

Ecumenical Patriarch receives US Sec't of State Pompeo at Phanar



The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All Holiness Bartholomew I, on Tuesday received the visiting US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, at the Patriarchate's Phanar-district seat.

In a statement later posted on his official Twitter account, the US secretary of state stated "...Honored to meet with His All-Holiness... and to visit the Patriarchal Church of St. George today. As leader of the Orthodox world, the Ecumenical Patriarchate is a key partner, as we continue to champion religious freedom around the globe."

The outgoing top American diplomat is visiting the Bosphorus metropolis with an agenda of talks focused on "religious freedom".

At the same time, it's noteworthy that Pompeo has not scheduled any meetings with Turkish leaders, with his previous statement noting that he wants to persuade the Erdogan regime to abstain from "very aggressive" actions.

The Pompeo visit to Turkey provoked a sharp criticism from Ankara.

In a related development, the Ecumenical Patriarch spoke by phone with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis ahead of the Pompeo visit.

