

## 2nd day of “Ecclesiastical and Religious Diplomacy” conference in Athens



A two-day conference in Athens on the topic of “Ecclesiastical and Religious Diplomacy” concluded on Friday. The conference was organized and hosted by the Greek foreign ministry.

Metropolitan Hierotheos of the Holy Metropolis of Nafaktos and Agios Vlasios, in south-central Greece, spoke on the subject of Athens’ strategy regarding ecclesiastical issues outside Greece. He emphasized that diplomacy must not be conducted to the detriment of theology and the Church’s presence.

Metropolitan Andreas of the Holy Metropolis of Arkalochori, Kastelli and Viannos, on the large island of Crete, spoke on the subject of “Relations between the National Church and the Ethnos – from the 19th and 20th century.” His eminence underlined that the role of a National Church is directly related to the concept of national consciousness.

Metropolitan Gavriil of the Holy Metropolis of Nea Ionia and Philadelphia, in the

Athens area, broached the topic of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Orthodox Center in Switzerland, and its role in ecclesiastical diplomacy. He also stressed the fact that the Patriarchate of Constantinople serves as a beacon for Ecumenical Orthodoxy.