23/06/2021

Greek state extends extraordinary financial assistance to Mount Athos due to Covid-19 situation



The Greek government’s Cabinet convened in a virtual manner on Wednesday morning, chaired by Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis.
One of the items on the voluminous agenda was a recommendation by the relevant foreign minister regarding the annual endowment allocated by the Greek state to the Monasteries on the semi-autonomous monastic community of Mount Athos, in northern Greece.

The government last week announced extraordinary financial assistance to the Athonite state due to conditions that have arisen on the peninsula as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Still in Athens, members of the permanent Holy Synod of the Autocephalous Church of Greece convened on Wednesday, the first of three days of the June session.

One important issue is a recently unveiled draft bill by the education and religious

affairs ministry regarding secondary ecclesiastical education in the country, and specifically a provision in the draft law abolishing the ecclesiastical academies in Thessaloniki and outside the northwest city of Ioannina.

The relevant education and religious affairs minister, who presented the legislation on Wednesday during the Cabinet meeting, has requested dialogue with all involved parties regarding the draft bill.

The Church of Greece has expressed its unequivocal opposition to any change in the status of the four ecclesiastical academies in the country, or worse, the possible closure of two of the four.