

# Laudation

## For the 2026 Lifetime Achievement Award

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The Jury has this year chosen to award the prize to **Stefano Bartolini**.

The jury had the following to say:

It is a great honour to present the ECPR Lifetime Achievement Prize to Stefano Bartolini.

This award recognises a truly exceptional scholarly career, and in this case, the jury's assessment was unequivocal. Across all five criteria—scholarly contribution, discipline-shaping impact, European relevance, institution-building, and sustained lifetime achievement—Professor Bartolini received the highest possible evaluation, reflecting the extraordinary breadth and depth of his contributions.

At the heart of his achievement lies a body of work that has fundamentally shaped our understanding of European politics. His scholarship stands out for its originality and analytical power, offering concepts and frameworks that have become reference points for generations of political scientists.

His work on party systems, political competition, and the structuring of political space has not only advanced knowledge but redefined key research agendas within the discipline.

The European dimension of his scholarship is particularly noteworthy. His research has been deeply engaged with the development of European political science as both a field of study and a scholarly community. In doing so, he has helped bridge national traditions and foster a genuinely European intellectual space, making his influence both substantive and institutional.

## Daniela Irrera

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On behalf of the  
Lifetime Achievement Award Prize Jury  
European Consortium for Political Research