



Interparliamentary Assembly
on Orthodoxy (I.A.O.)



Conference of European
Churches (CEC)



Commission of the Bishops' Conferences
of the European Union (COMECE)



Holy Metropolis
of Thessaloniki



Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH)
Faculty of Theology

**International Political Conference: “Politics as an Area for Expressing Christian
Values in Everyday Life”**
Thessaloniki, 15 – 17 May 2024

DRAFT PROGRAM

Wednesday, 15 May 2024

18.20 Arrival of participants (2nd floor, “Amphitheater A” of the AUTH Faculty of Theology)

18.30 Inaugural Ceremony

19.30 Closing of the Inaugural Ceremony

Commemorative photo

19.30 Departure for dinner

20.00 Dinner offered by the Deputy President of the Hellenic Parliament Mr. Athanasios Bouras at the AUTH Agriculture Farm (Petrina)

Thursday, 16 May 2024

10.00 Round Table I: State/National Interests and Christian Values yesterday and today

Moderators: Prof. Apostolos Kralidis (Head of the Dept. of Social Theology & Christian Culture, AUTH Faculty of Theology) – Mr. Stavros Tzimas (Journalist)

Participants:

- Prof. Emmanuel Karageorgoudis, Dean of the NKUA Faculty of Theology
- Prof. Stilianos Tsompanidis, AUTH Faculty of Theology
- Prof. Philip McDonagh, Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Director of the Centre for Religion, Human Values, and International Relations, Dublin City University
- Prof. Konstantinos Christou, AUTH Faculty of Theology

- Dr. Kostas Mygdalis, Advisor of the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO)
- Rev. Dimitrios Boukis, Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Synod of the Evangelical Church of Greece (CEC)

11.30 – 12.00 Coffee break

12.00 Round Table II: Promotion of Christian Values in the public field (society and economy)

Moderators: Prof. Konstantinos Kotsiopoulos (AUTH Faculty of Theology) – Prof. Christos Tsironis (AUTH Faculty of Theology)

Participants:

- Mr. Radomir Cholakov, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria, Member of the IAO International Secretariat
- Prof. Paul Dembinski, University of Fribourg, President of the association for Christian social teaching
- Mr. Gerhart Pross, Moderator of the Organization “Together for Europe”
- Ms. Letizia de Torre, representative of the International Center “Politics for Unity Movement” (MPpU) (Focolare Movement)
- Rev. Almut Bretschneider-Felzmann, Ecumenical officer & theological advisor in the Church of Sweden, (CEC)
- Mr. Nikolaos Papanastasopoulos, Assistant Professor of International Politics, Dept. of Political Science, Democritus University of Thrace (DUTH)
- Dr. Alexandr Fomenko, Advisor of the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO)

14.30 Light lunch break (4th floor AUTH Faculty of Theology)

16.00 Round Table III: Christian Values and ecclesiastical expression

Moderators: Mr. Panikos Leonidou (Member of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus, Member of the IAO International Secretariat) – Ms. Katerina Pekridou (Programme Officer for Theology and Studies of the Conference of European Churches (CEC))

Participants:

- His Holiness Philotheos, Metropolitan of Thessaloniki
- Rev. Bishop Mariano Crociata, President of the Commission of the Bishops’ Conferences of the European Union (COMECE)
- Bishop Dr. Dagmar Winter, CEC Vice-President, Church of England

- Very Reverend Archimandrite Elissaios, Abbot of the Holy Monastery of Simonos Petras
- Sr. Manuela Scheiba, Professor of the Faculty of Theology of the Anselmianum University of Rome (COMECE)
- Prof. Nicki Papageorgiou, AUTH Faculty of Theology
- Prof. Christos Economou, Head of Department of Theology, University of Nicosia
- Metr. Andreas of Arkalochori, Kastelli and Viannos, Professor of the AUTH Faculty of Theology

18.00 – 18.30 Break

18.30 Round Table IV: Christian Values and Legislative Activity: An Example of the Field of Education

- *Moderators:* Prof. Vasiliki Mitropoulou, Director of the workshop on Pedagogy, AUTH Faculty of Theology) – Konstantinos Zorbas (Director of the Orthodox Academy of Crete)

Participants:

- Mr. Stathis Konstantinidis, Deputy Minister of Macedonia and Thrace
- Mr. Evaripidis Stylianidis, Member of the Hellenic Parliament, former Minister of Education
- Ms. Snježana Novaković Bursać, Member of the Parliament of Bosnia & Herzegovina, IAO Member
- Mr. Genc Pollo, former Minister of Education and Member of Parliament of the Republic of Albania
- Mr. Márk Aurél Érszegi, Special Advisor in religious diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary
- Prof. Athanasios Stogiannidis, AUTH Faculty of Theology
- Prof. Evangelos Pepes, AUTH Faculty of Theology

20.30 Departure for dinner at the Guard Officers Club in Thessaloniki (National Defense 1, Thessaloniki)

Friday, 17 May 2024

10.00 Round Table V: Christian Values and day-to-day political life: Truths, Obstacles, Dependencies

Moderators: Dr. Maximos Charakopoulos (Member of the Hellenic Parliament, IAO Secretary General) – Prof. Chrysostomos Stamoulis (Dean of AUTH Faculty of Theology)

Participants:

- Mr. Elias Myrianthous, MP, candidate Member of the European Parliament, IAO Member
- Prof. Konstantinos Chrysogonos, former Member of the European Parliament
- Prof. Nikos Maghioros, Head of the School of Theology, AUTH Faculty of Theology
- Rev. Thomas Wipf, President of the European Council of Religious Leaders, Religions for Peace (CEC)
- Ms. Maria Spyraiki, Member of the European Parliament, candidate MEP
- Mr. Spiros Pappas, Advocate, former General Director of the European Commission

12.00 – 12.30 Coffee break

12.30 Round Table VI: Christian Values in the field of International Politics

Moderators: Rev. fr. Manuel Barrios Prieto (Secretary General of the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE)) – Dr. Kostas Mygdalis (IAO Advisor)

Participants:

- Mr. Ondřej Chrást, Deputy Minister of Culture of Czech Republic
- Mr. Andreas Kindl, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Athens (tbc)
- Mr. Fearghas O' Beara, Head of the European Parliamentary Research Services (EPRS)
- Mr. Kostas Arvanitis, Member of the European Parliament, candidate MEP
- Mr. Dimitrios Tsiodras, Journalist, candidate Member of the European Parliament
- Mr. Vasilis Nedos, Journalist
- Mr. Sotirios Gounelas, Author

14.30 Outcome – Closing of the Conference

15.00 Departure from the AUTH Faculty of Theology

15.30 Lunch at the restaurant «Hippocampus» (Karakasi, 75, Thessaloniki)

Free time

Departures of participants