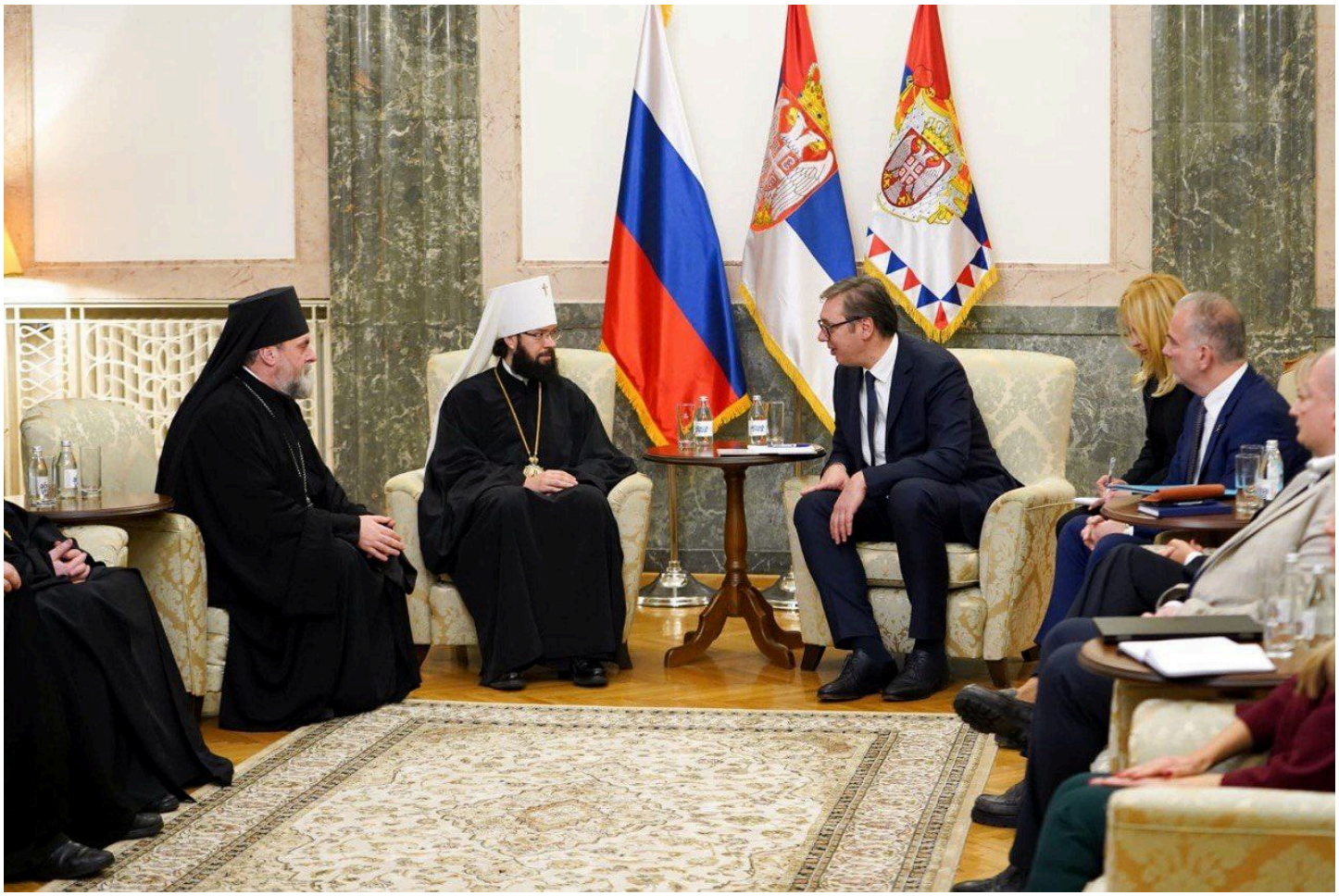
DECR chairman meets with President of Serbia Aleksandar Vučić



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On 18th November 2024, in his official residence in Belgrade, Mr Aleksandar Vučić, President of the Republic of Serbia, met with Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, who **is visiting** the Serbian Orthodox Church with the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Rus'.

Metropolitan Anthony conveyed to the Serbian President greetings from the Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church and noted that the visit of the Moscow Patriarchate's delegation was timed to the **celebrations marking the centenary of the Holy Trinity Cathedral** – Metochion of the Russian Orthodox Church in Belgrade.

President Vučić pointed out the importance of the celebrations that had taken place the day before with

the participation of His Holiness Serbian Patriarch Porfirije and hierarchs and clergy of the Russian and the Serbian Orthodox Churches. As the President of Serbia noted, the celebrations became a symbol of the centuries-old close relations between the two peoples and the two Churches, demonstrating anew their shared commitment to upholding spiritual values and cultural heritage.

Other issues of mutual interest were also discussed during the meeting.

Among the participants in the meeting were Bishop Stefan of Remesiana, representative of the Patriarch of Serbia to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus', and the members of the Russian Church's delegation accompanying Metropolitan Anthony on his visit: Archpriest Nikolai Balashov, advisor to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus'; Archpriest Igor Yakimchuk, DECR deputy chairman; and Priest Nikolai Vasin, secretary to the DECR chairman. Taking part in the meeting was also Mr Vladimir Roganović, director of the Administration for Cooperation with Churches and Religious Communities of the Serbian Ministry of Justice.

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