



Brussels, 24-26 September 2019

**First joint meeting of the cooperation working group of the  
Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (I.A.O.) and the International  
Catholic Legislators Network (ICLN)**

The first joint meeting of the cooperation working group of the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (I.A.O.) and the International Catholic Legislators Network (ICLN) was held at the premises of the European Parliament.

The I.A.O. delegation headed by the Secretary General Dr. Andreas Michailidis, MP consisted of the I.A.O. Members: Mr. Maximos Charakopoulos, (Greece), Mr. Alexey Chepa (Russia) and Mr. Ioannis Sarakiotis (Greece) and accompanied by the I.A.O. Advisor Dr. Kostas Mygdalis. The Heads of the cooperation working group of two organisations, Members of the European Parliament Mr. Lukas Mandl (ICLN, Austria) and Lefteris Christoforou (I.A.O., Cyprus) coordinated the joint meeting. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the International Catholic Legislators Network (ICLN) Mr. Manuel Maan Baghdi (Austria), Vice-President of ICLN participated at the meeting. The following issues were discussed: the establishment of «THE OBSERVATORY OF PEACEFUL LIVING TOGETHER IN CITIZENSHIP AND FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF» in Lebanon, the co-organizing of International Conference with subject: «Parliamentarism and religious faith», as well as the support for reconstituting the European Parliament Intergroup on Freedom of Religion or belief and religious tolerance (FoRB&RT).

In the framework of the meetings held in the European Parliament, the I.A.O. delegation had contacts with the Vice-President of the European Parliament Mr. Dimitris Papadimoulis, the Vice-Chair of European Parliament's Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) Mr. Vangelis Meimarakis and Mr. Nikos Androulakis, MEP, as well as with His Eminence Metropolitan Athinagoras of Belgium.

Additionally, the I.A.O. Members had a brief meeting with the Deputy Director General of the European Commission Mr. Margaritis Schinas, whom they congratulated on his election and had the opportunity to discuss issues of common interest.