

## **The Orthodox Bishops of Benelux pray for the health of Patriarch Irinej and Archbishop Anastasios**



The Conference of the Orthodox Episcopal Assembly of Benelux (CEOB-OBB) met via teleconference, yesterday, November 17. The Hierarchs joined their prayers for the speedy recovery of Patriarch Irinej of Serbia and Archbishop Anastasios of Albania.

The 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CEOB-OBB was held by teleconference and chaired by Metropolitan Athenagoras of Belgium of the Ecumenical Patriarchate with the participation of Bishop Mark of Neamț, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of Western Europe, representative of Metropolitan Joseph from the Romanian Patriarchate, Bishop Dositheus from the Georgian Patriarchate and Bishop Ioakeim of Apollonia, Assistant Bishop to the Holy Metropolis of Belgium (Ecumenical Patriarchate).

Metropolitan Athenagoras of Belgium, informed the Hierarchs about the general state of the Orthodox Church in the three Benelux Countries.

The Bishops expressed their views on the impact of the health restrictions on the

church during the present period, that are Imposed by the governments. They also exchanged views on the consequences of this situation on the worship and spiritual life of the Church, and urged the priests in their churches to continue their work and be close to the sick and to other parishioners, in any way they could.

The Hierarchs joined their prayers for the speedy recovery of Patriarch Irinej of Serbia and his Archbishop Anastasios of Albania. They also prayed for the recovery of all patients from the pandemic, while expressing their warm thanks to all the doctors and nurses.

The Hierarchs exchanged information about their dioceses and expressed their hope that the next meeting of the Orthodox Episcopal Assembly of Benelux – decided to take place on June 15, 2021 – will take place through the physical presence of its members.

The Orthodox Episcopal Assembly was established, following a decision of the Fourth Pan-Orthodox Pre-Synod Conference convened in Chambésy, Geneva, in June 2009.