



His Holiness Patriarch Kirill takes part in the meeting of the Russian Organizing Committee for the Day of Slavonic Literature and Culture

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The Russian Organizing Committee for preparing celebration of the Day of Slavonic Literature and Culture held its meeting at the House of the Government of the Russian Federation on May 20th, 2011.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia chaired the meeting.

The Russian Orthodox Church was represented by Metropolitan Juvenaly of Krutitsy and Kolomna, deputy co-chairman of the Organizing Committee; Archbishop Yevgeniy of Vereya, chairman of the Education Committee of the Russian Orthodox Church; Bishop Sergiy of Solnechnogorsk, head of the Moscow Patriarchate's Administrative Secretariat; archpriest Vsevolod Chaplin, chairman of the Synodal Church-Society Relations Committee; and archpriest Nikolai Balashov, deputy chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations.

Prime Minister Putin addressed the participants and congratulated His Holiness Patriarch Kirill on his Name Day, thanking him for his "fruitful activity and sincere zeal for the revival of spirituality in Russian society."

In his address, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill said that this celebration explains "who we are and how to build our future in the best possible way."

His Holiness called to include cultural and education competitions, ethnographical, museum and publication programmes in the Day of Slavonic Literature and Culture as well as events that would "help people choose a road in life, education and profession."

The Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church underscored the necessity of actions aimed at the recovery of the purity of the Russian language and the culture of communication, calling it a nation-wide task.

His Holiness believes that the organizers should pay particular attention to the youth. He is confident that the celebration should be interesting and significant to young people. The deed of Sts Cyril and

Methodius and its meaning for the Slavonic culture should be actualized.

His Holiness shares Mr. Putin's view on the importance of having the Days of Slavonic literature in the regions and called the mass media to cover the celebration more actively in order to help people understand its meaning.

The Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church underscored that the celebration of the Day of Slavonic Literature and Culture should include inter-state and inter-church aspects and reminded the participants that His Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, who took part in the 2010 celebration, suggested to invite representatives of the Local Orthodox Churches and secular leaders of various states in order "to celebrate this day together with the representatives of other Slavic nations."

His Holiness noted that the Organizing Committee would have to elaborate a concept of the celebration for the coming years and assured the participants in the willingness of the Church to take part in this work.

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