

PRESS RELEASE

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

Minister of Tourism, Stas Misezhnikov, welcomed in Jerusalem the leaders of the Christian community in Israel, ambassadors, representatives of various religious denominations and members of the tourism and pilgrim industry in Israel in celebration of the upcoming Christmas holiday.

"The Christian community in Israel in its various denominations, together with the hundreds of millions of believers worldwide, represents one of the central anchors in incoming tourism, a bridge for peace and for the promotion of pilgrimages to the Holy Land," stated the Minister.

According to statistics from the Ministry of Tourism, during the first half of 2011, 1.6 million tourists visited Israel, 60% of which were Christian. The Ministry of Tourism is preparing for the arrival of 90,000 tourists during the Christmas holiday, one third of which are pilgrims, visiting sites and holy places and participating in large public celebrations of Mass to take place in Bethlehem and Nazareth.

