



**EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR
BYZANTINE AND POST-BYZANTINE
MONUMENTS**

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Thessaloniki, August 13, 2025

Press Release

DELEGATION OF EKBMM TO ISTANBUL AND TENEDOS

Between July 24th and 28th, 2025, the President of the Administrative Board of the European Centre for Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments (EKBMM), Emerita Professor Natalia Poulou, Professor Georgios Panetsos, and Ms. Vasso Papageorgiou, Head of the Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage –members of the Administrative Board–along with the Director of the EKBMM, Dr. Flora Karagianni, travelled to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Fanari, Istanbul.

The delegation was received on behalf of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew by the Grand Chancellor, the Very Reverend Archimandrite Fr. Gregorios Fragakis, who conveyed the Patriarch's heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the significant restoration and conservation works that the EKBMM has undertaken in recent years within the jurisdiction of the Patriarchate, in churches of the Archdiocese of Constantinople and the Metropolis of Imbros and Tenedos.

The EKBMM delegation had the opportunity to closely observe the iconostasis, the proskynetaria, and the narthex of the Patriarchal Church, where the Centre's team executed restoration works. These included the conservation of woodcarvings, marble reliefs, and icons. Both the President and the members of the delegation expressed their profound satisfaction and Appreciation at the outstanding quality and results of the work, as well as for the outstanding results, which are clearly visible to every visitor of the Patriarchal Church.

As part of the same visit, the delegation was guided by the Very Reverend Archimandrite Fr. Kaisarios Chronis to the workshop where the two large-scale digitization machines donated by the EKBMM to the Ecumenical Patriarchate are based. Fr. Kaisarios informed the Administrative Board and the Director that this donation is of exceptional importance, as it enables the high-resolution digitization of the Patriarchate's codices, early printed books, and archival documents.

The delegation also met with His Eminence Metropolitan Athenagoras of Kydoniai, President of the Committee for the Preservation of Icons, who conveyed to the President his warmest thanks and deep gratitude for the conservation of the icons—both those already completed and those currently in progress. He emphasized the decisive and effective role of these efforts in the preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



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Afterwards, the delegation of EKBMM visited the island of Tenedos, where, on the evening of Saturday, July 26th, the Opening Ceremony of the Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos was presided over by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. The ceremony followed the completion of restoration and reconstruction works funded by Mr. Athanasios Martinos, as well as the completion of conservation work on the icons, episcopal throne, and pulpit, carried out by the EKBMM.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, His All-Holiness presented an honorary plaque to the President of the EKBMM Board of Directors and the Director of the Centre, in recognition of the EKBMM's support for the efforts of the Holy Metropolis of Imbros and Tenedos to preserve and highlight the historic church of Tenedos.

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