

Honorable Organizers, Participants and Guests of the Conference,

It is a great honor for me to represent His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, whose congratulatory Patriarchal wishes and blessings I convey to you all.

As we celebrate 25 years of activity and presence of the network, we believe that the choice of the topic of the present conference is timely and imperative.

Also, the title of the conference prepares us both for the presentations that will be heard and for the working groups that will follow.

You all know the sensitivity of the Ecumenical Patriarch for the environment, known as the «Green Patriarch». After all, we must all remember that September 1st has been designated as a day dedicated to the environment, but it is also a day of joint celebration between the Orthodox and the Roman Catholic Church since 2015 as the «World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation».

Conveying also to you all the regards of His Eminence Metropolitan Cleopas of Sweden and All Scandinavia, in whose Eparchy the present conference is being held, but also his thanks for the fruitful cooperation he had, especially with Dr. Peter Pavlovic, with whom he collaborated during his 5 year-term as Vice President of the Conference of European Churches (CEC).

I wish every success in the workshops of the conference and congratulate the organizers for the preparation.