

SYNDESMOS Board discusses Assembly venue

Athens, 2 - 6 November 2001

The **Board of Administration of SYNDESMOS met in Athens, Greece, 2 - 6 November 2001**, The meeting, the first after SYNDESMOS president **Manos Koumbarelis withdrew from office, re-appointed Vice-President Hildo Bos (Netherlands) as Acting President. Rebecca Hookway signed for another two years as Secretary General of the Fellowship.**

The **Board engaged in an in-depth analysis of the current state of SYNDESMOS, its calling, membership and activities. Discussion was guided by the letter of resignation of former President Manos Koumbarelis and resulted in a re-affirmation of SYNDESMOS as a "fellowship of Orthodox Christian youth movements, organisations and theological schools serving the Church and Her witness, mission and renewal for the life of the world" (art. 2, Constitution).**

In the coming year, SYNDESMOS officers and staff will focus on networking among youth movements and schools in an attempt to strengthen pan-Orthodox youth co-operation. Orthodox youth ministry and Orthodox unity remain at the core of the Fellowship's service to the Orthodox Church.

All activities in 2002 and 2003 will focus on four areas affirmed at the 2000 SYNDESMOS Board meeting: Pan-Orthodox Youth Co-Operation; Training and Leadership Building; Theological awareness & exchange; Inter-Christian dialogue.

The **Board discussed the venue of the XVIIth General Assembly, which will mark the 50th anniversary of SYNDESMOS. A final decision for the location of the event is expected in early 2002. A workgroup has started planning the Assembly, which will be a unique occasion for youth workers and theologians from around the world to address the challenges facing Orthodox Youth and SYNDESMOS.**

The **Board were grateful for the opportunity to meet once again His Beatitude Christodoulos, Archbishop of Athens and all Greece, who repeated his support of SYNDESMOS and its work for Orthodox Youth. The opening celebration of the Student Association of the Diocese of Pireaus was also a welcome occasion for Board members to meet and speak with His Eminence Kalinkos, Metropolitan of Pireaus.**

SYNDESMOS would like to thank the Holy Archdiocese of Athens and the Metropolis of Pireaus, who generously hosted the Board meeting, and who also took care of the needs of Board members in Athens both before and after the meeting. Many thanks!