



Metropolitan Hilarion receives Macedonian Minister of Foreign Affairs

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On 29 January 2013, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, met with Mr. Nikola Poposki, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, who is on a working visit to Russia.

They were joined in the meeting by H.E. Ilija Isailovsky, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Macedonia to the Russian Federation; archpriest Nikolai Balashov, DECR vice-chairman; archpriest Igor Yakimchuk, DECR secretary for inter-Orthodox relations; and Mr. Andrei Khoshev, a staff member of the DECR secretariat for inter-Orthodox relations. Taking part in the meeting were also staff members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia and Macedonian Embassy in Russia: Ms. N. Khroneska, senior assistant of the Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs; Mr. G. Karayanov, assistant analyst of the Department for Analytics and Foreign Policy Planning of the Macedonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Simon Kanevche, second secretary of the Macedonian Embassy; and interpreter Ms. V. Angelovska.

The participants in the meeting shared their opinions on the important role of Orthodoxy in the history of Macedonia and on the outstanding part it has played in fostering cooperation between the Republic of Macedonia and other countries where Orthodox population prevails. While discussing the current church situation in the Balkans, the participants noted the necessity to continue efforts aimed at regulating the canonical status of Orthodoxy on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia and at overcoming all obstacles on the way to promoting inter-church dialogue on this issue.

Source: <https://mospat.ru/en/news/53170/>