



His Holiness Patriarch Kirill meets with Mr. Andrea Riccardi, Italian Minister for International Cooperation and Integration

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On 29 November 2012, at the Patriarchal residence in St Daniel's Monastery, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia met with Mr. Andrea Riccardi, the Italian Minister for International Cooperation and Integration.

They were joined in the meeting by Mr. Federico Toniato, undersecretary of the Italian Government, Prof. Adriano Roccucci, secretary general of the Community of St Egidio, and hegumen Philaret (Bulekov), vice-chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations.

The Primate of the Russian Church greeted Mr. Andrea Riccardi and thanked him for taking part in preparing his meeting with the Italian Prime Minister, Mr. Mario Monti, on 22 July 2012. His Holiness Patriarch Kirill said: "It was a very useful meeting as it gave us an opportunity to be introduced to each other and share our vision of the current problems in the relations between Russia and Italy." His Holiness Patriarch Kirill hopes that with God's help Italy will overcome current economic hardship.

Mr. Riccardi noted that the Prime Minister of Italy had highly appreciated the meeting with the Primate of the Russian Church. Minister Andrea Riccardi emphasizes that it is possible to cope with the crisis, using political and economic means, but "the renewal of human souls is also needed."

His Holiness Patriarch Kirill asked Mr. Riccardi to convey his greetings to the Italian Prime Minister, Mr. Mario Monti.