

# Bonner Querschnitte

## Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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## BQ 596 – No. 32/2019

### The World Evangelical Alliance now has an Ambassador to the Russian Orthodox Church

(Bonn, 06.09.2019) The World Evangelical Alliance has appointed an Ambassador for the Russian Orthodox Church. Dr. Vitaly Vlasenko was nominated by the moderators of the Office for Intrafaith and Interfaith Relations (Bonn), Bishop Thomas Schirmmacher and Bishop Cesar III Punzalan, according to the rules of the WEA and appointed by the Secretary General of the WEA, Bishop Efraim Tendero. Kirill I, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, accepted the appointment (see photo).



Kirill I, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, accepts the appointment of Dr Vitaly Vlasenko © BQ/Thomas Schirmmacher

The Department of Theological Concerns of the World Evangelical Alliance and the Department of External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchy (DECR) responsible for ecumenical relations have also agreed on closer coordination in Moscow. It was the third meeting of its

kind. The negotiations were held by Schirmmacher and Vlasenko with Archpriest Father Stefan (Igumnov), Secretary for Inter-Christian Relations of the DECR.

The talks took place explicitly between the World Evangelical Alliance and the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) as a global body, including the autonomous Orthodox churches associated with the ROC. The relationship between the Russian Evangelical Alliance and the Russian Orthodox Church as the largest inner-Russian religious community was not the subject of discussion.

Schirmmacher and Vlasenko, however, had visited the board of the Russian Evangelical Alliance before and afterwards, speaking at a conference of all leading Evangelical pastors in the country. It was held on occasion of the 150th anniversary of the birth of the

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A joint platform for the following Bonn organizations on the basis of the Evangelical Alliance:

Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance

[www.ead.de/akref](http://www.ead.de/akref)

Culture and Science Publ. [www.vkwonline.com](http://www.vkwonline.com)

Department of Theological Concerns of World Evangelical Alliance [www.worldevangelicals.org/pdf/TN-47-1-Jan-2018.pdf](http://www.worldevangelicals.org/pdf/TN-47-1-Jan-2018.pdf)

Giving Hands – International Charity [www.gebende-haende.de](http://www.gebende-haende.de)

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Theological Commission of the European Evangelical Alliance [www.europeanea.org](http://www.europeanea.org)

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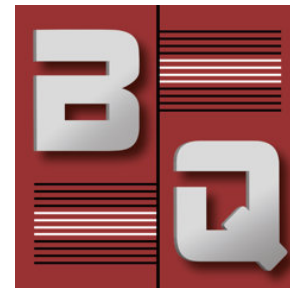
WEA Sustainability Center [www.wea-sc.org](http://www.wea-sc.org)

World Evangelical Alliance – Office Bonn

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renowned religious personality I. S. Prokhanov in the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation. In his welcoming speech Dr. Thomas Schirmmacher stated that I. S. Prokhanov was a representative of the World Evangelical Alliance and accomplished a good deal for the unity and development of the evangelical and protestant movement in Russia.

Schirmmacher and Vlasenko also had talks with Peter Valterovich Mickiewicz, President of the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of Russia, and Bishop Pavel Vladimirovich Orekhov, Chairman of the High Council of the “Evangelical Christian Church”, Director of the International Institute Study of the Evangelical Movement of the CIS of the Russian Academy of Science, Moscow. In addition, a press breakfast with numerous media representatives took place.

In an earlier meeting, Schirmmacher spoke with Yevgeny Eremin, Putin’s Church and Religious Advisor, ‘Head of the Department for Relations with Religious Organizations of the Office of the President of the Russian Federation on Domestic Politics’, about religious



(from left to right): Dr. Vitaly Vlasenko, Thomas Schirmmacher, Peter Valterovich Mickiewicz, President of the Baptists © BQ/Thomas Schirmmacher

freedom in Russia and negotiated with high-ranking Orthodox church leaders and theologians, as well as Orthodox-influenced politicians.

Dr. Vitaly Vlasenko has been serving as a pastor and missionary since 1995. 2005–2012 he was President of the Council of Christian Evangelical Churches of Russia, 2005–2014 President of the Russian National Prayer Breakfast, 2007–2016 Co-chairman of the Christian Interfaith Advisory Committee of the CIS countries, and 2007–2017 Head of the Department of External Church Relations of the Russian Union of Baptists.

### Downloads and Links:

- **Photo 1:** Kirill I, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, accepts the appointment of Dr. Vitaly Vlasenko © BQ/Thomas Schirmmacher
- **Photo 2** (from right to left): Dr. Vitaly Vlasenko, Thomas Schirmmacher, Hierimontk Father Stefan (Igumnov), Secretary for Inner-Christian Relations of the ROK © BQ/Thomas Schirmmacher

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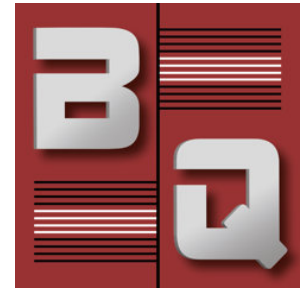
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- **Photo 3:** Conference of the leaders of the Evangelical churches in Russia, Schirmmacher and Vlasenko top right in the picture © BQ/Thomas Schirmmacher
- **Photo 4:** Thomas Schirmmacher with Putin's religious advisor Yevgeny Eremin © BQ/Thomas Schirmmacher
- **Photo 5:** Dinner together with the leadership of the Russian Evangelical Alliance © BQ/Thomas Schirmmacher
- **Photo 6:** Thomas Schirmmacher with the General Secretary of the Russian Evangelical Alliance, Sergey Vdovin, in front of the Kremlin © BQ/Thomas Schirmmacher
- **Photo 7:** Press breakfast with Thomas Schirmmacher and journalists in Moscow © BQ/Thomas Schirmmacher
- **Photo 8:** Schirmmacher and Vlasenko will speak at the Conference of Leaders of Evangelical Churches in Russia © BQ/Thomas Schirmmacher
- **Photo 9:** Thomas Schirmmacher at his presentation at the Conference of Leaders of Evangelical Churches in Russia © BQ/Thomas Schirmmacher
- **Photo 10** (from left to right): Dr. Vitaly Vlasenko, Thomas Schirmmacher, Peter Valterovich Mickiewicz, President of the Baptists © BQ/Thomas Schirmmacher
- **Photo 11:** Thomas Schirmmacher with Bishop Pavel Orekhov, Chairman of the High Council of the Evangelical Christian Church © BQ/Thomas Schirmmacher
- **Photo 12:** Thomas Schirmmacher and Richard Howell with Archimandrit Philaret Bulekov, Vice President of the Russian Orthodox Church Department of External Church Relations in Moscow © BQ/Thomas Schirmmacher
- **Photo 13:** Thomas Schirmmacher speaks at an earlier meeting with Russian Orthodox bishops and theologians and with government representatives © BQ/Thomas Schirmmacher
- Website of the Russian Orthodox Church:  
<https://mospat.ru/en/category/news/inter-christian-relations/page/3/>
- <https://www.protestant.ru/news/church/ofchrist/article/1502644>

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