

## Thessaloniki: Conference on Constantinople as the Centre of Ecumenical Hellenism



The “Union of Constantinopolitan Greeks of Northern Greece,” marking the 55th anniversary of its founding, organised a scholarly conference entitled “Constantinople: The Centre of Ecumenical Hellenism” (History, Church, Society, Education, Culture, Art), held on 7-8 November at the War Museum of Thessaloniki. The conference took place under the auspices of the Ministry of the Interior (Macedonia-Thrace Department).

During the opening session, His Eminence Metropolitan Philotheos of Thessaloniki attended and, as representative of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, conveyed the Patriarchal blessing and best wishes to the organisers and participants for the success of the proceedings. His Eminence warmly congratulated Mr. Polyvios Strandzalis, President of the Union, and the members of the Administrative Council for the excellent organisation of this event and many others that highlight Constantinople as their focal point.

The event began with a greeting by Colonel Athanasios Papathanasiou, Director of the War Museum. Also in attendance were Metropolitan Andreas of Arkalochori, Kastelli, and Viannos, Bishop Nikiforos of Amorion, Abbot of the Patriarchal

Monastery of Vlatadon, as well as representatives of Metropolitan Apostolos of Miletus and Metropolitan Ioustinos of Nea Krini and Kalamaria, along with numerous clergy, members of parliament, and local government officials.



The conference, featuring distinguished scholars, academics, and representatives of the Church, highlighted the enduring role of Constantinople through the history of the city, emphasizing its significance in the history of the Eastern Orthodox Church and the role of the Patriarchate of Constantinople in the history of the city.















