

## The Athonite Public International Conference – The Unique Spiritual and Cultural heritage of Modern World, Belgrade, Serbia, 23-26. jun 2013.



The World Public Forum Dialogue of Civilizations strives to strengthen and develop moral, religious and values-conscious factors, as the basis for overcoming domestic and international tensions. As part of this activity, and with the support of the Forum and a number of non-governmental European organizations, an international public conference is being organized (since 2011), the conference is dedicated to the Holy Mount Athos as a moral and spiritual resource for humanity in overcoming the deadlock of globalization and secularization.

The International Conference, dedicated to the Holy Mount Athos and the contemporary christian (orthodox) world heritage, presents the international community with the existing practices of ascesis, aimed at moving from the theory to the actual practising of intrastate and inter-civilizational relations.

The First International Conference “The Contribution of Holy Mount Athos to European Spiritual and Intellectual Tradition” was organized on July 8 – 9, 2011 in Salzburg (Austria) by the different organizations like “Friends of Mount Athos”, who support the cultural heritage of Mount Athos, in cooperation with the WPF “Dialogue of Civilizations”. A discourse about Mount Athos and its role in the European culture provided an opportunity for representatives of different academic, religious, public organizations to better hear and learn about each other. Participants of the conference were united by conviction that to accepting one’s spiritual roots means to contribute to preservation of the greatness of Europe.

The Second International Conference “The Holy Mount Athos – the Unique Spiritual and Cultural Heritage of Modern World” was convened in Weimar (Germany) on June 23–26, 2012. The Conference was held in continuation of the First Conference dedicated to the Holy Mount Athos held in Salzburg (Austria) in July, 2011 with participation of the Friends of Mount Athos international societies, Russian Orthodox Church Foundation in Germany and under the auspices of the World Public Forum “Dialogue of Civilizations”. The Conference was aimed to draw the attention of the European and international society to

the uniqueness of the Holy Mount Athos and continued the debates and discussions started at the First Conference a year ago concerning the necessity to preserve the spiritual and cultural particularities of this sacred place.

The Conference gathered prominent researchers, intellectuals, public and religious figures, who discussed the history, destiny and significance of Christianity for contemporary European identity based on the example of Holy Mount Athos experience and traditions.

The participants of the conference plotted out the relationship between the spiritual and the intellectual life in Christianity; looked more closely at the spiritual practices of modern Christianity, cenobitic life in monasteries and in secular world; discussed the Athonite tradition in contemporary Christian art; presented main challenges of preserving the European historical and cultural heritage based on the example of Athos.

The Third International Conference “The Holy Mount Athos – the Unique Spiritual and Cultural Heritage of Humanity” is organized with participation of the Society of the Mount Athos Friends in Serbia, Friends of Mount Athos international societies and under the auspices of the World Public Forum “Dialogue of Civilizations”.

The Third Conference is aimed to draw the attention of the European and international society to the uniqueness of the Holy Mount Athos and will continue the debates and discussions started at the first Conferences concerning the necessity to preserve the spiritual and cultural particularities of this sacred place.

The Conference gathers prominent researchers, intellectuals, public and religious figures, who will discuss the ways of overcoming the deadlocks of Globalization and Secularization based on moral and spiritual source of modern Christian civilization. The Conference participants will also discuss the history, destiny and significance of Christianity for contemporary European identity founded on the example of Holy Mount Athos experience and traditions.

The participants of the conference will touch upon the issues of askesis and modern theology, plot out the relationship between the spiritual and the intellectual life in Christianity; look more closely at the ecological practices of modern Christianity, cenobitic life in monasteries and in secular world; present main challenges of preserving the European historical and cultural heritage based on the example of Athos.

The events of the conference will start on the eve of June 23, plenary sessions and simultaneous round tables will work during June 24 – 25.