



## **DECR chairman attends reception given by Spiritual Administration of Muslims of the Russian Federation**



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On September 21, a festive reception was given in Moscow marking the 65th birthday of Mufti Sheikh Ravil Gaynutdin, chairman of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims (DUM) of the Russian Federation, the 40th anniversary of his religious ministry, and the 30th anniversary of the DUM and the Moscow Islamic Institute.

Attending the reception were leaders and representatives of Christian and Islamic communities from Russia and foreign countries, state and public figures, and representatives of the academic community.

Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations (DECR), attended the reception with the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Rus'. Accompanying the DECR chairman were Rev. Ilya Kashitsyn, DECR secretary for interreligious relations, and Rev. Nikolai Vasin, the DECR chairman's secretary.

Metropolitan Anthony warmly congratulated Mufti Sheikh Ravil Gaynutdin on the remarkable dates and emphasized the importance of maintaining good relations between the traditional religions of Russia, which are countering the challenges of modern times while being united by similar attitude to the issues of morality and family traditions. The DECR chairman presented a memorable gift to the mufti on behalf of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Rus'.

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