

## **HIS BEATITUDE VISITS THE CHURCH OF FINLAND**

On the afternoon of Monday 23rd June 2014, His Beatitude Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa, arrive in Helsinki, in order to realize his customary cordial visit to the Church of Finland, following an invitation by His Eminence Leon, Archbishop of Karelia and All Finland.

At the airport in the Finnish capital His Beatitude was welcomed, apart from the Archbishop, by Their Excellencies the Ambassadors to Finland of Egypt, Mr. Mohamed Kassem, of Greece Mr. Dimitrios Karambalis and of Cyprus Mr. Philippos Kritiotis.

The arrival of His Beatitude coincided with the final day of the visit to Finland of Patriarch Tawadros of the Copts. In honour of the two religious leaders a lunch was hosted during which issues relating to the position of Christians in the Middle East were discussed.

On the afternoon of the same day His Beatitude attended a function of the humanistic organization of the Church of Finland, Philanthropia, within the framework of which His Beatitude expanded before all the leading members of the organization, the plethora of manifestations of missionary efforts and humanistic activities of the Patriarchate of Alexandria throughout every corner of the African continent, reports were given of the work done till now in Kenya and Tanzania and the prospect of intensifying the common initiatives was programmed.

His Beatitude is accompanied by the Director of his Private Office, the Very Reverend Archimandrite Apostolos Trifyllis.