



Lecture 5

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Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση
Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινωνικό Ταμείο



ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ & ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ, ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΜΟΥ & ΑΘΛΗΤΙΣΜΟΥ
ΕΙΔΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΔΙΑΧΕΙΡΙΣΗΣ

Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση της Ελλάδας και της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης



ΕΣΠΑ
2007-2013
πρόγραμμα για την ανάπτυξη
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΟ ΤΑΜΕΙΟ



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Lecture contents

1. Organization and administration of the Orthodox Church of Greece
2. Other ecclesiastical regimes in the Greek territory



Lecture objectives

1. To examine the organization and administration of the Orthodox Church of Greece



Article 3, § 1

“It is autocephalous and is administered by the Holy Synod of serving Bishops and the Permanent Holy Synod originating thereof and assembled as specified by the Statutory Charter of the Church in compliance with the provisions of the Patriarchal Tome of June 29, 1850 and the Synodal Act of September 4, 1928”

- It is incorrect that the Orthodox Church of Greece is autocephalous, because only one of its constituent parts, the autocephalous church of Greece, is.



Metropolises

The other constituent parts of the Orthodox church, the metropolises of Northern Greece, or New Lands as they are called, do not constitute an autocephalous church because they belong to the ecclesiastical sovereignty of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.



The Orthodox Church of Greece

- The Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in agreement with Greek Government, has established a new organization, i.e. the Orthodox church of Greece.
- The Orthodox Church of Greece is composed of the autocephalous church of Greece, meaning the group of metropolises of Northern Greece or metropolises of the New Lands.
- The church of Greece has not ecclesiastical sovereignty over the patriarchal metropolises of Northern Greece which belong to the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. .
- The metropolises are united with the autocephalous church of Greece in another organization which is called orthodox church of Greece, and in which either the bishops of the autocephalous church of Greece or the bishops of the New Lands cooperate in an equal manner in the administration of this organization.



The Orthodox Church of Greece(2)

- The Orthodox Church of Greece has as its supreme administrative authority the Holy Synod of serving bishops, i.e. Synod of hierarchy, as it is mentioned in the 3rd verse of article 3, § 1 .
- The Holy Synod is presided by the Archbishop of Athens, and meets one time each October in an ordinary session according to the statutory charter, which is the parliament law 590/1977. In extraordinary cases meets through an initiative undertaken by the Archbishop of Athens or by the Permanent Synod, or by a group of Bishops according to the relative dispositions of the office constitutional charter.
- In the meantime, for the period in which the supreme ecclesiastical authority of the Orthodox Church of Greece is not in function, the Permanent Holy Synod is.



The Orthodox Church of Greece (3)

- The Permanent Holy Synod has the competences of the Synod of Hierarchy except those provided in the concrete provisions of the Constitutional Charter of the Orthodox Church of Greece.
- The Permanent Synod which is a small Synod of 12 Bishops, is presided by the Archbishop of Athens, and functions all year long, except from the period in which the Synod of Hierarchy, i.e. the Synod of all the Bishops which govern the Metropolises, is convened.



The Permanent Holy Synod

- The Permanent Holy Synod is composed of two groups:
 1. Six Bishops from the list of Bishops of the autocephalous church of Greece
 2. Six Bishops from the Metropolises of Northern Greece, or New Lands
- This composition is valid for only once synodal period, that is for an annual term.



The Permanent Holy Synod (2)

- Then, the successive Bishops in the list of the two groups are called to become synodal members of the Permanent Holy Synod, for one synodical year.
 - President of the Permanent Holy Synod is the Archbishop of Athens.
- This structure is specified by the Statutory Charter of the church, as described in the 3rd verse of the 1st paragraph of Article 3.
- The Statutory Charter of the church is voted by the Parliament according to Article 72. In the context of the existing legislative practice this Statutory Charter, provided by the constitution, is executive law.



The Structure of the Holy Synod

- The structure of the Holy Synod is specified by the Statutory Charter of the church. This structure states that the same constitutional disposition is in compliance with the provisions of the Patriarchal Tome of June 19th 1850, and the Synodal Act of September 4th 1928.
 - The Patriarchal Tome of June 19th 1850 is the Canonical Act through which the status of an autocephalous church has been confirmed by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, i.e. the Patriarchal Synod to the autocephalous church of Greece, in a canonical manner, because that political authority wanted to control the organization and administration of the autocephalous church of Greece. For 17 years the autocephalous church of Greece had not any communion with its mother church which is the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, because it proclaimed arbitrarily under political pressure.



The Application of 1850

The Greek government and the Holy Synod of the so called Autocephalous Church of Greece submitted an application to the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in 1850, to acquire canonically, meaning from the competent ecclesiastical authority, the status of an autocephalous church.



The Synodal Act of 1928

- The Synodal Act of September 4th 1928 concerns the establishment of the new organization of the orthodox church of Greece, which composed of two parts:
 1. The autocephalous church of Greece, and
 2. The metropolises of Northern Greece, or metropolises of New Lands.
- The relative provisions of this Act gives the structure of the Permanent Holy Synod of the organization of the orthodox church of Greece.



Provisions

The provisions of the Patriarchal Tome of June 19th 1850 recognize the Holy Synod as the supreme administrative authority of the autocephalous church of Greece, presided by the Metropolitan of Athens.



Article 3, § 2

“The ecclesiastical regime existing in certain districts of the State shall not be deemed contrary to the provisions of the preceding paragraph”.

- There are two ecclesiastical jurisdictions of two autocephalous orthodox churches in the Greek territory.



The Orthodox Church of Crete

- There are several ecclesiastical regimes in the Greek territory belonging to other autocephalous churches with jurisdiction in the Greek territory.
- The orthodox Church of Crete, from the canonical point of view, i.e. the internal law, is a semi-autonomous church supervised by the autocephalous church of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
- It is a State church because its constitutional Charter is voted by the Greek Parliament, and until recently it had not the competence to promulgate regulations; in existing juridical text of its statutes, containing respective parliament law there were not powers of attorney for a partial Synod of Bishops, presided by the Archbishop of Crete, whose sit is in Heraklion.



The Orthodox Church of Crete (2)

After recent relative modifications of the Constitutional Charter of the Orthodox Church of Crete by the Greek Parliament, a partial Synod, which consist the superior ecclesiastical authority under the supervision of the Patriarchal Synod of Constantinople, has acquired the competence to promulgate regulations on the specific matters for which these powers of attorney have been accorded by the law.



Article 3, Paragraph 2

Besides the Orthodox Church of Crete there are other ecclesiastical regimes in the Greek territory:

1. The Metropolises of Dodecanese, five in number.
 2. The Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos.
- Both belonging immediately to the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.



Other Regimes in the Greek territory

- The system of Church and State relations in that group of Metropolises, i.e. the Metropolises of the Dodecanese with which the Patriarchal Exarchate is assimilated, constitute a system of separation between Church and State.
- Patmos has not a Bishop but a Patriarchal Exarchate, who is the superior hegumen of the Patriarchal Monastery of St. John the Theologian.
- All these dioceses, and the eparsis of the five Dodecanese Metropolises and Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, constitute a system of separation because the Parliament does not vote its Constitutional Charter .
- The Constitutional Charter of the group of Metropolises is the canon law of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



Βιβλιογραφία

1. [The Constitution of Greece](#)





End of Lecture

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