

Sixth Congress of Higher Orthodox Theological Schools Sofia, Bulgaria

(5-10 October 2004)

COMMUNIQUE' (in English)

Following the initiative of the European Commission of January 2004 concerning the "Oriented Universities" in Europe, and in connection with the Sixth Congress of Orthodox Theological Schools, held in Sofia (5-10 October 2004), the Orthodox Schools of Theology in the EU Member States gathered and decided to establish a "European Forum of Orthodox Schools of Theology" (*E.F.O.S.T.-EO.*) This Forum, including all participating Schools and acting in consensus with the non-EU Theological Schools, decided on 7 October 2004 to adopt the following principal goals:

- a) to intensify cooperation among all European Orthodox Schools of Theology at all levels of their activity;
- b) to promote contacts and exchanges with other "Oriented Universities" in the EU;
- c) to participate more actively in inter-Christian and inter-Religious dialogue in the light of the EU expansion and of a pluralistic civil society;
- d) to launch an ongoing cooperation with the European Commission and with European Institutions on educational matters within their competence.

This Forum will be a university educational association with its seat in Brussels. A Presidium was elected for a four-year term (2004-2008), consisting of the following persons:

- 1, **President:** Prof Dr. Hab. Archimandrite Grigorios Papatomas, "Saint Sergius" Institute of Orthodox Theology of Paris (France).
2. **Vice-President:** Dean Prof. Dr. Emile Traitchev, Faculty of Theology, "Saint Kliment" University of Sofia (Bulgaria).
3. **Secretary General:** Director Prof Christophe D'Aloisio, Center of Orthodox Theology of Brussels (Belgium).
4. **Treasurer:** Ass. Prof. Dr. Radu Preda, Faculty of Orthodox Theology of Cluj-Napoca (Romania).
5. **Member:** Dean Prof, Dr. Christos Oikonomou, Faculty of Theology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece),

The Assembly, which has constituted the E.F.O.S.T., assigns to the Presidium the following tasks:

- to inform appropriate persons and institutions of the establishment of the Forum;
- to draft Statutes to be submitted to the Belgian Authorities for legalisation;
- to make every possible effort towards establishing contact among the European Schools of Theology (meetings, joint declarations, etc.) with a view to gathering them in the Plenary Assembly in 2008;
- to achieve the principal goals of the E.F.O.S.T. in a timely and efficient manner.