



Athens 9 November 2020

Letter of the I.A.O. Secretary General to the Parliament of Austria:

Terrorist attacks against the European values

“Our struggle is not against any religion, but against those who violently try to impose their beliefs on our societies, as well as any other centers outside Europe that support these actions, in any way”. On the occasion of the terrorist attacks in Vienna by members of the Islamic State (ISIS), the I.A.O. Secretary General Mr. Maximos Charakopoulos, Member of the Hellenic Parliament stressed the aforementioned to his letter addressed to the President of the National Council of Austria Mr. Wolfgang Sobotka and the President of the Federal Council of Austria Dr. Andrea Eder-Gitschthaler.

The I.A.O. Secretary General states the following in his letter: *“With feelings of devastation and pain, we were informed of the new terrorist attacks by intolerant extremists in a city symbol of european culture, such as Vienna. On behalf of the Interparliamentary Assembly of Orthodoxy (I.A.O), consisted of members from 25 countries, I would like to express our deepest sorrow and frustration on these tragic events. Please, accept our sincere condolences to the innocent and defenseless victims of this barbaric outbreak of violence. The terrorists have declared, as it is obvious from recent similar attacks in France, the war against the principles and values of Europe, primarily against freedom of speech and thinking. By spreading death uncontrollably, they seek to undermine the european acquis, the individual freedoms, the right of every citizen of the great european family. In a state of fear, their ultimate goal is for Europe to deny the principles and values on which its culture is built. We are obliged to resolutely oppose these subversive aspirations of extremist circles, and safeguard the european spirit of freedom. Our struggle is not against any religion, but against those who violently try to impose their beliefs on our societies, as well as any other centers outside Europe that support these actions, in any way”.*