



## Metropolitan Hilarion meets with newly-appointed ambassador of Bulgaria

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On October 1, 2012, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, DECR chairman, received the newly-appointed ambassador of Bulgaria, Mr. Boyko Kotsev, at the Department for External Church Relations. Participating in the meeting was also Archpriest Sergiy Zvonarev, DECR secretary for the far abroad.

Metropolitan Hilarion warmly welcomed the guest and told him about relations between the Russian and Bulgarian Orthodox Churches, pointing to the spiritual closeness of the two nations and age-old relations between them.

Mr. Kotsev, on his part, thanked the DECR chairman for the opportunity to meet and expressed gratitude to the Russian Orthodox Church for assistance in introducing the Bulgarian authorities and public to the experience of teaching Basic Orthodox Culture in Russian schools.

After the talk, Metropolitan Hilarion and Mr. Kotsev exchanged tokens of the meeting.

*DECR Communication Service*