



## **DECR vice-chairman meets with diplomats of EU member states**

On March 14, 2013, Hegumen Philaret (Bulekov), a vice-chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's department for external church relations, met with EU countries' deputy ambassadors in Russia, at the residence of the head of the EU delegation to Russia. It was a monthly conference of the second persons in the EU diplomatic missions, to which prominent political, public and cultural figures are traditionally invited.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Michael Webb, deputy head of the EU delegation to Russia. During the talk, which was held in a friendly atmosphere, Father Philaret familiarized the European diplomats with the reforms carried out in the administrative-territorial governance of the Russian Orthodox Church, the Church's social service, the teaching of basic religious cultures and secular ethics in Russian public schools, the participation of the Moscow Patriarchate in interreligious and inter-confessional dialogue and the situation of Christians in the Middle East and North Africa.

Participating in the meeting was also M. Palacio of the DECR secretariat for the far-abroad countries.

*DECR Communication Service*