

## **Latest insult to Christianity by official Turkey in the form of symposium entitled ‘The Hagia Sophia Mosque’**



**Turkey’s powerful Directorate of Religious Affairs, better known as Diyanet, will organize what it bills as an international symposium early next month, provocatively entitled “The Hagia Sophia Mosque”.**

A relevant announcement by the state-controlled entity says the event aims to “shed light on the history of the Hagia Sophia mosque, and the changes it witnessed, as well as to promote its cultural heritage, particularly in dealing with the history of religions and Turk-Islamic arts.”

The Islamist Turkish president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, personally signed a decree in early July converting the Hagia Sophia, the greatest of all basilicas of eastern Christendom, back in a mosque – after the 6th century Orthodox cathedral served

for decades as Turkey's best known monument and most visited museum.

The Patriarchal cathedral was turned into a so-called imperial mosque after Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Turks after a two-month siege in 1453

**In a related development, a group of Greek European Parliament deputies this week sent a letter of complaint to the EU Commission president and EU Parliament President, after the executive's services, in an official written reply, cited the Hagia Sophia's location as being on Cyprus.**

The MEPs said it was unacceptable that the Commission's bureaucrats do not know where one of the most important symbols of Christian heritage is located.

Among others, Hagia Sophia is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The offending statement previously stated that "...the Commission monitors closely the situation concerning religious and cultural monuments in the areas not under the effective control of the Republic of Cyprus and attributes great importance to the preservation of cultural heritage."