Metropolitan Hilarion completes his visit to the Patriarchate of Constantinople

Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for external church relations. Arrived in Istanbul on 26 March 2010. That same day, "St Matthew Passion" Oratorio composed by him was performed at the historic church museum Hagia Irene. His Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople attended the concert followed by a reception at which the Primate of the Patriarchate of Constantinople and Metropolitan Hilarion exchanged speeches.

The next day, His Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew met with Metropolitan Hilarion at the premises of the Patriarchate of Constantinople. They discussed relations between the two Patriarchates and pan-Orthodox cooperation.

During Metropolitan Hilarion's visit to the Patriarchate of Constantinople, he met with the General Secretary of its Holy Synod, Archimandrite Elpidiphorus (Lambriniadis). They discussed a wide range of issues, including bilateral relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Orthodox Church of Constantinople, and contacts among the Orthodox Christians.

Metropolitan Hilarion and his suite departed for homeland from the Ataturk international airport. Consul General of the Russian Federation in Istanbul saw them off.

Metropolitan Hilarion was accompanied on his visit by the DECR deputy chairman archpriest Nikolai Balashov; acting DECR secretary for Inter-Orthodox relations Revd. Igor Yakimchuk; head of the DECR protocol section Revd. Georgy Kirindas; and DECR staff members D. Petrovsky and I. Kopeikin.

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