



Representative of the Department for External Church Relations and the Interreligious Council of Russia takes part in OSCE annual meeting

On 10-21 September 2018, the annual OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting was held in Warsaw, Poland. It was organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. The participants in the meeting discussed the implementation of human dimension commitments by the OSCE participating states, including hate crimes prevention and combating racism, xenophobia and religious intolerance.

With the blessing of Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, Rev. Dmitry Safonov, DECR secretary for interreligious relations and executive secretary of the Interreligious Council of Russia, attended the meeting and delivered an address, in which he spoke on the experience of dialogue between religious leaders of the Russian Federation within the framework of the Interreligious Council of Russia.

As Rev. Dmitry Safonov emphasized in his presentation, the Interreligious Council of Russia is a unique platform providing an opportunity for dialogue between the traditional religions of the Russian Federation at the highest level and on a permanent basis. The speaker noted that the Council endeavours to establish and maintain the interreligious and interethnic peace, to prevent and heal interethnic conflicts, and to strengthen traditional spiritual values in society, engaging in dialogue with various international intergovernmental and interfaith institutions.

The DECR representative also noted in his address that the Interreligious Council of Russia promotes the theological education and science in Russia as a means to response to the threat of extremism acting under the guise of religion.

DECR Communication Service