



## Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk begins working visit to Syria



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On 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024, with the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Department for External Church Relations, arrived in Damascus.

At the local airport, the DECR chairman was met by Archimandrite Philip (Vasiltsev), representative of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia to the Patriarch of Antioch and All the East, and Russian diplomats. As part of his visit, Metropolitan Anthony will meet and concelebrate with His Beatitude Patriarch John X of Antioch.

Metropolitan Anthony is accompanied by Archpriest Nikolai Balashov, advisor to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia; Archpriest Igor Yakimchuk, DECR deputy chairman; and Priest Alexander Yershov, assistant to the DECR chairman.

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