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Archbishop Ieronymos calls for revision of 1945 law regarding clerical payroll



The Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, His Beatitude Ieronymos, on Monday, speaking during an extraordinary session of the Permanent Holy Synod of the Church of Greece, and in the presence of Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, referred directly to the need to revise a 1945 law regarding the state's contribution towards the payroll of 6,000 Orthodox clerics in the country.
His Beatitude said the 1945 law was based on the needs of a population of 7.5 million people in the country, whereas today there are nearly 8,200 parishes throughout predominately Orthodox Greece, with each parish fielding at least one or more clerics, depending on the number of parishioners.

The Archbishop also reminded that the number of state-subsidized clerics of the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Greece fell from just more than 9,000 in 2011 to roughly 8,300 today.

Beyond the presence of Mitsotakis, described as historic, given that it marked the first-ever official participation of a standing Greek prime minister, Education & Religious Affairs Minister Niki Kerameos also attended the Holy Synod session.

Later taking to her Twitter account, Kerameos thanked the members of the Holy Synod for the extreme honor, as she said, of being the first woman to ever participate in such a session.