

Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,

We live today in Europe in which people look more for the temporary material wealth rather than for the spiritual wealth of faith, while this economical crisis is doubled by a growing spiritual poverty, as a sign of weakening of the faith and love among people and of the diminishing of the good deeds. Although our continent displays a great development, manifested through scientific and technological progress, yet, it is marked by a loss of the human traditional values and of its identity, by instability of the family and by a conflict between generations.

Therefore, it is our duty, as religious leaders, to steadfastly affirm the truth that Europe is not only an economical space with norms of law and common institutions, but, for most, it constitutes a cultural-spiritual reality. The EU, the Christian Churches, as well as the other religions are called, through their specific contributions, to defend the fundamental human rights and freedom, as well as the human dignity and to promote cooperation and solidarity between peoples and nations, fraternal co-responsibility and communion, not only on the basis of humanism, but also because every human being created in the image and likeness of God has his or her unique eternal value.

We greet the participants in this meeting with the theme *An Identity of Values for Europe* and we pray God to guide us so that, together, we come closer to each other, in united Europe, in good understanding and peace, removing the walls between us and opening large the gates of divine love embodied in the love towards our fellow human beings.

His Grace Daniel
Patriarch of the Romanian Patriarchate