

UNESCO was not bothered that we turned Hagia Sophia into a mosque, says Turkish Minister



Hagia Sophia was the main topic of discussion during a meeting at the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

According to the Turkish press, reported by enikos.gr, Turkish Minister of Culture and Tourism, Mehmet Nuri Ersoy, was asked to answer questions regarding the protection and restoration works of Hagia Sophia.

Among other things, he claimed that the issue falls within the competence of the Ministry and Turkey's Religious Affairs Directorate. He also referred to UNESCO.

Ersoy reportedly stated that "since Greece complained about us to UNESCO, its representative came and made remarks. They are not bothered by the fact that it became a mosque."

"The UNESCO vice-president who came, told me that their main criterion is for Hagia Sophia to be open for people to visit and for it to be protected," the minister

was quoted as saying.

It is recalled last month the General Directorate of Institutions (which is under the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism), announced a tender for the construction of toilets inside Hagia Sophia.

The toilets are scheduled to be completed by August 11, 2021.

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