



Chios, Greece, 3 – 6 May 2017

**MEETING OF THE I.A.O. INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT AND
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS AND RAPPORTEURS**

The meeting of the International Secretariat and Committee Chairpersons and Rapporteurs of the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (I.A.O.) was held in Chios, Greece, 3 – 6 May 2017 headed by the I.A.O. Secretary General Mr. Andreas Michailidis.

The President of the I.A.O. General Assembly, Member of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of Russia Mr. Sergey Popov and Members of Parliaments from the following countries participated at the meeting: Egypt, Georgia, Greece, Jordan, Cyprus, Lebanon, Hungary, Romania, Russia and Serbia.

Among the issues discussed was the announcement of the I.A.O. international icon painting contest with subject: «THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS» on the occasion of the joint celebration of Easter 2017 and the celebrations for the anniversary I.A.O. General Assembly for 2018, as well as the preparation of the 24th I.A.O. General Assembly, which will be held in Rome, 25 – 30 June 2017 at the Italian Parliament with main subject «*The Christian understanding of global crisis and ways to overcome it*».

The meeting was concluded with a statement about the refugees and migrants arriving at Chios and other islands of the Aegean:

The Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy:

Welcomes the stance of the people of Chios and the inhabitants of the other islands of the Aegean Sea, who have been receiving a great number of refugees and migrants. The solidarity they have displayed is an example of humane attitude vis-à-vis such an important issue.

Invites all political forces to contribute in the efforts made to address the refugee and migrant crisis and makes an appeal for ceasing all those actions generating and deteriorating it.

Finally, ***expresses its support*** to all those suffering people who were forced to leave their homes and seek a better future for themselves and their children.