

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to conduct pastoral visit to NE Aegean isles of Imvros, Tenedos



The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All Holiness Bartholomew I, is set to conduct a pastoral visit to the northeast Aegean islands of Imvros and Tenedos in the coming period. His All Holiness will be accompanied by Greek Deputy Foreign Minister Andreas Katsaniotis, who holds the expatriate Greeks and ecclesiastical diplomacy portfolio.

The visit by the Greek official, among others, aims to assess the problems faced by the dwindling members of the ethnic Greek communities on the two isles, which prior to their handover to the new Republic of Turkey in 1923 were inhabited entirely by ethnic Greeks for millennia.

On Sunday, Katsaniotis spoke by video-conference to members of the Society of Natives of Imvros, on the occasion of the group's annual New Year's Pitta-cutting ceremony.

The Ecumenical Patriarch is a native of Imvros.