



## **Bilateral Commission of Moscow Patriarchate and Russian Orthodox Old-Rite Church holds its first session**

On 31 March 2015, the first meeting of the bilateral commission which will consider the possibility of recognizing the hierarchy of the Russian Orthodox Old-Rite Church took place at the Moscow Spiritual Centre of the Old Believers of the Belokrinitsa branch in the Rogozhskaya Settlement. The commission was established on the initiative of Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, and Metropolitan Korniliy of Moscow and All Russia, head of the Russian Orthodox Old-Rite Church.

Representing the Moscow Patriarchate at the meeting were archpriest Vladislav Tsy-pin, professor of the Moscow Theological Academy; archpriest Igor Yakimchuk, DECR secretary for inter-Orthodox relations; priest Ioann Mirolyubov, secretary of the Commission for Old-Rite Parishes and Cooperation with the Old-Rite Community; and Mr. Dmitry Petrovsky, DECR staff member. Representing the Orthodox Old-Rite Church were archpriest Yevgeny Chunin, priest Alexander Pankratov and protodeacon Viktor Savelyev. Metropolitan Korniliy also took part in the meeting.

The participants decided to continue the dialogue at next sessions.

*DECR Communication Service*

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