To the Honorable Mr. Aykut Eken, President, and to the Honorable Consuls of the International Federation of Consular Associations (FICAC), our beloved in the Lord: Grace be unto you and peace from God.

We hasten to thank you personally for sending us a copy of your book entitled "1982-2018 – 36 years of FICAC." This extensive record of the history of the International Federation of Consular Associations is truly a testament to your great accomplishments over the past few decades, highlighting, among other things, some common goals that your organization shares with our Holy Centre, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, such as solidarity, dialogue, the defense of human rights and many more.

With this opportunity we would also like to express our thanks for the monumental work that you do, and pray that you continue to advocate for the rights of not only the Honorable Consuls, but for the above-mentioned goals, for the rights, well-being, languages, traditions, and religious freedoms of the people you represent and assist, especially those who are oppressed and marginalized.

Once again expressing our appreciation for our continued close cooperation, we send our Patriarchal greetings and blessings to all of you and we remain with the highest esteem and respect.

At the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the 11th of March 2020

Spiritually yours,

ὁ Κωνσταντινουπόλεως Βαρθολομαῖος

✠ **BARTHOLOMEW**
Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome
and Ecumenical Patriarch