

Tuesday debate on constitutional revision in Greek Parliament focuses on Church-state relations



Debate continued for a second day in Greece's Parliament over constitutional revision, with Church-state relations and the issue of a civil oath the focus of Tuesday's session.

Speaking before the plenum, the rapporteur for ruling New Democracy (ND), Costas Tzavaras, rejected proposals by the main opposition SYRIZA party concerning a separation of Church and state, saying the civil liberties cited by the leftist party are fully covered by the current Constitution.

He added that relevant Article III is absolutely straight-forward and clear, with no confusion created between the institutions of state and Church.

On the opposite political aisle, SYRIZA rapporteur Giorgos Katrougalos said his party wants distinct roles for Church and state, adding that the current "tight embrace" of the Church by the Greek state, as he claimed, should end.