

## **Church of Greece adamant over issue of clerics' payroll regime**



A decision by the Church of Greece's permanent Holy Synod this week, after three days of sessions, has reaffirmed the Church's standing opposition to any changes in the payroll regime for clerics in the country.

The current government is keen to change the payroll regime for registered Orthodox clergymen and Church administrative staff.

Education and religious affairs ministry sources that spoke to the Orthodoxia news agency did not conceal their displeasure over the development, saying the government will either unilaterally submit a relevant draft bill in parliament or continue dialogue with the Church.

Church hierarchs also voted to include the matter of ecclesiastical property in the dialogue, but on a completely different basis than the one cited in an initial agreement, in principle, announced last autumn by Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, His Beatitude Ieronymos II, and Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras.