



## **DECR chairman meets with chairman of the Caucasus Muslim Board**



On October 10, 2018, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate department for external church relations (DECR), during his stay in Astana, met with Sheik-ul-Islam Allahshuqur Pasha-zade, chairman of the Caucasus Muslim Board, who also came to Astana for the 6<sup>th</sup> Congress of Traditional and World Religions.

They were joined in their talk by Rev. Dimitry Safonov, DECR secretary for interreligious contacts, and Mr. Gyuduz Babaev, head of the Caucasus Muslim Board department for electronic resources.

The talk concerned international projects with the participation of the two sides and the bilateral cooperation. The Muslim religious leader spoke about initiatives made by his country in the area of interreligious and inter-cultural dialogue.

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The Azerbaijani authorities declared 2017 the Year of Islamic Solidarity. On this occasion, the Caucasus Muslim Board held international forums in Istanbul, Tashkent, Madrid and St. Petersburg. The forums were attended by representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church. The Moscow Patriarchate gave the organizers consultative support. In December 2017, the final major forum took place in Baku at which it was agreed to form its standing interreligious center, which included in its leading bodies some representatives of the Moscow Patriarchate.

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