



DECR vice-chairman meets with coordinator of the OSCE Working Group on Humanitarian Issues in the framework of the Trilateral Contact Group in Minsk

February 1, 2017 – Archpriest Nikolay Balashov, vice-chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate department for external church relations (DECR), met with the coordinator of the OSCO Working Group on Humanitarian Issues in the framework of the Trilateral Contact Group in Minsk, Ambassador Toni Frisch.

Among the participants in the meeting were also Swiss Ambassador to Russia Ives Rossier, first secretary of the Swiss embassy Ms. Elly Tzogalis Corbaz, political adviser to the ambassador Mathias Bosshard, and DECR secretariat for interreligious relations staff member Deacon Fyodor Shulga.

They discussed humanitarian aspects of the armed conflict in Donbas, peace-making and charitable service of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and participation of the Moscow Patriarchate in the exchange of captives. A question was also raised about a further contribution that the Church could make to the overcoming of consequences of the armed conflict.

The guest gave a high value to the role played by the Russian Orthodox Church in the exchange of captives.

In conclusion of the talk, the sides exchanged tokens of the meeting.

DECR Communication Service