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Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew receives Greek FM Dendias in Constantinople



The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All Holiness Bartholomew I, on Wednesday received, at the Phanar-district Patriarchate, the visiting foreign minister of Greece, Nikos Dendias.

The meeting was widely covered by the Turkish media.

The top Greek diplomat first conveyed his and the Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis' condolences over the recent death of a close associate of the Ecumenical Patriarch.

In other statements, Dendias congratulated His All Holiness for having served on the Ecumenical Throne for the past 30 years, and on the occasion of this year's 60th anniversary since Bartholomew was ordained an Orthodox priest.

"May God support and bless His effort at the helm of Orthodoxy," Dendias underlined.

Moreover, the Greek minister said Athens is greatly interested in the Ecumenical Patriarch's initiatives regarding particularly sensitive global issues, such as environmental protection, for which the Ecumenical Throne has recorded noteworthy international activity, as he said.

He stated: "I will, therefore, have the opportunity to discuss these issues with Him, as well as issues concerning Orthodoxy, the Greek Diaspora in Constantinople, and other issues of common interest," Dendias after the meeting.

The Greek foreign minister is also scheduled to meet with his Turkish counterpart, Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, on Thursday.