

VIDEO MESSAGE

By His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

Together For Europe

Munich, July 2, 2016

It is with great joy that we share this brief, but wholehearted personal message with the hard-working organizers and beloved participants of the *Together For Europe* event.

Your goal is simple, but your purpose is immense. There has perhaps never been so much need and call for being together and acting in solidarity – both in Europe, more broadly in the surrounding regions, as well as globally. Our world is facing unprecedented challenges, which oblige us to stand together and to work with and in support of one another. Even when the temptation is to avoid being together, Christians especially are called to demonstrate the fundamental principle of the Church, which is communion (*koinonia*).

It is only when we share the gifts so generously and freely bestowed on us by God that we are able to experience them fully ourselves. Whenever he faced difficulties and problems, the late Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras, our venerable predecessor, used to say: “Come, let us look at one another in the eyes.” And so we pray and hope that you will remember his wise words whenever the world presents us with challenges that tend to divide us, that tempt us to withdraw from communion and being together.

Dear friends, “come, let us look at one another in the eyes.” Because in the eyes of our fellow brothers and sisters, we will see the glory of God

May God bless you all in your wonderful initiative to be . . .

Together for Europe.