



## **Metropolitan Hilarion meets with president of Italian Bishops' Conference**

On February 22, 2017, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, head of the Moscow Patriarchate department for external church relations (DECR), met with the head of the Italian Bishops' Conference, Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco, Archbishop of Genoa, at the DECR. Cardinal Bagnasco had come to Moscow for a meeting of the Russia-Italy Forum Dialogue working group for civil societies.

The meeting was attended by Hieromonk Stephan (Igumnov), DECR secretary for inter-Christian relations, and the Rec. Alexy Dikarev of the same secretariat.

Metropolitan Hilarion and Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco exchanged opinions concerning the meeting of the working group that took place on February 21 and agreed that it would be useful to continue the cooperation in the same format.

The DECR chairman told the Italian guest about the spiritual revival in Russia that took place in Russia in the recent decades. They also discussed the experience of the two Churches' cooperation with public institutions in Russia and Italy, including in religious education.

*DECR Communication Service*