

## **Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to attend the 9th International “Our Ocean Conference” in Athens**



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His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will participate in the 9th International “Our Ocean Conference”, which will take place from 15 to 17 April 2024 in Athens, at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece, Mr. Giorgos Gerapetritis, during a press conference for the presentation of the International Conference, pointed out that this is one of the major initiatives for the protection of the environment and especially the protection of oceans and waters, “an issue that has high global stakes, however, for our country it is also an existential issue”.

He also emphasised that the participation in this international conference is rather high, with 120 delegations of member states, namely 113 states and 7 international organisations. Among them are 12 heads of state and government, especially from America, Oceania and the Far East, and 50 foreign affairs ministers

and deputy ministers, but also ministers of the environment and ministers with responsibility for waters and oceans.

He stated that all the Mediterranean countries have been invited and all will be represented, while there will also be high-level representatives at the level of organisations, such as the president of the European Council Mr. Charles Michel, the European Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Mr. Virginijus Sinkevičius, as well as His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

It is known that in the last three decades, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has been internationally recognised as “the Green Patriarch”, because he highlighted the religious and spiritual roots of the ecological crisis, while at every opportunity he points out the need for cooperation between all social factors and scientific disciplines, to solve the problem of climate change and environmental pollution. He also played an active and important role in the preparation of the Paris Agreement, while he has been awarded various prizes for his international ecological vision and important environmental action.

#### The Ecumenical Patriarch in Peristeri

As well as this, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will give his blessing in Peristeri, invited by His Eminence Metropolitan Gregorios of Peristeri and the Mayor of Peristeri, Mr. Andreas Pachatouridis, on the occasion of the double jubilee anniversaries (50 years) since the founding of the Holy Metropolis of Peristeri and the completion of 90 years since establishment of the Municipality of Peristeri.

The joint event, of the local Church and Municipality, will take place at the Exhibition Centre of the Municipality of Peristeri on Tuesday, 16 April 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

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