

21/01/2020

Draft bill in Greece includes abolition of religious affiliation, citizenship on school diplomas, certificates - in line with ECHR ruling



Deputies in Greece's Parliament on Tuesday are set to vote on a draft bill that includes provisions removing the religious affiliation and citizenship fields from school diplomas and certificates issued by Greek public schools. The legislative initiative comes after a relevant European Court of Human Rights decision ordering the removal of such information from Greek school documents.

The government has also announced that it will abolish a school holiday on Jan. 30, observed annually on the occasion of the Feast Day of the Three Hierarchs and Greek Letters.

In a related development, the Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, His Beatitude Ieronymos, met on Monday with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis in Athens, with reports pointing to talks revolving around joint actions by Church and state to support at-risk groups in society.

According to reports, the Greek premier thanked the Primate of the Orthodox Church in Greece for the support offered by the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Greece in dealing with the migration/refugee crisis still plaguing the country, especially in terms of unaccompanied minors who were smuggled into Greece from neighboring Turkey.

Talks also reportedly touched on Church-state relations, primarily the issue of ecclesiastical property.