

## **Sources: Reports by Church of Greece Holy Synod committees favoring Autocephaly for Ukrainian Church**



**Stepped up deliberations and speculation continues to revolve around the issue of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church’s autocephaly, both in the country and in Orthodox Churches around the world.**

**Speaking after a Divine Liturgy held at the St. George Patriarchal Cathedral, on the occasion of his name day, the Ecumenical Patriarch, His all Holiness Bartholomew I, said “... the issue of the Autocephaly is an ecclesiastical development, and not a political accessory”.**

The Ecumenical Patriarch also welcomed the Metropolitan of Kiev and All Ukraine, His Beatitude Epiphanius, congratulating him on his efforts regarding the Ukrainian matter.

On his part, Epiphanius expressed his and the Ukrainian Church’s gratitude for Ecumenical Patriarch’s benevolence towards the Ukrainian people, as he said.

The Metropolitan of Kiev stressed that “... without your actions, your assistance, and

your great love, we would still be in division.”

Epiphanius also expressed his deference for the Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, His Beatitude Ieronymos, who was also at the Patriarchate on the occasion of the Patriarch Bartholomew’s name day.

“...In your person I acknowledge the entire hierarchy of the Orthodox Church of Greece, and I await the honor and joy of co-officiating with you at a service in the future.”

The Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Greece has not, as yet, expressed an official position regarding the granting of the Tomos of Autocephaly by the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Nevertheless, sources that spoke to the **Orthodoxia News Agency** said at least two special committees set up by the Church of Greece’s Holy Synod have already



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