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## PRESS RELEASE

### THE I.A.O. AT THE EXHIBITION “PASSAGE TO THE LIGHT”

#### A “Bright Path” on Mount Athos Digitalization of its treasures

A Parliamentary Delegation of the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (I.A.O) headed by its **Secretary General Mr. Maximos Charakopoulos** with the participation of the members of the Greek delegation **Mr. Stavros Kalafatis** and **Mr. Ioannis Sarakiotis** as well as the **I.A.O. Advisor Dr Kostas Mygdalis**, visited the digital exhibition “Passage to the Light”, presenting the treasures of the Athonite State, at the Athens Concert Hall.

The exhibition "Passage to the Light" presents the great work of digitalization of sacred relics kept for centuries in the Holy Monasteries of Mount Athos. Now accessible to researchers, academics, but also to the public, these treasures represent the Orthodox Tradition, as it is reflected for more than 1000 years on Mount Athos, highlighting, at the same time the message and the spirituality of the Athonite State to the modern world.

The exhibition offers visitors a unique opportunity to get to know the work of digitization, while “experiencing” a day in the daily life of the monks.

Following the Exhibition, Mr. Charakopoulos stated the following:

*“Mount Athos is a beacon of the Orthodox Ecumenism, and indeed, an ark of the Orthodox tradition. It is a unique blessing and privilege for our country, that this unique treasure is located on Greek’s territory. Unfortunately, not everyone has the opportunity to visit it. There is also the law of avaton for the women. This exhibition is a bright path, which gives the opportunity to indirectly ‘experience’ a pilgrimage to Mount Athos for those who have not had the opportunity to do so until now. The Holy Community, the organizers of this unique exhibition, merit the congratulations. I believe it will give everyone – all its visitors the motive to a digital tour of Mount Athos and an invitation to visit the Athonite State, where those who have not had the opportunity to visit until today, will experience the reverend aura of Mount Athos.”*