical line.

Theodoros Rousopoulos