

## **“MEMBERS OF CHURCH - CITIZENS OF WORLD” THE REPORT**

The Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople organised from 11<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> July 2007 the 2nd Orthodox Youth Conference titled “Members of the Church - Citizens of the World”.

In the conference 800 young participants from 18 until 30 years old represented the Patriarchates of Antioch, Jerusalem and Alexandria, the Metropolis of Greece and the countries abroad that belong to the Patriarchate of Constantinople, students of theological faculties and various associations and organisations. Also, ‘DESMOS’, the International Link of Christian Orthodox Scouts, was invited to participate, since scouting constitutes the biggest youth movement worldwide. As in the 1<sup>st</sup> Conference that had been organised with success in 2000, clergymen, professors and scientists from the entire world were reported in vital subjects regarding the relation of youth and church. Objective of the conference was on one hand to gather all youths that their Metropolis belong in the Patriarchate and on the other hand to meet each other and to exchange opinions and theories on subjects that concern the young people nowadays.



During the sessions the speakers with thorough proposals on subjects of general interest for the young people, regarding faith, religion, church and modern society,

discussed with the youths encouraging them to express freely their opinion, to place their questions in the speakers but also to exchange opinions among each other.

As representative of 'DESMOS' I had the opportunity to converse in private with His All Holiness about the activities of 'DESMOS' but also to thank him in private for the help and the support regarding the action of 'DESMOS', by giving him a commemorative album of Scouts of Greece. He also expressed his wish and interest for a closer relation of the Patriarchate with the Orthodox Scouts, inviting us to visit Constantinople and the Ecumenical Patriarchate, but also to use if we wish their locations and facilities for our activities.

As the biggest movement of youths worldwide many times during the conference I was asked to give my opinion on various subjects concerning youths, while after the completion of the meetings the participants were led to conclusions in regard of the subjects that were discussed, in the syntax of which I had a quite active role making our presence particularly perceptible. These conclusions are attached below.

Beyond the sessions that lasted five days, we had the opportunity on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July to visit the Theological Faculty and the Holy Monastery of Holy Trinity of Halki, and on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July to attend the Divine Liturgy of the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George in the Phanar, presided by His All Holiness The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, with the presence of the Greek General Consul of Constantinople Mr Alexios Alexandris, who expressed his joy for the presence of the Orthodox Scouts to the conference. Also the same day we had the chance to visit St. Sophia and the Monastery of Chora.

**Maria**  
**Vaxevanopoulou**  
Representative of DESMOS  
Scouts of Greece