



## Local Orthodox Church delegations meet with Bulgaria's leaders

[gallery]

On July 3, 2011, during the celebration on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the patriarchal enthronement of His Holiness Patriarch Maxim of Bulgaria, heads of Local Orthodox Churches' delegations who attended the celebrations were received by Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov. His Beatitude Archbishop Chrysostomos of New Justiniana and All Cyprus greeted the president on behalf of the guests of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church.

On July 4, 2011, the hierarchs of Local Orthodox Churches met with Ms. Cecka Caceva, the Bulgarian Parliament Speaker and later that day with Bulgarian Prime Minister Boiko Borisov.

The Bulgarian leaders expressed satisfaction with the fact that the Bulgarian Orthodox Church restored its unity in the recent years and with the high level of church-state relations achieved in the country. The participation of heads and representatives of Local Orthodox Churches in the celebrations to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Patriarch Maxim's enthronement is a testimony of the high authority of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church.

Metropolitan Sergiy of Voronezh and Borisoglebsk participated in these meetings as head of the delegation of the Russian Orthodox Church.

After the audiences in governmental bodies, Russian Ambassador Yu. Isakov gave dinner at his residence in honour of the official delegation of the Russian Orthodox Church. Along with the official delegation, there were Hegumen Philip (Vasiltsev), rector of the Russian church in Sofia, and Mr. V. Tkachenko, First Secretary of the Embassy.

*DECR Communication Service*

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