



## **DECR chairman meets with Head of the Bulgarian Royal House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha Simeon II**



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On December 6, Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate, met in Sophia with Simeon II of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Head of the Bulgarian Royal House. His Eminence Anthony has come to Bulgaria for the festivities marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Metochion of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Participating in the meeting were Ms E.V. Mitrofanova, ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Bulgaria; Archpriest Igor Yakimchuk, acting DECR vice-chairman; Archimandrite Vassian (Zmeyev), rector of the Russian Orthodox Church's representation in Sophia; and Rev. Alexander Yershov, assistant to the DECR chairman.

Metropolitan Anthony greeted Simeon II of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha on behalf of His Holiness Kirill, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, noting his outstanding contribution to the preservation of unity of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church and strengthening its unity in Bulgarian society, as well as his personal contribution to the consolidation of relations between the Russian and Bulgarian Orthodox Churches. Simeon II conveyed greetings and best wished to His Holiness Patriarch Kirill.

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