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SUPREME PATRIARCH
CATHOLICOS
OF ALL ARMENIANS
MOTHER SEE OF HOLY ETCHMIADZIN

**The Message of Blessing of His Holiness Karekin II
Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians
To the Participants of the Third European Ecumenical Assembly
September 4-9, 2007, Sibiu, Romania**

Dear Faithful clergy and participants,

From the spiritual center of all Armenians – the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, we extend our greetings of Christian love to all of you assembled in Sibiu, and pray that this third ecumenical meeting organized by the initiative of the Conference of European Churches and the Catholic Bishops Conference of Europe, shall through the presence of our Lord, result in renewing successes on the path of unity for the Church of Christ. We pray that Almighty God bless, keep and protect under His loving gaze your hosts, the people and country of Romania, their churches and authorities, granting them prosperous and productive days.

The issues placed on the agenda of the Third European Ecumenical Assembly are timely, and are concerned with the mutual relationships between our Churches, the universal voice of our Churches in the life of contemporary issues within society, the establishment of spiritual values in the lives of families, dialogue between faiths, and the unity and closeness of countries having a rich cultural and spiritual inheritance on the continent of Europe.

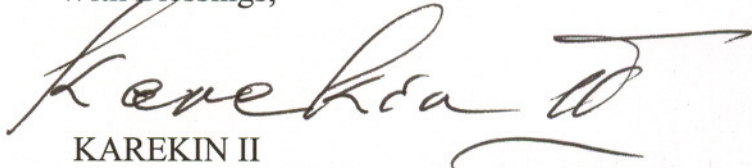
We are not lacking for challenges facing our Churches in our times. We witness the lack of love and peaceful coexistence in societal life; instances of trampling and abuse of spiritual and moral values for political purposes. Human rights are ignored and religious freedom is endangered in certain European countries. Our collective soul is alarmed by the increase in environmental concerns and global climate change.

Understanding our differences and unique attributes inherited through history and appealing to our Lord's graces to continue our theological dialogue, let us find the strength to peacefully and collectively meet the challenges facing our Churches and peoples. With the faith and certainty that in the work of transforming and renewing our societies, the unified voice and testimony of our Churches shall emanate from the Light of Christ and the principles of our Faith.

We wish progress for this Third European Ecumenical Assembly bearing the title "The Light of Christ Shines Upon All". May you seek solutions to the issues facing our Churches based upon mutual understanding, reciprocal respect and a spirit of cooperation filled with Christ-bestowed conscientious thought.

May God bless your good work and make it fruitful. Offering our prayers to heaven, we ask for our Lord's love and bountiful graces to descend upon all of the participants, and for your labors and efforts to be crowned with success.

With Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karekin II', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

KAREKIN II
SUPREME PATRIARCH
CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS