

## **New govt restoring warm relations with Greek Orthodox Church; dialogue to resume**



**A new page in Church-state dialogue was turned this week, following a particularly positive meeting on Tuesday between new Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and Archbishop of Athens and All Greece Ieronymos. The good climate was confirmed in a subsequent meeting, a day later, between the Archbishop and Education & Religious Affairs Minister Niki Kerameos. Wednesday's meeting took place at the Archdiocese of Athens.**

Without going into details, the minister merely echoed previous statements, by which there is “good will” on the part of the ministry to cooperate with the Church on the basis of a productive and sincere relationship.

She said "... the government's intent is to immediately commence dialogue, in order to discuss all issues concerning Church-state relations, always with respect to each side's distinct roles".

In a related development, the Metropolitan of Messinia, His Eminence Chrysostomos, told a local television program on Thursday that the recent round of contacts this week are a positive development in Church-state relations.