



“SPIRITUAL CENTRES and DIASPORAS”

Athens, October 20/21, 2015

International Conference Convened by:
The Liaison Office of the Ecumenical Patriarchate,
Office of Interreligious & Intercultural Affairs, &
AJC (American Jewish Committee)

In recognition of the special place of Orthodox Christianity in the life of the Greek nation and the special place of Judaism in the life of the people of Israel, a Christian-Jewish colloquium was held in Athens on October 20/21 to celebrate 25 years of full relations between Greece and Israel.

The conference, convened by the liaison office of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Office of Interreligious and Intercultural Affairs, together with the Department for International Interreligious Affairs of AJC (the American Jewish Committee), sought to highlight the connections of religion, culture and identity, that are central to the life of both communities. The meeting provided a unique opportunity to affirm the bonds of friendship understanding and cooperation that have been forged between the two communities over recent decades in particular by the Ecumenical Patriarchate under the leadership of His All Holiness Bartholomew.

Among the principle affirmations of the colloquium were the commitment to Freedom of Religion and Conscience, the repudiation of all bigotry and especially violence, in particular when such is exercised in the name of religion, and thus the delegations declared their commitment to working together to combat all negative prejudice and persecution, especially on religious grounds.

The conference was hosted by the Israeli Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic Ms. Irit Ben Abba and the attendees were also privileged to enjoy a special concert of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra at the Acropolis Museum which similarly celebrated the milestone in Greek-Israel relations.