Patriarchal congratulations to Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk on the 10th anniversary of his service as chairman of the Department for External Church Relations

His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia congratulated Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk on the 10th anniversary of his service as chairman of the DECR. Below is the unabridged text of his message.

The Most Rev. HILARION

Metropolitan of Volokolamsk

Chairman

Department for External Church Relations

Your Eminence,

Ten years have passed since by the Holy Synod decision you were appointed as head of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate. I would like to thank you cordially for the help you and your co-workers give me in my hard Primatial ministry. I highly appreciate the contribution made by your synodal department to bearing witness to Christ before the world, to the beauty and truth of the Orthodox faith.

It is gratifying to note that the Department exerts every effort to establish good relations between fraternal Local Churches and peoples and advocates the unshakable principles of church order rooted in the patristic tradition.

May *the God of love and peace be with you* (2 Cor. 13:11) on the paths of your further archpastoral ministry, *giving strength to you* and your co-workers *in the power of His might* (Eph. 6:10).

With love in the Lord,

+ Kirill

Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia

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