

Subject: EAA – Democracy and the Palestinian Issue

The Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA), which took place in Belgrade in 2025, was marked by a serious crisis in the democratic functioning of this important institution. Specifically, the Association's Executive Board failed to respect the decision democratically adopted by the General Assembly, which clearly and unequivocally condemned the brutal attacks perpetrated in Gaza by the State of Israel. This decision called for the suspension of Israeli institutions (and not Israeli citizens), in line with the measures previously adopted with regard to Russian and Belarusian institutions following the invasion of Ukraine. This situation was further worsened by the censorship exercised by the Executive Board against archaeologists, curtailing their right to freedom of expression and seeking to prevent demonstrations of solidarity with Palestine or denunciations of the genocide in Gaza.

One year on, with the next EAA Annual Meeting in Athens fast approaching, the fundamental issues remain unresolved. The decision approved by the General Assembly continues to be disregarded, constituting a serious violation of the Association's internal democratic processes and of the principles that should govern its functioning. Likewise, no accountability has been established regarding the acts of censorship imposed by the Executive Board. The EAA's passivity and negligence in the face of the serious human rights violations perpetrated by the State of Israel in Gaza and, more recently, in the West Bank, are a stain on the history of the Association and constitute an act of complicity in the genocide of the Palestinian people. Although, in April 2026, the EAA condemned Israel's criminal expropriation and occupation of the archaeological site of Sebastia, in the West Bank, as well as its use for ideological purposes, much remains to be done. In the face of genocide, silence cannot be an option.



Accordingly, STARQ – the Archaeology Workers’ Trade Union (of Portugal) – calls on the EAA Executive Board to respect the Association’s internal democratic process, which represents European archaeologists, and to assume due responsibility for its actions over the past year. STARQ also condemns any and all forms of censorship, particularly the censorship that took place at the 2025 Annual Meeting, and calls on all EAA members not to give up on continuing to build an association grounded in the values of democracy, equality and solidarity.

Finally, STARQ expresses its solidarity with the Palestinian people, victims of violence and destruction on a devastating scale, carried out in full view of the world.

Greetings,

The STARQ Executive Committee