

Dear Colleagues,

Following the meeting of the Organizing Committee of the 24<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Byzantine Studies-Istanbul 2021 with the members of the AIEB Bureau, held in Istanbul on 1-4 July 2017, we would like to inform you about the preliminary profile and structure of the Congress program and to appeal to all National Committees to send us their proposals for Round Tables by 22 June 2018. Call for Free Communications will be in 2019. You may find below the main theme of the Congress, the themes of six Plenary Sessions, as well as the timetable and procedures for Round Tables, to be confirmed and approved at the Inter Congress meeting in Athens in September 2018.

**INFORMATION ON THE PROFILE AND STRUCTURE OF THE  
24<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS OF BYZANTINE STUDIES-ISTANBUL 2021**

**Date:**

As already announced on the website of the AIEB, the 24<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Byzantine Studies will be held on 23-28 August 2021 in Istanbul, Turkey.

**Main Theme:**

“Byzantium – Bridge Between Worlds”/ “Byzance – Pont entre des mondes”

**General Rule:**

Scholars can participate in no more than two sessions throughout the Congress. (i.e., as speaker in two sessions, or as speaker in one session plus as convenor, or as convenor in two sessions).

## **Plenary Sessions:**

- There will be six sessions. Each will have a commentator and three speakers, except the last one that will have five speakers.
- The Organizing Committee, in cooperation with the AIEB Bureau, has decided the theme of each session as follows:
  - 1) Byzantium connecting civilizations
  - 2) Networks: social, cultural, material
  - 3) Continuity and break: from ancient to medieval worlds
  - 4) Byzantium and the Turks
  - 5) Dialogue among Byzantinists: linking fields, approaches, and methods
  - 6) Bridging interdisciplinary gaps: new ways of making connections
- The provisional list of Plenary Session speakers and commentators will be approved at the Inter-Congress meeting in Athens in **September 2018**. National Committees will be informed about the list shortly before the meeting.

## **Round Tables:**

### General rules:

1. Round Tables must be proposed through the National Committee of the convenor/proposer.
2. We strongly encourage those who propose Round Table sessions to follow the Congress main theme and the themes of the Plenary Sessions.
3. Round Tables should consist of no fewer than four and no more than six speakers, plus the convenor(s), in order to ensure adequate time for discussion.
4. The most important criterion for accepting a Round Table proposal will be its innovative scholarly contribution.
5. The number of proposals by each National Committee is limited to ten.

6. Proposals should include a title, an abstract of 250 words, the names of the convenor(s) and speakers as well as the name of the person sending the proposal, his/her affiliated institution and his/her mail address.
7. Proposals should be written in English or French.

Timetable:

- The deadline for submission of Round Table proposals by National Committees to the Organizing Committee is **22 June 2018**. Any Round Table proposal received after the deadline will not be accepted. The proposals should be sent to: [info@byzcongress2021.org](mailto:info@byzcongress2021.org)
- A provisional list of approximately fifty Round Table proposals will be presented for discussion at the Inter-Congress meeting in Athens in **September 2018**.
- Following the Inter-Congress meeting, National Committees will be informed about the final decision in **October/November 2018** (acceptance, rejection, or rejection with the option of thematic free communication session).

Istanbul, 24 January 2018

Organizing Committee