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## **Archbishop Ieronymos details reasons for favoring Ukrainian Orthodox Church's autocephaly**



Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, His Beatitude Ieronymos, on Saturday detailed his historic proposal towards the Church of Greece's hierarchs to support the Ecumenical Patriarchate's granting of the Tomos of Autocephaly for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

In his proposal, entitled "Autocephaly - Church of the Ukraine", the Primate of the Church of Greece first briefly touched on the synodical institution and the administrative structure of the Church, as well as the institution of Autocephaly for Orthodox Churches. He added that the Ukrainian Orthodox Church has always remained within the canonical ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, with the latter resigning its canonical jurisdiction in order to allow the Ukrainian Church to join the society of Autocephalous Orthodox Churches - an act, as he said, which the Patriarchate of Moscow opposes as non-

canonical, “as if, canonically speaking, it (Ukrainian Church) belong to (the Moscow Patriarchate).”

His Beatitude also told the Church of Greece hierarchs, during an extraordinary Holy Synod session on Saturday, that the Tomos of Autocephaly for the Ukrainian orthodox Church would be particularly beneficial for Orthodoxy and invaluable for boosting relations between the two brother Autocephalous Orthodox Churches, namely, that of Great Russia and the Ukraine.

His proposal, which was supported by the Greek Church’s hierarchs was for the “recognition by our Church of the Autocephaly of the Orthodox Church of the independent Republic of the Ukraine”.