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Ecumenical Patriarchate's ex-chief legal adviser, Ioannis Ktistakis, elected as ECHR justice



Distinguished Greek law professor and attorney Ioannis Ktistakis was elected as a justice of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

Ktistakis had served as the chief legal adviser of Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople since 2009.

He has won 53 cases before the European Court of Human Rights, including a unanimous landmark decision in 2008 that vindicated the Ecumenical Patriarchate against the Turkish state, whereby the former returned the ownership of the historic Greek Orphanage building on the Marmara sea isle of Prinkipo.

In complying with the European court ruling, Ankara returned the previously confiscated property deed of the building, considered as the largest wooden structures in the world.

Besides his post as a tenured academic at northeast Greece's Democritus University, Ktistakis has also lectured at the Bosphorus University in Constantinople.

Nevertheless, the Turkish state subsequently banned him from entering the country.

He also served as legal adviser to a Turkish attorney who filed a lawsuit on behalf of Turkish citizens with the country's State Council for annulment of Recep Tayyip Erdogan's shocking decisions last year to reconvert the Hagia Sophia and the Chora Church back into mosques.

The respected jurist has previously given an interview to the **Orthodoxia News Agency** in the wake of the insolent decision to reconvert the Hagia Sophia into a mosque.
