



## **Great success for the BBE – BBYP Young professional week-end in Athens**



From left to right: Victor Batis, Rita Gabbai, Serge Dahan

### **The Future of Jewish Life in Europe B'nai B'rith Europe President visits the Greek Lodge of Athens**

**B'nai B'rith Europe co-organized with BBYP a week end in Greece for Young professionals on May 17-19. Participants from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg, UK and Switzerland had the opportunity to meet with Greek government officials and with representatives of the Jewish community in Athens to discuss the future of Jewish Life in Europe.**

Victor Batis, president of the Greek Lodge Philon, Serge Dahan President of B'nai B'rith Europe and Mrs Rita Gabbai, Vice President of the Greek Lodge Philon warmly welcomed the group of European young professionals.

The participants met with Efstathios C. Lianos Liantis, Special Secretary of Religious and Cultural Diplomacy, Greece's first envoy on the issue of anti-Semitism, founding member of the Holocaust

Museum of Greece, and the head of the Greek delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). Questions such as the history of Jews in Greece, the current situation of Jewish life and antisemitism in Greece were discussed, allowing participants to express their concerns about a safe future for Jews in Greece and in Europe.

President of B'nai B'rith Europe Serge Dahan presented at this occasion the work of B'nai B'rith Europe and the main actions to defend the interest of the Jewish communities in Europe, combating antisemitism, antizionism, defending the image of the State of Israel and promoting Jewish history and culture.

The group met with Mr Minos Moissis, former president of the Jewish community, Georges Kallis-Angel President of Jewish youth of Athens, Rabbi Gabriel Negrin, Rabbi of Jewish community of Athens, among other representatives of the Jewish community in Athens.

Young professionals from Europe connected with the young members of the Greek Lodge and with the Jewish community in Athens at the occasion of various meals, cocktails and a party.

The week-end included guided tours of Athens main sites, a visit of the ancient synagogue, the Holocaust memorial and of the office Greek Lodge Philon.

B'nai B'rith Europe thanks Victor Batis, President of the Greek Lodge Philon for and the Jewish community of Greece for the hospitality, Leon Mizan, BBE youth member, Valerie Tesler from BBYP for the coordination and for their share in the great success of this week-end.



Part of the group with Mr Minos Moissis

Quotes from participants:

*Quote from a participant: "This BB event was my first one to attend. I was amazed by meeting up a wonderful group of Young Professionals from all around Europe, and also by the hospitality the local Community provided us. Thanks to President Mr. Serge Dahan for being part of the weekend, it was a great surprise. Athens is such a beautiful city, that wouldn't have been appreciated the way we did without the considerable amount of work both*

*Hanna and Valerie did for us, as well as other staff member I didn't meet up. Looking forward for a new meeting somewhere else soon! Keep it up dear friends! (Anonymous)*

*« Thank you B'nai B'rith for this enriching trip! I learned so much! Sightseeing was amazing, but the best part was to get to know young professionals from around Europe I wouldn't have met otherwise!» (Anonymous)*

*"Was so lovely to spend a Shabbat in Athens. Thanks so much to B'nai B'rith for welcoming us with so much warmth and hospitality... Was also great to see the B'nai B'rith office in Athens and see all the great work they are doing Thank you for welcoming me with open arms. For a South African Jewess living in London, I felt totally at home and like I was with family." (Minouche Kefet!)*